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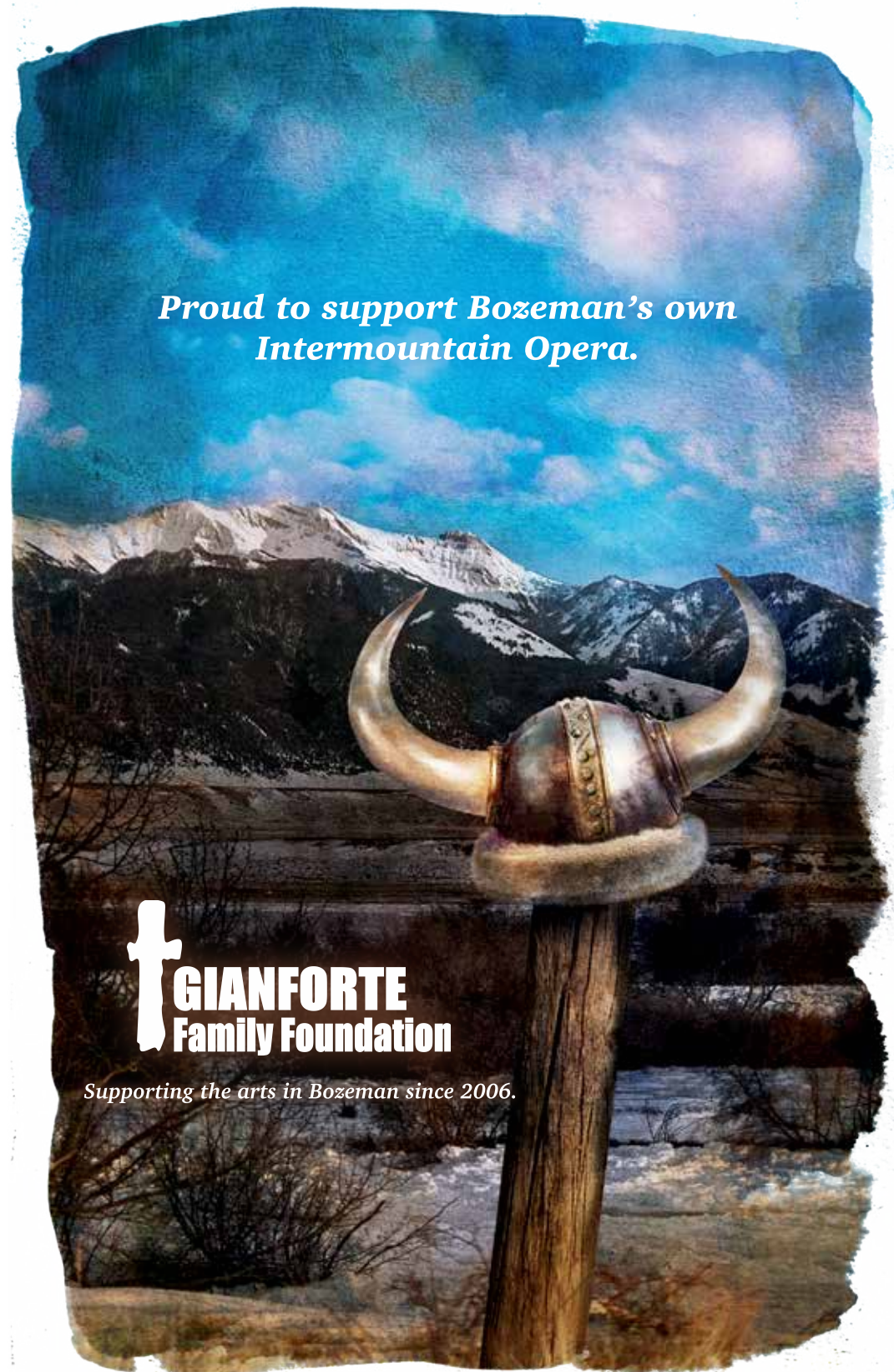


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Intermountain
Opera
BOZEMAN

PRODUCTION OF

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S CAROUSEL

MUSIC BY RICHARD RODGERS
BOOK AND LYRICS BY OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II

BASED ON FERENC MOLNÁR'S PLAY "LILIOM" AS ADAPTED BY BENJAMIN F. GLAZER
ORIGINAL CHOREOGRAPHY BY AGNES DE MILLE

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KATHERINE M. CARTER

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MICHAEL SAKIR

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KATHERINE PROCTOR CHARLIER

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JESSICA GRAF

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BETH LEE

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
REILLY SCOTT

COSTUMES ASSISTANT
ANGELA CATEORA

CAST

Julie Jordan	Meredith Lustig	Carnival Dancer / Chorus	Erik Pearson
Sponsored by Robyn and Orville Erlenbush, ERA Landmark Real Estate		Enoch Snow, Jr / Chorus	Clayton Ehlers
Billy Bigelow	Trevor Martin	Policeman / Chorus	Justin Horak
Carrie Pipperidge	Abigail Paschke	Captain / Chorus	Reggie Mead
Sponsored by Richard Wolff and Janel Cariño		Principal / Chorus	Mandy Bowker
Enoch Snow	Richard Bermudez	Armny / Chorus	Julie Lemieux
Nettie Fowler	Stephanie Sanchez		
Jigger Craigin	Jake Reisig		
Mrs. Mullin	Cheryl Sheedy		
Mr. Bascombe	Michael Beehler		
Starkeeper / Dr. Sheldon	John Hosking		
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Heavenly Friend	Rachel Mascari		
Louise Bigelow	Olivia Osen		

Carousel includes themes of domestic violence and its portrayal may be triggering for some viewers. If you or someone you know is affected by such issues, Haven offers support and resources. Visit havenmt.org or call (406) 586-4111 for more information.

CAROUSEL is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of The Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization.
www.concordtheatricals.com

The production is 2 hours and there will be one 15-minute intermission.
Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.



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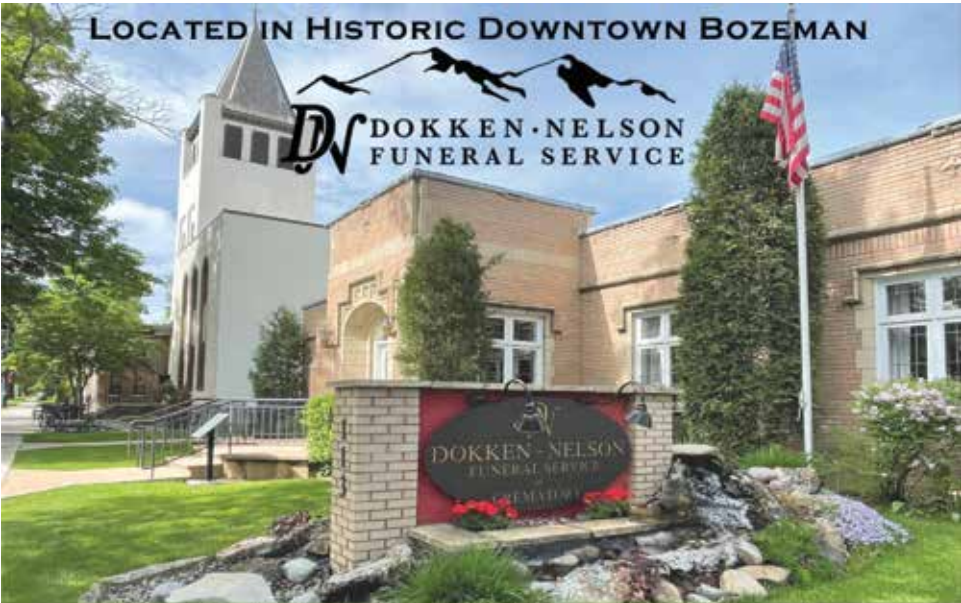


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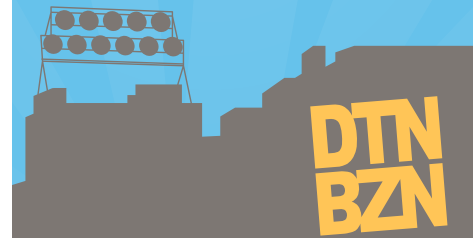
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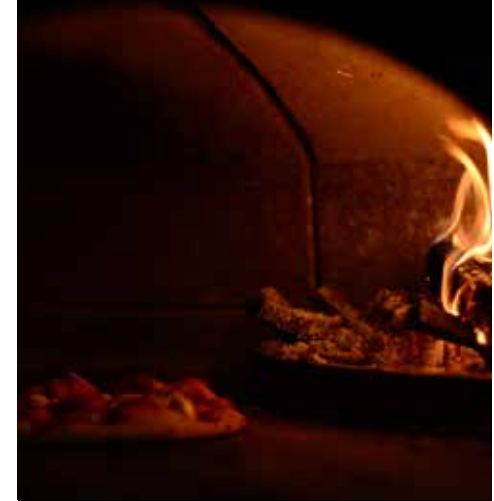
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2009 *La bohème*

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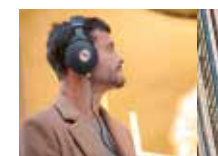


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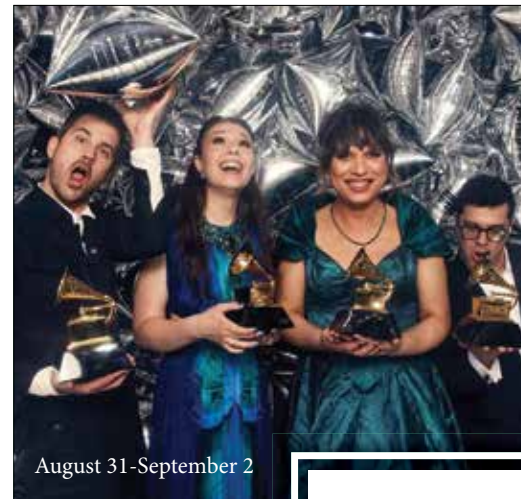
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April 18-20

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & GENERAL DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

It takes a village. Tonight, you will witness the combined efforts of thirty cast members, seventeen production team members, twenty-one orchestra members, countless volunteers, and of course, the IOB staff and board. What's extra special for us is that you will also witness the efforts of the Haven community. Erica Coyle (please read her note on following page), the Haven staff, and the survivors speakers network have been tremendous partners in this effort. Erica has been engaged in this effort for over a year now, and she and the survivors speaker net-



Doug Badenoch
Doug Badenoch
Board President

Susan Miller
Susan Miller
General Director

work have worked directly with the cast and creative team during the rehearsal process. After each performance, they'll also be available, alongside our artists, for a brief post-show talk-back. This is the meaning of community. Thank you for being a part of ours.

Enjoy the performance,

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Before his death in 1924, Giacomo Puccini sought to adapt the 1909 play *Lilliom*—about a cocky carousel barker and the young millworker who falls in love with him—into his newest opera. The Hungarian playwright Ferenc Molnár—who had recently emigrated to New York to escape authoritarianism and antisemitism in Europe—refused permission to the famous Italian composer. Two decades later, the famous Broadway duo Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, also sought to adapt *Lilliom* for the stage. Upon seeing *Oklahoma*, Molnár was so taken by the beauty of Hammerstein's lyrics and Rodgers' music that he enthusiastically let them adapt his play.

The result—*Carousel*—remains one of the most beloved and influential musicals of all time. To the end of his life, it remained the favorite score that Rodgers ever wrote. Stephen Sondheim referred to the famous love duet "If I Loved you" as "the singular most important moment in the evolution of contemporary musicals." The show shattered a century of musical theater con-



ventions and introduced dark themes of suicide and domestic violence onto the Broadway stage for the first time. It was revolutionary in how it balanced stark realism with beauty and lyricism.

Intermountain Opera Bozeman could not have presented *Carousel* without the critical support of our community partners at Haven. This invaluable organization serves victims of domestic abuse across the Gallatin Valley. They have helped us, guided us, and taught us every step of the way. We could not have told this challenging story without them

and we are so grateful for their contributions to this production.

And now, I invite you to be swept away by the incomparable beauty and transformative power of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II. Enjoy this ride in our *Carousel*.

Sincerely,

Michael Sakir

Michael Sakir
Artistic Director

A MESSAGE FROM ERICA COYLE HAVEN'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



At Haven, our commitment is to both empower and support survivors of domestic violence and to build a community free from abuse. Partnering with Intermountain Opera Bozeman (IOB) for this production of *Carousel* came from our shared dedication to community education, and our shared interest in making the show's dark themes—including domestic abuse and

portrayal of women—a starting point for discussion, understanding, and empowerment.

If you've been around Bozeman at any point in the past four decades, you might have attended Haven's trainings on healthy relationships or heard about our work in the schools to set students up for relationships comprised of consent and mutual respect. These prevention efforts are a critical part of our work, because they can help prevent relationship violence before it starts.

But a work of art, like this blend of music and theater the IOB does so well, can reach people on a different level. Great art can crack us open. It can make us cry and laugh. And great art is something that provokes conversations and thoughts long after the curtain comes down on a show. We're hoping that you, the audience, experience this during this performance.

Haven is delighted to be part of this production and to share with you (in the post-show discussions) the experience and wisdom of Haven advocates and the survivors we serve. Haven advocates are our frontline workers who answer our support line, provide support to those staying at our shelter, and stand with survivors as they go through the legal system. If you're interested in speaking with an advocate one-on-one—maybe you're experiencing abuse yourself, or know a friend or family member who might be—we invite you to talk with an advocate during intermission or after the show, or to call Haven's 24-hour support line at 406-586-4111. More resources are on our website: havenmt.org.

Thank you to IOB for partnering with us on this production, and enjoy the show.

Erica Coyle

Erica Coyle
Executive Director
Haven



Caitlin Cisler as
Drusilla in
*The Coronation
of Poppea*

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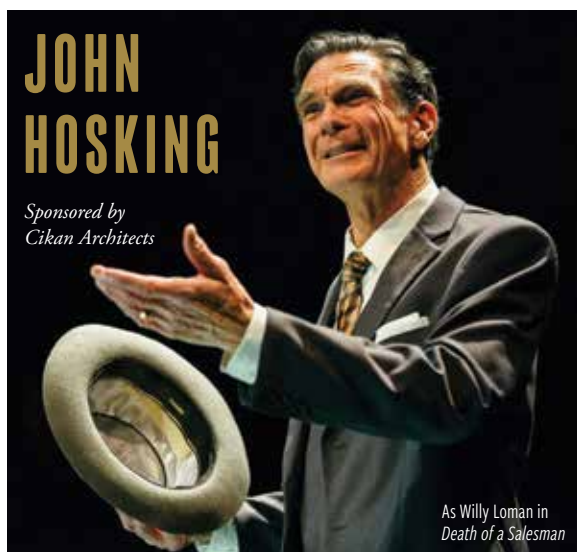
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CAROUSEL LOCAL ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

"[OUR ART SCENE IS]
PROBABLY WHAT HAS HELPED
MAKE BOZEMAN SO POPULAR."

John Hosking has been a mainstay of Bozeman and regional theatre since the 1970s. He was a cast member in Montana Shakespeare in the Parks' (MSIP) first tour in 1974 and continues to perform in 2-4 plays each year in Bozeman. Learn more about his remarkable story in this edition of the Local Artist Spotlight.



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As Willy Loman in
Death of a Salesman

TELL US ABOUT YOUR START IN THEATRE.

I came to MSU as an Architecture major, but thought I should do something to meet people, so I tried out for a play and Mr. Ben Tone cast me as *Macbeth* at the age of 17. I kind of got adopted into the theater family which was an exceptional group of people from all kinds of departments at that time. However, my sister Eileen takes credit for my beginnings as an actor because when she was 10 or 11, she would write plays where she was the queen or the princess and I, the little brother, was everybody else.

I switched majors in middle of college, did the regional auditions for grad schools and got into Hilberry Repertory Theater at Wayne State in Detroit.

After grad school, thanks to a recommendation from Ben Tone, I got into Virginia City Players when Judith Ferree was directing. Ben later recommended me to ACT in Seattle where I did three winter seasons.

HOW DID THE VIGILANTE PLAYERS GET STARTED?

Rhonda Smith and three other friends put on a show with the students and the community at University of Montana Western (then Western Montana College). They got an office and started the Vigilante Theater. That was the fall of 1981.

Two years later in 1983, we incorporated as a nonprofit. MSU invited us and we got a windowless office in the theatre and we could use MSU to run



Publicity photo for the Vigilante's first season

grants through. Rhonda and Tom Morris were stars in Montana, known throughout because of MSIP.

The Vigilante Theater continued for 33 years. We were a 4-person company that traveled in a single van and sometimes with a small U-Haul. We would go into any space with an 8-foot ceiling and a 12x16 stage (which we didn't always get). We did mostly original shows that a variety of Montanans wrote. They were sometimes historical, sometimes satirical, often had some music. [In addition to myself, Rhonda, and Tom, other prominent company members included] Gwyn Ganjeau, Brian Massman, and David Millslow. Our primary writers were Bruce Hurlbut, Tom Morris, Greg Keeler, and Greg Owens. We traveled about 20,000 miles each year and did about 70-100 shows/year. We toured the Dakotas, Wyoming, Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon. We toured as far south as Texas and as far east as Washington, D.C. But we eventually called it quits in 2014.

IT'S NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE TO BE A WORKING ACTOR IN MONTANA AND YET, YOU DID IT.

Yeah (laughs). Rhonda and I go, "Wow, we pulled that off." Mind you, we never had any money. We wore many hats, and I think in the last five years of the company, we started paying ourselves. I got paid \$100/month to run the company. Rhonda got paid a little for being the costume person. But we did it.

YOU'RE NOW A MAINSTAY OF BOZEMAN THEATRE. FAVORITE ROLES?

Oh, Willy Loman, Scrooge, so many great shows we've done. In the summer of 2022, I toured with Shakespeare in the Parks again as King Lear. *Lear* was a joy and a trial, doing the tour again after so many years.

WORD IS YOU FULLY PARTICIPATED IN LOAD IN AND STRIKE EACH DAY—ALL 77 PERFORMANCES.

Well, I didn't do what others did. I helped as I could. I didn't carry anything extremely heavy. Even Cordelia was light.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR SONGWRITING CAREER.

In middle school I started playing guitar and it's been a form of expression and also meditation. And so when I retired, I decided to record some of my music. I put out one album, *Wide Open Door*, available wherever you buy albums. We did a small concert recently and I sold seven CDs (which tells you how old the audience was) and it was a huge score. (laughs)

YOU PLAYED THE MYSTERIOUS MAN/NARRATOR IN INTO THE WOODS LAST SEASON. TELL US ABOUT THAT EXPERIENCE.

It was so impressive to work with people with voices like



John as King Lear with Erik Pearson as Gloucester in MSIP's 2022 production

the ones that Intermountain Opera brings. I tend to hang as close as I can to the stage cause I want to see and hear what's going on. So to just sit in the wings and hear the voices for that show was astounding.

ANY PARTING THOUGHTS?

Bozeman has always been an amazing town. Back in the '60s, Joe Fitch and Ben Tone started the Red Barn Summer Community Theatre. Over the years, there has become more and more theatre and music in Bozeman, and the generation of it really had to do with the DeWeese and the Tones and Campbells. They were incredible people, and incredibly creative. Bozeman has Ray Campeau who was a student of Jesse Wilbur and Frances Senska. And now Josh and Tina DeWeese—all of that was here in Bozeman! It wasn't a town ever starving for the arts because of those people. Since then, things have gotten bigger. More actors, more musicians, but thanks to BSO and IOB and the college and the nature of our town, all of this has always existed. It's probably what has

helped make Bozeman so popular. The sadness I have around it is that I don't think any young artists could afford to do what we did and live in Bozeman now. That's the dark side, I guess. I've been lucky. It's a joy to do as much theatre as I can. And to work with wonderfully talented people.



Singer-songwriter John Hosking

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Mary Landeen	Viola*	Bill Scharnberg	Horn*
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David Kirk	Cello	Orin Gunderson	Trumpet
Courtney Peres	Bass*	Jeannie Little	Trombone*
Angela Espinosa	Harp*	Jeff Vick	Percussion*
Susan Makeever	Flute, Piccolo, Alto flute*		

* Denotes section principal

CAROUSEL

ARTIST PROFILES



MEREDITH LUSTIG

JULIE JORDAN

Praised for her “versatility”, Meredith has enjoyed a diverse career in opera, musical theater, and television. Favorite roles include: Lilli/ *Kiss Me Kate*, Laurie/ *Oklahoma* (Mac-Haydn Theater), Blanche DuBois/ *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Agnes/ *Maid of Orleans*, Older Alyce/ *Glory Denied* (Opera Company Middlebury), Gianetta/ *L'Elisir D'Amore*, Cephisia/ *Orpheus* (New York City Opera), Eurydice/ *Orpheus in the Underworld* (Virginia Opera), Fiona/ *Brigadoon* (TheaterZone), Megan/ *The Whole Truth* (American Modern Ensemble), Musetta/ *La Boheme* (Syracuse Opera), Papageno/ *Magic Flute*, Zina/ *Dark Sisters*, Carolina/ *Il Matrimonio Segreto*, Clorinda/ *Cenerentola* (Pittsburgh Opera); Daisy/ *The Great Gatsby* (Aspen Opera Theater), and Bella/ *An American Tragedy* (Glimmerglass). She has held residence at the Ravinia Stearns Institute, Caramoor, New York Festival of Song, Town Hall Theatre, Glimmerglass, and Pittsburgh Opera. Symphonic appearances include *Candide* (Philadelphia Orchestra), *Serenade to Music* (Chicago Symphony), Bernstein's *Mass* (Ravinia Festival, Philadelphia Orchestra), and as a headliner for the Dallas Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Steamboat Springs Symphony, The Virginia Arts Festival and Canada's Centre National Des Arts. Television appearances include *Dickenson*, *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* and *PBS Great Performances'* presentation of *Mass* under the baton of Marin Alsop. Her one-woman show, *To Sondheim*, *With Love* premiered in 2022 and was nominated for both a Berkshire Theatre and Broadwayworld awards. A passionate music educator, Ms. Lustig is vocal faculty at Circle In The Square Theater in NYC and has appeared in educational recitals and masterclasses with Rob Fischer. She enjoys helping students of all ages find joy in singing. meredithlustig.com @meredithlustig



TREVOR MARTIN

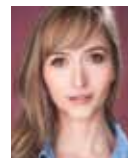
BILLY BIGELOW

Wielding a handsomely sincere voice and a fearlessness in expression, Trevor Martin is praised for his “classically trained baritone, perfect for the Golden Age of musical theater.” His training, charisma, and adaptability garner a unique cross-genre appeal and make him a fan favorite on stage in plays, musicals, operas, and concerts, as well as on the small screen. Last season's engagements included the role of Captain Georg von Trapp in the Global Tour of Rodgers & Hammerstein's *The Sound of Music* and Joe in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Sunset Boulevard* with Music Theatre of

Connecticut. This season, he joins Wolfbane Productions as Simon Stride/Spider/Jekyll U/S in *Jekyll & Hyde* and The Wick Theatre as Billy Bigelow in *Carousel*.

Recently, Mr. Martin took part in ZACH Theatre's production of *The Sound of Music* as Captain von Trapp, performed the role of Anthony in *End of the Rainbow* with Revival Theatre Company, performed the role of Bob Wallace in *White Christmas* at the Jennie T. Anderson Theater, donned roles in *See What I Wanna See* with Arc Stages, and performed Riff in Opera San Jose's *West Side Story*. Favorite engagements include the title role in *Sweeney Todd*, Beast in *Beauty and the Beast*, Sky Master-son in *Guys & Dolls*, Ralph Rackstraw in *HMS Pinafore*, and Captain Von Trapp in *The Sound of Music*, at theaters such as: Sharon Playhouse, Wolfbane Productions, Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, and Seagle Music Colony.

An accomplished and versatile actor, singer, and musician, Trevor was a winner in the prestigious Lotte Lenya Competition sponsored by the Kurt Weill Foundation in 2019 and has been selected as a quarterfinalist for the American Traditions Competition, which will be held in the Winter of 2021. Trevor is proud to support many social justice reform organizations, currently serving on the board of multiple Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committees for different theaters, and is committed to these ideals in all aspects of the theater and academic worlds. Trevor earned a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Georgia Southern University before graduating with a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from the esteemed Moores School of Music at the University of Houston.



ABIGAIL PASCHKE

CARRIE PIPPERIDGE

Abigail Paschke is thrilled to return to Intermountain Opera Bozeman where she was last seen as Cinderella in *Into the Woods* and Dakota (Yum-Yum) in *The Montana Mikado*. Her most recent credits include *West Side Story* as Francisca (Lyric Opera of Chicago), Rosalia (The Kennedy Center and Teatro Lirico di Cagliari, Italy), and Maria (The Carnegie), in addition to Ellie Mae Chipley in *Showboat* (The Glimmerglass Festival), Gossip in *The Ghosts of Versailles* (The Royal Opera of Versailles), Maria in *The Sound of Music* (The Carnegie), Valencienne in *The Merry Widow* (Kentucky Opera), Pamina in *The Magic Flute* (Salt Marsh Opera), Governess in *The Turn of the Screw* (Madison Lyric Stage) Juliette(u/s) in *Roméo et Juliette* (Des Moines Metro Opera), Sally in *Die Fledermaus* (Virginia Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Opera Saratoga), and Abigail Williams in *The Crucible* (Hartford Opera Theater).

Film/tv credits include Alice in the Emmy-Award nominated *Le Comte Ory* (Des Moines Metro Opera; PBS) and Sandra Gutenberg in *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* (Amazon Prime Video). She is an Encouragement Award Winner from The Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, a National Semi-Finalist from the Houston Grand Opera Eleanor McCollum Competition, and the Grand Prize winner of the Orpheus Vocal Competition. Abigail holds degrees from Carnegie Mellon University and University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music.



RICHARD BERMUDEZ

ENOCH SNOW

Richard is excited to be making his debut at Intermountain Opera in what he considers to be Richard Rodgers' most exquisite score. Richard is the recent proud recipient of Chicago's Joseph Jefferson Award for best lead performance in a musical for his performance as Che in *Evita* in 2022. Other notable performances include Jesus in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Moonlight Amphitheater), Valentine in *Kiss of the Spiderwoman* (Welk Resort, Winner of San Diego's Critics Circle for Best Lead Performance), Giorgio Baccetti in *Passion* (Boston Court), Tarzan in *Tarzan the Musical* (Performance Riverside), Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Candlelight Pavilion) and Marius in *Les Misérables* (Moonlight Amphitheater). Richard is a proud husband to Carly and father to Barrett.



STEPHANIE SÁNCHEZ

NETTIE FOWLER

Stephanie Sánchez has been praised by *Opera News* for her “polished, Italianate mezzo” and by *ReviewSTL* for her “exquisite singing.” Sánchez opens her 2023-24 season in her debut with Kentucky Opera performing the role of the Witch in *Hänsel und Gretel*. She also makes debuts with the Phoenix Symphony, where she will sing as a soloist in Handel's *Mesías* [Spanish *Messiah*], Nettie Fowler in *Carousel* with Intermountain Opera Bozeman, and with Opera Omaha in the role of Frida in Gabriela Lena Frank's *El ultimo sueño de Frida y Diego*. Sánchez made several notable house debuts in the 2022-23 season, including as Third Spirit in *The Magic Flute* at Ravinia under the baton of Marin Alsop; as Chief Officer's Wife in *The Knock* with Cincinnati Opera, and as a passenger in the world premiere of *Proximity: Four Portraits* at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. As a resident principal artist with Opera San José for two seasons, she performed the roles

of Prince Orlofsky in *Die Fledermaus*, Hänsel in *Hänsel and Gretel*, and Azucena in *Il Trovatore*. She returned to perform the role of Mercedes while covering the title role in *Carmen* in 2022. Sánchez has been the recipient of several prizes, including the “Audience Choice Award” at the 2021 Jensen Foundation competition. She was the recipient of the 2018 Igor Gorin Memorial Award, took first place in the Young Texas Artist Music Competition and second place in Opera Connecticut's Opera Idol Competition, was a finalist in the Brava Opera Theater Competition, and has received grants from the Anna Sosenko Assist Trust and the Hispanic Scholarship Association. Born and raised in Las Cruces, New Mexico, Sánchez received her Artist Diploma from the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University and her master's degree in vocal performance from New Mexico State University.



JAKE REISIG

JIGGER CRAIGIN

Jake wants nothing more than to entertain you. He wants to make you laugh. He wants to make you happy you decided to come out to the theatre. And he's somehow managed to trick the good people at the Intermountain Opera into letting him back on stage for a fourth time! Jake is privileged to live in a town with so many opportunities to be on stage. He has sung with the Bozeman Symphony's choir for over twenty years and has been in a number of productions at the Ellen Theatre including Will Parker in *Oklahoma!* and Phil Davis in *White Christmas*, not to mention a very devious, yet spotlight hungry gangster in the Intermountain Opera's production of *Kiss Me Kate*. And you may have seen him lost and wandering about dressed as a cow, and in a truly heart wrenching death scene in last year's *Into the Woods*. Known by his friends and family for his ability to/weakness for going off on tangents, Jake is a born storyteller. But be careful. He will give you ALL the background information for everyone and everything involved in his stories. Do NOT get cornered by him at a cocktail party. When he's not on stage, you can find Jake at the Ridge running up and down the basketball court or shaking his stuff in Zumba. In the summertime, you may have seen him catching a deep pass on the Ultimate Frisbee field or riding his bike all over town. Jake would like to thank his ever-patient wife Sara for wrangling their four kids Jordy, Cass, Alex, and Caerulea during the long rehearsals.



CHERYL SHEEDY

MRS. MULLIN

Cheryl Sheedy is a familiar face to Bozeman theatre-goers. She was recently seen in the Montana premiere of *Bending Towards the Light* as part of the Big Sky Voices Jazz Quartet. In October, she played the role of Mrs. Kirby in The Ellen Theatre's production of *You Can't Take It With You*. Other roles at The Ellen include Elsa in *The Sound of Music*, Betty (and Judy) in *White Christmas*, Grace in *Annie*, and Alyson in *A Grand Night for Singing*. Cheryl has performed in a number of IOB productions including *Kiss Me Kate*, *She Loves Me*, *My Fair Lady* and *The Pirates of Penzance*. Outside of the theatre, Cheryl most enjoys her roles as Mom, Wife and Mary Kay Sales Director.



MICHAEL BEEHLER

MR. BASCOMBE

Long time MSU Professor of English Michael Beehler is really pleased to be playing Mr. Bascombe in IOB's *Carousel*. He has been on stage numerous times as a chorus member in IOB productions of *Pirates of Penzance*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Lucia de Lamermoor*, and *Il Trovatore*, among others. He has acted in the Blue Slipper production of *Antigone* as Kreon, and in *Angels in America* as Henry, Roy Cohn's doctor. In December 2023 he sang the role of a Guardian Angel in *Bending Toward the Light: A Jazz Nativity*, and he continues to regularly sing in the Bozeman Symphonic Choir. In April 2024, he will direct a staged reading of T. S. Eliot's verse drama, *Murder in the Cathedral*, for Bozeman Actors Theater.



JOHN HOSKING

STARKEEPER/DR. SHELTON

John Hosking graduated from Montana State University and was a member of the Hillberry Graduate Repertory Theater at Wayne State University. He then worked professionally for three years with ACT in Seattle. In the 1970s he performed at the Virginia City Opera House. John co-founded the Vigilante Theatre Co. where he was an actor and director and toured Montana and the region for 33 years. He appeared as The Narrator/Mysterious Man in last February's production of *Into the Woods*. In 2022, he toured with Montana Shakespeare in the Parks to perform the title role in *King Lear*. You may have seen John at the Black Box as Pickering in *My Fair Lady*, as Willy Loman in *Death of a Salesman*, as Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* at The Ellen, or in many other venues around the

state. (*Wide Open Door* is John's recently released music album.)



RACHEL MASCARI

HEAVENLY FRIEND/CHORUS

Rachel caught the musical bug at a young age from her mother, who introduced the family to her VHS collection of Rodgers & Hammerstein musicals, and continually embarrassed them by singing Billy Bigelow's Soliloquy in the produce section of Trader Joes. After an unexpected teenagehood in Central America, where she took up ballet at the age of 13, she moved to the Rockies and found stepping to the count of eight in English to be a completely foreign experience. Despite this challenge, she continued dancing with Yellowstone Ballet Company, Kadosh Dance Company, and IndependDance. After a brief period of study at MSU's music department, Rachel took a detour to become a Montessori early childhood guide, teaching for five years in both Montessori and Waldorf schools. Hungry for a new challenge and eager to pursue her artistic bent, she stepped into the Bozeman theater scene, started her own photography business, and hasn't really looked back. Since then, she has appeared in IOB's chorus in *Camelot* and *The Marriage of Figaro*; and most recently with Montana Theatreworks in *The Sound of Music* (Sister Margaretta) and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Hodel). She also performed in the inaugural Yellowstone International Arts Festival in 2019, assistant stage-managed *Eugene Onegin* and this year, was the production photographer for several non-profits in the Bozeman area. Rachel thanks her husband, Ian, for his incredible support and sense of humor.



OLIVIA OSEN

LOUISE BIGELOW

Olivia Osen has been involved in Bozeman performing arts from a young age. Her theater experience began with Kaleidoscope Youth Theater, where she participated in a number of productions. She has also been involved with The Ellen Theatre, being a member of the ensemble in *Oliver!* (2016) and *Annie* (2017). In 2018, she had the opportunity to travel to New York City and study with Joffrey Ballet School as part of their Musical Theater Summer Intensive. In 2021, she participated in an intensive and talent agency audition experience with Next Star Productions in Las Vegas, where she spent time studying dance, vocals, acting, and modeling. Alongside her theater participation, she began dancing at the age of three with Main Street Dance Theatre, later called Bozeman Dance Academy.

In 2018, she transitioned into competitive dance with Tanya's Dance Company, where she expanded into training in a multitude of styles. Her team has received many regional awards, and she has also received awards as a regional soloist. When not studying at Bozeman High School or dancing with the school dance team, she enjoys spending her time watching Formula 1 and taking piano and voice lessons with Jeni Fleming.



ERIK PEARSON

CARNIVAL DANCER/CHORUS

A Minnesota native, via Chicago, Erik is very happy to return to IOB for another winter season, after terrorizing both Little Girls and Baker's Wives in *Into the Woods*. Active in musical theater, opera, concert music and educational theater, Erik spent eight seasons with Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, including playing Malvolio in two productions of *Twelfth Night*, and was seen this fall, opposite Joe Faifer, in Bozeman Actors Theatre's production of *The Gentleman Caller*. Other favorite performances include *A Doll's House* (BAT), *The Explorers Club*, Tulsa in *Gypsy*, Baby John in *West Side Story*, Sunday in the Park with George, Marvin in *Falsettos*, and *Haymarket* with Underscore Theater, Chicago (JEFF Award; Best New Musical). Dance credits include choreography for over 15 musicals (including *Evita*, *Mary Poppins*, and *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*), work with Zenon Dance Company (Minneapolis) CompanyDance (St. Olaf College) and more *Nutcracker* productions than he'd care to remember.

He has also performed with the Guthrie Theater, Aspen Opera Theater, The Children's Theatre Company, and the Minnesota Orchestra. Erik studied at St. Olaf College and the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art.



CLAYTON EHLERS

ENOCH SNOW, JR. / CHORUS

Clayton traveled from the Midwest eight years ago to attend the School of Music at Montana State University. He now holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music. During his time at Montana State, he studied piano under Julie Gossweiler, orchestration under Eric Funk, and Voice Technique under Elizabeth Croy. Currently, he holds a daytime job as a FedEx Delivery Driver and by night enjoys worship rehearsals with Connect Church.

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JUSTIN HORAK
POLICEMAN/CHORUS

Justin Horak has been a part of the Bozeman musical community for over 10 years singing in the Bozeman Symphony Choir, performing in *The Sound of Music* with The Ellen Theatre, and appearing in many Intermountain Opera Bozeman productions such as *Falstaff*, *Manon Lescaut*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Tender Land*, and *Rigoletto*. He has always enjoyed music and theater and is excited to bring his daughter, Kira, along for the ride. He is thrilled to be a part of the Intermountain Opera Company again and hopes you enjoy the show!



REGGIE MEAD
CAPTAIN/CHORUS

Reggie grew up in a small town in Eastern Montana and came to Bozeman in 2002 to study Computer Science. He has called the beautiful Gallatin Valley home ever since. A software engineer by trade, he loves to sing and act when the opportunity arises. He has performed with numerous groups in the area, including Intermountain Opera and Montana Shakespeare in the Parks. When not working or performing, he enjoys quiet time at home with his wife, Ramona, and their dogs.



MANDY BOWKER
PRINCIPAL/CHORUS

Mandy Bowker is thrilled to participate in her third production with Intermountain Opera. For the 2018-19 season, she played Kate in *The Pirates of Penzance* and sang in the ensemble for *Camelot*. Mandy also appeared in *Matilda* and *The Music Man* at the Shane Lalani Center during the 2022-23 season. She holds an M.M. in Vocal Performance from the University of South Dakota and performs with the Bozeman Symphonic Choir and Roots in the Sky. Mandy currently works as the Assistant to the Fine Arts Coordinator for the Bozeman School District and enjoys spending time with her husband and two daughters.



JULIE LEMIEUX
ARMY/CHORUS

Julie is delighted to be back at Intermountain Opera after appearing as Lucinda in last year's *Into the Woods*. Previous credits include *Thrall's Operetta* (intl. tour), Johanna in *Sweeney Todd* (Cincinnati), Yelena in *Uncle Vanya* (Denver), and Marta in *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (Denver). An accomplished scenic artist, she also works as a painter and muralist.



KIERAN BEEBE
CHORUS

Kieran Beebe is excited to continue performing in Bozeman with Intermountain Opera! Kieran graduated from Montana State University-Billings in 2022 and earned a BA in Music Education as well as Vocal Performance. Though primarily singing opera in Billings in his early roles, he also loves musical theatre. Kieran's recent roles include appearing as Dom Claude Frollo in Cody Community Theatre's production of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and in the opera chorus of *Rigoletto* with Intermountain Opera Bozeman, and as Lazar Wolf in *Fiddler on the Roof* with Montana Theatre Works. Kieran teaches music grades 5-12 in Three Forks.



MAKENA CARLSON
CHORUS

Makena Carlson is a senior in high school and this is her first show with the Intermountain Opera! She loves to read, ski, and dance! Since moving to Bozeman two years ago, she has participated with nearly every theater company in the valley, including The Ellen, the Verge, the Children's Shakespeare Society, Compass Musical Theater, and the high schools. Her favorite role she has played has been Morticia in the *Addams Family*. Makena plans to pursue a degree in musical theater next year! She is so excited to share *Carousel* with you all, enjoy the show!



JOSHUA COTA
CHORUS

Joshua Cota is proud to be performing with IOB after joining the Military Chorus in *The Falling and the Rising*. He got his start in high school performing as Goofy at Disneyland. He had a 23-year acting/singing hiatus while he served in the US Air Force following 9/11. Josh uses his involvement with IOB to help reintegrate into life outside of the military. Josh lives in Three Forks with his wonderful wife and three children. Josh enjoys hunting, fishing, and skiing. He is dedicating his performance to his

late Grandmother (an actress herself) who inspired him to pursue this dream and never give up.



DANIELLE DODGE
CHORUS

Danielle found a love and passion for singing at an early age and was seen in many productions in Billings, where she grew up. She went on to study Theatre & Vocal performance at Pacific Lutheran University for three years. Danielle moved back to Montana in March of 2022 after spending 11 years in Tucson, Arizona, where she worked off and on with Tucson's Live Theatre Workshop which specializes in producing theatre for children. Danielle also performed with Arts Express Theatre and sang with jazz jams around Tucson. She graduated from Arizona State University with a Bachelor's in Liberal Arts. Favorite projects include Meg in *Brigadoon*, Sheila in *The Boys Next Door*, Stephanie in *Duet for One*, acting and directing in Musical Theatre revues as well as supporting roles in *West Side Story* and *Little Shop of Horrors*. Besides the fine arts, she loves reading, traveling, spending time with family, and enjoying the outdoors with her dog, Jax. Since moving, Danielle has been off stage and is excited to be participating in this season with Intermountain Opera.



EMERALD HART-ULLMAN
CHORUS

Emerald Hart-Ullman, a vocalist born and raised in Billings, Montana, is excited to be performing with Intermountain Opera Bozeman. She has been a part of the performing arts community for 22 years. Between teaching Choir at Belgrade Middle School and singing with Fusion—an a cappella group—Emerald keeps her life filled with music! Emerald graduated from Montana State University-Billings with a degree in Music Education and degree in Vocal Performance. Emerald has performed with many theatre companies and ensembles such as The Billings Symphony, Rocky Mountain Jazz Collective, Billings Studios Theatre, Nova Performing Arts Center and more. She holds a special place in her heart for musicals and is elated to be performing with IOB!

JESSE LAGOS NOT PICTURED

YOUTH CHORUS



ZOE BOWKER



ELLIE FRANZMANN



KIRA HORAK



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PRODUCTION PROFILES



KATHERINE M. CARTER

STAGE DIRECTOR

Katherine M. Carter (she/her) is a stage director of theatre & opera. Based in New York City, Katherine travels around the world, bringing a consent and community-based approach to her work. From generative play and musical development to large scale opera, Katherine's expertise in various mediums provides a unique lens for guiding productions. Previous engagements include: Canadian Opera Company, On Site Opera, The Juilliard School, Ryan Opera Center at Lyric Opera of Chicago, The Alley Theatre, Houston Grand Opera, Manhattan School of Music, Sarasota Opera, Mannes Opera at the New School, The Rose Theatre, Santa Fe Opera, Carnegie Mellon University, Rice University Opera, and Parallel 45 Theatre. Fellowships include: New Georges, The Drama League, Wolf Trap Opera, and Playwrights Horizons.

Katherine is a certified Intimacy Director for theatre and opera, trained by IDC Professionals. This past season her work as an ID was seen at the Metropolitan Opera on the revival of *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*, and the new productions of *Champion* and *Don Giovanni*. This season Katherine served as the ID for the new production of *Carmen*.

Katherine would like to dedicate this production to her Mom, Sue, who took her to see *Carousel* in Detroit and fostered her love of music from an early age.

Up next; Offenbach's *Orphee aux Enfers* with Bard College, and Puccini's *La Rondine* with Manhattan School of Music. For more information on upcoming engagements visit www.KatherineMCarter.com



MICHAEL SAKIR

CONDUCTOR

Conductor Michael Sakir has been praised for his "artistic authority," "fluidity of expression," and "great delicacy of feeling." He serves as the Artistic Director of Intermountain Opera Bozeman which was praised by the London-based *Opera News* magazine as "a small but thriving opera company that it not restrained by convention." He recently completed his fourth and final season as Music Director of Opera Memphis with whom, in addition to conducting nearly two dozen production, he was deeply involved in the company's groundbreaking civic practice programs, community partnerships, and commissioning projects. In the 2023-2024 season, Sakir conducts *Carousel* and *La bohème* with Intermountain Opera Bozeman. He also makes his guest conducting debut with his alma

mater, the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, in *Albert Herring*. Other recent conducting engagements include the Seattle Opera, Arizona Opera, Opera Idaho, Brevard Music Festival, Opera Company of Middlebury, Des Moines Metro Opera, Opera Orlando, Shreveport Opera, Northwestern University, American Opera Projects, Opera in the Ozarks, and Opera North (NH). Sakir has held music staff positions for nearly three dozen productions with Santa Fe Opera, Washington National Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Sarasota Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Pensacola Opera, and Opera Boston. Sakir holds degrees from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and The Boston Conservatory. He was a participant in the 2017 OPERA America Leadership Intensive.



KATHERINE PROCTOR CHARLIER

CHOREOGRAPHER

Proctor began dancing at age four and began her pre-professional career with Charleston Ballet Theater touring the

East Coast before attending Virginia School of the Arts for high school. She began her professional career with Walt Disney Entertainment, then followed her dreams of dancing and singing for American troops stationed abroad with the D.O.D. like she had seen in *White Christmas*, then followed in Vera Ellen's footsteps (her childhood idol) by becoming a Radio City Rockette. After eight amazing years with the Rockettes across the US and in New York, Proctor embarked on a 4-year trip around the world with her husband, teaching dance & yoga and learning so much that it was life-changing and inspired her move to Bozeman. Proctor teaches dance, fitness and yoga and participates in every production possible in Bozeman while raising her three sons. She was honored to join the Intermountain Opera production team last year as choreographer for *Into the Woods* and is thrilled to join the staff this year as choreographer for *Carousel*. Thank you to the audience for your attendance and making this possible. We hope you enjoy the journey.



STACY HOSTETTER

COSTUME DESIGNER

Stacy Hostetter is happy to join the team at Intermountain Opera once again on this exciting production. She most recently worked on IOB productions of *The Falling and the Rising*, *Into the Woods*, *Rigoletto*, and *The Coronation of Poppea*, and previously on properties for MSIP/IOB collaborations of *Man of La Mancha*, *My Fair Lady*, and *A Little Night Music*. Stacy grew up in Bozeman and has been helping to bring

characters and stories to life professionally as part of the theater scene for over 25 years as a drama/art teacher in the schools, the Founder and Artistic/Program Director of Kaleidoscope Theater, a creative team member of Montana Shakespeare in the Parks where she has served since 2002 in many positions, most recently as a costume shop artist/craftsperson and prop designer, and as a costume designer for the Ellen Theatre for their productions of *A Christmas Carol*, *Much Ado About Nothing* (with Tate Academy), and *The Sound of Music*. Stacy is also a playwright with over 60 original plays/musicals, which during her time in the schools and at Kaleidoscope she produced, directed, and designed sets, props, and costumes to bring close to 300 productions to the stage. In her free time she can be found working on her house and yard, hanging out and creating art with her three amazing grandkids, singing in a choir, or buried in a good book.



ASHLEY MILLESON

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR/SCENIC DESIGNER

Bozeman native Ashley Milleson just completed the Masters program in scenic design at the University of Montana's School of Theater and Dance. She received her Undergraduate degree in Environmental Design from the School of Architecture at Montana State University. Past scenic design credits include *Woman on Stage* and *Man from Audience* at the Ellen Theatre; *Into the Woods* for Intermountain Opera Bozeman; and *She Loves Me*, *Call of the Wild*, and *Pride and Prejudice* at the University of Montana.



JONATHAN DOVE

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Jonathan Dove is thrilled to return to Intermountain Opera Bozeman, having collaborated with the company on numerous occasions, including the recent production of *The Coronation of Poppea*. Beyond IOB, he lends his lighting expertise to Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, managing the lighting for the outdoor venue at MSU as well as the intimate settings of the Black Box Theatre. A staple in the Bozeman theatre scene, Jonathan has designed for various local groups and calls Belgrade his home. Above all, he wishes to express his profound gratitude to his wife for her unwavering support and encouragement in his theatrical endeavors.



BROOKE MONROE

PROPERTIES MANAGER

Brooke worked for nearly 20 years in the film and television industry in many capacities, including prop master, producer and director. She then turned to the non-profit world, working for Classics for Kids, Arts Without Boundaries and Montana Shakespeare in the Parks. This is her second production with the Intermountain Opera, and she couldn't be more thrilled to be part of this incredible team!



SARA MISNER

PRODUCTION MANAGER

As a 2020 MSU Film School Alumni, Sara Misner discovered early on in college that her love for theatre was greater than her love for film. All throughout her college years and after she has worked for various theatre companies in the Bozeman area. Most of these gigs were with Montana Shakespeare in the Parks as a Stage Manager, until she was offered the consistent job of Operations Manager for Intermountain Opera. Working for an opera company is something she never expected to do, but it has opened doors to amazing relationships and absolutely stunning art. She is honored to once again work behind the scenes as the Production Manager for *Carousel*.



ANGELA HOFFMAN

STAGE MANAGER

Angela Hoffman has a BA in Stage Management from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has been the Production Stage Manager at The Ellen Theatre since October 2008. She is delighted to be working with IOB again this winter. Favorite past productions include *The Montana Mikado* and *Kiss Me Kate* with Intermountain Opera Bozeman; *White Christmas*, *A Christmas Carol* and *Jimmie and Pete* with The Ellen Theatre. She would like to thank her husband and son for supporting her theatrical endeavors throughout the years.



LUKAS GRAF

CHORUS MASTER

Lukas has performed and conducted opera, operetta, musical theater, and artsong around the United States and Europe. His most recent engagements include Rapunzel's Prince from *Into the Woods*, The Jumper from *The Fall-*

ing and the Rising, Antonio from *The Marriage of Figaro*, Kodaly from *She Loves Me*, and Tamino from Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*. While in residence at the University of Colorado's New Opera Workshop, he premiered the roles of Louis Tikas in Lori Laitman's *Ludlow*, Collins in Kirk Mechem's *Pride and Prejudice*, and Rosenkrantz from Hershel Garfein's *Rosenkrantz and Guildenstern*.

Lukas currently teaches at Montana State University, directing two choirs, teaching voice and conducting in the school of music, and multiple classes in the Honors College. He currently sings in Montana's only professional choral ensemble, Roots in the Sky. Lukas holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Voice Performance and Pedagogy, and two Masters of Music degrees in Voice Performance and Choral Conducting from the University of Colorado, Boulder. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Montana State University under the direction of Lowell Hickman, David Cody, and Linda Curtis.



JESSICA GRAF
YOUTH CHORUS MASTER

Jessica Graf is an active music teacher, chorister, and singer. This year marks her ninth year teaching general music, choir, and band at Longfellow Elementary school. Jessica taught 6th grade general music and directed the Western Plains Youth Choir in Minot, North Dakota. She started her teaching career at the Pinnacle Charter School in Federal Heights, Colorado, where she developed a 6th–12th band, choir, and general music program.

Jessica has sung with the Bozeman Symphony Choir and chamber choir, as a soloist in the Bozeman Symphony collage concerts, and joined her husband, Lukas, in a recital at the Shane. Outside of the symphony, she has sung in many of the annual First Presbyterian concert series, held a position as the section leader for the St. James Episcopal Choir, and sung in choruses and small ensembles for Intermountain Opera productions and community events. Jessica was also the children's chorus director for the 2017 IOB production of *Tosca*.

Jessica received her Bachelor of Music Education degree from Montana State University in 2002, studying voice under Lowell Hickman and Linda Curtis. She is currently pursuing her Master of Music in Music Education from Montana State University.



BETH LEE
REHEARSAL PIANIST

Ms. Lee has several decades of experience as a collaborative pianist. She studied piano at Florida State University. Her experience includes work as a

piano accompanist at Florida State University and Montana State University; church organist; music director and accompanist in several community theater organizations; harpsichordist with a string quartet; and piano accompanist for a variety of choral and instrumental groups.



REILLY SCOTT
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Reilly Scott is a Bozeman, Montana, native who grew up participating in the arts around town, and is pleased to be working with Intermountain Opera for the first time. She started out performing at Kaleidoscope Youth Theater and eventually transitioned to teaching and stage managing with the same company. Reilly has both performed with Open Door Theater and Montana Theater Works at The Ellen Theatre. She has also worked in the costume department at The Ellen and as a Production Assistant with Montana Shakespeare in the Parks.



ANGELA CATEORA
COSTUME ASSISTANT / RUN CREW

Angela Cateora is an alumnus of Montana State University, graduating in the Spring of 2023 with a BFA in Integrated Lens Based Media and Studio Arts with a concentration in Printmaking.

Originally from Oregon, she has resided in Bozeman since 2016. During her time here she has worked with almost every theater company in town, including Montana Shakespeare in the Parks (costume shop manager, costume designer), Montana Theater Works, Bozeman Actors Theatre, and is thrilled to be working with Intermountain Opera once again! In her free time, Angela enjoys watching *Seinfeld* and petting dogs.



GENE GOLDENFELD
HEAD USHER

Gene has coordinated the ushers and been Head Usher, as well as help recruit other front-of-the-house volunteers for Intermountain Opera since 2015. An old R&B-er, he developed a love for opera after hearing Leontyne Price, *Porgy & Bess* and *Carmen* in the 1970s. He's grateful to all the volunteers who've lent the Opera their efforts over the years.

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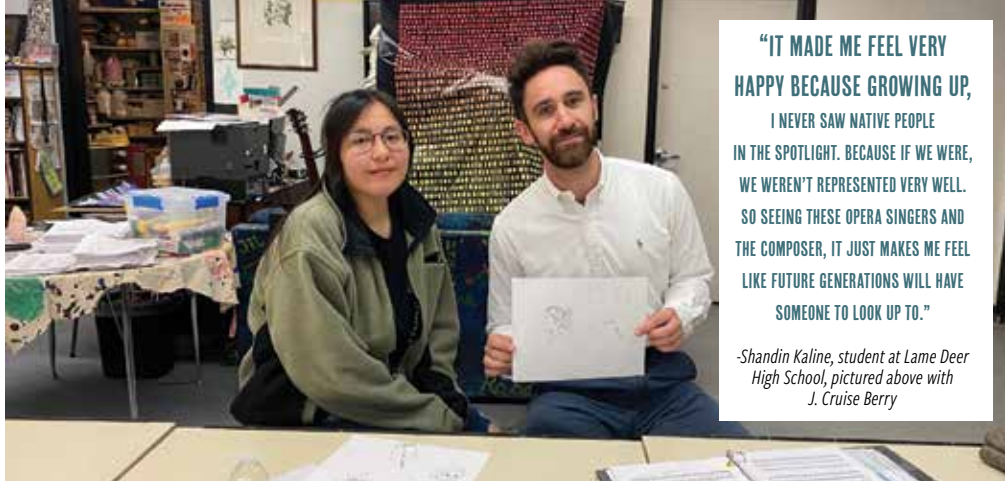


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THE COMPOSER, IT JUST MAKES ME FEEL
LIKE FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL HAVE
SOMEONE TO LOOK UP TO."

-Shandin Kaline, student at Lame Deer
High School, pictured above with
J. Cruise Berry



Launched in April
2023, our *Wheels
of Harmony* statewide
music education tour

brings Indigenous opera singers, musicians, and composers to rural and Tribal schools throughout the state, breaking down geographic and economic barriers and building connections across communities. The Spring 2023 tour reached over 1100 students in 12 different schools over two weeks, including Bozeman, Fishtail, Absarokee, Lame Deer, Belgrade, Helena, Kalispell, Polson, Corvallis, and Drummond. The Spring 2024 tour will reach up to 21 rural schools, with an extended touring period of three weeks.

Cherokee Mezzo-Soprano Kate Morton summarized the goals of the program to the students: "One, to introduce you to a little bit about our tribes, culture, and history. Two, to introduce you to classical music, the classical music world. And three, to hopefully inspire you to tell stories in your own way, whether that's about your own ancestors or perhaps get into classical music".



The artists take a lunch break with students at Hyalite Elementary

"SOMETHING I LEARNED
FROM THE PRESENTATION
IS THAT OPERA CAN BE REALLY
HARD TO DO, BUT CAN ALSO
GET YOU TO GOOD PLACES
AND GET YOU GOOD THINGS IN LIFE
IF YOU TRY AT IT."

-7th grade student at
C.R. Anderson School in Helena



Kate Morton, Mark Billy, and J. Cruise Berry with Lame Deer Public School students in April 2023



The chorus, made up of former and currently serving military members, that performed the finale of *The Falling* and *The Rising* led to the launch of IOB's continuing Veteran's Chorus led by USAF Veteran Lukas Graf. Through the chorus, we continue to partner with the American Legion Gallatin Post #14, the Vietnam Veterans Association Chapter #788, and Montana State University Veterans Services. The Veterans Chorus performs at special events around the community.



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Heather Jones as Nero and Shawnette Sulker as Poppea in *The Coronation of Poppea*

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The Sustaining Member Society is made up of people who have pledged to give to Intermountain Opera Bozeman at a certain level and on a continuing basis. This helps us plan for the future and spend more time on programming.

Sustaining Members are designated in our donor lists by the fermata (⤵), a musical notation which indicates that a note may be held as long as needed. A fermata next to your name symbolizes the enduring significance of your support. Please contact the office at 406-587-2889 to sign up at the level of your choice or pledge online at IntermountainOpera.org.

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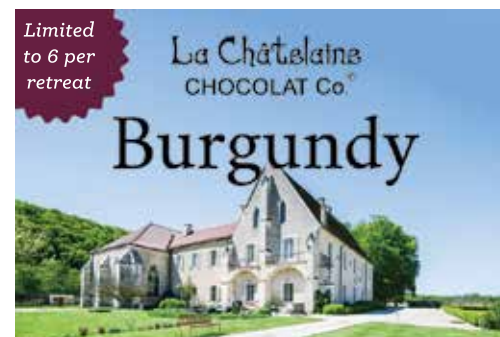
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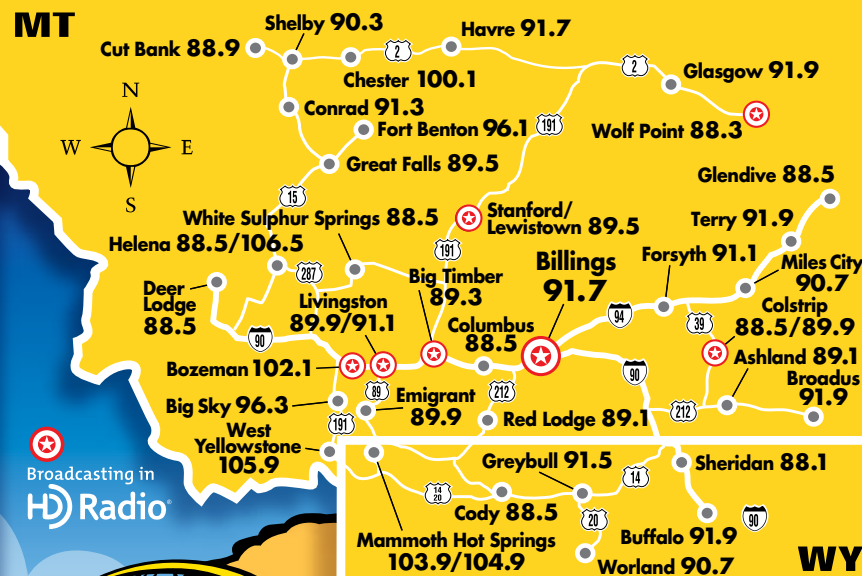
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