



CLEVELAND
INSTITUTE OF MUSIC

2025-26
SEASON

CONCERT SERIES



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 alumni command hallowed stages across the globe as soloists, opera leads, chamber musicians, and ensemble members; compose meaningful, award-winning music; produce Grammy Award-winning recordings; and are highly sought-after teaching artists, administrators, and thought leaders. CIM's faculty likewise hail from around the country and across the world, giving students "The CIM Advantage" as they embark on professional careers. The school's increasingly diverse collegiate and pre-college student bodies benefit from access to world-renowned visiting artists and abundant performance and outreach opportunities, and from the rich curriculum offered by CIM's partner, Case Western Reserve University. A leader among its peers, CIM is the largest presenter of free performances, masterclasses, and community concerts in the Midwest, hosting hundreds of events each year on campus and at locations regionwide, including Severance Music Center. Explore cim.edu to learn more.



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CLEVELAND
INSTITUTE OF MUSIC

CIM OPERA THEATER

Friday, March 27, 2026 at 7pm
Sunday, March 29, 2026 at 3pm
Kulas Hall

Hansel and Gretel

By Engelbert Humperdinck (1854–1921)

Libretto by Adelheid Wette, after the fairy tale by the Brothers Grimm
Sung in German with English supertitles

JJ Hudson, stage director
Harry Davidson, conductor

Supported by a grant from the John P. Murphy Foundation and a generous gift from Michael Frank and the late Pat Snyder.

Cast

Hansel: Caroline Friend+, Morgan Potts*

Gretel: Catherina Carrington*, Emilie Williams+, Jade Rojas (understudy)

Mother: Kiana Lilly+, Ariel Wong*, Nyla Parker (understudy)

Father: Davis Fischer*, Hyeondo Park+

Witch: Calysta Tamara Jacobs+, Hanyue Zhang*

Sandman: Daniela Pyne+, Logan Windley*

Dew Fairy: Ro Alia*, Fifi Huang+

Angels/Gingerbread children:

Sopranos: Ro Alia, Amelia Carson, Claire Delay, Yifei Huang,
Polina Korniyushenko, Cecelia Morrison, Nyla Parker, Jade Rojas
Altos: Jordan Fowler, Yutong Ge, Ziyi Han, Chenyi Huang,
Jingjing Ma, Daniela Pyne, Abigail Tidlow-Tranel, Logan Windley

+ Performing on March 27

* Performing on March 29

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Director ... JJ Hudson
Set Designer ... Dave Brooks
Scenic Construction ... Hughie's Event Production Services
Carpenters ... Nate Boeman, Shawn Holland,
Shawn Winfrey, Anthony Hitch, Chris Winfield,
Bradley Walland, Paige Dumdie, & Koala
Master Electrician ... Nora Dluho
Electricians ... Haj Minatodani, Brien Boothroyd,
& Jordan Boca-Wimer
Scenic Charge Artist ... Megan Walsh
Scenic Artist ... Kelly Sherlock
Lighting Designer ... Nic Minetor
Costume Designer ... Meredith Magoun
Costume Design Assistant ... Cheyenne Smith
Wardrobe Assistant ... Victoria Mearini
Production Manager ... Dusten Welch
Stage Manager ... Carol Brian
Assistant Stage Manager ... Calysta Tamara Jacobs
Supertitles Creator ... JJ Hudson
Supertitles Operator ... Chuting Huang
Assistant Director ... Connor Vrooman
Assistant Conductor ... Nathaniel Hill
Chorus Master ... John Simmons
Vocal Coaches ... François Germain & John Simmons

CIM OPERA THEATER

Interim Artistic Director ... JJ Hudson
Music Director and Conductor ... Harry Davidson
Program Director and Vocal Coach ... François Germain
Chorus Master and Vocal Coach ... John Simmons
Opera Assistant ... Calysta Tamara Jacobs

CONSERVATORY VOICE FACULTY

Mary Schiller, Head, Voice Performance
Clifford Billions
Dina Kuznetsova
Cynthia Skelley-Wohlschlagler
Dean Southern

CIM ORCHESTRA

FIRST VIOLIN

Joshua Chan, concertmaster
Whampoa Garden, Hong Kong

Yu-Chen Chou, assistant
concertmaster
Cleveland, OH

Brooke Lafontant
Ardmore, TN

Yahli Anter
Tel Aviv, Israel

Ying Wang
Ningbo, China

SECOND VIOLIN

Sue Kim, principal
Seongnam-Si, South Korea

Charlie Li, assistant principal
Shenzhen, China

Eivissa Pla Sorolla
Valencia, Spain

VIOLA

Josh Felsler, principal
Denver, CO

Micah Lee, assistant principal
Chesapeake, VA

Karlis Graufelds
Lansdale, PA

CELLO

Yifei Duan, principal
Seattle, WA

Cecelia McVicker, assistant
principal
Centerburg, OH

Yincheng Song
Aliso Viejo, CA

DOUBLE BASS

Claire Tsai, principal
Taipei, Taiwan

Wyatt Knutson, assistant principal
Friendswood, TX

FLUTE

Josh Peiffer, principal
Southbury, CT

Jonah Miller
Berea, OH

PICCOLO

Dylan Masariego
Oberlin, OH

OBOE

Sara Brown, principal
Manchaca, TX

Hudson Hackley
Pittsburgh, PA

ENGLISH HORN

Hudson Hackley
Pittsburgh, PA

CLARINET

Anton Dimitrik, principal
Toronto, Canada

Tianle Fang
Beijing, China

BASS CLARINET

Gina Huang
Hsinchu, Taiwan

BASSOON

Kathryn Stockmaster, principal
Mentor, OH

Tyler Tan
Lakeland, FL

HORN

Elena Miller, co-principal
Orland Park, IL

Sara Vollenweider, co-principal
Metairie, LA

Ethan Hahn
Indianapolis, IN

Joey Joyce
Kensington, MD

TRUMPET

Sebastian Cole, principal
Macomb, MI

Alex Prokop
Louisville, OH

TROMBONE

Alex Karstedt, principal
Jacksonville, FL

Clay Mason
Hoschton, GA

Jerry Min
Urbana, IL

HARP

Kailani Dunn
Travelers Rest, SC

TIMPANI

Tristan Toma
Kailua, HI

PERCUSSION

Jacob Chang
Winfield, IL

Ruben Shonik
Sea Cliff, NY

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Dr. JJ Hudson (stage director) is recognized as a dynamic and sensitive director of lyric theater in professional, university, and summer-festival opera. His directing credits include works across the spectrum of lyric theater genres, and his productions have received outstanding reviews in *The New York Times*, *Opera News*, and numerous regional and online publications.

In fall 2023, Hudson began as interim artistic director of opera at CIM. In the summers, Hudson is the artistic director of the Harrower Summer Opera Workshop, a young-artist training program based in Atlanta. Prior to joining the faculty at CIM, Hudson was the Valerie Adams Professor of Opera at Georgia State University from 2021-23.

Hudson has recently directed productions with Sarasota Opera (*Rita* and *Il Segreto di Susanna*), Mississippi Opera (*La Bohème*), Natchez Music Festival (*La Bohème*), Lakes Area Music Festival (*Ariadne auf Naxos*, *Carmen*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *La Belle Hélène*, and *The Rake's Progress*), Tri-Cities Opera (*Tosca*, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, and *La Bohème*), Opera Tampa (*Così fan tutte*), Opera in the Heights (*La Fille du Régiment*), Asheville Lyric Opera (*West Side Story*), and Opera Roanoke (*South Pacific* and *La Cenerentola*).

Hudson is an in-demand guest director in university and young-artist opera programs. He has directed multiple productions at Temple University, Stony Brook University, Columbus State University, University of Kansas, and North Carolina School of the Arts. He has directed for young-artist programs including Opera in the Ozarks, Red River Lyric Opera, Opera Breve Vocal Intensive, and Miami Classical Music Festival. He has also served on the directing staffs of the Aspen Opera Theater, Oberlin in Italy, and Opera North.

Hudson holds a DMA in voice performance and literature and an MM in opera studies: stage direction from the Eastman School of Music, where he was a student of Steven Daigle and Carol Webber. He holds an MA in voice performance from the University of Iowa and a double BM from Stetson University in music composition and voice performance.

ABOUT THE CONDUCTOR

Harry Davidson (conductor and music director, CIM Opera Theater) is in his 20th season as music director and conductor of CIM Opera Theater with this production. Since the spring of 2006, he has conducted over 150 performances of more than 35 operas. In addition, Davidson supervised and conducted the score of a film of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* and a livestream video trilogy of operas based on Shakespeare plays. He is in his 27th year as music director and conductor of the Duke Symphony Orchestra and professor of the practice of music at Duke University.

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.

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

Ro Alia (soprano) is a third-year Bachelor of Music student at CIM studying with Mary Schiller. In 2025, Alia performed the role of Serpina from *La Serva Padrona* and La Sorella Infermiera in *Suor Angelica* (CIM). Alia's credits in opera scenes include Hänsel from *Hänsel und Gretel*, Papagena from *Die Zauberflöte*, Miles from *The Turn of the Screw*, and Susanna from *Le Nozze di Figaro*. In 2025, Alia performed at the Mirabell Palace and Schloss Leopoldskron in Salzburg, Austria, as a 3rd prize winner of the Mirabell Competition.

Catherina Carrington (soprano) is a Graduate Diploma student at CIM studying with Dina Kuznetsova. Carrington's most recent performance credits include Adina in *L'elisir d'amore* (La Musica Lirica 2025) and performances at CIM include Aloès (*L'étoile*), Morgana (*Alcina*), La Fée (Massenet's *Cendrillon*), and Constance (*Dialogues des Carmélites*). She played Amy March in Adamo's *Little Women* (Harrower), which served as the topic for her undergraduate music theory thesis (BM '25 in voice and music theory, CIM). As a competitor, Carrington won first and second place at NATS Ohio (2022, 2024) and was a semi-finalist for the Camille Coloratura Awards and VanderLaan Competition (2024).

Amelia Carson (soprano) is a third-year student at CIM studying with Mary Schiller and has served as the head of hair and makeup for the past two years. She has worked freelance for Opera Colorado and has achieved recognition in vocal competitions, placing second and third in the NATS high school division and second in the Schmidt competition. In addition to her vocal performances, Carson also performed on Broadway in the revival of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and worked as a backup dancer in *Annie* and *Wicked*.

Claire DeLay (soprano) is a first-year Bachelor of Music student, studying with Mary Schiller. Prior to CIM, DeLay studied with Kathrynne Jennings at Stanford University. DeLay has performed with iSing Silicon Valley and the Muziekinstituut St. Bavo Chorus (Netherlands), appearing with orchestras such as the Rotterdam Philharmonic and Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra. DeLay is a first-place NATS winner and a double gold medalist at the World Choir Games.

Davis Fischer (baritone) is a second-year Master of Music student at CIM studying with Clifford Billions. Fischer's stage credits include Leporello in *Don Giovanni* (CIM), Siroco in *L'étoile* (CIM), Pirate King in *Pirates of Penzance* (The College of Idaho), and Falstaff in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (The College of Idaho). He completed his undergraduate voice performance degree at The College of Idaho.

Jordan Fowler (soprano) is a first-year Bachelor of Music student at CIM, studying with Dina Kuznetsova. Fowler has been a chorus member for many Pittsburgh Opera productions including *Carmen*, *La Bohème*, and *The Magic Flute*. Fowler has sung with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra in *Te Deum*, *The Damnation of Faust*, and their *Tapestry of Lights* concert. Fowler has also taken part in Carnegie Mellon University's Pre-College program, and she has won first place in the district round of the National Association of Teachers of Singing competition.

Caroline Friend (mezzo-soprano) is a second-year Master of Music student from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, studying with Dina Kuznetsova. Friend graduated from CIM with a Bachelor of Music in vocal performance with a minor in music theory. Her stage credits include Zerlina (*Don Giovanni*), Lazuli (*L'Étoile*), Orlofsky (*Die Fledermaus*), and Mère Marie (*Dialogues des Carmélites*). Her performance of Cherubino (*Le Nozze di Figaro*) marked her debut at the Estates Theatre in the 2023 Prague Summer Nights Young Artist Festival. She also performed in the 65th Annual Sewanee Summer Music Festival & Operafest in 2022. In addition to her stage credits, she has sung in masterclasses for Julius Drake, Kirill Kuzmin, and Annemarie Kremer. Friend is a member of the St. Elizabeth of Hungary Schola at the Shrine of St. Elizabeth of Hungary in Cleveland, Ohio, which exclusively sings Gregorian chant and Renaissance polyphony.

Yutong Ge (soprano) is a second-year Master of Music student at CIM studying with Mary Schiller. Ge's stage credits include Servantes d'honneur in *L'étoile*. She participated in Wenzhou University Symphony Orchestra Opera center as a vocal actress and was awarded the Gold Award at the Asian Music Festival in Singapore.

Ziyi Han (mezzo-soprano) is a first-year Master of Music student at CIM studying with Mary Schiller. As a young singer, Han attended various competitions, performances, and music festivals, and was

awarded the second prize at the 18th Zhongxin International Music Competition in February 2024. She attended Canto Vocal Program in 2023 and played Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* in a scenes program. Han also performed at the Frost School of Music's Program in Salzburg, Austria in 2025. She completed her undergraduate voice performance degree at Shanghai Normal University.

Chenyi Huang (mezzo-soprano) is a third-year student at CIM studying with Dina Kuznetsova. She is a graduate of the Affiliated High School of Zhejiang Conservatory of Music. Performance credits include *Don Giovanni* and *Die Fledermaus*.

Yifei (Fifi) Huang (soprano) is pursuing her Master of Music degree in vocal performance at CIM studying with Mary Schiller. Her CIM opera credits include the First Lay Sister in *Suor Angelica* (Puccini), Gherardino in *Gianni Schicchi* (Puccini), chorus in *Don Giovanni* (Mozart), and Lady in Waiting in *L'étoile* (Chabrier). She has received international recognition, including second place in the Tuesday Musical Scholarship Competition in Ohio and the Gold Prize at the Kobe International Art Festival in Japan.

Calysta Tamara Jacobs (soprano) is a second-year Graduate Diploma student studying with Dina Kuznetsova. Jacobs received a Bachelor of Music in musical theater and vocal performance from Plymouth State University, and a Master of Music in opera performance from Binghamton University. Previous roles include The Witch in *Hansel and Gretel*, Ottavia in *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, Mother and Dragonfly in *L'Enfant et les sortilèges*, Giovanna in *Rigoletto*, Zita in *Gianni Schicchi*, and Suor Angelica in *Suor Angelica*. Jacobs placed second in the Women's Upper-Level Classical NATS Eastern Region competition in 2023 and received a talent-based Graduate Student Award from Binghamton University in 2024.

Polina Kornushenko (soprano) is a third-year Bachelor of Music student at CIM studying with Dina Kuznetsova. Kornushenko performed as a Lady in waiting in *L'Étoile*, and as a part of the chorus in *Don Giovanni*, *Die Fledermaus*, and *Cendrillon* with CIM Opera Theater. Kornushenko also performed as Papagena, Gretel, and in the chorus of *L'Elisir d'amore* in CIM Opera Scenes. Kornushenko placed first in the Ukrainian Music Competition in New York (2025). She also placed first in Ohio NATS 2023 and third in Ohio NATS 2024. She has gained

additional voice training through summer programs at the Frost School of Music Program at Salzburg, Interlochen, and the Ukrainian Art Song Project.

Kiana Lilly (soprano), from New York City, is completing her Graduate Diploma in vocal performance at CIM studying with Mary Schiller. In fall 2025, she sang the title role in *Suor Angelica* with CIM Opera Theater. Recent roles include Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*), Almira (*Dark Sisters*), Susannah (*Susannah*), Older Alyce (*Glory Denied*), and Madame Lidoine (*Dialogues des Carmélites*). She is the 2025 Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition Indiana District Winner, 2023 Tuesday Musical Association First Prize Winner, and 2022 NATS Ohio Chapter First Prize and Richard Miller Award recipient.

Jingjing Ma (soprano) is a first-year Master of Music student at CIM studying with Mary Schiller. Her awards include third prize in the 2022 Korea-China Art Song Finals and second prize at the 2024 7th National College Arts Performance. She completed her undergraduate voice performance degree at Nanjing University of the Arts.

Cecelia Morrison (soprano) is a second-year Bachelor of Music student at CIM studying with Dina Kuznetsova. She has taken part in CIM's opera program as a chorus member in Chabrier's *L'étoile* (2024), the 2025 production of opera scenes, and *Suor Angelica* (2025). Morrison attended the AAMS Italy Summer Opera Intensive in Todi, Italy (2023 and 2024).

Hyeondo Park (baritone) is a second-year Bachelor of Music student at CIM studying with Dean Southern. Park's stage credits include Zalzal in *L'Étoile* and Masetto in *Don Giovanni*, both with CIM Opera Theater.

Nyla Parker (soprano) is a first-year Master of Music student in vocal performance studying with Mary Schiller. Parker has sung with Central City Opera as a touring artist. She completed her undergraduate voice degree at the University of Texas at Austin.

Morgan Potts (mezzo-soprano) is pursuing her Master of Music in voice performance at CIM, where she studies with Mary Schiller. Potts made her professional debut as Young Edward Vernon/Ensemble 2 in *Blind Injustice* by Scott Davenport Richards, presented by Chagrin Arts. Her 2025 season highlights included Zita in *Gianni Schicchi*, Meg in

Verdi's *Falstaff*, and Presendia in Nico Muhly's *Dark Sisters*. Other notable roles include Hérison de Porc-Épic in Chabrier's *L'Étoile*, Elisetta in Cimara's *Il Matrimonio Segreto*, Prince Orlofsky in Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*, Cherubino in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Sherlock Holmes in Hans Bridger Heruth's *A Certain Madness*, and Hänsel in Humperdinck's *Hänsel und Gretel*. Potts has enriched her training through young artist programs such as Texas Music Festival (2022), Frost School of Music's Summer in Salzburg (2023), Opera Seme (2024), and Harrower Opera Workshop (2025). She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Kennesaw State University.

Daniela Pyne (soprano) is a first-year Master of Music student at CIM studying with Dina Kuznetsova. Pyne completed her Bachelor of Music degree with honors at the New England Conservatory in the spring of 2025. Pyne's operatic roles include Papagena and Zweiter Knabe in *The Magic Flute* at the Trentino Music Festival. Her most recent opera role was Dido in New England Conservatory's 2025 spring production of *Dido and Aeneas*. Pyne also won a summer program scholarship in the spring of 2024, sponsored by the Voice Health Institute located in Boston.

Jade Rojas (soprano) is a junior at CIM studying with Mary Schiller. She has appeared in productions of *Carmen*, *La Traviata*, *La Bohème*, and *Tosca* with Opera Naples and Gulfshore Opera. Her lead roles include Penny in *The Secret World of Og* (2022), Cousin Hebe in *H.M.S. Pinafore* (2022), and Phyllis in *Iolanthe* (2023). Rojas has attended programs such as Interlochen, ArtsBridge, Boston University Tanglewood Institute, Bel Canto in Tuscany, and the Patti and Allan Herbert Summer in Salzburg program.

Abigail Tidlow-Tranel (soprano) is a second-year undergraduate student at CIM studying with Dina Kuznetsova. She has performed as the Page in *Rigoletto* with the Intermountain Opera Company and as a member of the Bozeman Symphony Choir. Tidlow-Tranel has participated in numerous summer festivals and programs, most notably the Boston University Tanglewood Institute and Curtis Mentorship Program.

Emilie Williams (soprano) is a first-year Master of Music student in vocal performance studying with Cynthia Skelley-Wohlschläger. In 2021, they won first place in the Upper Treble Classical Division for

the Regional NATS Competition. They won the 2022 Edgar Stone Vocal Scholarship Competition and were a finalist for the 2022 and 2023 Northern Arizona University Concerto Competition. Through their college career, Williams has had the opportunity to perform in Menotti's *The Medium* as Mrs. Gobineau, played Beth March in Mark Adamo's *Little Women*, and concluded their final NAU Opera performance as Donna Anna in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. In the summer of 2022, they performed the role of Selena in Jake Heggie's *If I Were You*, and once again performed in Hans Bridger Heruth's *A Certain Madness* (Constance) for the Nightingale Opera Theater's Young Artist Program. They performed as a chorus member for the Salt Marsh Opera's performance of Verdi's *Falstaff* and played Lepido in Handel's *Silla* for the Chicago Summer Opera. Williams completed their undergraduate performance degree at Northern Arizona University.

Logan Windley (soprano) is a third-year undergraduate student at CIM studying with Dean Southern. Windley's past performances with CIM include a Lady in Waiting in *L'Étoile*, Lucinda in *Dark Sisters* (in concert), and the chorus in *Don Giovanni*. Over the summer, she joined Opera in the Ozarks as a studio artist for their 75th season and performed in the chorus of *Carmen*, as Lucinda/Milky-White in *Into the Woods*, Lolo in *The Merry Widow*, and Dorabella in *The Bremen Town Musicians*.

Ariel Wong (soprano) is a second-year Master of Music student at CIM studying with Mary Schiller. Her operatic roles include Gertrud in *Hänsel und Gretel*, the title role in *Suor Angelica*, Contessa Almaviva in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*, and Arminda in *La finta giardiniera*. She has also appeared in opera scenes as Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*, Hanna Glawari in *The Merry Widow*, the Second Lady in *Die Zauberflöte*, and Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro*. In addition to her operatic work, Wong has performed in Austria at the Mozarthaus in Vienna and Schloss Leopoldskron in Salzburg.

Hanyue Zhang (soprano) is a first year Graduate Diploma student at CIM studying with Dina Kuznetsova. Zhang has performed the title role in *Suor Angelica* and Second Woman in *Dido and Aeneas*. In summer 2025, she joined the Prague Summer Nights Festival as First Lady in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*. Zhang earned her Master of Music degree from the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music.

ABOUT THE STAFF

Carol Brian (stage manager) graduated from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, and served an internship at The Juilliard School. Since then, Brian has been busy stage managing from as far north as New Hampshire and as far south as Florida, from Boston to Kansas City. Most recently she finished up her seventh year as production stage manager at Opera Tampa and her fifth year with Shreveport Opera. She will be enjoying her eleventh season with Opera in the Ozarks this summer. Brian has done shows of all sizes including Disney World, Norwegian Cruise Line, and national tour shows, and has worked at all four Tennessee opera companies. She lives in middle Tennessee with her husband, Gene.

Dave Brooks (set 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 would have to 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, 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 (program director, CIM Opera Theater, and vocal coach) is an internationally recognized vocal coach, pianist, and educator whose work bridges performance, pedagogy, and scholarship in opera and art song. A native of Aix-en-Provence, France, he has built a career spanning Europe and North America, and is widely regarded for his stylistic authority, linguistic expertise, and collaborative work with singers. In Europe, Germain has been regularly engaged since 2017 as vocal and language coach at the Semperoper Dresden, collaborating on major French productions and working closely with conductors, directors, and international casts. In the United States, he is Program Director of Opera Theater and Associate Professor of Voice Studies at CIM and serves on the faculty of Jennifer Rowley's Aria Bootcamp, a premier training program for emerging singers.

As a recitalist and collaborative pianist, he has appeared throughout Europe and North America, including at the American Church in Paris, Steinway Hall in New York, and the Mozarteum in Salzburg, and he regularly performs as a substitute keyboardist with The Cleveland Orchestra.

Germain holds a Doctor of Music degree in piano performance from the Université de Montréal and a master's-level diploma in political science from Sciences-Po in France, where his research examined the cultural politics surrounding the music of Dmitri Shostakovich.

Nathaniel Hill (assistant conductor) is an emerging conductor whose dynamic leadership and musical insight have made him a compelling presence on the podium. He currently studies conducting with Tito Muñoz at CIM, where he is pursuing a double Graduate Diploma in conducting and guitar performance with Grammy-winner Jason Vieaux. Hill has led orchestras of CIM musicians and members of The Cleveland Orchestra, including the acclaimed Garden to Glory concerts that thousands have attended. He serves as assistant and guest conductor with the Case Western Reserve University Symphony Orchestra and is a former conducting fellow at the Smoky Mountain Conducting Institute.

Meredith Magoun (costume designer) is the Assistant Professor of Costume Design at UNC at Charlotte in North Carolina. She has taught at Old Dominion University, Central Washington University, and Boston Arts Academy. She teaches courses in costume technology, stage costuming, costume design, costume crafts, fashion history, intro to theatre (theatre experience), intro to production design, and mask making. Her most recent credits include *Carmen*, *The Merry Widow*, and *Into the Woods* at Opera in the Ozarks, and *Measure for Measure* at UNC Charlotte. She has designed for Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theater, Busch Gardens, Village Theater Kidstage, Weston Playhouse, Longwood Players, Arts After Hours, Boston Baby Dolls, Northeastern University, Berklee College of Music, Emerson College, Stoneham Theater, Zeitgeist Stage Company, and CompanyOne. She is a wardrobe mistress, milliner, photographer, artist, and balloon sculptor. She holds an MFA from Carnegie Mellon University (2011) in costume design and a BA in theater from Smith College (2005). Learn more at meredithmagoun.com

Nic Minetor (lighting designer) is a professional lighting designer for opera, dance, theater, and art museums. He served as resident lighting designer for the Eastman Opera Theatre for 35 years, and has lit many productions for the Finger Lakes Opera, Mercury Opera Rochester, National Technical Institute for the Deaf, Blackfriars Theatre, and the Memorial Art Gallery in Rochester, New York. He is also the photographer for more than 30 travel and nature books for Globe Pequot, the most recent of which are *Birding Texas* and the soon to be released *Upstate New York Birding Guide*. He is pleased to be lighting his first production for CIM.

John Simmons (vocal coach, chorus master, and continuo) received a Master of Music degree in piano performance from Peabody Conservatory as a student of Yoheved Kaplinsky. He also holds an Artist Diploma in piano performance from the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst, Vienna, Austria, where he was a student of Paul Badura-Skoda. He was appointed to the CIM 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 artists and ensembles including 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. In 2004-05, he was guest professor of collaborative piano at Rutgers University.

While in New York, Simmons played in the voice studios of many well-known teachers including Doris Yarick Cross and Anna Moffo. He was music director and pianist for New York Opera Project's production of Barber's *Vanessa* in 2004 and assistant conductor for the Lincoln Center Festival and University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, productions of *The Silver River* by Bright Sheng in 2002 and 2007. Simmons is music director and conductor for Nightingale Opera Theater in Hudson, Ohio.

Dusten Welch (production manager) is an award-winning artist, fight choreographer, director, and educator, currently serving as the opera production manager at CIM. In addition to his work with CIM, Welch teaches stage combat for Case Western Reserve University's MFA acting program and Baldwin Wallace University's acting and directing programs, and is the art director for *The Fight Master* magazine. A multi-recipient of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Achievement Award for Fight Direction (2007 and 2016), his work has been seen at Cleveland Play House, Great Lakes Theater, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Beck Center for the Arts, Karamu House, and Cleveland Shakespeare Festival, among others. He previously served as artistic director of Cleveland Shakespeare Festival (2020-24) and as administrative coordinator at the Academy for the Performing Arts (2014-20). He is a certified teacher with the Society of American Fight Directors and holds a BA in theater and performance from Ashland University.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, March 29

4pm | *Mixon Hall*

New Music Ensemble

Keith Fitch, director

Libby Larsen, guest composer. *Kulas Foundation Visiting Artist*

Featuring music by Larsen and Fitch.

New Music Ensemble is generously supported by the Roy Minoff Family Fund.

Wednesday, April 8

7:30pm | *Mixon Hall*

Olga Dubossarskaya Kaler, violin

Ilya Kaler, violin

Lynne Ramsey, viola

Daniel Kaler (BM '20), cello, *Kulas Foundation Visiting Artist*

Ilya Itin, piano

Featuring music by Brahms, Debussy, and Ysaÿe.

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