

UPCOMING MONTAGE EVENTS

The Department of Design

PRESENTS

April Greiman, Designer & Michael Rotondi, Architect

A National Design Lecture in collaboration with
Tulane University School of Architecture
Monday, January 25 at 6 pm - Nunemaker

Masterclass

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, violin

Friday, January 29 at 1:30 pm - Nunemaker

The Strings Live at Loyola

FEATURING

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and Mark O'Connor

WITH THE

Loyola Symphony Orchestra

Saturday, January 30 at 7:30 pm

Roussel - ticket required

The Loyola Faculty

PROUDLY PRESENTS

The Great American Songbook

FEATURING

Luretta Bybee, Betsy Uschkrat, Elizabeth Floyd,
Tyler Smith, John Rankin, Ed Wise, and Jesse Reeks
Sunday, January 31 at 3 pm - Roussel - ticket required

5th Annual Mardi Gras Forum

PRESENTS

The Music of Mardi Gras

Monday, February 1 at 5 pm - Nunemaker

Keyboard Series-Piano Concert

Night at the Opera

Dr. Brian Hsu, piano

Tuesday, February 2 at 7:30 pm - Roussel

Metropolitan Opera - District Auditions

Saturday, February 13 at 9 am

Sunday, February 14 at 1:30 pm

Roussel Hall

Masterclass - Metropolitan Opera

Monday, February 15 at 10 am - Roussel

TICKETS

montage.loyno.edu or call 504.865.2074

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

LOYOLA OPERA THEATRE

PRESENTS

CHARLES GOUNOD'S

Roméo et Juliette



CAROL RAUSCH, MUSIC DIRECTOR/CONDUCTOR

BILL FABRIS, STAGE DIRECTOR

JANUARY 23-24, 2016

LOUIS J. ROUSSEL PERFORMANCE HALL

MONTAGE
FINE & PERFORMING
ARTS SERIES

LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY
NEW ORLEANS

LOYOLA OPERA THEATRE
PRESENTS

Roméo et Juliette

Music by Charles Gounod (1818-1893)

French libretto by Paul Jules Barbier (1825-1901) & Michel Carré (1821-1872)

First Performance - Théâtre-Lyrique Impérial du Châtelet, Paris on April 27, 1867

CAST

Saturday, January 23

Sunday, January 24

THE CAPULETS

Juliette	Rachel Looney	Aurora Foster
Tybalt	Haley Whitney (understudy) Mark-Anthony Thomas Bryton Gunther (understudy)	Alexander Sibley
Grégorio	David Murray	
Gertrude	Pamela Nions	Cherita Robinson
Lord Capulet	Spencer Reichman	Andres Benavides Cascante
Lady Capulet	Emma Mountcastle	
Sampson	Ali Safi	
Peter	Gloria Cosenza	

THE MONTAGUES

Roméo	Dennis Shuman	Kameron Lopreore
Mercutio	Dylan Tran	Christian Patterson
Benvolio	Reid Canal	Bryton Gunther
Stéphano	Zara Zemmels	Zara Zemmels
Lord Montague	Philip Nodurft	
Lady Montague	Linden Uter	
Balthazar	Christian Patterson	Dylan Tran
Abraham	Bryton Gunther	Reid Canal

PEOPLE OF VERONA

Count Pâris	Grant Rothermel	
Frère Laurent	Ken Weber	
The Duke	Andres Benavides Cascante	Spencer Reichman

CHORUS

SOPRANOS:	Emily Barber, Marinna Carmichael, Mary Cloud, Audrey Harmon, Alyssa Hernandez, Cristina Lopez, Alicia Melendez, Emma Mountcastle, Colleen Ryan, Brittany Schaubhut, Zoë Spangler, Emilie Tolley, and Linden Uter
MEZZOS:	Kelsey Bergey, Gloria Cosenza, Christina Hera, Meghan Kessel, Sarah Neal, Pamela Nions, and Julia Tuneberg
TENORS:	Justin Blanchard, Reid Canal, Bryton Gunther, Adam Laliberté, Kentro Mason, and Philip Nodurft
BARITONE/BASS:	David Murray, Christian Patterson, Grant Rothermel, Ali Safi, and Dylan Tran



This weekend's opera performances are dedicated to the memory of

Dane Edward Evans (December 28, 1943 - December 28, 2015)

A wonderful pianist, loving and loyal friend, and true supporter of the arts

ORCHESTRA PERSONNEL

Violin I Amy Thiaville, Concertmaster ¹ Jenny Waldron ² Dhani Juan ² Anastasia Sion ²	Flute Patti Adams ^{1/3} Patrick Thompson (Piccolo) ²	Trombone Matt Wright (Saturday) ³ Jeff Albert (Sunday) ^{1/G} Adrian Rotondo-McCord ^G
Violin II Peter Folger ² Eva Piontowski ² Natalie Phillips ²	Oboe Jane Gabka ^{1/3}	Timpani Jim Atwood ^{1/3}
Viola Bruce Owen ^{1/3} Emily Townsend ²	Clarinet John Reeks ^{1/3} Mai Abe ²	Percussion Dave Salay ^{1/3} Stephen Tumblin ²
Cello Allen Nisbet ¹ Josh Sierra ²	Bassoon Ben Atherholt ^{1/3}	Harp Avery Sanford ²
Bass Amina Scott ²	French Horn Kieron Oliver ² Kiley Pohn ²	Organ Liliia Oliinyk ¹
	Trumpet Tyler Lindsay ² Oliver Kodner ²	¹ Loyola Faculty ² Loyola Student ³ Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra ^G Guest (former LPO/faculty/student)

LOYOLA VOICE FACULTY

Luretta Bybee	Ellen Frohnmayer	Dreux Montegut	Tyler Smith
Meg Frazier	Walter Harris	Marcus St. Julien	Betsy Uschkrat

PRODUCTION STAFF

Fight Choreographer	Erick Wolfe
Fight Captain	Dylan Tran
Set Design	G. Alan Rusnak
Technical Director	Keith Christopher
Props/Painter	Nathan Arthur
Lighting Design	Joan Long
Costumes	Malabar, Ltd. – Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Costume Coordinator	Julie Winn
Wigs & Makeup	Don & Linda Guillot
Wigs & Makeup Staff	Amanda Bravender, Megan Bunnell, Maggie McGovern
Facilities Managers	Stewart Becnel & Clinton Keene
Production Stage Manager	Annie Halbert
Assistant Stage Manager	Olivia Garcia
Rehearsal Accompanist	Liliia Oliinyk
Orchestra Contractor	Jack Gardner
Orchestra reduction	Anton Coppola
Orchestra materials	The Straz Center, Tampa, Florida
Supertitles	Chadwick Creative Arts
Supertitle Operator	Beth Rota
Box Office	Jessica Roma

SPECIAL THANKS

Carmen Balthazar and Cheryl Conway in the Office of the College of Music and Fine Arts
Dr. Anthony Decuir, Dean; Dr. Victoria P. Vega, Associate Dean

Haley Whitney, a soprano from Mandeville, Louisiana, is a sophomore Vocal Performance major in the studio of Luretta Bybee. She is a 2013 graduate of the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA), where she studied with Phyllis Treigle and performed in many opera scenes. During a year off before coming to Loyola, Haley studied with Nancy Assaf and began her work with the New Orleans Opera Chorus, appearing in *La bohème*. She has since been seen onstage with the company in *Carmen* and *Lucia di Lammermoor*, and this spring will sing in productions of *Dead Man Walking* and *Tosca*. In 2012 she won First Place in the Schmidt Youth Vocal Competition in Atlanta, Georgia. She attended the Walnut Hill Summer Program in 2011 and that same year was also a finalist in the *Classical Singer* competition. In May 2015 Haley was a soloist for Kodaly's *Missa Brevis* (1958) with the José Limón Dance Company, produced and presented by the New Orleans Ballet Association (NOBA). She was also a soloist for the Poulenc *Gloria* at St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian church, where she is a soprano section leader. Haley began her work with Loyola Opera Theatre last year with the role of Suor Genovieffa in *Suor Angelica*. She is very excited for the opportunity to cover the role of Juliette in Gounod's opera.

Zara Zemmels is from New Orleans and began studying classical voice at Loyola in 2011. She has sung with the New Orleans Opera Chorus for seven productions, including this season's most recent productions of *La traviata* and *Die Fledermaus*. She spent last summer in Novafeltria, Italy with La Musica Lirica's young artist program, where she understudied the role of Suzuki in *Madama Butterfly*. This is her third production with Loyola Opera.



FROHNMYER LEGACY FUND

Loyola's long tradition of operatic excellence thrives on the bountiful gifts of all our donors. Created by Philip and Ellen Frohnmayer in 2011, the special endowment of the Frohnmayer Legacy Fund goes directly to the support of Loyola Opera into the future. Please consider making a gift today via the enclosed envelope, or on-line at: giving.loyno.edu (type in "Frohnmayer Legacy Fund" for your gift designation), or mail to:

The College of Music and Fine Arts
Loyola University New Orleans
Campus Box 8
6363 St. Charles Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



SYNOPSIS

Setting: Verona, Italy in the 14th century

PROLOGUE

The chorus tells of the feud between the Montagues and the Capulets and of their children, the star-crossed lovers Roméo and Juliette.

ACT I - Palace of the Capulets

The Capulets are holding a masked ball. Count Capulet arrives with his daughter and greets the guests. Juliette is excited to attend the party (*Je veux vivre*). The rival Montagues, including a masked Roméo and his friends, also arrive at the party. Roméo's friend Mercutio launches into a song about Queen Mab trying to convince Roméo to stay focused on the task at hand. It is then that the two meet and their attraction is instantaneous. Tybalt is suspicious of the young man attracting Juliette's attention and realizes that Montagues are at the ball. Roméo and his friends make a quick exit. Count Capulet tells Tybalt to remain civil and continues the ball.

ACT II - Juliette's Garden

Roméo is hiding just below Juliette's balcony. Roméo sings of Juliette's beauty as the purest, brightest star (*Ah! lève-toi, soleil!*). As Roméo hides, Juliette appears and speaks of her attraction to him, even though he is a Montague. Roméo reveals himself and they pledge their love, only to be interrupted by Capulet men searching the gardens and by Juliette's nurse, Gertrude. They bid each other good night.

ACT III, Scene 1 - Frère Laurent's Cell

Roméo, followed by Juliette and her nurse, arrives at Frère Laurent's cell. The Friar hopes that the union of Roméo and Juliette will lead to peace between the two houses and agrees to marry the couple.

INTERMISSION

ACT III, Scene 2 - A Street Near the Capulet's House

Stéphano provokes a fight with the Capulets (*Que fais-tu, blanche tourterelle?*) as a distraction. Grégorio rises to the challenge, drawing more Capulets and Montagues into the brawl. Mercutio and Tybalt fight and Mercutio is killed. In a fit of rage, Roméo kills Tybalt. The Duke of Verona banishes Roméo from the city.

ACT IV - Juliette's Bed Chamber at Dawn

After a night of passion, Roméo bids Juliette farewell before he is exiled (*Nuit d'hyménée! O douce nuit d'amour!*). Gertrude warns Juliette that her father is approaching with Frère Laurent. Count Capulet tells Juliette to prepare for her marriage to Pâris. The Friar gives Juliette a potion that will make it appear as if she is dead, then promises that when she awakens, Roméo will be with her and they will flee together. Juliette drinks the potion and, before the assembled wedding guests, she faints. All believe her to be dead.

ACT V - The Tomb of the Capulets

Roméo has broken into the tomb and mourns Juliette's death. In despair, Roméo drinks poison just as Juliette begins to awaken. Unaware that Roméo is dying, they sing of a new life together but Roméo falters and tells Juliette what he has done. Unwilling to live without him, Juliette stabs herself with a dagger. As the lovers die, they pray for God's forgiveness.



ARTIST PROFILES

Bill Fabris (Stage Director/Choreographer) Equally at home in the worlds of opera and musical theatre, his 2015/16 season includes: *La Cenerentola* (Eklund Opera); *La bohème* (Bayview Music Festival); *The Pirates of Penzance* (Shreveport Opera); *Sweeney Todd* (Eugene Opera); *The Magic Flute* (Anchorage Opera); *Man of La Mancha*, and *South Pacific* (Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre).

His work regularly appears on the stages of opera companies throughout the US: *The Threepenny Opera* (Opera Columbus), *Der fliegende Holländer* and *Carmen* (Opera Delaware), *The Pirates of Penzance* and *Die Fledermaus* (Opera Carolina), *Le Jongleur de Notre-Dame* and *Candide* (Opera Boston), *The Tender Land*, *Rigoletto*, and *The Merry Widow* (Mobile Opera), *My Fair Lady*, *Le nozze di Figaro* and *Carousel* (Shreveport Opera), *Falstaff*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Magic Flute* (Natchez Festival of Music) *L'elisir d'amore* and *Aida* (Cedar Rapids Opera), *La Cenerentola* (Lyric Opera of San Antonio), *Così fan tutte* and *Tosca* (Amarillo Opera), *La bohème* (Opera East Texas), *Trouble In Tahiti*, *Don Pasquale*, *The Sound of Music* and *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (Anchorage Opera), *The Gondoliers*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *The Mikado* and *The Barber of Seville* (Chautauqua Opera). Fabris is thrilled to be part of another wonderful production at Loyola with colleague Carol Rausch, with whom he worked 17 summers at Chautauqua Opera.

His New York credits include *The Desert Song*, *The Merry Widow*, *Countess Maritza*, and the recent critically acclaimed City Center productions of *The Pirates of Penzance* and *H.M.S. Pinafore*. Off-Broadway, Fabris directed the 20th anniversary production of *Boy Meets Boy*.

Internationally, he directed *Nine* in Brugge, Belgium, *A Little Sondheim Music* and *The Music of Leonard Bernstein* at the Liceu in Barcelona, as well as the European tours of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Hair*. He also choreographed the award-winning short film *Boot Camp*, which was featured at Sundance and the Berlin Film Festival.

As an educator, Fabris directed 25 productions for Westminster Opera Theatre and the musical theatre program, which he helped develop for Rider University. He was also a guest director at Boston University, University of Colorado - Boulder, Portland State University, Manhattan School of Music, and Montclair State College. For Loyola University, he has staged *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Grand Duchess of Gerolstein*, *Candide*, *The Magic Flute*, and *Suor Angelica/Gianni Schicchi*.

Carol Rausch (Conductor/Music Director) is currently the Chorus Master, Music Administrator and Education Director for the New Orleans Opera Association. She also serves as Chorus Master and Music Administrator for the Chautauqua Opera's summer festival season in upstate New York, where she heads the music staff and oversees the nationally recognized young artist program. Ms. Rausch has previously worked for the Greater Miami Opera (now Florida Grand Opera), Virginia Opera, Ohio Light Opera and Opera Columbus.

Ms. Rausch's educational background includes degrees from Indiana University and The Ohio State University, plus a year of study at the Conservatoire Royal de Musique in Brussels, Belgium, as a Rotary Foundation Graduate Fellow. She has studied with pianists Jorge Bolet, Earl Wild, Richard Tetley-Kardos and Sonja Anshütz. She has teaching experience at Ohio State, Kenyon College (Ohio) and the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University in Houston. In the fall of 2002 Ms. Rausch joined the faculty of the College of Music and Fine Arts at Loyola University New Orleans and in the fall of 2010 she became Director of Loyola Opera Theatre, following the retirement of David Morelock. At Loyola she has coached and/or conducted productions of *Così fan tutte*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, *Die Fledermaus*, *The Barber of Seville*, *The Magic Flute*, *Lakmé*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Gondoliers*, *Orpheus in the Underworld*, *The Elixir of Love*, *Dido and Aeneas*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *L'Enfant et les sortilèges*, *Susannah*, *Les Mamelles de Tirésias*, *The Grand Duchess of Gerolstein*, *Candide*, and *Suor Angelica/Gianni Schicchi*. Both *Susannah* (staged by Octavio Cardenas) and *Candide* (directed/choreographed by Bill Fabris) received "Best Community/Collegiate Opera Production" awards in their respective years, and the April 2013 scenes program *Great Britten: Celebrating the 100th Birthday of Benjamin Britten!* won "the Best Creative Achievement in Classical Music" award from the *Gambit* "Tribute to the Classical Arts" nominations.

For her work with the New Orleans Opera Ms. Rausch has received awards for choral direction and the company's success in arts education throughout Louisiana. She was featured as one of the city's "Top Female Achievers" in the July 2013 issue of *New Orleans* magazine. Ms. Rausch has extensive background as a broadcast producer for public radio and worked at WOSU-FM in her native Ohio. She has performed as a member of the Metamorphosis Chamber Ensemble and Pro Musica Chamber Orchestra, and has remained active as a vocal coach and recital accompanist. She has been a recital partner for Jeanne-Michèle Charbonnet, Ned Barth, Fabiana Bravo, Marquita Lister, Barbara Quintiliani, and Loyola graduates Anthony Laciura, Sarah Jane McMahon, Bryan Hymel, and Angela Mannino, to name just a few. Ms. Rausch is a frequent judge for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions throughout the country.

He earned his Bachelor's degree at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, where he performed the role of Ferrando in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* and won both the University Concerto Competition and his category at the Minnesota State National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Competition. Prior to moving to Minnesota, Dennis began his undergraduate education at Shorter College in Rome, Georgia. There he sang the roles of Pluto in Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld* and Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi*. Dennis has performed the role of Little Bat in Floyd's *Susannah* with Capitol City Opera in Atlanta. He also sang for two seasons as a chorister with the Atlanta Opera, appearing in productions of *Aida*, *The Magic Flute*, and *La bohème*. Dennis spent two summers training at the Banff Centre's prestigious "Opera as Theatre" program under the tutelage of many renowned operatic professionals.

Zoë Spangler is from Salem, Oregon, and is a junior Music Electives major and Philosophy minor in the studio of Betsy Uschkrat. In 2015 Zoë appeared in *Suor Angelica* and as Bo-Peep in a scene from *Babes in Toyland* in "A Musical Menagerie," and she is very excited to be part of *Roméo et Juliette!*

Mark Anthony Thomas, a native of New Orleans, is a graduate of McDonough 35 Senior High School and the New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts (NOCCA), where he studied vocal music and received a Certificate of Artistry under the tutelage of Phyllis Treigle. He was selected as a winner of the Junior Philharmonic Society competition in 2009. Mark spent a summer in Italy at the Siena Summer Music Festival, studying opera under the direction of Metropolitan Opera veteran Dana Talley. He is a member of the New Orleans Opera Chorus and has appeared in productions of *Madama Butterfly*, *La bohème*, *Carmen*, and *Die Fledermaus*. In November 2012, Mark performed the title role in Chris Burton's *The Self Portrait of Jonathan Jenkins* with New Fangled Opera and returned in July 2013 to perform in Jennifer Jolley's *Krispy Kremes and Butter Queens* as the Angel/Announcer #2. In January 2015 Mark performed the role of Gherardo in Loyola Opera's production of Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*. Mark was also a soloist in Handel's *Messiah* for performances by the New Orleans Volunteer Orchestra and St. Paul Lutheran Church. After studying at the Boston Conservatory for one year under Kathryn Wright, Mark continues his pursuit of a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance at Loyola in the studio of Loretta Bybee. When not studying music, Mark enjoys spending time traveling, bowling, watching Netflix, and being with family and friends.

Dylan J. Tran, from Alexandria, Louisiana, is a junior Music with Elective Studies major in the studio of Dreux Montegut, with a minor in Theory and Composition. *Roméo et Juliette* is his third production with Loyola Opera Theatre. Dylan is a member of the Loyola Chorale and Chamber Singers under the direction of Dr. Meg Frazier and can also be seen in the choruses of the upcoming productions *Dead Man Walking* and *Tosca* with the New Orleans Opera Association. He would like to thank the entire Loyola voice faculty, Bill, Carol, Erick, and his fellow cast-mates for all of the work they have put into this production. Dylan would like to wish his siblings Danny, Drew and Dane a happy birthday!

Julia Tuneberg is a sophomore Music Education major in the voice studio of Ellen Frohnmayer. She began performing at age four in her hometown church in League City, Texas, and hasn't stopped since. Julia began a journey in musical theater with roles in multiple grammar school productions, and in the past five years she has been in productions of *Beauty and the Beast*, *My Fair Lady*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Oliver! the musical*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *West Side Story*. In addition to much choral experience, Julia also has been a contemporary Christian worship leader in multiple churches since age 14. After beginning her studies in classical voice, Julia sang in a production of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, performed the role of 2nd Lay Sister in Loyola's production of *Suor Angelica* in January 2015, and in the fall of 2015 was a mezzo soloist in Loyola Chorale's performances of Mozart's *Requiem* with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra. She is honored to be working with Loyola's opera department and wants to thank her professors for their wisdom and the opportunities they have given her. Julia would also like to thank her family for giving her the rich musical background that allows her to thrive today, and the support to help her reach her dreams for tomorrow.

Linden Uter, a soprano from Lafayette, Louisiana, is currently pursuing her Master of Music in Vocal Performance at Loyola, and appears with the chorus as Lady Montague in *Roméo et Juliette*. Linden also played Edith in *The Pirates of Penzance* through the Louisiana Opera Outreach Program (LOOP) at Louisiana State University, and a Hooverville Soloist/Boylan Sister in Theatre Baton Rouge's production of *Annie the Musical*. In addition to performing wedding ceremony music, Linden has been both cantor and accompanist for seven years at Christ the King Church in Baton Rouge, and is currently doing the same at Mater Dolorosa Church in New Orleans. In Baton Rouge, she was the musical director for the Manship Theatre 2015 Summer Camp production of *101 Dalmatians, Jr.*, accompanist at Theatre Baton Rouge's 2014 production of *Young Frankenstein*, children's choir director at St. Thomas Moore Church, as well as a worship musician for various local and national retreats. Linden completed her undergraduate degree in public relations with a minor in piano performance from Louisiana State University.

Kenneth Weber has performed frequently with southern regional opera companies as well as other companies around the country. Some career highlights include Germont in *La traviata* (Shreveport Opera), Tonio in *I Pagliacci* (Opera Las Vegas), and the title role of *Sweeney Todd* (Mobile Opera). Other credits include the Reverend Olin Bitch in *Susannah* (Opera in the Ozarks), Conte di Luna in *Il Trovatore* (Mobile Opera), and dozens of supporting roles with the New Orleans Opera Association (NOOA). This season Ken sang the Baron in *La traviata* and in the March 2016 portrays the Prison Warden in *Dead Man Walking* for NOOA. A native of Los Angeles, Ken serves full-time as Associate Chaplain for Liturgy and Music for Loyola University.



Christian Leon Patterson, a Memphis native, is excited to be performing in his second production for Loyola Opera Theatre. He is a junior Vocal Performance major under the tutelage of the wonderful Mrs. Loretta Bybee. Christian would like to thank Carol Rausch for the opportunity to perform in his first leading operatic role and a special thanks to Dr. Beckford for patching him up over the summer. Lastly, thanks to his wonderful parents for allowing him to pursue his goals.

Spencer Reichman, baritone, has thrilled audiences in the central Texas region through his performances as Leporello in *Don Giovanni*, the title role in *Gianni Schicchi*, and the role of Juan Diego in the premiere of Henry Mollicone's *Children of the Sun* (Texas State Opera Theatre). In 2011, Mr. Reichman was invited to portray the title character of *The Mikado* at the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Recently Mr. Reichman was seen in the Crested Butte Music Festival, at the Forbidden City Concert Hall, and at the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival in Harrogate, UK. A born entertainer who loves to sing and be on stage, Mr. Reichman has presented concerts to full houses with much acclaim. A first-place winner of the Junior and Senior divisions of the NATS Texoma region competition, and a finalist at the Tuesday Music club of San Antonio, Mr. Reichman is currently working on his Master of Music in Vocal Performance at Loyola University as a student of Loretta Bybee. He received his undergraduate degree from Texas State University, studying with Cheryl Parrish. Outside of singing, Mr. Reichman enjoys a nice dinner with friends or a day out flying his kite.

Cherita Monche Robinson, soprano, a native of Alexandria, Virginia, graduated from Mississippi College with a Bachelor of Science in Vocal Performance and is currently working toward her Master of Music in Vocal Performance in the studio of Ellen Frohnmayer. During her time at Mississippi College, Cherita was selected to perform in the 2011 Thomas Hampson masterclass and made her debut in the production of *Ragtime* as Sarah. Cherita also performed two major operatic roles at Mississippi College: Lady Valerje from Amy Beach's *Cabildo* (2013); and Rosalinda from Johann Strauss, Jr.'s *Die Fledermaus* (2014). Cherita has remained an active performer in the Jackson, Mississippi, area, singing jazz, opera, musical theater and choral music. Most recent performances include the Brahms *Requiem* in South Africa (May 2014) with a choir from Mississippi College, and a number of collaborations with jazz pianists from the Mississippi College faculty, offering works ranging from Cole Porter to Antonio Carlos Jobim (August 2014).

Grant Rothermel, born in Baton Rouge, is a freshman Vocal Performance major in the studio of Dreux Montegut. He began performing five years ago in his Baton Rouge high school, and hasn't stopped since. He is honored to be working with Loyola's opera department and wants to thank his professors for their wisdom and the opportunities they have given him. Grant would like to thank his family for the support to help him reach his dreams. He would especially like to thank Carol Rausch and Bill Fabris for accommodating his busy schedule and making the production a fun and enjoyable experience.

Colleen Ryan, from Spring, Texas, is a sophomore Music Education major in the studio of Mr. Dreux Montegut. *Roméo et Juliette* is her first production with Loyola Opera Theatre. Colleen is also a member of two Loyola University choirs - Chorale and Chamber Singers - both under the direction of Dr. Meg Frazier. She wishes to thank the entire voice faculty, Bill, Carol, and all of her fellow cast and crew members for giving her a very unforgettable experience.

Alexander Sibley graduated from Tulane University, earning a B.F.A. in Vocal Performance and fulfilling all requirements in the Pre-Med curriculum. He is pursuing a Master of Music in Performance at Loyola in the studio of Loretta Bybee. He is a musical theater enthusiast who has appeared as the Baker in Sondheim's *Into the Woods*, Sancho Panza in *Man of La Mancha*, Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Otto in *Spring Awakening*, and Nicely-Nicely Johnson in *Guys and Dolls*. He recently made operatic debuts with La Musica Lirica in Italy, singing Goro in *Madama Butterfly*, and with the New Orleans Opera Association as a chorister in Verdi's *La traviata*. Alexander sang with the Tulane Orchestra as winner of its annual Concerto/Aria contest, was selected as a member of Louisiana's Intercollegiate Honor Choir, and was tenor soloist in Handel's *Messiah* at Trinity Episcopal Church, and in Mozart's *Coronation Mass* at Tulane. He is an active performer throughout metro New Orleans, where he sings with the choir at Trinity Episcopal, with members of OperaCréole, and at Café Giovanni in the French Quarter.

Brittany Schaubhut, a native of New Orleans, is a freshman studying Music Education. This is her first time performing on the opera stage. Brittany is a graduate of Hahnville High School and first caught the opera bug in middle school when she found her passion for classical music and singing at the American Choral Directors Association All-State Honor Choir. Since that time Brittany has participated in numerous choir and musical theater productions at Hahnville and the River Region Drama Guild. Brittany aspires to continue her vocal career and to teach music in the not-so-distant future. She is incredibly grateful to be a part of such a talented and vibrant group of singers, and hopes this is just the first of many, many more operas to come!

Dennis Shuman, a native of Georgia, is in the studio of Dr. Tyler Smith, and will graduate in spring 2016 with a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from Loyola. For Loyola Opera Theatre Dennis performed the role of Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi* in January 2015. This past October he performed Gastone in *La traviata* with New Orleans Opera and will reprise the role in the summer of 2016--while also covering Alfredo--as an Apprentice Artist with Chautauqua Opera in upstate New York.



Emily Claire Barber, soprano, is a senior Vocal Performance major studying with Dreux Montegut. Emily has been in several staged performances, including the title role in Loyola's 2015 production of Puccini's *Suor Angelica*. Emily also performs with the St. Louis Cathedral Concert Choir, singing major classical works as well as Sunday masses. As a member of the New Orleans Opera Chorus she was seen in the November 2014 production of Dvořák's *Rusalka*, and will return in April 2016 for Puccini's *Tosca*. Emily attended the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA), studying with Phyllis Treigle her senior year of high school. She then went on to place in the finals of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) competition the following year. Emily would like to give a special thanks to Dreux Montegut, Bill Fabris, and Carol Rausch for the incredible experiences and opportunities over the past four years. Emily is overjoyed to be in this year's Loyola opera production along with fellow classmates and friends. Thank you for this incredible experience and fond memories.

Kelsey Bergey, contralto, recently relocated to New Orleans from Aberdeen, Washington, to pursue her Master of Music Therapy at Loyola and is in the voice studio of Ellen Frohnmayer. Prior to attending Loyola, Kelsey earned her Bachelor of Music in Voice from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington, and her Master of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Washington in Seattle, and also operated her own voice studio in Aberdeen. This is her first opera production at Loyola.

Justin Blanchard, a New Orleans native, is studying with Mr. Dreux Montegut in his second year as a Music Education major, aspiring to become a conductor, music director, and performer. He is excited to be making his debut on the Loyola Opera stage in *Roméo et Juliette*. Throughout his high school career, Justin was seen in many musical theater productions, including *Guys and Dolls* (Nicely-Nicely Johnson), *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Schroeder), and *Godspell* ("All Good Gifts" soloist). Since graduating from Brother Martin High School, Justin has become a musical director and orchestra member for the St. Luke's United Methodist Church and St. Pius X School's summer productions, as well as a member of the New Orleans Opera Chorus. He would like to thank his friends, family, and mentors for their constant love and support in all of his musical passions.

Reid Canal is a junior Vocal Performance major studying under the direction of Tyler Smith. His debut with Loyola Opera Theatre was in *The Magic Flute* in January 2014, and he also appeared in the scenes programs "H2Opera!" and "A Musical Menagerie" in the spring semesters of 2014 and 2015 respectively. Reid is also a chorister for the New Orleans Opera Association; he was last seen in *Le nozze di Figaro* in April 2015 and is currently in preparation for this season's *Dead Man Walking* and *Tosca*. Reid would like to thank Carol Rausch for this amazing opportunity, and all his fellow cast members!

Marinna Carmichael, a native of Houston, is a junior studying Vocal Performance. She is a proud member of Loyola's Chorale and Chamber Singers, and has a strong interest in early choral music, which she wishes to perform professionally. She is also a violinist and piano student of Mrs. Elizabeth Floyd. She deeply loves trees, plants, and animals and wants to study them always. Marinna is happy to be singing in her first Loyola Opera Theatre production. She thanks her parents for this wonderful experience and Mrs. Ellen Frohnmayer for her freely-shared wisdom. She admires Carol Rausch and Bill Fabris for making *Roméo et Juliette* come to life so meaningfully.

Mary Cloud is a soprano from Atlanta, Georgia. Most recently, Ms. Cloud performed the role of Despina in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* with the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival and the Metro Detroit Opera Workshop. She also sang the role of the Second Lady in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* at the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival. Ms. Cloud has a Bachelor of Music from Indiana University, where she performed in many opera choruses and sang the role of La cercatrice seconda in Puccini's *Suor Angelica*. Ms. Cloud is currently pursuing her Master of Music under the tutelage of Professor Loretta Bybee.

Gloria Cosenza is a senior Vocal Performance major studying under Dr. Marcus St. Julien. She is thrilled to be working again with Bill Fabris, Carol Rausch and her student colleagues on this production, having sung in *Suor Angelica* and the scenes program "A Musical Menagerie" in 2015. Gloria is also a member of the New Orleans Opera Chorus and was seen onstage in *Le nozze di Figaro* last April and *Die Fledermaus* in November. She is looking forward to a new year full of performance opportunities and collaborations with her fellow musicians in New Orleans!

Aurora Serafine Foster, soprano, is a native of Hermosa Beach, California and a senior at Loyola in the studio of Ellen Frohnmayer. Her roles with Loyola Opera Theatre have included: Cunégonde in the 2013 production of *Candide*; the First Spirit in *The Magic Flute* (2014); and the dual roles of Nella in *Gianni Schicchi* and Suor Genovieffa in *Suor Angelica* (2015). Last spring Aurora made her debut with the New Orleans Opera Association as Barbarina in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*. Aurora is looking forward to graduating in the spring and would like to thank Ellen Frohnmayer, Carol Rausch, and Bill Fabris for their love and support for the last four years, and to everyone who has made her time at Loyola such a wonderful learning experience.

Audrey Harmon, a native of New Orleans, is a junior Vocal Performance major in the studio of Dreux Montegut. She had her first role with Loyola Opera Theatre in 2013 as the Third Spirit in *The Magic Flute*, and last year was the 1st Tourière in Puccini's *Suor Angelica*. Audrey has also been seen onstage with the New Orleans Opera Chorus in 2015 productions of *Lucia di Lammermoor* and *La traviata*. She would like to thank her family for all of their support, and Carol Rausch and Bill Fabris for their fantastic direction and patience. She plans to participate in many more musical productions to come, as she is obsessed with singing and wishes to do it forever.

Christina Hera, from Marrero, Louisiana, is a freshman Vocal Performance major in the studio of Ellen Frohnmayer. During her senior year at Mount Carmel Academy, she joined the drama club and landed her first role as the Godmother in Rodger and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*. She has placed in the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) competition in 2014 and 2015. In 2015, she was honored with the Platzer Award by the Junior Philharmonic Society for Artistic Excellence in Music. She looks forward to making memories through her participation in Loyola Opera Theatre.

Alyssa Hernandez, a native of Metairie, Louisiana, is currently working toward a Master of Music Therapy in the studio of Dr. Tyler Smith. She holds a Bachelor of Music from Southeastern Louisiana University where she performed in many productions: scenes from Strauss' *Die Fledermaus* as Rosalinde, Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, Offenbach's *La Périchole* as La Périchole, and John Buccino's *It's Only Life* as Jessica. She was also the Soprano soloist in Beethoven's *Fantasia C Minor, Op 80* with SELU Orchestra. Alyssa placed 4th in her category at the Southern Region NATS Competition in Fall 2014 and also placed 2nd in the Louisiana Chapter NATS Competition in Spring 2014. In January 2014 she performed in scenes from *Cendrillon* as the Fairy Godmother at the National Opera Convention in New York City, as part of a premiere of the English translation of the operetta. Currently she is an active member of the New Orleans Opera Chorus. Last semester at Loyola Alyssa was a soprano soloist in Mozart's *Requiem*. This is her first production with Loyola Opera. Thanks to Carol, Dr. Smith, Bill, and Dr. Frazier for all of the wonderful opportunities she's received in her first semester at Loyola, her parents for never-ending support, and her peers (new and old) for making this experience so worthwhile.

Meghan Kessel, a New Orleans native, is a Music Education major at Loyola in the voice studio of Betsy Uschkrat. She was seen onstage recently in the New Orleans Opera Association's November 2015 production of *Die Fledermaus*, and has also worked with the Jefferson Performing Arts Society (JPAS), Southern Rep, and Loyola Opera Theatre. Meghan performs with the New Orleans Volunteer Orchestra, and this year is the president of Sigma Alpha Iota, Loyola's music fraternity. She would like to thank her parents for all of their support over the years. Love you!

Adam Lester Laliberté, tenor, is a sophomore Vocal Performance major studying under Dreux Montegut and hails from nearby Belle Chasse, Louisiana. Adam is very blessed and grateful to perform in his very first opera as one of the Capulet men. Before starting at Loyola, Adam performed in the Brother Martin High School Chorus during his senior year under the direction of Kevin Caparotta and also took a year of private voice lessons under the tutelage of Loyola alumna Blythe Reed. At Loyola, Adam sings with the Loyola University Chorale and University Chorus under Dr. Meg Frazier, and has been heard in performances of Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Mahler's *Symphony No. 2*, the Bernstein *Chichester Psalms*, and Mozart's *Requiem*. He also sings with the Schola Cantorum of St. Francis of Assisi Church under Thomas Wright during Sunday mass. Adam would like to thank several people: his parents and siblings Tony, David, and twin Amanda for their unconditional love and support throughout his life; Dreux Montegut for believing in him, pushing him, and taking him to greater places in his short vocal journey; Carol and Bill for the opportunity to be in *Roméo et Juliette*; and finally, his amazing cast mates for being his shoulder to lean on, his supportive source of motivation, and loving and caring friends.

Rachel Looney, soprano, is a native of Lake Charles, Louisiana. Ms. Looney's full operatic and musical theater roles include Suor Genovieffa in *Suor Angelica*, Hidalgo in *Zehn Mädchen und kein Mann*, Héros in *Béatrice et Bénédicte*, Venus in *Dido and Aeneas*, Sadie Pollock in *The Cradle Will Rock*, Jou-Jou in *The Merry Widow*, Anna II in *Die sieben Todsünden*, Mama Rose in *Jack and the Beanstalk*, and Laurey Williams in *Oklahoma!* Ms. Looney has performed with the Louisiana State University Opera, Southern University Opera, LSU Opera Outreach Program (LOOP), Opéra Louisiane, James Madison University (JMU) Summer Opera in Freiberg, Germany, and St. Joseph's Cathedral in Baton Rouge. She currently sings with the choir at the Immaculate Conception Jesuit Church of New Orleans. Ms. Looney holds a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Louisiana State University (May 2015), where she studied with Robert Grayson. Currently, she is pursuing her Master of Music in Vocal Performance at Loyola, studying with Loretta Bybee. Ms. Looney is excited to make her Loyola Opera debut as Juliette.

Cristina Lopez, a New Orleans native, is a senior in the voice studio of Ellen Frohnmayer. As an avid Shakespeare enthusiast, she is very excited to be bringing *Roméo et Juliette* to life on the stage. In January 2015 Cristina was seen on the Loyola Opera stage as a Lay Sister in *Suor Angelica* and as Nella in *Gianni Schicchi*. She was also a finalist in the 2015 Stage Door Idol Competition at the WWII Museum. She is very excited to work with Carol again and is very thankful for the opportunities that Loyola has blessed her with. Many thanks to Ellen Frohnmayer, her voice mother, and to Patty, Rogelio, Daniela, and Judah for their constant support. Enjoy the show!

Kameron Lopreore, a lyric tenor from Lacombe, Louisiana, has been studying voice for nine years and has been featured in many productions in the New Orleans area. He holds a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Loyola, where he is currently working toward a Master of Music in Vocal Performance in the studio of Loretta Bybee. He is the recipient of the first scholarship award from the American Italian Federation of the Southeast (now the Panzeca Scholarship Award) and a Metropolitan Opera National Council (MONC) Encouragement Award. Some of his operatic roles include Tamino in Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, which he performed in Hawaii's Kahilu Theater, the title role in Bernstein's *Candide*, Sem in Benjamin Britten's *Noye's Fludde*, and Dr. Blind in New Orleans Opera's recent production of *Die Fledermaus* by Johann Strauss, Jr. Most recently, he made his Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra debut singing solos from Handel's *Messiah* on their Baroque Christmas Concert. He is a proud member of the New Orleans Opera Chorus and possesses a deep love for philosophy and astrophysics!

Alicia Melendez is a sophomore Music Education major from Great Falls, Virginia, in the studio of Ellen Frohnmayer. Although this is her first fully staged opera, she was also in the Loyola Opera scenes program, "A Musical Menagerie," in April 2015. She has also performed at the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington D.C. six times prior to attending Loyola, twice with her high school chamber choir under the direction of Dr. Mac Lambert for the Anti-Defamation League Annual Concert Against Hate, and four times with the Cappies Singers for the annual Cappies Gala. She has also performed in the National Cathedral with her high school chamber choir as the special guest choir on the Cathedral Choral Society's annual Christmas concert. Also with her high school choir, she was a participant in the Young Prague international Choir competition, where the ensemble won three gold medals and one silver. They also toured Europe, giving concerts in Prague, Vienna, Melk, and Salzburg. She has been the First Place vocalist for her voice part for the auditions for the Virginia All-State choir two years in a row. She was also admitted to the Virginia Governor's School of Visual and Performing Arts for Vocal performance. She would like to thank her parents for all their love and support, Mrs. Frohnmayer, Dr. Marcus, Jim Van Slyke, Dr. David Otis Castonguay, and Dr. Mac Lambert for nurturing and growing her voice, and Carol and Bill for putting together a great show and for giving her this wonderful "operatunity"!

David Murray, a baritone from New Orleans, is a freshman Vocal Performance major in the studio of Dreux Montegut. He previously studied with Mr. Montegut as a member of the St. Louis Cathedral Boy Choir. In 2015, he graduated from the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA) and is a member of the first graduating class of NOCCA's Academic Studio. There David studied with Phyllis Treigle and performed in many opera scenes programs as well as two fully-staged productions. Some of his favorite roles include Leporello from *Don Giovanni*, Le Baron de Pictordu from Viardot's *Cendrillon*, and Somnus from *Semele*. He was in the chorus of *La bohème* with Jefferson Performing Arts Society (JPAS) in 2010. He attended the Walnut Hill Summer Opera Program in 2012 and placed 3rd in the Classical High School Men's Division of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) in 2013. David is excited to make his Loyola Opera debut in the role of Grégorio.

Sarah Neal is a freshman at Loyola University New Orleans pursuing a double major in Music and English Literature. She has participated as a chorus member with the Notre Dame Opera for the past three years in her hometown of South Bend, Indiana. Those operas include *Dialogues des Carmélites* by Francis Poulenc, *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* by Claudio Monteverdi, and *Candide* by Leonard Bernstein. In the spring of 2015, Sarah was awarded first place in the high school division of the Kalamazoo Bach Festival. She looks forward to being involved in Loyola opera productions in the upcoming years.

Pamela Nions is a mezzo-soprano who enjoys singing operatic roles, art song, rhythm and blues, neo-soul, and jazz. Born in New Orleans, she grew up in Inkster, Michigan, and attended Claflin University in Orangeburg, South Carolina, graduating in May 2015. At Claflin she studied voice with Dr. Lori Hicks and sang in the concert choir under the direction of Dr. Isaiah McGee. Ms. Nions was first-place winner at the district and regional National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) competition and participated in the 2015 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in South Carolina. She has performed at Bakers Keyboard Lounge in Detroit, the oldest jazz club in the world, and has taught vocal technique and health to children ages 5-12. Since returning to New Orleans in fall 2015, she has performed as a chorus member in George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, as alto soloist in Handel's *Messiah*, as Lala in *Minette Fontaine*, and as Soloist in the St. Louis Cathedral Christmas concert with OperaCréole. Ms. Nions is pursuing a Master of Music in Vocal Performance at Loyola in the studio of Loretta Bybee. Her heart's desire is to have an international performance career, and to inspire others to follow their dreams.

Philip Nodurft, tenor, is a Vocal Performance major at Loyola. New to the world of opera, he made his debut in 2014 as a chorus member in the New Orleans Opera Association production of *Rusalka*. He has since appeared with the company in *Le nozze di Figaro*, *La traviata*, and *Die Fledermaus*. Prior to attending Loyola, Philip performed as a backup singer for such artists as Travis Tritt, Shirley Jones, Manhattan Transfer, and Destiny's Child. He was invited to sing for Pope John Paul II in the Sistine Chapel and at High Mass, and for President George Bush at the Pageant of Peace with legends such as Frederica von Stade and Audra McDonald. In addition to starring roles in community musical theater productions including *Into the Woods*, *Annie*, and *Phantom of the Opera*, he was a featured singer in a Randall's holiday commercial, and has toured with the Fort Bend Boys Choir, the Vienna Boys Choir, and The Calgary Boys Choir. Mr. Nodurft owes much of this success to his voice teacher, friend, and mentor, Dr. Marcus St. Julien, in whose children's chorus he started his musical journey at age nine. He would like to thank Dr. St. Julien, Carol Rausch, and Dr. Meg Frazier for giving him this wonderful opportunity to return to the world of music.

