



CLEVELAND  
INSTITUTE OF MUSIC

# CONCERT SERIES

2021-22 Season



Season Presenting  
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PARTNERS

## Safety Measures

CIM consults the guidance of the CDC as well as state and local health agencies, and observes the protocols of our peer schools and presenting organizations when forming and managing COVID-19 safety protocols. CIM proudly presents hundreds of free performances each year, but our core mission is to serve the students and faculty who make their artistic home within CIM's walls. With that in mind, and with help from the Elliott & Gail Schlang Health & Well-Being Initiative, please note the following campus-wide policies and procedures:

- Masks are required for audience members at all times, without exception.
- Capacity is limited to 50% of the maximum capacity of each hall. Please leave distance between your party and others when possible.
- No food, drink or flash photography.
- Patrons in violation of CIM's COVID-19 or other policies will be asked to leave.

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## About the Cleveland Institute of Music

The Cleveland Institute of Music empowers the world's most talented classical music students to fulfill their dreams and potential. Its graduates command the most celebrated and revered stages in the world as soloists, chamber musicians and ensemble members; compose meaningful, award-winning new repertoire; and are highly sought-after teaching artists, administrators and thought leaders. A testament to the excellence of a CIM education, more than half of the members of The Cleveland Orchestra are connected to CIM as members of the faculty, alumni or both. All students benefit from access to world-renowned visiting artists and conductors, intensive study with CIM's stellar faculty and the rich curriculum offered by CIM's partner Case Western Reserve University. CIM is an integral part of Cleveland's arts community, presenting nearly 600 free performances and master classes each year on campus and at locations throughout the region, including Severance Hall. Explore [cim.edu](http://cim.edu) to learn more.



CLEVELAND  
INSTITUTE OF MUSIC

## CIM OPERA THEATER

November 5 & 6, 2021

7pm | Kulas Hall

### ***Celebrating a Century of Singing at CIM***

**Richard Ollarsaba**, guest artist (BM '09, Schiller/Southern)

**Daniel Fridley**, guest artist (MM '17, Southern)

**Cleveland Institute of Music Orchestra**

**Harry Davidson**, music director and conductor

*Funded in part by a grant from the John P. Murphy Foundation.*

***Carmen (1875)***

**Prélude**

Georges Bizet

(1838–1875)

**“Votre toast”**

Escamillo: Richard Ollarsaba

Chorus: CIM Voice Department

**“Nous avons en tête une affaire”**

Carmen: Carlyle Quinn

Frasquita: Jean Furman

Mercédès: Yuzhen Jin

Remendado: Madison Hurst

Dancaire: Joseph Breslau

**Séguedille: “Près des remparts de Séville”**

Carmen: Carlyle Quinn

Don José: Trey Floyd

**Roméo et Juliette (1867)****“Je veux vivre”**

Juliette: Melissa Martinez

Charles Gounod

(1818–1893)

**Samson et Dalila (1877)****“Mon cœur s’ouvre à ta voix”**

Dalila: Emma Nossem

Camille Saint-Saëns

(1835–1921)

**Die Fledermaus (1874)****“Trinke liebchen, trinke schnell”**

Rosalinda: Isabella Luchi

Alfred: Tyler Evatt-Young

Johann Strauss

(1825–1899)

**“Mein Herr Marquis”**

Adele: Abigayle Williams

**“Im Feuerstrom der Reben”**

Orlofsky: Yuzhen Jin

Eisenstein: Matthew Mac Manus

Adele: Abigayle Williams

**Intermission****Lohengrin (1848)****Prelude to Act III**

Richard Wagner

(1813–1883)

**Die Walküre (1856)****“Du bist der Lenz”**

Sieglinde: Rachel Rose

***La Traviata* (1853)**  
**“Libiamo”**

Giuseppe Verdi  
 (1813–1901)

Violetta: Alaina Saliba  
 Alfredo: Yiran Xing  
 Chorus: CIM Voice Department

***Don Giovanni* (1787)**  
**“Eh via, buffone”**  
**“Ah taci, ingiusto core”**  
**“Deh, vieni alla finestra”**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
 (1756–1791)

Donna Elvira: Lisl Wangermann  
 Don Giovanni: Richard Ollarsaba  
 Leporello: Daniel Fridley

***Maria la O* (1930)**  
**Romanza**

Ernesto Lecuona  
 (1895–1963)

Maria la O: Isabella Luchi

***Nightsongs* (1961)**  
**Prayer**

H. Leslie Adams  
 (b. 1932)

Trey Floyd

***Serenade to Music* (1938)**

Ralph Vaughan Williams  
 (1872–1956)

Joseph Breslau, Daniel Fridley, Jean Furman, Madison Hurst,  
 Yuzhen Jin, Kiana Lilly, Melissa Martinez, Emma Nossem,  
 Richard Ollarsaba, Carlyle Quinn, Rachel Rose, Yiran Xing,  
 Tyler Evatt-Young, Xiaoge Zhang

## **CIM Opera Theater**

Artistic Director ... Dean Southern  
Music Director and Conductor ... Harry Davidson  
Interim Managing Director and Vocal Coach ... François Germain  
Chorus Master and Vocal Coach ... John Simmons  
Production Manager ... Cassie Goldbach  
Opera Assistants ... Isabella Luchi, Matthew Mac Manus,  
Carlyle Quinn, Rachel Rose, Val Sibila and Ella Sobkowicz

## **CIM Voice Department**

Mary Schiller, Head, Voice Department and Voice and Opera Division  
Clifford Billions  
Jesse Blumberg  
Dina Kuznetsova  
Dean Southern

## **Production Staff**

Production Manager ... Cassie Goldbach  
Lighting Designer ... Dave Brooks  
Projection Designer ... Jeremy Paul  
Assistant Stage Manager ... Catherina Carrington  
Vocal Coaches ... François Germain and John Simmons

## CIM Orchestra

### First Violin

Steven Song, concertmaster  
*Naperville, IL*

Maya Johnson  
*Atlanta, GA*

Theo Bockhorst  
*St. Louis, MO*

Amber Correa  
*Westminster, CA*

Rebecca Moy  
*Naperville, IL*

Kaylee Bontrager  
*Massillon, OH*

Judith Kim  
*Seattle, WA*

Lingxiao Feng  
*Guangzhou, China*

Noelle Naito  
*Elkridge, MD*

### Second Violin

Abigail Tsai, principal  
*Westlake Village, CA*

Minji Lee  
*Suwon, South Korea*

Zongchi Han  
*Jiangsu, China*

Kitscho Hosotani  
*Wilmette, IL*

Jisoo Kim  
*Seoul, South Korea*

Julianne Oh  
*San Jose, CA*

Yaming Zhu  
*Burnaby, Canada*

### Viola

Chris Gokelman, principal  
*San Antonio, TX*

Colin Henley  
*Mansfield, OH*

Pablo Ronderos  
*Fairfax, VA*

Ivana Agova  
*Lansdale, PA*

Kenny Fujii  
*Las Vegas, NV*

Alex Antonio  
*Virginia Beach, VA*

### Cello

Andrew Shinn, principal  
*Basking Ridge, NJ*

Natalie Lin  
*San Ramon, CA*

Samuel Sykes  
*Dubuque, IA*

Tatiana Tandias  
*Madison, WI*

Karim Maggio  
*Herndon, VA*

Tu Gu  
*Shenzhen, China*

### Double Bass

Jakob Gerritsen, principal  
*Carpentersville, IL*

Remy Howard  
*Tampa, FL*

Alexander Degoey  
*Beachwood, NJ*

Gabriel Gaw  
*Egg Harbor Township, NJ*

**Flute**

Julia Kim, principal  
*Las Vegas, NV*

Alexandra McGuire,  
principal  
*Jacksonville, FL*

Anna Johnson  
*Detroit, MI*

**Oboe**

Fernando Yanez,  
principal  
*Denton, TX*

Jonah Richardson  
*Powell, OH*

Caroline Wu  
*San Tan Valley, AZ*

**English Horn**

Normandy Leach  
*Cincinnati, OH*

**Clarinet**

Justin Wisner,  
principal  
*Grand Rapids, MI*

Shane Herbert  
*Las Vegas, NV*

Jazmin Pascual Flores  
*Aguascalientes, Mexico*

**Bass Clarinet**

Katherine Smith  
*Cleveland, OH*

**Bassoon**

Cerianne Huang,  
principal  
*Cupertino, CA*

Ki Hoon Rim  
*Laredo, TX*

Madeline Wilks  
*Tarpon Springs, FL*

**Horn**

Michael Rising,  
principal  
*Bay Village, OH*

Nicholas Elin  
*Rio Grande City, TX*

Rachel Smith-Cohen  
*Olney, MD*

Sara Vollenweider  
*New Orleans, LA*

**Trumpet**

Jeremy Bryant,  
principal  
*Tucson, AZ*

Alisa Crueger-Cain  
*Lowell, MA*

Emma Kosht  
*Burlington, VT*

**Trombone**

Philip Williams,  
principal  
*Atlanta, GA*

Zeek McKinley  
*Columbia, SC*

Rafael Noriega  
*Chicago, IL*

**Tuba**

Andrew Weiss  
*East Meadow, NY*

**Harp**

Emily Carpenter  
*Springdale, AR*

**Mandolin**

Andy Poxon  
*Baltimore, MD*

**Harpsichord**

John Simmons  
*CIM faculty*

**Timpani**

Jack Fischer  
*Buffalo, NY*

**Percussion**

Olly Bangia  
*Amherst, NY*

Sebastião Sheldrick  
*Faro, Portugal*

Kaden Smutz  
*Orlando, FL*



## About the Guest Artists

Mexican-American bass-baritone **Richard Ollarsaba**, praised by *The Washington Post* for his “meltingly smooth bass-baritone” and for “evoking a young Ruggero Raimondi in looks and manner,” represented the USA in the 2019 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World competition, was a member of the prestigious Ryan Opera Center at Lyric Opera of Chicago for three seasons and was a grand finalist in the 2013 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. This season he reprises the title role in Mozart’s *Don Giovanni* with Opera Grand Rapids and Opera Carolina, a role he previously performed with Lyric Opera of Chicago, stepping into the role with hours’ notice, and Opera Hong Kong. He also makes his role debuts as Count Almaviva in *Le nozze di Figaro* with Virginia Opera and Schaunard in *La bohème* with the Jacksonville Symphony. Summer 2022 he will make his Glimmerglass Festival debut as Escamillo in Bizet’s *Carmen*, a role he previously performed with Minnesota Opera, Kentucky Opera, North Carolina Opera, Tulsa Opera, Annapolis Opera and Bar Harbor Music Festival. Other credits include the title role in *Le nozze di Figaro* with New Zealand Opera and Minnesota Opera, Asdrubale in Rossini’s *La pietra del paragone* with Wolf Trap Opera and Rev. Hale in Ward’s *The Crucible* with Piedmont Opera. Concert credits include such ensembles as the Pittsburgh Symphony, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Phoenix Symphony and Kansas City Symphony, he is also an avid recitalist. Ollarsaba earned his Bachelor of Music at CIM and his Master of Music and a postgraduate certificate from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Learn more at [richardollarsaba.com](http://richardollarsaba.com).

**Daniel Fridley** (bass) received his Doctor of Musical Arts in 2021 from the Case Western Reserve University Historical Performance Practice program, studying with Ellen Hargis, Dean Southern and Jesse Blumberg. He graduated in 2017 from CIM with a Master of Music in vocal performance, having studied with Dean Southern. His “spotless, resonant bass” (Cleveland Classical) lends itself well to both early music and opera. Performance credits from recent seasons include Basilio in Rossini’s *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (Teatro Nuovo), Ensemble/Monstro in Caccini’s *La liberazione di Ruggiero dall’isola d’Alcina* (Boston Early Music Festival), Pretore in Rossini’s *La gazza ladra* (Teatro Nuovo), contrabass soloist in Rautavaara’s *Vigilia* (Chicago Chorale), bass soloist in Bach’s *Coffee Cantata* (Wyoming Baroque), Dottore

Grenvil in Verdi's *La traviata* (The Cleveland Opera), Jesus in Bach's *St. John Passion* (Atlanta Baroque) and Polyphemus in Handel's *Acis and Galatea* (CWRU). He is honored to return to CIM, reprising the last role he sang in his master's program.

## About the Performers

**Gillian Beckman** (soprano) is a second-year Bachelor of Music student at CIM studying voice with Mary Schiller. Beckman has had an extensive musical background, studying classical piano for over 10 years and singing and traveling internationally with the Columbus International Children's Choir. She was a soloist with the choir while touring South Africa and cathedrals throughout Ireland. She sang the role of Frasquita from *Carmen* at Eastman School of Music's Summer Classical Studies opera scenes program. She has gained additional voice and piano training through summer programs at CIM, Kent State University, Interlochen and Eastman School of Music.

**Katniss Bi** (soprano) is a second-year Master of Music student at CIM, studying with Jesse Blumberg. Bi's stage credits include Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro* (Wuhan Conservatory of Music), Fantine in *Les Misérables* (WHCM), Yingtai Zhu in the Chinese musical *Butterfly* (WHCM) and Daisy in *Side Show* (Shanghai International Musicals Festival). Bi also sang as a young artist at the Master Players Festival & School held by the University of Delaware. Bi won the third prize honor scholarship during the 2016-17 academic year at Wuhan Conservatory of Music. She completed her undergraduate voice performance degree at Wuhan Conservatory of Music.

**Mallory Bogle** (soprano) is a first-year Master of Music student at CIM studying with Mary Schiller. She has performed the roles of The Princess and The Bat in *L'enfant et les sortilèges* (Belmont University) and Mrs. Jenks in *The Tender Land* (Belmont University). Bogle also recently won first prize in the 2021 Great Composers Competition for Best Mozart Performance and was a young artist with the Prague Summer Nights Young Artist Festival in 2019. She earned her undergraduate degree in voice performance from Belmont University.

**Joseph Breslau** (baritone) is a third-year Bachelor of Music student at CIM studying with Jesse Blumberg. Before he came to CIM, Breslau studied voice with Kathy Soroka for nearly three years, but has only studied classical music and opera for two and a half years. Breslau has sung the role of Papageno, as well as a few smaller roles while in the CMU Pre-College vocal major opera workshop, including Dottore Malatesta from Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* and Don Alfonso from Mozart's *Così fan tutte*.

**Catherina Carrington** (soprano, assistant stage manager) is a first-year Bachelor of Music student at CIM studying with Dina Kuznetsova. Carrington is a graduate from Interlochen Arts Academy, where she was awarded as a Distinct Music Student. Carrington was featured in the fall 2020 opera scenes program with a partial role as Euridice in Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice*. Carrington participated in a master class with Lisette Oropesa in 2020. In 2021, Carrington played the Rose in Interlochen's production of Portman's *The Little Prince*.

**Tyler Evatt-Young** (tenor) is a third-year Doctor of Musical Arts student studying with Dean Southern. Performance credits include Monostatos in *Die Zauberflöte*, Frederic in *Pirates of Penzance*, Gastone in *La traviata*, Sam Kaplan in *Street Scene*, Ferrando in *Così fan tutte* and a performance of Rodgers and Hammerstein tunes with the Brevard Philharmonic. Additionally, Evatt-Young spent the summer of 2012 at the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. He currently serves as voice instructor and director of opera workshop at Cleveland State University. He received his Bachelor of Music in music education and Master of Music in vocal performance from Appalachian State University.

**Trey Floyd** (tenor) is a first-year Professional Studies student at CIM, studying with Clifford Billions. Floyd's stage credits include Bob in *The Old Maid and the Thief* (WVU), Mr. Lindquist in a *Little Night Music* (UIUC), baritone soloist for the BACH chorale's presentation of *The Messiah*, and a professional chorus member for the Pittsburgh Opera's 2017-18 season. Floyd was the winner of the 2017 district round of the National Association of Teachers of Singing competition and placed second in the regional division in 2016 and 2017.

**Caroline Friend** (soprano) is a second-year Bachelor of Music student at CIM, studying with Dina Kuznetsova. Friend's stage credits include Sandmann from *Hänsel und Gretel* in CIM's fall 2020 opera scenes, Giannetta from *L'elisir d'amore* in CIM's spring 2021 opera scenes and the Spirit in the upcoming CIM Opera Theater film production of *Dido and Aeneas*.

**Jean Furman** (soprano) is a first-year Professional Studies student at CIM, studying with Mary Schiller. She is a first place winner of multiple international competitions, including NATS, and has performed at Carnegie Hall. Furman sang in the ensemble of *Lizzie Borden* with Boston Lyric Opera in 2013 and performed the lead in *Zaporozhets za Dunaem* in 2015. She was Kseniya in *Boris Godunov* in 2016 and Frasquita in *Carmen* with Commonwealth Lyric Theater in 2019. She has also played major roles in *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *West Side Story* and *Pirates of Penzance*.

**Annalyn Gauger** (soprano) is a second-year Bachelor of Music student at CIM, studying with Dina Kuznetsova. She performed the Dew Fairy aria from Humperdinck's *Hänsel und Gretel* in CIM's 2020 opera scenes program, as well as Barbarina's aria from Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* in CIM's 2021 opera scenes program. Additionally, Gauger performed as a soloist in the Future of the Arts Gala at Cincinnati Music Hall in 2019-20 and was a member of the Mayfestival Youth Chorus, directed by Dr. Matthew Swanson.

**Yasmin Gerardi** (soprano) is a first-year undergraduate student at CIM studying with Dina Kuznetsova. Yasmin's stage credentials include the chorus of *Carmen* with the National Opera of El Salvador, Sophie in *Mamma Mia* and Thump in *Cagebirds*. Gerardi also participated in the Virginia All-State Choir for three out of four years in high school. She won first place regionally with the Bland Music Competition, attended the Vocal/Choral Intensive at Boston Conservatory and won second place in the Schmidt Vocal Competition.

**Madison Hurst** (tenor) is a second-year Master of Music student at CIM studying with Clifford Billions. His stage credits include Gastone in *La Traviata* (Utah Valley University), Ferrando in *Così fan tutte* (Utah Vocal Arts Academy/Utah Lyric Opera), Count Danilovitch in *The Merry Widow* (UVU), Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte* (UVU) and Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus* (UVU).

**Lexy Jensen** (soprano) is a second-year voice performance major at CIM studying with Mary Schiller. Although this is Jensen's first operatic stage performance, she performed the soprano feature in Hailstork's *Four Spirituals* and Rossini's *Stabat Mater* during her time at Cleveland School of the Arts. She was a semi-finalist in the CS Music Vocal Competition for the past two years and also the recipient of the Ann Gillespie Achievement Award from KeyBank as well as artistic awards from Berea Arts Fest and Mighty Goliath Productions.

**Yuzhen Jin** (mezzo-soprano), from Guangzhou, China, is in the third year of her bachelor's degree at CIM, studying with Dean Southern. She played Chasseuse in *Hippolyte et Aricie* and the Shepherd in *L'enfant et les sortilèges*. Jin graduated from Walnut Hill School for the Arts, where she played many major roles in the opera productions, including Darine in *Fallen Fairie*, Ms. Matilda in *The Finishing School* and Ms. Cross in *The Audition*. She also sang "I Am Easily Assimilated" as the Old lady in Bernstein's *Candide* for Walnut Hill's annual music concert.

**Day Kazmierski** (soprano) is a first-year Bachelor of Music student at CIM studying with Mary Schiller. Kazmierski has been singing for the majority of their life, but began training to sing opera once they reached high school. Since then they have attended summer programs including Eastman's Summer of Classical Studies and CIM's Core Elements of Singing, as well as others. They also sang in a number of advanced choirs such as Michigan's All-State Choir and University of Michigan's Youth Choir. They were also honored to place second in the Schmidt Vocal Competition.

**Gianna LaMantia** (soprano) is a fourth-year Bachelor of Music student at CIM studying voice performance with Dina Kuznetsova. LaMantia's stage credits include Fiordiligi in excerpts of *Così fan tutte* during CIM Opera Theater's Fall 2020 opera scenes. She is a transfer student from Westminster Choir College of Rider University where she also majored in voice performance and music education for her first two years of college.

**Cameron Liflander** (bass-baritone) is a third-year Bachelor of Music student, studying with Dina Kuznetsova.

**Kiana Lilly** (soprano) is in her fourth year of the Bachelor of Music degree at CIM, studying with Mary Schiller. Lilly was a finalist in the WQXR classical competition in 2016 and the Classical Singer and Schmidt vocal competitions in 2018. She has sung roles including Lakmé in *Lakmé*, Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte* and Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*. At CIM, she performed as La Mort (Death) in Stravinsky's *Le Rossignol* and as Maman (Mother) in Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges*.

**Isabella Luchi** (soprano) made her debut stepping into a production of Pergolesi's *La Serva Padrona* in São Paulo. Luchi has performed in major cities in her home country of Brazil as well as in the US, Austria and Mexico. She has recently appeared in Carnegie Hall as soloist with Angels Vocal Art. Luchi holds a master's degree in vocal performance from Azusa Pacific University and is currently a Professional Studies student at CIM in the studio of Mary Schiller. Past roles include Miss Titmouse in Penhorwood's *Too Many Sopranos*, Una Conversa in Puccini's *Suor Angelica* and Susan in Berkeley's *A dinner engagement*.

**Matthew Mac Manus** (tenor) is a second-year Master of Music student at CIM, studying with Jesse Blumberg. His past stage credits include Ira Vogelsang in *The Impresario* (Miami University) and Don Basilio and Don Curzio in *Le nozze di Figaro* (Miami University). At CIM, Mac Manus has portrayed roles in scenes programs such as Jaquino in *Fidelio*, Ferrando in *Così fan tutte* and Nemorino in *L'elisir d'amore*. He was also in the chorus of CIM's production of *Dido and Aeneas*. While completing his undergraduate degree at Miami University, Mac Manus won third place in the Geoffrey Hall Undergraduate Artist Competition.

**Julie-Michelle Manohar** (soprano) is a third-year Bachelor of Music student at CIM, studying with Dina Kuznetsova. Manohar covered the Spirit in *Dido and Aeneas*, sang Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro*'s "Cosa Sento" and was part of the opera chorus in *Die Zauberflöte*, *The Juniper Tree* and The Cleveland Opera's *Manon Lescaut*. In 2017, she performed Mabel in *Pirates of Penzance* (STC, IA) receiving an ICTA nomination for best actress. She sang in the 2020 virtual Baroque Performance Institute at Oberlin, was selected for the 2018 Vocal/Choral Intensive at Boston Conservatory and placed in the 2019 Ohio NATS auditions.

**Melissa Martinez** (soprano) is a second-year Master of Music student at CIM, studying with Mary Schiller. Her previous credits include Suzel in *L'amico Fritz* (Frost School of Music), La Princesse in *L'enfant et les sortilèges* (Frost) and Clara in *The Light in the Piazza* (Frost). She has appeared in scenes from *Le nozze di Figaro* as well as in the ensemble of *The Rake's Progress*, *Dido and Aeneas* and *Cendrillon* (Frost). In 2019, she was a winner of the Mirabell Competition in Salzburg. She completed her undergraduate voice performance degree at the University of Miami FSOM under Robynne Redmon.

**Emma Nossem** (mezzo-soprano) is a second-year Artist Diploma student at CIM, studying with Mary Schiller. Nossem completed her Master of Music degree at CIM and Bachelor of Music degree at Ball State University where she received the Ewart Opera Performance Scholarship. Her complete roles include Sorceress in *Dido and Aeneas*, Third Lady in *Die Zauberflöte*, Stepmother in *The Juniper Tree*, Diane in *Hippolyte et Aricie*, Maman in *L'enfant et les sortilèges*, Death in *Le Rossignol*, Principessa in *Suor Angelica*, Little Buttercup in *HMS Pinafore* and Ursule in *Beatrice et Bénédicte*.

**Ruby Pine** (soprano) is a third-year undergraduate student at CIM, studying with Mary Schiller. Pine performed in the ensemble of The Cleveland Opera's *Manon Lescaut*, the Baby Bird chorus of CIM's *The Juniper Tree* and sang the role of the Second Spirit in CIM's *Die Zauberflöte*. She sang in the Gotham Music Festival at Carnegie Hall and in Whitacre's *Deep Field* under the baton of Whitacre at the World Science Festival. Pine studied violin for 15 years at the School for Strings in New York. She previously studied with Jana Ballard, Amelia DeMayo and Gulia Mitzanova.

**Emma Potts** (soprano) is a third-year undergraduate student at CIM, studying with Mary Schiller. Potts participated in the Washington National Opera Institute and performed in their 2018 Recital on Capitol Hill. She has presented at Carnegie Hall's Weill Hall twice (2016 and 2017) as an American Protege vocal winner and Judge's Choice. In 2019, Potts was a featured soloist on the Cunard Queen Mary 2 Cruise Ship. She sang the role of Mama Bird in Glass' *The Juniper Tree*. Additionally, she understudied the role of Die Königin der Nacht in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* and Belinda in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*.

**Carlyle Quinn** (mezzo-soprano) is a first-year Master of Music student at CIM, studying under Mary Schiller. Her operatic credits include Oberon/Hermia/Cobweb in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Juilliard Opera), Indiana Elliot in Thomson's *The Mother of Us All* (Juilliard Opera), Madame de Croissy in Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmélites* (Juilliard Opera) and Dido (cover) in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* (Juilliard Opera/Juilliard415). She has participated in the Houston Grand Opera Young Artist Vocal Academy, Die Internationale Meistersinger Akademie, The Juilliard Pre-College Program, Washington National Opera Institute and Boston University Tanglewood Institute. She completed her Bachelor of Music studies at The Juilliard School.

**Rachel Rose** (soprano) is a second-year Professional Studies student, studying with Dina Kuznetsova. Rose sang Dido in CIM's filmed production of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*. Earlier this year, she was selected to perform at the Art Song Festival at CIM's master class for collaborative pianist Warren Jones. Her previous roles include Arminda in Mozart's *La Finta Giardiniera* (Binghamton University), the Witch in Humperdinck's *Hänsel und Gretel* (New York Lyric Opera Theatre and BU) and Hippolyta in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hawaii Performing Arts Festival). She received her Master of Music degree from Binghamton University and her bachelor's degree from the College of William & Mary.

**Alaina Saliba** (soprano) is a second-year Master of Music student, studying with Mary Schiller. Saliba's recent credits include First Witch in CIM's *Dido and Aeneas* and scenes appearances as Giulietta in *I Capuleti*, Norina in *Don Pasquale*, Adina in *L'elisir d'amore* and Frasquita in *Carmen*. She sang as a featured soloist with the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra and Concert Band, performing the soprano solo in Rutter's *Mass of the Children*. Saliba sang in Dayton Opera's *Turandot* as a Dayton Opera Apprentice. She earned first place honors in the 2019 Ohio NATS competition and completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Dayton.

**Val Sibila** (soprano) is a first-year Master of Music student studying with Mary Schiller. Her stage roles at CIM have been Enchantress and Witch I cover in CIM's 2021 film production of *Dido and Aeneas* and in scenes as Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro* and Despina in *Così fan tutte*. She is a member of the Old Stone Singers, has performed with the



Nightingale Opera Theatre and was in the Blossom Festival Chorus with The Cleveland Orchestra for five years. He received a Bachelor of Music from Kent State University.

**Elliot Snell** (tenor) is a second-year Bachelor of Music student at CIM, studying with Clifford Billions. Snell sang in the Houston Saengerbund Competition, where he placed in the semi-finals.

**Isabella (Ella) Sobkowicz** (soprano) is a second-year Bachelor of Music student at CIM, studying with Mary Schiller. Sobkowicz's stage credits include Gretel in select scenes from *Hänsel und Gretel* (Interlochen Arts Academy), Lucia in a select scene from *The Rape of Lucretia* (Interlochen Arts Academy), Gretel in a select scene from *Hänsel und Gretel* (CIM) and Chorus in *Dido and Aeneas* (CIM).

**Ruoxuan (Nola) Tan** (mezzo-soprano) is a second-year undergraduate student at CIM, studying with Dina Kuznetsova. She won the gold medal in the Hong-Kong International Music Competition in both the regional and final rounds in 2019.

**Michael Temesi** (baritone) is a high school sophomore at Hawken Upper School, studying in the CIM Pre-College program with Dina Kuznetsova. He is an avid historical performer seen on the stages of CIM, CWRU, Oberlin and The MET, NYC, where he "...sang with purity of tone and warm innocence..." (*Cadenza*). He has performed with Apollo's Fire, Case Early Music Singers, CIM Prep Showcases and Oberlin Conservatory of Music. Other performances include *La bohème* (Cleveland Opera Theater), *Christmas on Sugarloaf Mountain* (Apollo's Fire) and *Dido and Aeneas* (Baroque Performance Institute).

**Lisl Wangermann** (soprano) is a first-year master's student studying with Dina Kuznetsova. She received her undergraduate degree from Yale University. She has performed, directed and produced operas with the Opera Theatre of Yale College, including Gilbert and Sullivan's *Patience* (Director), Conte's *The Gift of the Magi* (Della) and Donizetti's *Viva la mamma* (Luigia). She also worked with Elm City Consort, Yale Baroque Opera Project, Yale Opera and Norwalk Symphony Orchestra. She has received the Sharp Prize (2020), a Metropolitan National Council Encouragement Award (2020), the Wrexham Prize in Music (2021) and the Louis Sudler Prize (2021).

**Abigayle Williams** (soprano) is currently pursuing her Master of Music degree at CIM, where she studies with Mary Schiller. Williams earned her Bachelor of Music at the University of Alabama in 2020 and was named Outstanding Senior in the School of Music. She appeared as Joyce in the UA Opera Theatre's production of Solitro's *Triangle* and recently recorded the role of Belinda for a film production of *Dido and Aeneas* with the CIM Opera Theater. Williams has been a frequent finalist in state and regional NATS auditions and placed first in Birmingham Music Club Guild's scholarship competition.

**Yiran Xing** (tenor) is a first-year Master of Music student at CIM, studying with Clifford Billions. Xing's stage credits include Curzio in *Le nozze di Figaro* (Huaqiao University), Tony in *West Side Story* (HQU) and Marius in *Les Misérables* (HQU). Xing won the third prize in the Golden Bells vocal music competition in Fujian province and completed his undergraduate voice performance degree at Huaqiao University.

**Xiaoge Zhang** (soprano) is a fourth year Bachelor of Music student at CIM, studying with Dean Southern. In her native China, she began her piano studies from 2008-17 with Lin Wang at the Wuhan Conservatory of Music and received first place in the School Competition. At age 15, she studied voice with Jingzu Bian. Zhang received first prize in the Classical Singer International Vocal Competition in Beijing, Outstanding Award in Boston and first prize in NATS competition in Ohio. Zhang performed the role of Sandman in *Hänsel and Gretel* and First Spirit in *Die Zauberflöte* with CIM Opera Theater.

**Shira Ziv** (soprano) is a third-year undergraduate student at CIM studying with Mary Schiller. Recent stage credits include the partial roles of Oscar, Titania and Gretel in the CIM Opera Theater scenes program, Papagena in the CIM Opera Theater production of *Die Zauberflöte* and Pamina in the Ralli Museum's opera production of *Die Zauberflöte*. Ziv is the recipient of the Martha Bell Sanders Excellence Scholarship and the Dr. Samuel Baker Fund. Ziv has also received multiple awards and honors including second place in the National Association of Teachers of Singing competition, the Israeli Ministry of Education Excellence Award and the America-Israel Cultural Foundation excellence award.

## About the Staff

**Dean Southern** (artistic director, CIM Opera Theater) is vice president for academic affairs and dean of the conservatory at CIM. He is also the Dorothy P. Schmitt Chair in Opera and artistic director of opera theater and a member of the conservatory voice faculty. He has a diverse musical background as a singer, pianist and stage director.

Venues at which he has given master classes in the US and abroad include Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, Central Conservatory of Music and China Conservatory of Music (Beijing, China), Wuhan Conservatory of Music (Wuhan, China), Shenzhen Art School (Shenzhen, China), Kungliga Musikhögskolan (Royal College of Music, Stockholm, Sweden), Conservatorio Profesional de Música (Valencia, Spain) and Interlochen Arts Academy (Michigan), as well as chapters of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) across the country. His students have been accepted to prestigious young artist programs and graduate schools and awarded the Fulbright grant, and they have gone on to successful careers as performers and voice teachers.

Southern was a master teacher at the 2020 NATS Intern Program, where he mentored early career professional voice teachers. He serves as executive director of the Art Song Festival at CIM, which was founded in 1985 to promote art song and cultivate its performance by hosting international artists in recitals and master classes. He spent eleven years on the faculty of the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria, and he has since taught at summer programs in Italy, China, California and Massachusetts. Southern was a jury member of the Bologna International Vocal Competition in Italy and he has served as an adjudicator for competitions in Austria, China and across the US.

After graduating from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, he earned master's degrees in piano performance from the University of Missouri and in voice performance from the University of Akron. He holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in voice performance from CIM. Prior to his appointment at CIM, he taught voice and was stage director of opera at the University of Miami Frost School of Music.

**Harry Davidson** (music director and conductor, CIM Opera Theater) is in his twenty-third season as music director and conductor of the Duke Symphony Orchestra and professor of the practice of

music at Duke University. In spring 2007, he was named music director and conductor of opera at CIM, where he conducts one opera production each semester.

In July 2000, he made his major orchestra conducting debut, leading the National Symphony Orchestra in concert at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. Davidson has guest conducted orchestras in Austria, Finland and the US, including the Charlotte and Akron symphonies, as well as the symphony and chamber orchestras of the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, where he has held residencies on two occasions. He has held the positions of associate conductor of the Wichita Symphony Orchestra, professor of music and director of orchestras at Wichita State University, conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra and associate professor of music at the University of Akron. In the past, he has served as a cover conductor for the North Carolina Symphony and The Cleveland Orchestra.

Davidson was a finalist in the Detroit Symphony's Antal Dorati Conducting Competition and the Hans Swarowsky Conducting Competition in Vienna.

**Dave Brooks** (lighting designer) has been designing and building operas in Kulas Hall for over three decades. His list of favorites is long, but a few of the highlights include productions of *The Rake's Progress*, *HMS Pinafore* and *Dido and Aeneas* for director Michael McConnell; *The Medium* and *Patience* for director Gary Race; and *The Magic Flute*, *Ariadne auf Naxos*, *Hänsel und Gretel* and *Alcina* for director David Bamberger. Brooks' work has also been seen at Lyric Opera Cleveland, The Cleveland Play House, Michigan Opera Theater, Dayton Opera and Opera Pacific. His day job is as a production designer for Hughie's Event Production Services, where he specializes in corporate event design.

**François Germain** (interim managing director, CIM Opera Theater, and vocal coach) has performed extensively in Europe, the US and Canada as soloist and accompanist. Originally from Aix-en-Provence, France, he is the recipient of many awards, including first prizes in the Radio-France Competition and the Paul and Verna Gelinas Competition. He studied at the Conservatoire Darius Milhaud and holds master's and doctoral degrees in piano performance from the University of Montreal as well as a master's degree in political science from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in France.

He is a founder and producer of the website [dictionpolice.com](http://dictionpolice.com), a leading language resource for classical singers and institutions. He has given master classes and workshops on French vocal repertoire in Europe and throughout the US, and currently teaches lyric diction at the Oberlin Conservatory.

Since 2017, he has been on the music staff of the Semperoper in Dresden, Germany, as a guest vocal and language coach for new French productions. For the past twelve years, Germain has also been on the faculty of the University of Miami Frost School of Music Summer Program in Salzburg, Austria, one of Europe's longest running and most respected programs of its kind for singers and vocal pianists. Prior to his engagement at CIM as vocal coach in 2019, Germain was an associate professor of piano and vocal coaching at the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam, where he was the head of the piano department and on the music staff of the Crane Opera Ensemble.

**Cassie Goldbach** (production manager) is the owner and manager of the Cleveland based entertainment company Late Night Theatrics, which specializes in touring, production and financial management for entertainment properties. Current and recent projects include the national tours of *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus, Live!*; *Stomp*; *Donny & Marie Osmond on Tour*; *The Clairvoyants*; *Blue Man Group* and the current Las Vegas residency of America's Got Talent Finalist Tape Face. In Cleveland, she has worked with Playhouse Square, Cleveland Opera Theater, Great Lakes Theater, Apollo's Fire, Cleveland Public Theater, Carousel Dinner Theatre and others. She serves as the director of production for the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival.

**Jeremy Paul** (projection designer) is a director, designer and interdisciplinary artist who recently joined CIM as the inaugural interdisciplinary artist in residence. As the founder and executive artistic director of Maelstrom Collaborative Arts since 2006, Paul has led the creation of the original productions *Four Futures*, *The Wandering*, *Inferno*, *Who We Used To Be*, *Don't Wander Off*, *Broken Codes*, *The Turing Machine*, *The Grand Celebration of the Celestial Mystery*, *TingleTangle*, *Code: Preludes*, *The Excavation* and *Marble Cities*. He has directed the world premieres of *Tall Skinny Cruel Cruel Boys*, *Black Cat Lost* and *My Barking Dog*, as well as the regional premiere of *Inoculations*, *Anna Bella Eema* and *Stranded on Earth*. Paul graduated from

Wesleyan University in Connecticut with dual majors in theater and film, and has post-graduate training with the Pig Iron Theatre Company, New World Performance Lab and the Celebration Barn International School for the Performing Arts. Paul is a recipient of CPAC Creative Workforce Fellowships in 2012 and 2016.

**John Simmons** (chorus master and vocal coach) was appointed to CIM's opera faculty in 2005. Simmons has appeared in numerous recitals in Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Italy and in the US at Weill Recital Hall, Merkin Hall and the Austrian Cultural Forum in New York City. He has performed with such artists/ensembles as Jonas Kaufmann, Christopher Maltman, John Aler, London Symphony Chorus, Westminster Choir, Joffrey Ballet of Chicago, Spoleto Festival Orchestra and The Cleveland Orchestra in the Beyond the Score Series. Simmons has coached, taught and performed at AIMS, Spoleto Festival USA, Centro Studi Italiani, Amalfi Coast, Shaker Mountain and Lincoln Center festivals. He was pianist/coach for two seasons at the Graz Oper and teaching assistant at the Hochschule für Musik in Graz, an associate coach at the Juilliard Opera Center for three years and on the coaching faculty at the CW Post campus of Long Island University for six years. Simmons is music director and conductor for Nightingale Opera Theater in Hudson, Ohio, and is the pianist for the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus.

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