

THE BANFF CENTRE PRESENTS



OPEN SPACE: OPERA IN THE 21ST CENTURY

A LITTLE TOO COZY

THE NEWEST OPERATIC REALITY TV SHOW



FRIDAY, JULY 24, 7:30 P.M.
SATURDAY, JULY 25, 7:30 P.M.
SUNDAY, JULY 26, 7:30 P.M.
ERIC HARVIE THEATRE STAGE

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OPEN SPACE: OPERA IN THE 21ST CENTURY

A LITTLE TOO COZY

THE NEWEST OPERATIC REALITY TV SHOW

A modern English adaptation in workshop
of Mozart's and Da Ponte's *Così fan tutte*

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2015

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7:30 P.M.

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This program is a partnership between The Banff Centre,
Against the Grain Theatre, and the Canadian Opera Company.



The Banff Centre
inspiring **creativity**



CANADIAN
OPERA
COMPANY



PROGRAM

ACT I

20 minute Intermission

ACT II

Please turn off all cellphones, photo/video cameras.

MESSAGE FROM PROGRAM DIRECTOR: JOEL IVANY

Welcome to Open Space: Opera in the 21st Century. This summer we have 13 participants in 2 operas (12 singers and 1 pianist), 1 chamber music concert and outreach performances. As program director, it's important for me to create unique opportunities for artists to perform creative repertoire. We want to help build up the most inspiring artists working in Canada and around the world.

I've told many that performing on the large stage is important and singing in an intimate space is an equally necessary skill. It's no longer one style of presentation that matters and that's exciting for opera and singers.

Tonight we're thrilled to be sharing a brand new opera with you. Tonight's workshop performance completes the Mozart/DaPonte/Ivany trilogy that began with *Figaro's Wedding* (which won the Dora Mavor Moore award for Outstanding New Opera at the Toronto Performing Arts Awards). Last summer we workshoped *#UncleJohn* (our re-imagined Don Giovanni) at The Banff Centre which premiered in Toronto this past December. The Globe and Mail called it "A modern, triumphant twist to Don Giovanni" and garnered three Dora Mavor Moore nominations. Our interpretation of Mozart's *Così fan tutte* is newly titled *A Little Too Cozy*. We've decided to set our story in the world of reality television marriages. You're here as our live studio audience for the final taping of the show. Despite music that is 225 years old, this workshop would not have been possible without collaboration from many departments at The Banff Centre including; film, animation, projections and live video.

There is a shift happening across the country and we believe that Against the Grain Theatre is on the front lines of this movement. It's exciting and challenging.

Thank you for supporting opera at The Banff Centre where we test the limits and go beyond. We're meant to be ahead of the industry and also outside of it. Opera at The Banff Centre must continue to be a leader in Canada and in our international community for this shift to continue. I believe that we will continue to do exciting, boundary breaking projects and collaborations together.

Opera is a beautiful art form. We're just scratching the surface of how it fits into our Canadian landscape and how to share and interpret it. Exciting times for opera, singers, new music and the arts are all happening here at The Banff Centre.

A LITTLE TOO COZY

CREATIVE TEAM

Joel Ivany
New English Libretto and Stage Director

Christopher Mokrzewski
New Music Arrangement and Music director

Michael McMahon
Head Coach

Jack Olszewski
Apprentice coach/Repetiteur

Snezana Pestic
Set and Costume Designer

Jason Hand
Lighting Designer

Claudia Rodriguez*
Assistant Set Designer

Lauren Acheson*
Assistant Costume Designer

Noah Feaver*
Assistant Lighting Designer
IBM Theatre Craft Endowment

Adam Jules*
Assistant Lighting Designer

Theresa Tsang †
Stage Manager

Michelle Harrison*
Assistant Stage Manager
William T. Wylie Endowment

Rachel van Eck*
Assistant Stage Manager

Crystal Chettiar*
Assistant Stage Manager

Chloé Ekker*
Company Manager
Maxine and Jack Weber Endowment

† Appearing courtesy of Canadian Actor's Equity Association

*Participant in the Theatre Production, Design, and Stage Management Programs

PROJECTION

Joel Adria
Projection Technologist

Josafat Rodriguez
Projection Technologist*

Tegan Scott
Projection Technologist*

*Participant in the Theatre Production,
Design, and Stage Management Programs

VIDEO PRODUCTION, VIDEO POSTPRODUCTION, AND AUDIO POSTPRODUCTION

Aubrey Fernandez
Lighting & Studio Setup

Nicolas Bergeron*
Camera Operator

Dylan Toombs
Video Director

Devan Burton*
Design and Animation

Pamela Austin*
Lighting & Studio Setup

Roland Eksteins*
Camera Operator

Sasha Stanojevic
Lead Animator

Michael Bertin*
Editor

Jessie Altura*
Design and Animation

Tristan Capacchione*
Audio Postproduction

* Participant in the Media + Production Video, Designer, Editing, and Audio Programs

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(in order of appearance)

Donald L. Fonzo
Cairan Ryan
Cover: Bruno Roy

Elmo
Brent Calis †
Cover: Clarence Frazer †

Dora
Pascale Spinney
Cover: Simone McIntosh †

Fernando
Aaron Sheppard
Cover: Pasquale D'Alessio

Felicity
Shantelle Przybylo
Cover: Samantha Pickett

Despina
Caitlin Wood †
Cover: Ellen McAteer

† Appearing courtesy of Canadian Actor's Equity Association

TELEVISION CREW

Shaw Forgeron

Alex Gauvin

Chloé Ekker

MUSICIANS

Music Director/Piano
Christopher Mokrzewski

The Rolston String Quartet

Violin
Jeff Dyrda

Violin
Luri Lee

Viola
Hezikiah Leung

Cello
Jonathan Lo

PARTICIPATE IN THE CONVERSATION

Did you bring your smart phone?

Tweet us and post photos of the pre-show, intermission, and post-show and use #ALITTLETOOCOZY.

Pick your team: #TEAMFELICITY or #TEAMDORA.

No flash please by consideration to our performers.

@thebanffcentre

@banffmusic

@AtGtheatre

@Tophski

@CanadianOpera

@Schmopera

@joelivany

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<https://www.facebook.com/AtGtheatre>

<https://www.facebook.com/canadianoperacompany>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheBanffCentre>

<http://www.schmopera.com>

SYNOPSIS

ACT I

The premise is simple. Find true love and win \$100,000 towards your dream wedding! The catch is... you can't see your match until after you've agreed to tie the knot.

Donald L. Fonzo, founder and host of the newest reality television marriage show, *A Little Too Cozy*, meets up with two of the program's male contestants, Fernando and Elmo. They're in the final stages of the game show and will soon meet their brides-to-be for the first time before their weddings. Donald presents them with their last challenge stating that their fiancées will prove to be unfaithful (under the right circumstances). The men accept this final challenge knowing that the \$100,000 is as good as theirs.

We meet the two female contestants, Dora and Felicity, who have been separated from their men since they met, eight weeks ago. They chat about finally getting married and how scary and exciting it is to marry someone they've never seen. Donald L. Fonzo walks on set to let them know that unfortunately their two men will be delayed even longer as they will be kept away. With the wall of love separating the two couples, the men say goodbye as the cameras capture every moment.

The ladies' handler Despina walks in as the two girls share the loss of their men. Donald L. Fonzo enters and prepares to introduce the ladies to "two new men" (who just happen to be their actual two fiancées). The men, determined to win the prize money, keep up the charade. Insulted by these brash and conceited men, the ladies hold their stance determined to stay true to their men despite the two boys' advancements and storm off.

The two men laugh it off, proud of the faithfulness of their women. Donald L. Fonzo vows that the tides will turn, as it always does on *A Little Too Cozy*.

Act 1 ends with the men suffering from an alleged sushi allergy. The women are pressed into action to help care for them. With the situation looking dire, they call on the paramedics and with none in sight, Despina quickly obtains her medical degree online and miraculously revives them using the healing powers of Magnet Therapy. The gentlemen, with new life, swear their thanks to the women and want nothing more than a kiss. The women are even further stunned and caught up in the excitement knowing that the ratings and their popularity will go up as well.

SYNOPSIS

ACT II

The second act opens with Despina trying to convince the two that if they took advantage of the current situation, it would make for great television and it wouldn't affect their feelings towards their fiancé. Entertaining the opportunity, the girls imagine which of the two they would choose (if they had to) and unfortunately they choose the man who isn't their fiancé.

The two couples meet once again, but the men are thrown off, as the ladies suddenly seem more receptive to the idea of these dream dates (and their opposite fiancés). However, knowing that this is still an important last challenge to win, they go along.

As the couples pair off, Dora feels a connection and physical spark between her and Elmo. Fernando and Felicity meanwhile are connecting on a different level. Felicity is finding herself drawn to Fernando's character and personhood (and it doesn't help that she is attracted to him as well). She talks to him about her confliction before needing some air to breathe.

Felicity exits and Elmo re-enters. Fernando, feeling good about how Felicity is still holding out asks how things have been going with Dora. Knowing the worst, Elmo shares the bad news about how it went with Dora. Feeling disgusted for his friend, who is left with a broken heart, Elmo curses women vowing revenge.

Fernando, hurt, works overtime to convince Felicity that she is meant for him. With Elmo and Donald L. Fonzo watching on a closed-circuit television, Felicity succumbs to Fernando's advances and he wins her heart. Elmo is left crushed. Both men, feeling defeated, despise their current situation. The truth of getting caught up in the game hits like a ton of bricks.

Wanting revenge, the men encourage Donald L. Fonzo and Despina to arrange an on-air wedding for them to propose to their new lady friends. Just at the important decision time, the theme music comes back, signaling that their fiancées are back! The girls, torn over their new attractions are horrified when it's revealed that the men they've fallen for are not only their actual fiancés, but are actually their opposite fiancés. Big decisions are left hanging amidst the two couples. Who will get married? Who will they marry? What does this say about our society? Everything is left just *A Little Too Cozy*.

BIOGRAPHIES

FACULTY & PRODUCTION TEAM



JASON HAND
LIGHTING DESIGNER
@JHLIGHTING

Jason Hand is a Toronto-based lighting designer working in theatre and opera. His most recent credits include *M'Dea Undone* (Tapestry New Opera), *Dear Johnny Deere* (Theatre Calgary), *An Enemy of the People* and *Abyss* (Tarragon Theatre), *James and the Giant Peach* (Young People's Theatre) and *Carmen* (Vancouver Opera). Other theatre credits include *The Barber of Seville* (Soulpepper Theatre Company), *Blue Planet* (Young People's Theatre) and *The Amorous Adventures of Anatol and The Ugly One* [Dora nomination] (Tarragon Theatre). He has designed multiple shows for Canadian Stage including *This*, *The Arsonists*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *The Winter's Tale*. Other credits include work for companies such as the Stratford Festival, Shaw Festival, Theatre Aquarius, Drayton Entertainment, Tapestry New Opera, Theatre Smash, Quickening Theatre, and The Lighthouse Theatre Festival. In opera, he has lit new productions of *The Tales of Hoffman for Edmonton Opera* and *Macbeth* at the Minnesota Opera Company, as well as *The Silent Serenade* and *The Cunning Little Vixen* (Royal Conservatory), *Giulio Cesare* (Orchestra London), *Dido and Aeneas* (Opera on the Avalon), *Carmen* (Vancouver Opera). As resident lighting designer for Against the Grain Theatre, Hand has lit *#UncleJohn*, *La Bohème*, *Turn of the Screw*, *Figaro's Wedding* [Dora Nomination], *Death and Desire*, and *Pelléas et Mélisande*. Hand has been nominated three times for Dora Awards for Outstanding Lighting Design. In 2011, he collaborated with director Joel Ivany and designer Camellia Koo to conceive a production of *I Capuleti e i Montecchi* that placed third in the biennial European Opera-Directing Prize. In 2012,

he was protégé recipient of the prestigious Siminovitch Prize in Theatre. Jason also teaches a design master class and mentors design students at the National Theatre School of Canada.



JOEL IVANY
PROGRAM DIRECTOR/
STAGE DIRECTOR/LIBRETTIST
@JOELIVANY

Stage director Joel Ivany is the founder and artistic director of Against the Grain Theatre. He recently won the 2013 Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding New Opera/Musical for Against the Grain Theatre's *Figaro's Wedding* and is in his second year as program director of the Open Space: Opera in the 21st Century program at The Banff Centre. Joel was a finalist and prizewinner at the European Opera-Directing Prize for his concept of Bellini's *I Capuleti e i Montecchi*. Recent directing credits include new productions of Verdi's *Macbeth* at Minnesota Opera, *Carmen* at Vancouver Opera, *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* for Edmonton Opera, *Knotty Together*, a new work composed by Njo Kong Kie performed in Dublin, Ireland and the world premiere of Gavin Bryars' *Marilyn Forever*, based on the life of Marilyn Monroe, in Victoria, BC and also at the Adelaide Festival in Australia. He was the revival director of *Le nozze di Figaro* at the Norwegian National Opera and also served as associate director for Thaddeus Strassberger's acclaimed production of *Nabucco* at both Washington National Opera and Minnesota Opera. Upcoming projects include directing the revival of *#UncleJohn* at the Ottawa International Chamber Festival, a staged presentation of Mozart's Requiem for the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and *Carmen* for the Canadian Opera Company.



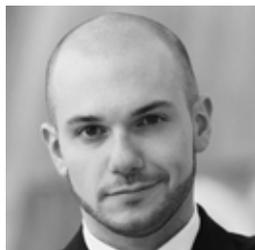
DANIEL MACIVOR
PERFORMANCE PRACTICE
@REWORKTHEATRE

Daniel MacIvor is originally from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia and has written numerous award-winning theatre productions including *See Bob Run*, *Communion*, *Marion Bridge*, and *His Greatness* and the solo shows *House*, *Here Lies Henry*, *Monster*, *Cul-de-sac*, and *This Is What Happens Next*. MacIvor received the Governor General's Literary Award for Drama in 2006 for his collection of plays *I Still Love You* and in 2008 he was awarded the Siminovitch Prize for Theatre. He is also the recipient of the New York Obie Award and a GLAAD Award. He is currently working on the libretto for Rufus Wainwright's *Hadrian* commissioned by the Canadian Opera Company and next year he will be teaching theatre at the University of Calgary where he will direct the graduating students in his play *Inside*.



MICHAEL MCMAHON
PROGRAM HEAD COACH

Pianist Michael McMahon is the preferred partner to many of Canada's finest singers. He has performed regularly throughout Canada, Europe, Japan and the United States with singers Catherine Robbin, Karina Gauvin, Measha Bruegggosman, Gordon Bintner, Marianne Fiset, Lyne Fortin, Dominique Labelle, Wendy Nielsen, Maureen Forester, Marie-Nicole Lemieux, Annamaria Popescu, Joseph Kaiser, Nathan Berg, Brett Polegato, Benjamin Butterfield, Philippe Sly, Daniel Taylor, Michael Schade, Russell Braun, and Richard Margison. Following his studies at McGill University in Montreal, he completed his musical education in Vienna at the Hochschule für Musik und darstellende Kunst and the Franz Schubert Institute and in Salzburg at the Mozarteum. During this time, he studied with such legendary artists as Erik Werba, Hans Hotter, Elly Ameling, Jörg Demus, and Kim Borg. In addition to his active performing schedule, Michael McMahon is a professor at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University in Montreal. He has had long associations with l'Atelier lyrique de L'Opéra de Montréal, Opera Nuova, the Orford Arts Centre and The Banff Centre where he has worked regularly as a vocal coach. He is also often asked to give masterclasses for singers and pianists and is a resident artist at the Franz Schubert Institute in Austria and the Centre for Opera Studies in Italy Summer Opera program. He has made numerous broadcast recordings for the English and French networks of the CBC, BBC, RBTF, Radio Suisse Romande and Radio France. His recordings on the Marquis, CBC, Atma, and Analekta labels have met with critical acclaim including Juno nominations and the Prix Opus. He was also a judge and vocal coach for the award winning television series *Bathroom Divas*. In 2012, Michael McMahon was honoured with a Ruby Award by Opera Canada for his contribution to music in Canada.



CHRISTOPHER MOKRZEWSKI
MUSIC DIRECTOR AND PIANO
@TOPHSKI

Conductor, pianist and vocal coach Christopher “Topher” Mokrzewski is a steadily rising figure in the worlds of Canadian opera, symphony, and chamber music. He is resident conductor of Calgary Opera, founding music director of Toronto’s acclaimed indie opera company, Against the Grain Theatre and music director of the Open Space: Opera in the 21st Century program at The Banff Centre. He has served on the music staff of the Canadian Opera Company, Opera Atelier, Saskatoon Opera, the Chautauqua Institute and Highlands Opera Studio. Additional engagements of note include a ten concert recital tour with soprano Measha Brueggergosman and an appearance with the Calgary Philharmonic as the piano soloist in *Messiaen’s Turangallila Symphonie*. A graduate of the Canadian Opera Company Ensemble Studio, Music Academy of the West, and the Eastman School of Music, Mokrzewski has been described by music critic John Terauds as “one of those bright, eager, whip-smart young artists who could give even the most hardened cynic a jolt of optimism about the future of classical music and opera” and was named one of CBC Music’s “Hot 30 Classical Musicians under 30” in 2013.



JACK OLSZEWSKI
APPRENTICE COACH REPETITEUR
HUSKY ENERGY MIDSUMMER BALL ARTIST AWARDS

Jack Olszewski is a graduate of the Schulich School of Music at McGill University and holds multiple degrees in piano performance having studied there under the tutelage of Marina Mdivani. Born in Edmonton, Olszewski began his musical studies on piano at the age of six. He has received the Winspear Fund Scholarship for Advanced Classical Music from the Edmonton Community Foundation and funding from the Friends of the Anne Burrows Music Foundation. A grant from the Williamson Foundation for Music allowed him to travel during the summer of 2013 to take part in the International Music Workshop and Festival in Schloss Kirchberg an der Jagst, Germany. Olszewski has performed solo and chamber recitals in Canada and abroad.



SNEZANA PESIC
SET AND COSTUME DESIGNER

Originally from Belgrade, Serbia, now based in Toronto, Snezana Pestic works across Canada as a set, costume, and lighting designer. Her work encompasses the whole spectrum of theatre environments, from small independent productions to designs for large regional theatres. Recent theatre credits include; *Clever Little Lies* (Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre), *Arms and the Man*, *The Game of Love and Chance*, *The Fan* (Odyssey Theatre), *One* (Ghost River Theatre), *Fornes x 2* (Theatre Asylum), *Spring Awakening* (George Brown Theatre School), *Nightmare Dream* (It's a Freedom Thing Theatre/ Obsidian Theatre). Pestic is the recipient of Betty Mitchell Award for outstanding lighting design, Prix Rideau Award nominee for outstanding set and costume design and was shortlisted for the Pauline McGibbon Award for emerging theatre designers. She is a graduate of the Master of Fine Arts program in Theatre Design at the University of Alberta and the Bachelor of Fine Arts program in Costume Design at the University of Belgrade, Serbia. With her work, she participated in numerous international exhibitions including Prague Quadrennial 2007 and 2015 (Canadian National Exhibit) and World Stage Design in 2009 and 2013.



THERESA TSANG
FACULTY STAGE MANAGER

A native of Vancouver, BC, Tsang returns to The Banff Centre for a fifth year as the faculty stage manager for the Opera program. Heading into her 20th season with the stage management team for Vancouver Opera, Tsang also works closely with The University of British Columbia in the Theatre Department as a guest lecturer. In addition, she is a stage management mentor for Wexford Festival Opera's Internship program. Among Tsang's Banff Centre highlights are John Estacio and John Murrell's *Lillian Alling*, Benjamin Britten's *Owen Wingrave*, and Against the Grain Theatre's adaptation of 'Don Giovanni' *#Uncle John*. Other stage management credits include *Yaqzan – The Awakened* (National Tour) for Ismail Arts Canada, *Die Fledermaus* and *Sweeney Todd* for Vancouver Opera, and the Irish Times Theatre Award winning production of Kevin Puts's *Silent Night* for Wexford Festival Opera in Ireland. Upcoming projects include *Guglielmo Ratcliff* for Wexford Festival Opera, *Northern Journey/Spine of the Mother* for Raven Spirit Dance, and *Madama Butterfly* and *Evita* for Vancouver Opera. Tsang is pleased to be joined by her assistant stage manager practicums Crystal Chettiar, Rachel van Eck, and Michelle Harrison.

SINGERS



BRENT CALIS (ELMO)

BASS-BARITONE

EILEEN HIGGIN CALGARY THEATRE
SINGERS ENDOWMENT
@BRENTCALIS

Bass-Baritone Brent Calis just finished his final year of an Artist Diploma in Voice and Opera Performance at McGill University. While he was at McGill he performed the roles of Figaro in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Puck and Bottom in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Achilla in Handel's *Giulio Cesare*. In 2014, Brent also performed with Jeunesses Musicales in their production of *La Bohème*. Calis is excited to be back in his home province. He was last here when he was with the Emerging Artist program at Calgary Opera from 2009-2011. He was also an artist at The Banff Centre in 2008 and 2009, performing the title role in Purcell's *Dido Aeneas* and The Forester in Janáček's *A Cunning Little Vixen*. Calis is extremely excited to be back in the mountains for another summer. An interesting fact about him is that he works as a professional fine art photographer in his off time. Don't be surprised if you see him with his tripod and camera on the trails or at a wedding near you.



SHANTELE PRZYBYLO (FELICITY)

SOPRANO

BRENDA MACKIE ARTISTS AWARDS
@PRZYBYLO

Lyric soprano Shantelle Przybylo is a recent graduate of Washington National Opera's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program (WNO). At WNO, she sang Pamina and Papagena in *The Magic Flute*, Giannetta in *L'Elisir d'Amore*, Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel*, as well as Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*, a role which she reprised at the Green Mountain Opera Festival in summer 2013. She is originally from Toronto, Ontario where she completed her Masters of Music Performance at the University of Toronto. Upcoming engagements include a concert performance with the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam as well as her European debut singing Fiordiligi with the Nationale Reisopera. She is a Regional finalist of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and winner of the Prix Jeune Espoir Lyrique Canadien in the Jeunes Ambassadeurs Lyriques competition in 2012. Other roles performed include Arminda in *La Finta Giardiniera*, Miss Titmouse in *Too Many Sopranos*, Rose in *Street Scene*, Nataliya in *The Enslavement and Liberation of Oksana G.*, and Edith in *The Pirates of Penzance*.



CAIRAN RYAN (DONALD L. FONZO)

BARITONE

MIDSUMMER BALL ARTIST AWARD FOR OPERA
@CAIRANRYAN

Having been praised for his “exceptionally expressive instrument” (*Bachtrack*) and “clear, ringing forthright sound” (*The Montreal Gazette*) Cairan Ryan has embarked on a promising young career. He was born in Lier, Belgium and immigrated to Calgary, Alberta and recently completed his two-year tenure at the Atelier Lyrique de L’Opéra de Montréal. In the 2014-15 Season he sang Papageno in *The Magic Flute* at Opera Lyra Ottawa, appeared in Jeunes Ambassadeurs Lyriques Gala, was baritone soloist for the Choeur Polyphonique de Montreal and CAMMAC’s *Messiah*, soloist for University of Ottawa’s *Ein Deutsches Requiem* and soloist in The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul’s Church’s *B Minor Mass* under the baton of Jordan de Souza. In July 2015 he appeared as soloist at the Festival de Lanaudière, in Bruckner’s *Mass No. 3 in f minor* with the Orchestre Metropolitain de Montreal with Yannick Nézet-Seguin at the podium. He makes his Against the Grain Ensemble debut this summer at The Banff Centre singing Don Alfonso in *A Little Too Cozy* and will make his debut with the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra at Het Concertgebouw as Der Notar in Richard Strauss’ *Intermezzo, Op.72* in 2017. The 2013-14 season saw Cairan sing Marcello in Jeunesses Musicales Canada’s production of *La Bohème* and The Father in Opera de Montreal/Atelier Lyrique’s production of *Hänsel und Gretel*. Ryan made his French debut at Choregies d’Orange in May 2014. He attended the Tanglewood Institute as a Vocal Fellow of the 2014 Festival Season and made his Boston Symphony Orchestra debut as the Doctor/Inquisitor

Il in *Bernstein’s Candide* under the baton of Bramwell Tovey. Roles in previous seasons include Scotty McDonald in *Lillian Alling* (The Banff Centre), Don Alfonso in *Così fan tutte* (Green Mountain Opera Festival), Schaunard in *La bohème* and Der Vater in *Hänsel und Gretel* (Opera McGill) and Tarquinius in *The Rape of Lucretia* (Opera on the Avalon.), The Ferryman in *Britten’s Curlew River*, Dandini in *La Cenerentola* and Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*. Ryan is a winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions at the District Level (Kansas City District), an inaugural Koerner Foundation Scholarship recipient, was supported by the Schulich Scholarship and the Noel E. Spinelli prize in Music at McGill University. He holds degrees from The University of Victoria School of Music, The Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and the McGill University Schulich School of Music.



AARON SHEPPARD (FERNANDO)

TENOR

MARNIE WARRACK MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT
@SHEP1419

Tenor Aaron Sheppard hails from St. John’s, Newfoundland. In August, Sheppard will join the Canadian Opera Company Ensemble Studio, he is a previous member of the Young Artist Programs at l’Opéra de Montreal and the Salzburg Festival. Previous highlights include Kronprinz (*Silent Night*), Pong (*Turandot*), Hadji (*Lakme*) with l’Opéra de Montreal, Pedrillo (*Die Entführung aus dem Serail*) and Monostatos (*Die Zauberflöte*) with the Salzburg Festival. Other credits include Tamino (*Die Zauberflöte*), Ferrando (*Così Fan Tutte*) and Rinuccio (*Gianni Schicchi*). Upcoming engagements for the 2015/2016 season include Ferrando (*A Little Too Cozy*) with Against the Grain Theatre and The Banff

Centre, Jamie (*The Last Five Years*) with the Toronto Summer Music Festival, Haydn's Creation with the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra and Canadian Opera Company main stage debut as Selimo (*Maometto II*). Sheppard is also the recent winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Western Canada Region and a prize winner at the 2014 Canadian Opera Company Ensemble Studio Competition.



PASCALE SPINNEY (DORA)
 MEZZO-SOPRANO
 ANNIE ROMANCHUK ENDOWMENT
 @PASCALESPINNEY

Mezzo-soprano Pascale Spinney, from Montreal, Quebec has completed her first year as a young artist at the Atelier Lyrique of the Opéra de Montréal. She obtained her Master's degree from the Schulich School of Music of McGill University where she also pursued her undergraduate studies. Several roles at McGill stand out, such as Miles in Britten's *The Turn of the Screw*, Third Lady in *Die Zauberflöte*, Epicene in the Canadian premiere of John Musto and Mark Campbell's *Volpone*, Eustazio in *Rinaldo*; a role for which Le Devoir described her as a "...voice of great presence... ", and culminating in the title role in *Giulio Cesare in Egitto*. Outside of academia, she sang overseas as Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro* in a Centre for Opera Studies in Italy production, Hänsel in a concert version of *Hänsel und Gretel* in Vancouver and at Opera Nuova as Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*. Since graduating in 2013, she has been hired by Opera McGill to cover the role of Hippolyta (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), to sing the role of Véronique in a Stu&Jess Production of Bizet's *Le Docteur Miracle* and to coach Italian diction for the Halifax Summer Opera

Festival's production of *Giulio Cesare in Egitto* . Recently, she has received an encouragement award from the National Council Auditions of the Metropolitan Opera. Upcoming engagements include singing Kate Pinkerton (*Madama Butterfly*) in her Opera de Montreal debut, the alto soloist in *La petite messe solennelle* with the Orchestre Métropolitain Choir and Stephano/Gertrude in the Jeunesses Musicales du Canada's spring tour of *Romeo et Juliette* .



CAITLIN WOOD (DESPINA)
 SOPRANO
 DAVID SPENCER EMERGING
 VOCALISTS ENDOWMENT FUND
 @CAITLINWOOD

Soprano Caitlin Wood grew up in St. Albert, Alberta where she quickly developed her love of music and performing. This past season she was a member of the Yulanda M. Faris Young Artist Program with Vancouver Opera. While there she appeared as the gypsy Frasquita in *Carmen*, Johanna in *Sweeney Todd*, understudied Adele in *Die Fledermaus* and performed Laurette in the Young Artists production of *Le Docteur Miracle*. Recently she graduated from the University of Toronto Opera School under the tutelage of Mary Morrison and was the 2013 recipient of the Richard Bradshaw Graduate Fellowship in Opera. Other past roles include; Mabel (*Pirates from Penzance*), Nannetta (*Falstaff*), Marie (*La fille du régiment*) and Tiresias (*Les mamelles de Tirésias*). Upcoming performances include Mary in Pacific Opera Victoria's school tour production of *Mary's Wedding*, the Soprano Soloist in *Carmina Burana* with Okanagan Symphony, and Adele in Opera 5's production of *Die Fledermaus*.

MUSICIANS



ROLSTON STRING QUARTET YOLANDE FREEZE FELLOWS

Recently appointed as the graduate Quartet-in-Residence at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, the Rolston String Quartet has performed throughout the United States and Canada in venues such as Kennedy Center, Harris Hall, Knuth Hall, Koerner Hall, Mazzoleni Hall and Rolston Recital Hall. Past performances include their Kennedy Center debut as part of the Conservatory Project, the Toronto premiere of Brian Current's *Faster Still* as part of the inaugural 21C Music Festival, as well as being featured on Salida Aspen Concert Series and Blue Sage Classical Music Series in Colorado. Notable collaborations include performances with renowned artists such as Jon Kimura Parker, Gil Kalish, Andrés Díaz and Barry Shiffman. Their upcoming engagements include concerts in Mississippi, the Museum of Fine Art, Houston, Rothko's Chapel, and various collaborations and projects during this summer's Banff Centre Summer Music programs.

The quartet has participated in residencies and fellowships at The Banff Centre, Aspen Music Festival, and Yehudi Menuhin Chamber Music Festival. Mentored primarily by Norman Fischer, James Dunham, and Kenneth Goldsmith, they have received additional guidance from members of the Cleveland, Juilliard, Pacifica, Takács, Tokyo, Jerusalem, Brentano, St. Lawrence, American, Alexander, Orford and Belcea quartets as well as Paul Kantor, Mark Kaplan, Jacqueline Ross, Toby Appel, Steven Dann, Bonnie Hampton and Wu Han.

Comprised of recent graduates from the Juilliard School, New England Conservatory, Eastman School of Music, Peabody Conservatory, and the Glenn Gould School, the Rolston String Quartet was formed in the summer of 2013 at The Banff Centre Chamber Music Residency. They take their name after the Canadian violinist Thomas Rolston, the founder and longtime director of the Music and Sound programs at The Banff Centre. The quartet's debut performance was held at the beautiful Rolston Recital Hall at the Centre, which was named in honor of Thomas and Isobel Rolston for their inspired artistic leadership over several decades.

OPEN SPACE: OPERA IN THE 21ST CENTURY

FACULTY & PRODUCTION TEAM

Joel Ivany
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Christopher Mokrzewski
Program Music Director

Michael McMahon
Head Coach

Alexander Neef
Guest Faculty

Nina Draganic
Consultant

Mark Morris
Guest Faculty
David Spencer Master Artists Endowment Fund

Russell Braun
Voice Faculty

Judith Forst
Voice Faculty

Daniel MacIvor
Performance Practice

James Rolfe
Composer for *Crush*

Anna Chatterton
Librettist for *Crush*

Jenna Douglas
Music Director for *Crush*

Amiel Gladstone †
Stage Director for *Crush*

Carolyn Maule
Vocal Coach

Theresa Tsang †
Faculty Stage Manager

Snezana Pesic
Set and Costume Designer

Jason Hand
Lighting Designer

Jack Olszewski
Apprentice Coach
Husky Energy Midsummer Ball Artist Awards

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Assistant Stage Manager
William T. Wylie Endowment

Rachel van Eck*
Assistant Stage Manager

Crystal Chettiar*
Assistant Stage Manager

Chloé Ekker*
Company Manager
Maxine and Jack Weber Endowment

Lauren Acheson*
Assistant Set and Costume Designer

Claudia Rodriguez*
Assistant Set and Costume Designer

Noah Feaver*
Assistant Lighting Designer
IBM Theatre Craft Endowment

Adam Jules*
Assistant Lighting Designer

† Appearing courtesy of Canadian
Actor's Equity Association

*Participant in the Theatre Production,
Design, and Stage Management Programs

THANK YOU

The Banff Centre would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their generous contributions to the Theatre Arts department:

Graham Forst
Danielle Leigh
Pamela Kurau
Barry Schiffman
Alberta Ballet

Cascade House Seniors' Lodge Banff
The Citadel Theatre
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THE BANFF CENTRE

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Allannah Walker, Operations Coordinator
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Brian Britton, Sessional Technical Director
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Bruce McComb, Assistant Head Of Staging
Leor Katzev, Stage Technician
Liz Kraft, Stage Technician*
Brett Rayner, Stage Technician*
Michael Slemmon, Stage Technician*

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Charles Culver, Assistant Head Of Sound
Ian Dillon, Sound Technician
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Renee Sawtelle, Wardrobe/Millinery Technician*

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Chris Hayes, Scenic Carpenter
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Alex Gauvin, Scenic Carpenter*,
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& Banff International String Quartet Competition

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Dorian Cox, Summer Program Assistant

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Caitlin Ferguson, Assistant Production Manager

Stuart Bremner, Summer Stage Manager/
Production Assistant

Matthew Thompson, Stage Manager/
Production Assistant

Albert Picknell, Head Piano Technician

Robert Haist, Assistant Piano Technician

*Participant in the Theatre Production, Design, and Stage Management Programs