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Gianni Schicchi Suor & Angelica

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2015 • 7:00 PM
SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2015 • 3:00 PM

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Intermountain Opera Bozeman presents

Suor Angelica

by Giacomo Puccini

Conductor: Christopher Allen

Stage Director: Jeffrey Buchman

Cast

Maria Kanyova - Suor Angelica
Layna Chianakas - La Zia Principessa (Suor Angelica's Aunt)
Catherine Savery - Suor Genovieffa
Melina Pyron - La Suora Zelatrice
Sharon Beehler - Le Converse
Nadine Grayl - Le Converse
Michelle Hager - Suor Osmina
Claire McCahan - La Naestra delle Novizie
Hanna Meeks - Suor Dolcina
Lexi Monson - Le Novizie
Wendy Monson - La Cercatrice
Rachel Osen - La Suora Infermiera
Emily Thrasher - La Badessa
Karla Vandersloot - Le Cercatrice



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THE SETTING

Convent Garden

Florence, Italy - late 1600

Please turn off all cell phones and electrical devices.
All photography and/or videoing of the performance is strictly forbidden.

✧ SYNOPSIS ✧

Suor Angelica

A convent garden in Florence

Sister Angelica and two lay sisters are late for chapel. The Monitor chides them for not doing penance as Sister Angelica has done. Some of the sisters confess they still long for worldly pleasures—Sister Genovieffa for the lambs she used to tend and Sister Dolcina for sweet things to eat. Sister Angelica denies she has any such desires, but the others know she desperately longs for some word from her family. For seven years she has heard nothing from them, and the sisters speculate that she was a princess, banished to the convent for reasons they have been unable to discover. Soon alms collectors arrive, distributing the food they have gathered. One of them mentions that a magnificent coach bearing a visitor stands outside the convent gate. Angelica is startled and, with increasing anxiety, asks her to describe the coach in detail. A bell rings announcing the visitor. The Abbess enters and tells Angelica that her aunt, the Princess, has come to see her. Approaching, the Princess rejects Angelica's gestures of affection. The Princess explains that when Angelica's parents died, she was made guardian of both Angelica and her sister, Anna Viola, and was given control over their inheritance ("Il principe Gualtiero"). Anna Viola is to be married and the Princess demands Angelica sign her share over to her sister. Having brought disgrace on the family name, the Princess declares, Angelica is no longer entitled to any part of the inheritance. Crushed by her aunt's cruelty, Angelica swears she has repented. She cannot, however, erase the memory of her little son, who, she learns, died two years ago. Her will now broken, Angelica sobs and signs the document. The Princess withdraws and Angelica grieves that her son died without his mother by his side ("Senza mamma"). Resolving to join her child in heaven, she drinks poison. She is then struck by the reality of what she has done and prays for salvation. A celestial choir is heard and Angelica sees a vision of the Blessed Virgin with her child.

Synopsis's courtesy of
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Intermountain Opera Bozeman presents

Gianni Schicchi

by Giacomo Puccini

Conductor: Christopher Allen

Stage Director: Jeffrey Buchman

Cast

Levi Hernandez - Gianni Schicchi

Maria Kanyova - Lauretta, his daughter, in love with Rinuccio

Jeff Abelin - Buoso Donati, the deceased

Layna Chianakas - Zita, cousin of Buoso

Andrew Bidlack - Rinuccio, nephew of Zita

Darrell Babidge - Simone, cousin of Buoso

Kenny Stavert - Marco, son of Simone

Melina Pyron - La Ciesca, wife of Marco

Matthew Rognlie - Gherardo, nephew of Buoso

Catherine Savery - Nella, his wife

Amelia Glover - Nellita, their daughter

BJ Otey - Betto di Signa, brother-in-law of Buoso

Benjamin Wayne Smith - Notary

Frank Simpson - Dr. Spenollocio

Harlan Reidmohr - The Witness

David Summerfield - Second Witness

Sets by Michael Hillenius, Willson Auditorium Technical Director

Costumes by Madeline Garcia and IOB costume committee

Supertitles by Chadwick Creative Arts

THE SETTING

Florence, Italy - 1930

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following the performances.

✧ SYNOPSIS ✧

Gianni Schicchi

The Palazzo of Buoso Donati in Florence

The greedy relatives of the wealthy Buoso Donati gather at his deathbed to mourn his passing and investigate the details of his will. There are rumors that the old man has left nearly everything to a monastery. If his will has not been filed with a notary, however, there is still hope for the relatives, who begin a frantic search for the document. Young Rinuccio finds it and makes his Aunt Zita promise to let him marry his beloved Lauretta if there is enough money. They read the will, which proves the rumors were true; the relatives finally shed genuine tears. Rinuccio suggests that Lauretta's father, Gianni Schicchi, a shrewd self-made man, can help them: this new breed of peasant-turned-businessman will invigorate Florence, which the young man compares to a tree in full flower ("Firenze è come un albero fiorito"). Schicchi appears with Lauretta. Disgusted by the hypocrisy and avarice of the aristocratic family, Schicchi is about to leave but decides to stay when Lauretta proclaims her intention to marry Rinuccio ("O mio babbino caro"). Reading the will, Schicchi devises a plan to impersonate the dead man. He sends Lauretta home and orders the body removed from the bed. The doctor arrives to check on Buoso, but Schicchi's voice convinces the addled doctor that the patient is improving. Schicchi tells the relatives to send for the notary and, putting on Buoso's nightshirt and cap, promises to dictate a new will. The relatives each try to get a promise from Schicchi that he will leave the best parts of the estate to them. Schicchi agrees with every secret request and warns each that they must keep the secret forever or face the punishment as accessories to a fraud—a hand cut off and eternal banishment from Florence. The notary arrives with witnesses, and Schicchi dictates that the great part of the estate, including the house they are all in, is to be left to his good friend Gianni Schicchi! The relatives are furious but can say nothing, and when the notary leaves they fall on Schicchi and steal what they can from the house. Schicchi orders them out of his house and points to the young lovers, standing out on the terrace gazing at the blossoming city. Turning to the audience, he points out how happy his fraud has made the young lovers, and pleads for a verdict of not guilty.

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➤ ARTISTS ➤

Maria Kanyova (Soprano) Suor Angelica & Lauretta

Critics have hailed soprano Maria Kanyova as an extraordinary singing actress. Her extensive performing career has encompassed a wide variety of roles. Violetta in Verdi's *La Traviata* remains one of Kanyova's signature roles, which she has performed with Lyric Opera of Chicago, New York City Opera, Portland Opera, Utah Opera and Intermountain Opera Bozeman. *Madama Butterfly* remains another mainstay in Kanyova's list of leading roles. The Denver Post raved, "Making her striking Central City debut in the demanding role, Soprano Maria Kanyova hardly could be more convincing with her appropriate youthful appearance... More important, she possesses a pure forceful voice with a pleasing soft edge and she knows how to use it." Kanyova has performed leading roles across the United States, Canada and Europe including Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, San Francisco Opera, Los Angeles Opera, New York City Opera, Dallas Opera, Florida Grand Opera, to name just a few.



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Her most recent world premiere was performed with the San Francisco Opera in the role of Miriam in Mark Adamo's *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene*. Other recent engagements include the role of Gretel in the famed Richard Jones production of *Hänsel und Gretel* with Lyric Opera of Chicago, the title role in *Madama Butterfly* with New Orleans Opera, Blanche in *Streetcar Named Desire* with Kentucky Opera and the role of Pat Nixon with the San Francisco Opera in *Nixon in China*, a role which Kanyova has performed numerous times, and has recorded on CD under the Naxos Label with Marin Alsop conducting. Robert Trussell of the Kansas City Star wrote of her debut performance with the Lyric Opera of Kansas City as Pat Nixon, "Soprano Maria Kanyova's heartfelt portrait of Pat as a woman of simple origins uncomfortable on the world stage is extraordinary. Her voice could stop time."

She currently resides in Chicago with her husband and four children.

Layna Chianakas (Mezzo-soprano) La Zia Principessa & Zita

Now in her seventh year as Associate Professor of Voice at San Jose State University, Greek-American mezzo-soprano, Layna Chianakas, has been hailed as "the type of singer that makes one remember why to go to the opera." Her versatility as a singing-actor has aided her in the portrayal of many leading opera roles including Carmen in *Carmen*, Santuzza in *Cavalleria Rusticana*, Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*, Angelina in *La Cenerentola*, Suzuki in *Madama Butterfly*, The Woman in Poulenc's *La Voix Humaine*, the title role in *La Perichole* and countless Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro*. She has performed with such opera companies as Cleveland Opera, Nashville Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Sarasota Opera, Virginia Opera, Opera Santa Barbara, Madison Opera, Sacramento Opera, and Richard Wagner Bayreuth Festival. She sang the role of His Mother and directed *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (in which her own son sang the title role) with San Jose State Opera Theater/San Jose State Choral Department as well as with Intermountain Opera Bozeman.



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Ms. Chianakas has extensive experience and much success in the recital forum. She spent three years touring with The Songs of Franz Schubert Concert Series performing over 100 recitals. She was named Artistic Ambassador of the United States, performing recitals for some of the foremost diplomats of our country and giving master classes in Colombia, Venezuela, El Salvador, Guatemala, British Guyana and Jamaica. As a soloist, she has sung with numerous symphonies and choral societies.

Ms. Chianakas has Bachelor of Arts in Music degree from the University of Alabama-Birmingham and a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Illinois. She currently lives in San José, CA with her husband and two children.

✦ ARTISTS ✦

Levi Hernandez (Baritone) Gianni Schicchi

With a velvety tone and a stage presence which exudes confidence and charm, baritone Levi Hernandez is gaining momentum as a sought after artist on the operatic stage. Mark Thomson Ketterson of Opera News declared of his principal debut with Lyric Opera of Chicago as Dandini in *La Cenerentola*, "Young baritone Levi Hernandez's intelligent Dandini displayed a most impressive knack for subtle text-painting within a pristinely negotiated coloratura line..."

Recently the El Paso native made his Houston Grand Opera debut as Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly* next to Ana Maria Martinez and Joseph Calleja; he also joined the rosters of San Francisco Opera and the Metropolitan Opera in their productions of Puccini's *Il trittico* and *Fanciulla del West*. In the 2012-2013 season Mr. Hernandez returned to the Metropolitan Opera for *Carmen*, revisited Sharpless with Nashville Opera, appeared with Opera Memphis as Marcello in *La bohème*, sang Handel's *Messiah* with the El Paso Symphony, and performed the role of Guglielmo in Puccini's *Le Villi* with the Spoleto Festival, USA. Mr. Hernandez returned to the Opera Theater of St. Louis in 2014 as Papageno in *The Magic Flute*. He made his European debut in the Komische Oper Berlin production of *Pique Dame* in the role of Tomschi. An alumnus of the Lyric Opera center for American Artists, Mr. Hernandez made his Lyric Opera mainstage debut during the 2004-05 season. A versatile actor as well as a fine singer, Hernandez portrayed the title role in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* at the 2004 Grant Park Music Festival.

Mr. Hernandez has been seen on the concert stage as a soloist in Handel's *Messiah* with Charlotte Symphony and Orff's *Carmina Burana* with the Pennsylvania Ballet. He was a 2002 Metropolitan Opera National Council Awards finalist, and he was the recipient of an Albanese-Puccini Foundation Grant 2002 OPERALIA competition finalist. After receiving his undergraduate degree at Westminster Choir College Mr. Hernandez attended the prestigious Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia. While there he performed a number of leading roles including Figaro in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Marcello in *La bohème*, Ford in *Falstaff*, Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly*, Vicar in *Albert Herring* and Falke in *Die Fledermaus*.



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Andrew Bidlack (Tenor) Rinuccio

After graduating from the San Francisco Opera's prestigious Adler Fellowship, Mr. Bidlack's 2012-2013 season began with his role debut as Rodrigo in Rossini's *Otello* with Opera Southwest. Following singing the tenor solos in Handel's *Messiah* with the Lexington Philharmonic and performing as Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte* with Florida Grand Opera, Mr. Bidlack made his debut with the Lyric Opera of Chicago in their production of *A Streetcar Named Desire* with Renée Fleming at Carnegie Hall. He finished the 2012-2013 season performing Beppe in Donizetti's rarely performed opera *Rita* with Rochester Lyric Opera.

A frequent interpreter of new works by some of today's most significant composers, Mr. Bidlack sang Ishmael in a workshop production of Jake Heggie's *Moby Dick* with the San Francisco Opera and headed to Wolf Trap in 2010 to sing Tancredi in a workshop production of John Musto's new opera *The Inspector*.

Selected by Florida Grand Opera, Mr. Bidlack was the recipient of the 2009-2010 Gilbert Artist Award, given to a former Young Artist who returned to sing a principle role in a main-stage production.



➤ ARTISTS ➤

Darrell Babidge (Baritone) Simone

A graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music in the U.K. Mr. Babidge also received a Master's degree from Brigham Young University and Professional degree in vocal performance from the Manhattan School of Music. A recent review from the Salt Lake Tribune said, "On opening night, baritone soloist Darrell Babidge filled the Capitol Theater with his resonant voice." Another review from the Opera Now journal has written, "Darrell Babidge contributed smooth, polished timbre to the [role of] Almaviva."



Recent engagements include the title role in Mendelssohn's *Elijah* with the Salt Lake Choral Artists, the Durufle *Requiem* with the Music in the Mountains Orchestra, Count Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro* for Opera at the Presidio in San Francisco, John Hancock in 1776 for Utah Festival Opera and Falke in *Die Fledermaus* for Intermountain Opera Bozeman. He also sang Aaron Copland's *Songs of the Valley* for Ballet West at the Capitol Theater in Salt Lake City and John Rutter's *Mass of the Children* with the American Festival Orchestra, conducted by Craig Jessop. He recently sang Betto in *Gianni Schicchi* with Utah Opera and Symphony, and returned as Gideon March in *Little Women*.

Darrell is full-time faculty at Brigham Young University. He also teaches the Utah Opera Young Artists. His students sing in major opera houses throughout the world, and have been accepted into Young Artist programs at the Metropolitan Opera and Houston Grand Opera. He has been employed by the Metropolitan Opera to teach in its Lindemann Young Artists program, and last year one of his students won the Metropolitan Opera National Council competition.



BJ Otey (Baritone) Betto di Signa

Bedford Otey ("BJ") comes from an opera and theater family. He has been performing in operas since he was eight years old. Since moving to Bozeman seven years ago with his family to pastor a church, he has been seen in numerous Intermountain Opera Bozeman productions including *La bohème*, *The Ballad of Baby Doe*, *The Telephone*, *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *Madama Butterfly*, and *Roméo et Juliette*.

Catherine Savery (Soprano) Suor Genovieffa & Nella

Hailed by the Connecticut Post as "an absolutely sparkling soprano," Catherine Viscardi Savery has performed with numerous opera companies, including Portland Opera (OR), Ashlawn Opera (VT), DiCapo Opera (NY) & Intermountain Opera Bozeman (MT). Roles include Despina in *Così fan tutte*, Adele in *Die Fledermaus*, Oscar in *Un Ballo in Maschera*, Sophie in *Werther*, Tytania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Mabel in *Pirates of Penzance*,

Olympia in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, Rosina in *Barber of Seville*, and Josephine in *H.M.S. Pinafore*. In concert, Catherine has soloed in the Mozart *Requiem* with the Greater Bridgeport Symphony, the Bach *Magnificat* with the Bozeman Symphony, Mozart's *Exultate Jubilate* with the Wyoming Symphony, and Händel's *Messiah* with the Norwalk, Allentown & Glacier Symphonies. Ms. Savery has sung recitals in Merkin Hall & Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall in NYC, as well with the Center for Contemporary Arts in VA & Artcore Wyoming. She holds music degrees from Vassar College & Mannes College of Music.



✦ ARTISTS ✦



Frank Simpson (Tenor) Dr. Spenollocio

Frank Simpson has been seen in well over a dozen productions with Intermountain Opera Bozeman beginning with *Pagliacci* in 1988 and most recently as the Barber in *Man of La Mancha* co-produced with Montana Shakespeare in the Parks. He performs regularly in plays and musicals across southwest Montana and last year played roles ranging from the ridiculous Max Bialystock in *The Producers* to the sublime Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables*. Other favorite roles include the Baker in *Into the Woods*, Nicely-Nicely Johnson in *Guys and Dolls*, and Jinx in *Forever Plaid*. This July he looking forward to playing Teyve in the

Ellen Theatre's production of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Kenneth Stavert (Baritone) Marco

Praised for his strong "sense of theatricality," baritone Kenneth Stavert has performed on operatic, concert and recital stages throughout the United States and Europe. Some of his credits include Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, Figaro in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Yamadori in *Madama Butterfly*, Sciarone in *Tosca*, Schaunard in *La bohème* and Gregorio in *Roméo et Juliette*.

Kenneth's Orchestral credits include Fauré's *Requiem*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Handel's *Messiah* and Mozart's *Vesperae solennes de confessorio*.

Kenneth numerous awards include 2nd place in the Southeastern Region of the Metropolitan Opera Competition as well as being a regional finalist in the Central region. Kenneth holds a Bachelor of Music in voice performance from the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music in Long Beach, California, and a Master of Music degree from the College Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati, Ohio. He currently resides in Cincinnati where he studies with Kenneth Shaw.



Matthew Rognlie (Tenor) Gerardo

This is Matt's sixth production with Intermountain Opera Bozeman. He was previously a chorus member in Verdi's *Il Trovatore*, Rossini's *Barber of Seville*, Gounod's *Roméo and Juliet*, Verdi's *La Traviata* and Gilbert and Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore*. He sings with the Bozeman Symphonic Choir and Chamber Choir and sang with the Hope Lutheran Choir. An active and life-long trumpet player, Matt began singing a decade ago and studied with David Johnson, DSM, currently at Faith Lutheran in Clive, Iowa. Matt is a native Montanan and long-time MSU employee where he currently serves as information technology director.



Melina Pyron (Mezzo-soprano) La Zelatrice & La Ciesca

Ms. Pyron is a graduate of the Lyric Opera of Chicago's Ryan Opera Center. While there, she created the role of Lucy Cross in the world premiere of Michael John LaChiusa's *Chataqua Variations*. In the past year she has sung Charlotte in *Werther* with Vashon Opera, sung Buttercup in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, and joined the Washington-Idaho Symphony for *The Messiah*. Most recently, she was a featured "Diva" in Northwest Sinfonietta's 3 Diva's Concerts and she joined Spectrum Dance in Seattle for the World Premiere of Donald Byrd's choreography of *Carmina Burana*.

Ms. Pyron has performed with numerous opera companies across the country, including the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Seattle Opera, the Santa Fe Opera and Central City Opera. Concert appearances include the Mozart *Grand Mass* with Sir Andrew Davis at the Blossom Festival in Cleveland, the Beethoven *Choral Fantasy* with James Conlon at the Ravinia Festival and Bernstein's *Songfest* with Andreas Delfs and the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. She has been a featured soloist on the nationally broadcast Paul Harvey Show and the Dame Myra Hess Recital Series in Chicago. Ms. Pyron maintains voice studios in Montana and Seattle.

➤ ARTISTS ➤

Jeff Abelin, Buoso

Jeff Abelin first performed with Intermountain Opera Bozeman in the 1992 production of *Faust*. He has participated as a member of the chorus in many subsequent productions, and is also involved as a member of the Board of Directors. A graduate of both Bozeman High and MSU, he is grateful to have been raised in a community with such love of music and opera and has cherished the opportunities involvement in IOB has afforded him to befriend many wonderful artists and opera lovers.

Sharon Beehler (Soprano) Le Converse

Suor Angelica is Sharon's fourth opera with Intermountain Opera Bozeman. She has sung in the Bozeman Symphonic Choir since 1987 and is a charter member of the FarAfield group Bel Canto and of the Bozeman Chamber Group. Past stage experiences have included *The Gondoliers*, *Pirates of Penzance*, and numerous musicals. She is Professor Emeritus of English from MSU and recently retired in order to indulge her passion for music, theater, travel, and volunteering and to celebrate life with her husband, Michael.

Amelia Catherine Glover, Nellita

Amelia is thrilled to be making her debut appearance with Intermountain Opera Bozeman. She performed the role of Tiny Tim in the Montana TheatreWorks production of *A Christmas Carol* at The Ellen in 2014.

Nadine Grayl (Alto) Le Converse

Nadine DuBois Grayl moved to Bozeman in 2009 from the Detroit area. Originally from New Jersey, she earned a Bachelor's in music from Concordia University Chicago and a masters in theology from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO, where she sang with the American Kantoriei and the Bach at the Sem series. She is a member of the Bozeman Symphonic Choir and first sang with the Intermountain Opera Bozeman chorus in *H.M.S. Pinafore*. She lives with her husband, three children, and an assortment of furry and feathered friends.

Michelle Hager (Soprano) Suor Osmina

Michelle grew up in the Gallatin Valley and has enjoyed singing with Intermountain Opera Bozeman since she was in high school. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Music from Montana State University and currently directs the Bridger Mountain Harmony Chorus.

Claire McCahan (Alto) La Maestra delle Novizie

A native of Plymouth, NH, Ms. McCahan received her B.A. in Vocal Performance from the University of New Hampshire. While at UNH, she performed many roles with the Opera Workshop, was a soloist with the Concert Choir, and was part of the commencement performing artist group for three years. An outdoor enthusiast, Claire relocated to Bozeman in 2012. In addition to working at Bridger Bowl as a ski instructor, she has taught for the Montana Outdoor Science School, and hikes wherever and whenever she can! She has previously performed with Intermountain Opera Bozeman in Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*, Verdi's *La Traviata*, as Cousin Hebe in Gilbert and Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore*, and as Antonia in the MSIP and IOB's collaboration of *Man of La Mancha*.

Hanna Meeks (Soprano) Suor Dolcina

Hanna has been in many local theatre productions such as *Boeing-Boeing*, *Les Miserables*, *Is he dead?*, and *White Christmas*. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in theatre performance, and has loved being a part of *Suor Angelica*. This is her first opera, and she has truly enjoyed bringing Sister Dolcina to life, and working with this incredibly talented cast.

⇒ ARTISTS ⇒

Lexi Monson (Mezzo-soprano) Le Novizie

Lexi Monson is performing with Intermountain Opera Bozeman for the fourth time since singing with the children's choir in several operas, including *Carmen*, *The Ballad of Baby Doe*, and *Hänsel and Gretel*. She has won the State of Montana MTNA Vocal Competition the past two years. She is also an accomplished pianist and harpist. Lexi will graduate from Bozeman High School in June, and plans to pursue music at BYU in the fall.

Wendy Monson (Soprano) Le Cercatrice

Wendy Monson is happy to be returning for her 16th season with Intermountain Opera Bozeman. Her first appearance with IOB was in *Tosca*, in 1999. A few of her favorite roles include the 1st lady in *The Magic Flute*, Frasquita in *Carmen*, and Sarah in *The Ballad of Baby Doe*. She has also been seen backstage as makeup and hair artist, and currently works as the Educational Outreach Director with Intermountain Opera Bozeman.

Rachel Osen (Soprano) Suor Intermiere

Rachel resides in Bozeman with her wonderful husband and three vibrant children. This is her fifth time singing in an Intermountain Opera Bozeman production, past roles including Annina in *La Traviata* and Giannetta in *L'Elisir d'Amore*. She is a vocal performance graduate of Montana State University with additional language and opera study and performance in France, Italy, New York City, and Philadelphia.

Harlan Reidmohr (Tenor) The Witness

Harlan Reidmohr is a senior studying music at Montana State University. He has appeared in past Intermountain Opera Bozeman productions as Paris in *Roméo et Juliette*, the Marquis in *La Traviata* and the Boatswain in *H.M.S. Pinafore*. He studies with Dr. Jon Harney.

Benjamin Wayne Smith, (Baritone) Notary

Benjamin Wayne Smith, baritone, is best known to Intermountain Opera Bozeman audiences as a stage director. He has directed five productions for the company since 2009. He has also directed for Seattle Opera's Young Artist Program, Tacoma Opera, Asheville Lyric Opera, Opera Theatre of Pittsburgh, the Young Artist Program at Pittsburgh Opera, the University of Cincinnati/CCM, Baldwin Wallace University and The Opera Theater of Lucca, Italy. In 2013, Ben was appointed Artistic Director of the Accademia Vocale Lorenzo Malfatti, a summer training program for young singers in Lucca, Italy. He began his career in opera as a singer, performing twenty-one leading roles in opera, operetta and musical theater. He has logged over 250 performances in the U.S. and Italy.

Emily Thrasher (Soprano) La Badessa

Emily has lived in Bozeman for 2 1/2 years after leaving Nevada and over 1,000 performances with the musical, "Phantom – The Las Vegas Spectacular." She is excited and grateful to get back onto the opera stage with Intermountain Opera Bozeman. Favorite operatic roles include Frasquita in *Carmen*, Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi*, Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* with Opera Colorado and Musetta in *La bohème* with Nevada Opera Theatre.

Karla Vandersloot (Alto) Le Cercatrice

Karla, a Bozeman native and graduate of the MSU music department, is participating in her 15th production with Intermountain Opera Bozeman since 2004. She is a member of the Bozeman Symphonic Choir and enjoys singing in other community venues.

➤ ARTISTIC STAFF ➤

Christopher Allen- Conductor

Christopher Allen is rapidly gaining attention as a rising conductor on the operatic and symphonic stages. Plácido Domingo and James Conlon brought him to Los Angeles Opera where he is currently an Associate Conductor. His conducting career was launched when he received the Bruno Walter Conducting Award and Memorial Career Grant. He was recently nominated as a finalist for the International Opera Awards in London under the category "newcomer."

In the 2014 – 2015 season, Mr. Allen made his Los Angeles Opera conducting debut in Patrick Morganelli's *Hercules vs. Vampires*. He also returned to the company as Associate Conductor in *La Traviata* with Plácido Domingo as Germont and in *The Ghosts of Versailles* with James Conlon. He made his debut with Opera Santa Barbara in *Rigoletto* in the fall of 2014. In the summer of 2015, Mr. Allen will make his Cincinnati Opera debut conducting Ricky Ian Gordon's world premiere production of *Morning Star* and will lead the Cincinnati Symphony in Cincinnati Opera's Washington Park Concert in June.

Since 2011, Mr. Allen has maintained a close relationship with the Atlanta Symphony working with Music Director Robert Spano and Principal Guest Conductor Donald Runnicles. He was on the music staff of Cincinnati Opera as assistant conductor, a position he has held for the past three years and returned in 2013 to assist Carlo Rizzi in *Aida*. He has assisted on John Adams' *A Flowering Tree* and *Die Zauberflöte* for Bernard Labadie and Joana Carneiro and was assistant conductor on *La Traviata* and Astor Piazzolla's *Maria de Buenos Aires*. He debuted with Intermountain Opera Bozeman in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* in 2012 and returned to conduct the spectacular *La Traviata* in 2013.

Christopher Allen has been a recipient of numerous piano awards which have led to debuts in venues such as Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall, The Kennedy Center, The Juilliard School and the Tenri Cultural Institute. While a student at the University of Cincinnati-College Conservatory of Music, his production of Benjamin Britten's *Turn of the Screw* was awarded a National Opera Association prize.



Jeffrey Buchman- Stage Director

Opera News calls director Jeffrey Marc Buchman "a formidable talent," and the South Florida Classical Review claims "Buchman has mastered an art beyond the powers of many directors." Following enormous success directing the premiere of *Madama Butterfly* for the National Theater in Managua, Nicaragua, Mr. Buchman returned to create a critically acclaimed production of *La bohème*.

This season, he made a return to Indiana University for *La bohème*, created a new production of *Gianni Schicchi* and *Suor Angelica* for University of Miami, directed Haydn's *Lo Speciale* for the New World School of the Arts, *Manon Lescaut* for Mobile Opera, and *Il barbiere di Siviglia* for Syracuse Opera and created a multimedia arena event for the Grand Rapids Symphony that included over 1500 people performing with 3-D motions graphics. Later this season, he will create the world-premiere of Carson Kievmann's new opera *Intelligent Systems*, followed by *Così fan tutte* at the Brevard Music Festival and *Don Giovanni* at the Miami Summer Music Festival.

Jeffrey Marc Buchman regularly teams up with wife and renowned choreographer, Rosa Mercedes. Their collaborations have included acclaimed productions of *Il Trovatore*, *Rigoletto*, *La bohème*, *The Bartered Bride*, *Così fan tutte*, *The Magic Flute*, *Hansel & Gretel*, *Die Fledermaus* and the Spanish zarzuela *Luisa Fernanda*. He began his music studies at the Baltimore School for the Arts and later at the Interlochen Arts Academy.

He holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Opera from the Boston Conservatory of Music and a Master of Music degree in Voice from the Peabody Conservatory of Music in his native city of Baltimore, Maryland. He studied German at the Goethe Institut in Prien am Chiemsee, Germany and Spanish at the Instituto Cervantes. He trained in the Young Artist Program of the Florida Grand Opera, where he later was honored with the company's Evelyn P. Gilbert Award, and also in the Studio and Apprentice Artist Programs of Central City Opera, where he was awarded their Studio Artist of the Year award. Winner of the prestigious Luciano Pavarotti International Voice Competition, Mr. Buchman began his work in opera as an acclaimed singer noted for his ability to merge acting and singing. Other prizes include First Prize in the National Voice Competition of the National Society of Arts and Letters and a Richard F. Gold career grant from the Shoshana Foundation.



➤ ARTISTIC STAFF ➤

Jon Harney - Choral Conductor

Dr. Harney, associate professor of music at MSU-Bozeman, received his Bachelor of Music degree in music education from Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, and Masters and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in vocal performance from the University of Minnesota. As a tenor soloist, he has sung more than twenty-five principal and supporting roles in opera, operetta, and major works with orchestra and chorus. He earned an honorable mention award in the 1998 Minnesota District Metropolitan Opera Auditions. Performances in Montana have included the roles of Edmondo in *Manon Lescaut* and Remendado in *Carmen* with the Intermountain Opera as well as Bach's *Magnificat* and Handel's *Messiah* with the Bozeman Symphony and Mozart's *Vespers* with the Butte Symphony.



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Harney has served as chorus master for the Intermountain Opera Bozeman since 2002, preparing the choruses for numerous productions. Prior to coming to MSU-Bozeman, Harney was on the voice faculty of Macalester College and directed high school choirs in the North St. Paul school district. In 2001, Dr. Harney joined the MSU-Bozeman music faculty where he teaches studio voice lessons, opera scenes class and directs the University Chorus. In 2002, he was selected as one of twelve voice teachers nationwide to participate in the National Association of Teachers of Singing Intern Program working under master teacher Elaine Bonazzi. He served as president of the Montana Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing from 2007-2009. In summer 2008, Harney was selected to sing in the Westminster Choir College Chamber Choir in residence in Florence, Italy, singing under the direction of Joe Miller, and in July 2010 sang under the direction of Dale Warland as part of the Festival Chorale at the Minnesota Beethoven Festival. In 2011, Dr. Harney assumed the post of chorus director of the Bozeman Symphonic Choir.

Dr. Harney continues to be active as a vocal and choral adjudicator and master class clinician.

Kristin Ditlow - production pianist



American pianist and coach Kristin Ditlow has appeared as a soloist, collaborative artist, coach, and conductor throughout the United States, Europe and China. Recent concert seasons have featured appearances at San Francisco Opera, Tanglewood Music Center, the Kimmel Center, Carnegie Hall, Hungary's Zempleni Festival, the Beijing and Shanghai Conservatories, the National Theater in Kunming (Yunnan Province, China) and venues throughout central and northern Italy.

Dr. Ditlow was thrilled to join the faculty at the University of New Mexico as the new full-time faculty vocal coach, in the fall of 2014. She holds degrees from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music (BM, 2001) Westminster Choir College (MM, 2005) and is a 2014 graduate from the Eastman School of Music with a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree.

Kristin makes her home in Albuquerque, NM with her husband, violist and string pedagogue Zheng (John) Yuan.

Beth Lee - choral pianist

Beth Lee has several decades of experience as a piano accompanist. She studied piano at Florida State University and later privately with James Stroom. Her experience includes work as a piano accompanist for music majors at Florida State University and Montana State University, church organist for many years, music director and accompanist in several community theater organizations, harpsichordist with a string quartet in an opera arts association, and accompanist for a varied assortment of choral, jazz and instrumental groups.



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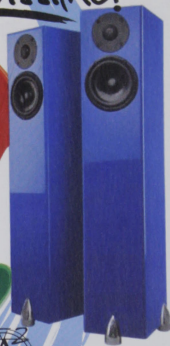


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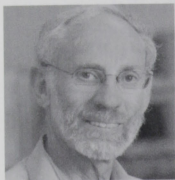
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❖ GREETINGS ❖



Dear Friends,

On behalf of Intermountain Opera Bozeman, thank you for joining us for this production marking thirty-six years of world-class opera in Bozeman. It is our pleasure to welcome you to this double-bill featuring two operas from Giacomo Puccini's "Trittico," the tragic *Suor Angelica* and the hilarious *Gianni Schicchi*. We have assembled a cast of professionals well versed in the gorgeous music and intricate drama of these Italian masterpieces. All of our guest artists and support team of local talent are enjoying this opportunity to perform with colleagues who know the best of what this genre can offer.

Regardless of whether you are one of our long time loyal followers or this is your first time at an opera performance, we are certain that you will be happy that you came. Intermountain Opera Bozeman's mission is to promote and share the joy of opera in Montana and surrounding areas by providing affordable, high quality opera performances to all. Opera is expensive to produce and ticket prices only cover 40% of our costs. We would love to have you share your positive experience with friends and colleagues. A wonderful way of supporting what we do is to invite new friends to join you for one of our performances – talk to your friends, have an opera party, bring a group and, best of all, share your excitement with everyone you know.

We have some great announcements about our plans for the 2015-2016 season. We will partner with Montana Shakespeare in the Parks for a musical theater production of Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* in February 2016. After sold out performances of *Man of La Mancha*, we are thrilled to be collaborating again with such a prestigious local arts organization. Our opera plans for next season include a Fall production of Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*, set in the Wild West, and *Don Giovanni*, a Mozart favorite, in May 2016. This "Don duo", will be a season to remember. Don't miss it.

It takes an army of volunteers, amateurs and professionals to create opera, and a village of patrons and donors to support and enjoy opera. Many thanks to all who continue to make our shows possible!

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard S. Wolff".

Richard S. Wolff, President
Intermountain Opera Bozeman

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Curtis".

Linda S. Curtis, Artistic Director
Intermountain Opera Bozeman

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Ms. Verity Bostick

- 1979 — *La Traviata*
1980 — *The Barber of Seville*

Mrs. Robert W. Martin, Jr.

- 1981 — *La Bohème*
1982 — *Rigoletto*
1983 — *Elixir of Love*
1984 — *Madama Butterfly*
1985 — *La Traviata*

Mrs. James Hubbard

- 1986 — *Lucia di Lammermoor*
1987 — *Die Fledermaus*
1988 — *Cavalleria Rusticana*
 & *Pagliacci*

Mrs. Robert Graf

- 1989 — *Carmen*

Mrs. Robert Hathaway

- 1990 — *Tosca*
1991 — *Don Pasquale*
1992 — *Faust*
1993 — *Madama Butterfly*
1994 — *The Barber of Seville*

Mrs. Samuel Curtis

- 1995 — *La Bohème*
1996 — *Il Trovatore*
1997 — *Don Giovanni*

Mrs. Joseph Schlobohm

- 1998 — *La Traviata*
1999 — *Tosca*

Jack Day

- 2000 — *The Marriage of Figaro*
2001 — *The Old Maid & The Thief,*
 Sweet Betsy from Pike
2001 — *Rigoletto*

Martha Biel

- 2001 — *My Fair Galatea*
2002 — *The Elixir of Love*
2003 — *Aida*

Rodger E. Clingman

- 2004 — *Lucia di Lammermoor*
2005 — *Cavalleria Rusticana &*
 Pagliacci
2005 — *Pirates of Penzance*
2006 — *Manon Lescaut*
2006 — *The Mikado*

Janet K. Young

- 2007 — *The Magic Flute*
2008 — *Carmen*
2008 — *Die Fledermaus*
2009 — *La Bohème*

Jane Hodges

- 2009 — *The Ballad of Baby Doe*
2010 — *Il Trovatore*
2010 — *Bravo! An Opera Celebration*
2011 — *The Barber of Seville*
2011 — *Hansel & Gretel*
2012 — *Madama Butterfly*

Richard Wolff

- 2012 — *Così fan tutte*
2012 — *Amahl and the Night Visitors*
2013 — *Roméo et Juliette*
2013 — *La Traviata*
2014 — *La Cenerentola*
2014 — *H.M.S. Pinafore*
2015 — *Suor Angelica &*
 Gianni Schicchi

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Lilianna Vaughn - asst. concertmaster
Jennifer Frye
Susan Platt
Emily Young

VIOLIN 2

Ian Nicklin - principal
Tamara Farr
Kayla Mallory
James Olson

VIOLA

Mary Carson Landeen - principal
Patricia Gates

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Julia Cory Slovarp
Susie Frawley

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Anna Atkin, Roger Clingman, Sam Cunningham, Patti Ford, Annie Mollock, Jerry Mollock, Val Monroe, Mary Ann Nielsen, Nina Sims, Helen Tobel, Susan Woods (chair), Ed Woods

Costumes:

Noreen & Roger Breeding, Asako Brown, Rodger Clingman, Margaret Cone, Marybeth Duffy Woods, Madeline Garcia (chair), Sharon Geertson, Frances Huppler, Deb Kelly, William Rutherford, Yvonne Siemer, Rusty Swingle, Kristina Urband, Sally Willis

Hair & Make-up: Sarah Jerger, Sandy Sager, Cheryl Sheedy, Emily Young

Hospitality:

Ray & Kay Campeau, Kendall Dittmar, Jan Emerson, Donald Kauffman, Wendy Monson, Marjorie Smith, David Summerfield, Richard Wolff, Susan Woods

Musician Refreshments:

Wyvonne Cooper, Betsy Day, Bunny & Jim Gaffney, Katie Hoffman, Robin Jansen, Bill Pound, Deanna Pound (chair), Terry Quatraro, June Stafford

Miscellaneous:

Margaret Cone, Kendall Dittmar, Jane Hodges, David Summerfield, Rusty Swingle, Brittany Thompson - opera intern, Carter Walker, Victoria Weston

Props:

Noreen & Roger Breeding, Faye Christensen, Margaret Cone, William Rutherford, David Summerfield, Richard Wolff

Stage Crew:

Marcus Benden, Michael Boise, Grace Caldwell, Chris Cundy, Peter Fedock, Drew Fleming, Ty Gardner, Dan Haywood, Michael Hillenius (manager), Jessica Joice, Graham Owen, Alex Schofield, Courtney Yovich

Ushers:

Dick Benert, Leslie Bredvik, Barbara Clawson, Catherine Cole, Patricia DeWitt, Crystele Fischer, Hanna Fischer, Kelly Fischer, Gene Goldenfield, Edy Harrington, Julie Haug, Beth Johnson, Michelle Kazeminejad, Barbara Kligerman, Myra Lane, Myriah Marsh, Dori McTigue, Wendy Morical, Candace Moyer, Kim Quigley, Gretchen Rupp, Elaine Samuelson, Saralyn Sebern, Gonnie Siebel, Barbara Summers, Kristina Urband (head usher)



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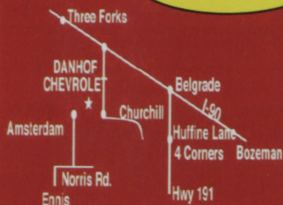
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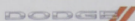
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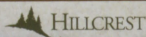
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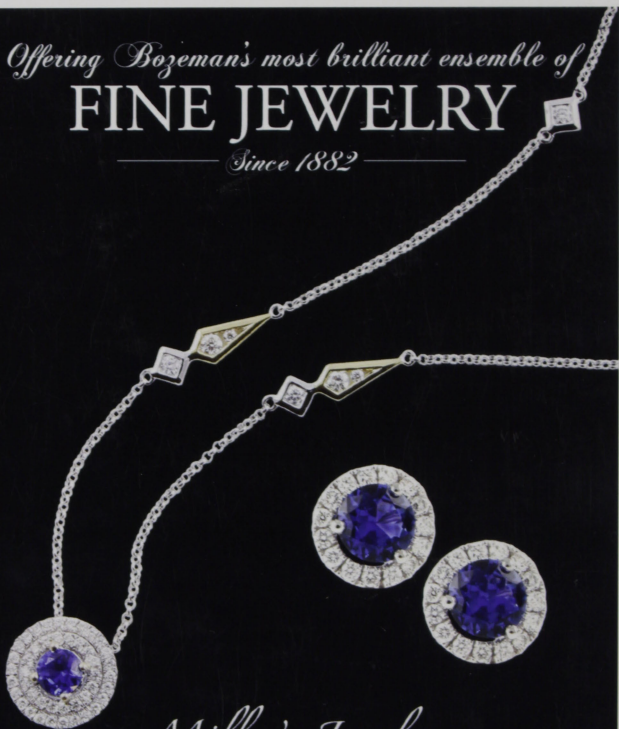
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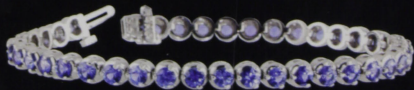
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