

The Anthony Laciura Foundation for the Arts, Inc and New York Dramatic Voices present:

## Richard Wagner's

### **Die Walküre, Act III**

January 17, 2025 and January 18, 2025

8:00pm

The Frank Shiner Theater

The Sheen Center for Thought and Culture

18 Bleecker St., New York, NY, 10012

#### **Cast in order of appearance:**

##### **Gerhilde**

Krysten Richards+, Fallon Nunes\*, Rachel Pepin^

##### **Helmwige**

Alexandra Lang+, Josie Gore\*

##### **Waltraute**

Linda Collazo

##### **Schwertleite**

Brittany Walker

##### **Ortlinde**

Lynnesha Crump+, Jenny Ribiero\*, Katilyn Sanders^

##### **Siegrune**

Victoria Tomasch

##### **Grimgerde**

Katherine Wiswell

##### **Rosswesse**

Anneke Harger

##### **Sieglinde**

Kathy Meagher, Nora Gordon^

##### **Brünnhilde**

Joanna Parisi+, Lydia Li\*

##### **Wotan**

Virdell Williams+, Hans Ritman\*

+denotes Friday cast, \*denotes Saturday cast, ^denotes cover

Music Director/Conductor

**Matthew Lobaugh**

Director

**Laura Alley**

Lighting Designer

**David Aab**

Technical Director/Supertitles

**Michael Celentano**

Assistant Conductor

**Husan Chun-Novak**

Producer

**Anthony Laciura**

General Manager

**Lorraine Helvick**

Assistant Stage Director/Stage Manager

**Dennis Oliviera**

### **Orchestra**

**Orchestral arrangement by Francis Griffin**

[www.ReducedOperaOrchestrations.info](http://www.ReducedOperaOrchestrations.info)

Orchestra Personnel Manager

**Andrew Beall**

Orlando Wells

Artie Dibble

JJ Johnson

Audrey Lo

Greg Williams

Nikki Federman

Diana Golden

Annabelle Hoffman

Anthony Morris

Karen Bogardus

Keve Wilson

David Sapadin

Atao Liu

Noah Fotis

Jasmine Lavariega

Clyde Daley

Julie Zedeck

Andrew Beall

Husan Chun-Novak

**Concert Master**

**Violin I**

**Violin II**

**Violin II**

**Viola**

**Viola**

**Cello**

**Cello**

**Bass**

**Flute/Piccolo**

**Oboe/English Horn**

**Clarinet/Bass Clarinet**

**Bassoon**

**French Horn**

**French Horn**

**Trumpet**

**Trombone**

**Timpani**

**Keyboard**

## Cast Biographies



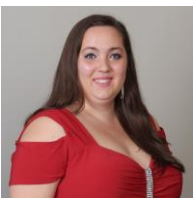
**Linda Collazo, Waltraute**, Linda's 2025 season includes singing at Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium as a soloist with Choirs of America, performing as Dorabella in *Così fan tutte* with Bronx Opera, performing as a soloist with Dance Aspen, and performing as a principal artist in a new opera titled *The People Like Us* by Jorge Sosa with White Snake Projects. Her 2023-24 season included covering *Carmen* in The Opera Next Door's production of *La Carmencita* at Lincoln Center, being an Ader Emerging Artist at Charlottesville Opera performing the role of Maud Dunlop in *The Music Man* and being a Studio Artist at Opera Orlando singing *Shepherd Boy* in *Tosca*; *Frida* (cover), *Lupe*, and *Natalia Trotsky* in *Frida*; *Wood Sprite 2* in *Rusalka*; *Alisa* in *Lucia di Lammermoor*; and *Stepmother* in *The Juniper Tree*. Linda is a recipient of awards from the Laffont and Gerda Lissner Competitions.



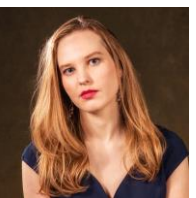
**Lynnesha Crump, Ortlinde**, recently won the Luana DeVol award for dramatic voices in the SAS Performing Arts vocal competition. Ms. Crump performed in concert with Riverside Opera's "A night at the opera" in Staten Island, New York. Other performances include: *Mary* in William Grant Still's *Highway 1, USA* with Little Opera Theater of New York & Syracuse Summer Music Festival, *Strawberry Woman* in *Porgy and Bess* with Des Moines Metro Opera, *Ruby* (cover) at the Metropolitan Opera, *Verna* with the Lyric Opera of Chicago in Terence Blanchard's *Fire Shut up in my Bones*. Additionally, Ms. Crump is decorated with awards that include two Grammy awards as a featured soloist in *Porgy and Bess*- and her contribution in *Fire Shut up in my Bones* at the Metropolitan Opera. Ms. Crump had the pleasure of singing in the inauguration of former President Barack Obama with artist Beyoncé Knowles.



**Nora Gordon, Cover Sieglinde**. Irish soprano Nora Gordon debuted in Janáček's "Jenůfa" in London, 2022. A graduate of Trinity College Dublin and The University of Cambridge, she trained at The National Theatre of Ireland, The Abbey and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) in London. Nora completes her training at L'École Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq in France, 2025. With roles drawn from Wagner, Strauss, Puccini and Shostakovich her song repertoire focuses on 21st century work connected with Irish literature and epic song cycles including Messiaen's *Harawi*. In New York, Nora works with the internationally acclaimed voice teacher and breath specialist Deborah Birnbaum.



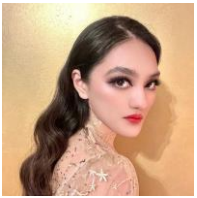
**Josie Gore, Helmwige**, is a soprano based in Miami, Florida and will be singing the role of Helmwige. Josie is a passionate singing actress praised by the South Florida Classical Review for her "powerful yet finely textured and multi-hued soprano" Josie is currently pursuing her M.M. in vocal performance at the Frost School of Music in Miami. Last summer, Josie had the opportunity to perform the titular role in Carlisle Floyd's "Susannah" with orchestra at the Harrower Summer Opera Workshop. She also performed the role of Anna Murrant in Kurt Weill's "Street Scene" during the 2023-2024 Frost Opera Theater Season. Josie also has a passion for concert work and was the soprano soloist in Beethoven's 9th symphony under the baton of Gerard Schwarz at the Frost School of Music last spring.



**Anneke Harger, Roßweiße**, is a Mezzo Soprano living in New York City. She is active as an opera soloist, baroque and contemporary music performer, and recording artist, concertizing in the US and Germany. Her performance in *Rodelinda* was lauded by the *Allgemeine Zeitung* in Mainz for her "ability to evoke a profound and somber introspection." She has performed and premiered genre-pushing works with Kamraton New Music Ensemble, SICPP Festival, and Bluegrass Opera Company.



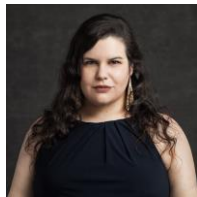
**Alexandra Lang, Helmwige.** Described as "a superb singing actress," and as "a possessor of a generous dramatic soprano instrument and passionate acting skills," soprano Alexandra Lang is rapidly gaining recognition for her musical integrity, distinct vocal color and versatility. Recent operatic roles include Floria Tosca, Leonore in Beethoven's *Fidelio*, Chrysothemis in Strauss' *Elektra*, and the title role in his *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Ms. Lang has appeared at the Metropolitan Opera Guild, the Boston Public Library, The Great Hall at Faneuil Hall, Jordan Hall, the Dimenna Center for Classical Music, Bruno Walter Auditorium at Lincoln Center, and Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall.



**Lydia-Diya Li, Brünnhilde,** is an opera singer, orchestral conductor, and collaborative pianist based in NYC. She is currently pursuing mathematics at Columbia University, specializing in differential geometry under world-renowned mathematicians, Richard S. Hamilton and Simon Brendle. This January, she will be performing Brünnhilde (*Die Walküre*) with NYDV, following her first appearance as Siegrune (*Die Walküre*) this past summer with Miami Music Festival. She participated in the Boston Wagner Institute in 2021. Ms. Li grew up in Europe and North America before her family settled in Wellesley, MA, where she attended high school. She has knowledge of German, Japanese, French, among others.



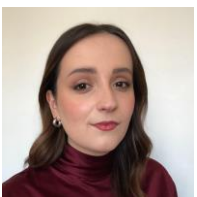
**Katharine Meagher, Sieglinde,** is the first ever female singer with low-vision to have performed with Detroit Opera in their Artist Outreach program. She is a champion for differently abled performers, especially in the opera realm. In 2023, Katharine was the inaugural recipient of the Josh Killingsworth Scholarship which enabled her to travel to Germany to sing Siegrune in *Die Walküre* with Dramatic Voices Program Berlin. Katharine has also been seen as La Cieca in *La Gioconda* with Opera Modo. She was a semifinalist in the Lois Alba Aria Competition as well as in the Elizabeth Connell Prize for Dramatic Sopranos. Past opera credits include *Fiordiligi* (*Così fan tutte*), *Sorceress* (*Dido and Aeneas*), *Third Spirit* (*Magic Flute*), *Geraldine* (*A Hand of Bridge*), *Anna Murrant* (*Street Scene*), *Leonora* (*La forza del Destino*), *Norma* (*Norma*), *Magda* (*The Consul*), *Countess* (*La Nozze di Figaro*), *Desdemona* (*Otello*), *Donna Anna* (*Don Giovanni*), *Mimi* (*La bohème*), and *Miss Pinkerton* (*Old Maid and the Thief*).



**Fallon Nunes, Gerhilde,** is a San Jose native with an BM from the University of Redlands and an MA from San Jose State University. She is an accomplished performer in both Musical Theater and Opera. In 2023, she portrayed the titular role in Puccini's *Suor Angelica* at FIO in Urbania, Italy. A longtime member of the Opera San José chorus, she has performed in productions like *Madama Butterfly* and the 2017 North American premiere of *Cinderella*. In 2024, she covered the 2nd Lady in *The Magic Flute*. Ms. Nunes teaches voice and piano across the Silicon Valley.



**Joanna Parisi, Brünnhilde.** In 2024, Joanna Parisi sang Brünnhilde in *Die Walküre* with the Miami Wagner Institute, "a soprano to watch, rich in voice and beauty, the dream Brünnhilde." She is a finalist in the world's largest Wagnerian opera competition, the Lauritz Melchior International Competition in Denmark. In 2023, she sang Elsa in *Lohengrin* at Utah Festival Opera, "born to sing this Wagnerian role", "an astounding soprano with radiant high notes that gleam luminously onstage. Her command of her instrument is dazzling." She received accolades from The Metropolitan Opera National Council, Operalia, The Next Generation of Great Opera Singers by WQXR, and praise from NY Times, Opera Magazine, Opera News, NY Observer. Recognized internationally in leading opera roles of Verdi and Wagner, she was awarded the Callas Tribute Prize from the Italian Consulate in NY.



**Rachel Pépin, Cover Gerhilde.** Canadian soprano Rachel Pépin will cover Gerhilde in Act III of *Die Walküre* with New York Dramatic Voices this January. Having graduated from McGill University with distinction, Rachel was honored with the esteemed Graduate Excellence Fellowship. During her studies, she performed the roles of Elle in Poulenc's *La Voix Humaine* and the Mother in *Hänsel und Gretel* with Opera McGill. More recently, she appeared as a Foreign Woman in *The*

Consul by Menotti at the Chicago Summer Opera Program (2024). Known for her expressive voice and compelling stage presence, Rachel brings depth and authenticity to every performance.



**Jenny Ribeiro, Ortlinde**, Award-winning soprano Jenny Ribeiro has been seen on opera, concert and recital stages throughout the United States and Europe. Roles include Dritte Norn (Götterdämmerung), Elsa (Lohengrin), Mrs. McNeill (Breaking the Waves), Giulietta (Les Contes d'Hoffmann), Musetta/Mimi (La Bohème), and Lady Billows (Albert Herring). In 24/25, Jenny sings several concerts with Detroit Opera and performs Ortlinde (Die Walküre) with New York Dramatic

Voices. Other upcoming engagements include Mahler's Symphony No. 2 with Elkhart County Symphony, concerts with the Berlin Wagner Group and recordings/premieres of several 21st century vocal works. Jenny also covers Lady Macbeth in Verdi's Macbeth with Teatro Nuovo this summer.



**Krysten Richards, Gerhilde**, is a Florida-based soprano with a flair for the dramatic. From Alabama to Austria, her stage presence and vocal power have captivated audiences worldwide. Her most notable capabilities lie in preparation: the composer research and libretto analysis that brings centuries-old characters to life on stage.



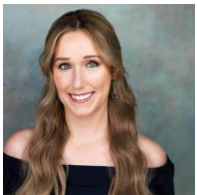
**Hans Ritman, Wotan**, is a Dutch bass-baritone who discovered his passion for singing later in life, remarking that he "can sing a little." Following a masterclass conversation, he took a trial lesson—and the rest is history. He trained with renowned artists such as Eva-Maria Westbroek, Frank van Aken, and Gidon Saks. Hans has performed roles including Sarastro (Die Zauberflöte), Rodolfo (La Sonnambula), Belcore (L'Elisir d'Amore), Alfio (Cavalleria Rusticana), Monterone (Rigoletto), Scarpia (Tosca) and Hunding (Die Walküre). Grateful for meeting the right teachers

at the right time, he is currently coached by Cristiano Manzoni.



**Katilyn Sanders, Cover Ortlinde**. Soprano Katilyn Sanders has performed as Nella (Gianni Schicchi), Geraldine (A Hand of Bridge), Ma Zegner (cover, Proving Up), Sister Genevieve (Suor Angelica), First Knitter (A Game of Chance), Mother/Grandma (Little Red Riding Hood), and Dater #9 (Speed Dating Tonight!). Professional chorus credits include Opera San Antonio (La traviata, Faust, Tosca, I Capuleti e i Montecchi, Don Giovanni, Rigoletto) and Amarillo Opera (La Périochole, Madama Butterfly, Candide, Lucia di Lammermoor). Katilyn holds vocal performance degrees

from UT San Antonio and UM Kansas City. She currently teaches applied voice at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.



**Victoria Thomasch, Siegrune**, Mezzo-Soprano Victoria Thomasch most recently performed the title role in Carmen with Lighthouse Opera and is excited to return to Opera Mississippi this spring to sing the Third Lady in The Magic Flute. Additional roles include the title role in Cendrillon, Cherubino (Le nozze di Figaro), Dorabella (Così fan tutte), Jennie (Down in the Valley), Orlofsky (Die Fledermaus), Orsini (Lucrezia Borgia), and Ottavia (L'incoronazione di Poppea).

Victoria received her Master's Degree in Vocal Performance from NYU, her Bachelor of Music degree from Baylor University, and has completed Young Artist residencies with the Australian Contemporary Opera Company, Finger Lakes Opera, and Sarasota Opera.



**Brittany Walker, Schwertleite**, is a Mezzo-Soprano and a Speech-Language Pathologist currently based in upstate New York. Previous roles have included Siegrune and Schwertleite in Die Walküre with Manhattan Opera Studio and Dramatic Voices Berlin, Ruth in Dark Sisters by Muhly with Miami Music Festival, and la zia principessa in Suor Angelica with Operafestival di Roma and Greater Worcester Opera and Ruth (Pirates of Penzance), Dame Carruthers (Yeomen of the Guard) with Ridgewood Gilbert & Sullivan and Klytaemnestra (cover) and Erste Magd in



Elektra with Dramatic Voices Berlin. Her upcoming performances include Erste Norn in *Götterdämmerung*, Mercedes and Carmen (cover), and ensemble in Tchaikovsky's *Iolantha* with Palisades Opera and Yale University.



**Virdell Williams, Wotan.** American Bass-Baritone Virdell Williams is very excited to make his debut as Wotan in NY Dramatic Voices' production of *Die Walküre*. Virdell was most recently seen in SAS Performing Company's Wagner Gala Concert honoring Luana DeVol. Other roles include Charles Babbage in New Camerata Opera's production of *The Infinite Energy of Ada Lovelace* and Fasolt in *Das Rheingold* with Miami Music Festival. He has sung throughout the U.S. and internationally, including performances in Germany with *Zwei Groschen Oper* in the title role of *Rigoletto* and as Scarpia in *Tosca*, and with Berlin Opera Academy as the Commendatore in *Don Giovanni*.



**Katherine Wiswell, Grimgerde,** Dramatic Mezzo Soprano, debuted in July 2024 with Taconic Opera's YAP as Azucena in *Il Trovatore*. She also recently made her international debut as Marcellina in *Le Nozze di Figaro* with the esteemed Berlin Opera Academy. Other roles performed include: *Mère Marie* (*Dialogues des carmélites*), *Maddalena* (*Rigoletto*), *La Principessa* (*Suor Angelica*), amongst many others. Ms. Wiswell has also enjoyed acclaim as a featured solo artist in concert repertoire including: Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy* (performed at Lincoln Center), Vivaldi's *Dixit Dominus*, Mozart's *Regina Coeli*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah* and Mozart's *Requiem*. Ms. Wiswell resides in NYC and studies with internationally acclaimed soprano, Shelley Jameson.

## Staff Biographies



**David Aab** is a **lighting designer** from Warwick, NY. David's past designer credits include: *Life After Cali*, *The Conduct of Life*, and *Guys and Dolls*. He would like to thank his family, his girlfriend: Charli, and his friends for supporting him throughout his journey thus far. If you want to see more of his work you can visit his website at: [davidaab.myportfolio.com](http://davidaab.myportfolio.com).



**Laura Alley, director,** has a vast repertoire of traditional and contemporary operas which she has directed throughout the United States and abroad. Highlights include the European premiere of *The Ghosts of Versailles* in Hannover, Germany, and the American premieres of *Kinkakuji* and *The Dreyfus Affair* for the New York City Opera. Among the opera companies for which she has directed most of the standard repertoire are New York City Opera, Syracuse, Kansas City, San Francisco, Austin, Cleveland, Chautauqua, Connecticut, New Orleans, El Paso, Dayton Opera, Anchorage, and Tri-Cities Opera. Ms. Alley has also directed productions and given opera workshops/master classes at Manhattan School of Music, Indiana University, Louisiana State University, the Kansas City Conservatory, Temple University, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Converse College, Rutgers University, New York University and the University of Georgia. Ms. Alley was on the faculty of Martina Arroyo's *Prelude to Performance* program from its inception directing traditional repertoire for young artists. As a member of the opera faculty of the Mannes College of Music she directed over twenty productions in the traditional and contemporary repertoire ranging between Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* to Stravinsky's *Rake's Progress*.



Hailed by NY Classical Review as "Spectacularly Virtuosoic," **international composer/soloist Andrew Beall's** work has been performed in Europe, Asia, Australia, Africa, and the Americas. Grammy-winning Broadway Records released albums of his musical, *Song of Solomon* and *Platinum Girls*, both of which have been produced on the international and domestic stage, and *Goodbye New York*, a commission by NewYorkRep, will receive its London premiere in 2024. Recent commissions: "*This Is Your Show: for Compassions & Choices*" and "*Jennifer's Lullaby*" for feature film, *Four Cousins and a Christmas*. Broadway: *Les Miserable*, *West Side Story*, *The Lion King*, *In the Heights*,

*Beetlejuice, Aladdin, Six, Spiderman, A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder.* Twice Mr. Beall has appeared as a soloist with the Siberian Symphony Orchestra, performing his percussion and marimba concerti. He is the orchestra manager of Parlando, a graduate of Manhattan School of Music and New York University, and the owner of Bachovich Music Publications.



**Husan Chun-Novak**, has collaborated as **assistant conductor** and opera pianist for 30 years at renowned theaters, including Theater an der Wien, Mariinsky Theater, Teatro de la Zarzuela, Palau de les Arts, and Maryland Lyric Opera. She has collaborated with distinguished conductors and singers such as Danielle Callegari, Speranza Scappucci, José Carreras, Gregory Kunde, Ermonela Jaho, just to name a few. As a vocal coach, she taught at various international opera studios and Viennese Music University. As a collaborative pianist, she played at Musikverein

Wien, Teatro Real Madrid, and theaters across Europe.



**Anthony Laciura, ALFA President and Founder**, is most recently known as 'Eddie Kessler', the right-hand man to Steve Buscemi's 'Nucky Thompson' on four seasons of HBO's highly acclaimed series, *Boardwalk Empire*. Mr. Laciura is the recipient of two SAG Actor awards for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series for his role on *Boardwalk Empire*. Entertainment Weekly has named Mr. Laciura in the top 25 Comic Relief in TV Dramas All-Stars, for his portrayal of 'Eddie'. Mr. Laciura can also be seen regularly on Netflix. Most recently, he played the role of Leonard in Netflix's original *Like Father* opposite Kelsey Grammer and Kristen Bell. Mr. Laciura has also appeared with the Metropolitan Opera Company in more than 800 performances and is known internationally for his work as an operatic tenor. The first time Mr. Laciura debuted at the Met was with Pavarotti in 1982, in the opera *Der Rosenkavalier*, by Richard Strauss. Laciura then recorded *Manon Lescaut* by Puccini on the Deutsche Grammaphone label with Pavarotti, and finally, Laciura appeared with Pavarotti in his last scheduled gala at the Met, in *Tosca* by Puccini. Mr. Laciura's recorded *Madama Butterfly* with Jose Carreras on the Deutsche Grammaphone label and toured with him on several productions. During Mr. Laciura's time as a comprimario at the Met, the Washington Post labeled him... "The Clown Prince of Opera...one of the outstanding character-tenors of our time." The New York Times' leading music critic simply stated that he is "a master of such roles," and Terrence McNally announced during a radio broadcast that, "the amazing Anthony Laciura can convince an audience that he is just about anyone and sometimes steals the show," and named him as a "Singer of the Century." His Off-Broadway stage credits include Uncle Bob in *The House of Connelly* by Paul Green, Irwin in the 2014 production of *Honor Bound* by Al Repicci, and as Reb Pinchas and Moishelah in the musical *Soul Doctor*, directed by Mindy Cooper. Mr. Laciura's talent as a unique character actor has taken him to the big screen, television, and on various stages throughout the world. He has co-starred in the Academy qualifying, multi-award winning independent short film *Crackers*, as Frank the Barber, directed by Gregory Principato, and in the short film *Mateo's Room* as Mr. Thomas, by Maximilian Williamson. In addition to his singing career and acting, Anthony also directs opera. Recent directing includes *The Barber of Seville* for Martina Arroyo's Prelude to Performance. He has also directed productions of Verdi's *Otello* with the Vero Beach Opera, Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, Puccini's *La Boheme*, *Tosca*, *Madama Butterfly* for Phoenix Opera, Verdi's *Rigoletto* for DiCapo Opera in New York, and Puccini's *La fanciulla del West* at Knoxville Opera. Mr. Laciura is the founder of the Anthony Laciura Foundation for the Arts, Inc. whose mission is to raise funds and to receive contributions to teach, promote and showcase opportunities for dramatic voices and artists by providing opportunities to hone their crafts under the tutelage of professionals in the business who are at the top of their careers, working one-on-one with masters of the arts, reviewing their professional materials, apprenticeships, professional outreach, combining all art forms, bringing to the community rarely performed works of art, and creating new work to perform. At this moment, New York Dramatic Voices is the sole project of Anthony Laciura Foundation for the Arts, Inc. The New York Dramatic Voices is a program designed to tutor and showcase young dramatic voices. Check out their website here:

<https://www.newyorkdramaticvoices.com>. Anthony Laciura is managed by Kathy Olsen at Encompass Arts. Her information can be found here: <https://encompassarts.com/contact/> .



**Matthew Lobaugh, Conductor**, is a pianist living in New York City where he maintains a private vocal coaching studio. Most recently, Matthew appeared with the Santa Fe Opera at the Guggenheim Museum Works and Process Series in preview of Gregory Spears' *The Righteous*. Matthew is regularly engaged as an audition accompanist in New York by companies including Atlanta Opera, Metropolitan Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Minnesota Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Arizona Opera, Aix-en-Provence, Viñas Concurso Internacional, Houston Grand Opera, and the Glimmerglass Festival. Matthew began training at Southern Methodist University (Dallas, TX) with double BM degrees in both Piano and Vocal Performance. He worked toward both a MM in Collaborative Piano and an Artist Diploma in Opera Coaching from the University of Cincinnati. A graduate of the Domingo-Thornton Young Artists Program at the Los Angeles Opera, Matthew's professional operatic credits include the music staffs of Washington National Opera (Assistant Conductor), Minnesota Opera (Chorus Master), Cincinnati Opera (Assistant Conductor), and in the recital with the Florida Grand Opera and Baltimore Concert Opera. Matthew has coached and prepared productions and recitals at both Mannes School of Music at The New School (NYC) and Manhattan School of Music (NYC). Locally, Matthew serves as Music Director for Anthony Laciura's New York Dramatic Voices. Previously, Matthew served as Music Director for City-Wide Youth Opera and has been on the music staff for On-Site Opera, Loft Opera NYC and Martina Arroyo's *Prelude to Performance*. Matthew is also featured on the companion CD to the *Menotti Arias for Soprano Anthology*, published by Hal Leonard (2008).



**Lorraine Helvick, General Manager**. In addition to managerial and administrative responsibilities, Lorraine is also a renowned dramatic **Mezzo-Soprano**. Hailed as a "superb mezzo" and "impressively imperious" (*The Wagner Journal*, 2024) Lorraine Helvick is making a name for herself in the verismo and dramatic repertoire, specializing in the works of Strauss, Verdi, and Wagner. Ms. Helvick has also performed as a guest soloist in Switzerland, Czechia, England, Ireland, Wales, France, and Canada. This past season she was a Quarter Finalist in Cedar Rapids Opera's Esther and Myron Wilson Vocal Competition, winner in the Riverside Opera Company Vocal Competition, returned to her signature role of Fricka (*Die Walküre*) with New Jersey Opera Theater, made her company debut with Parlando, sang Brangäne in Wagner's *Liebestod* (*Tristan und Isolde*) with New York Dramatic Voices, and is a finalist with CEFNY. She looks forward to returning to New Jersey Opera Theater to make her role debut as the Foreign Princess in *Rusalka* in 2025. Career highlights include Fricka and Waltraute (*Die Walküre*), her Czech debut as an Opernfest Prague artist, *Composer* (*Ariadne auf Naxos*), *Dritte Magde* (*Elektra*), *Eboli* in scenes from *Don Carlo*, *Principessa de Bouillon* in scenes from *Adriana Lecouvreur*, featured Wagner/Strauss artist with Lorin Maazel Castleton Institute, *Soldier's Mother* in the world premiere production of Theo Popov's opera *Once Upon the Wind*, artist with Eva Marie Westbroek's and Frank Van Aken's *Mosset* program, and premiered the role of Sarah Rosetta Wakeman/Lyons Wakeman in Mike Diakou's opera *Crossing Lines*, based on the women who posed as men to serve in the Union Army of the Civil War. Equally at home on the concert stage, Ms. Helvick made her Carnegie Hall debut as the alto soloist in Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy* and Händel's *Coronation Mass*. Other concert highlights include Mahler's *Resurrection Symphony*, Brahms' *Zigeunelieder*, and Berg's *Sieben frühe Lieder*.



**Dennis Oliveira, Assistant Director/Production Stage Manager**, is a current student at Columbia University's MFA Directing program. He is an alumnus of Florida State University's Grad Opera Directing program, the Institute for American Musical Theatre, the Stella Adler Studio, and he holds his BFA in Acting from Montclair State University. Directing credits include *Oresteia* (Columbia University), *Venus in Fur* (LIU Brooklyn), *Die Walküre* (New Jersey Opera Theatre), *Drought* (New York Theatre Festival), *Die Zauberflöte* (Florida State Opera Outreach), and *The Wild Party* (Old Library Theatre). Assistant Directing credits include *Mitridate*, *re di Ponto*, *Trionfo del tempo e disinganno* (Opera NEO), *Le nozze di Figaro* (Florida State Opera).

## Special Thanks

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### Angel Donor

Mr. Gabriel Gargari – This performance was made possible through the generosity of Gabriel Gargari. We are forever grateful for your contribution. Your gift has and will continue to directly benefit the lives of our emerging artists all over the world.

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**Jane Shaulis & Joseph Gasperec**

Thank you to the **Sheen Center**.

Thank you to **Ann Coughlin** for everything you do!

Thank you to the **Bronx Arts Ensemble**.

Thank you to our videographer, **Gregory Principato**.

Thank you to all our audience members who came out to enjoy a special night of glorious music and support our emerging artists.

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