



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Presents

TCU School of Music | Opera Studio

*presents*



# Dido and Aeneas

Music by Henry Purcell | Libretto by Nahum Tate  
Sung in the original English with projected text over the stage  
Produced in collaboration with TCU Collegium Musicum



**Tickets:**

\$10 General Admission  
\$5 Children and Students  
Free with Current TCU ID

**November**

**7**

PepsiCo Recital Hall  
7:00 PM



2800 S University Dr.  
Fort Worth, TX 76109

[www.finearts.tcu.edu/music/events-and-programs](http://www.finearts.tcu.edu/music/events-and-programs)

**TCU**

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

*Dido and Aeneas*  
Music by Henry Purcell and Libretto by Nahum Tate

**Cast:**

<b>Dido:</b>	Katherine Watson
<b>Aeneas:</b>	John Dubois
<b>Belinda:</b>	Janell Stallard
<b>Sorceress:</b>	Madilynn Gomez
<b>Sailor:</b>	Wonjin Choi
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Woman:</b>	Olivia Garza
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Witch</b>	Faith Adams
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Witch:</b>	Catherine Anderson
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Witch:</b>	David Mejia
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Witch:</b>	Drew Echols
<b>Attendant:</b>	Maggie Williams
<b>Spirit:</b>	Anna Morgan
<b>Ensemble:</b>	Scott Bellen
	Anna Borges
	Aubrey Bosse
	Kaden Burns
	Alicia Cruz
	Catherine DiGrazia
	Mary Jane Harbison
	Klark Johnson
	Alyssa Lewis
	Andres Losada
	Lotta Mushkatblat
	Courtney Parnitke
	Sydney Palomo
	Jordan Riek
<b>Dancer:</b>	Devyn Woodruff

**Collegium Musicum TCU**

**H. Joseph Butler**, Harpsichord and Director

<b>Violin:</b>	Elijah Ong
	Rima Abram
	Alexia Wixom
	Henry Hass
<b>Viola:</b>	Jacob Burk
<b>Cello:</b>	Natalie Benefield
	Riley Kee

Collegium Musicum TCU is a student ensemble devoted to the historically informed performance of Baroque music. Tonight's program is performed on authentic replicas of Baroque instruments. The temperament used is an

18<sup>th</sup> century “well-tempered” tuning system; pitch level is A=415, one half step lower than modern concert pitch.

**Production Team:**

**Stage Director & Producer:**

Dr. Corey Trahan

**Music Director:**

Stephen Carey

**Set Design and Construction:**

Robin Owhonda

**Set Construction:**

Robert Fultz III

**Lighting Design:**

Brandon Fain

**Rehearsal Pianist:**

Igor Parshin

**Costume Design and Construction:**

Prof. Twyla Robinson

**Make-up and Wig Design:**

David Mejia

**Poster Design:**

Eric Laine

**Promotion and social media:**

Faith Adams  
Catherine Anderson

**Synopsis**

**Courtesy of Sarasota Opera website**

**ACT I**

***The Palace***

Dido, the queen of Carthage, had determined to never remarry after the death of her husband. She is now tormented by her attraction to their Trojan guest, Aeneas. Belinda, her sister and attendant urges that uniting their two kingdoms would benefit both. Aeneas arrives and convinces Dido of his love, and she accepts him.

**ACT II**

***Scene 1 - The Sorceress' Cave***

A sorceress and her witches plot the downfall of Dido. They will conjure a storm and then send an elf, disguised as Mercury, to remind Aeneas that the Gods have decreed his duty is to set sail for Italy.

***Scene 2 - The Garden***

Dido and Aeneas, accompanied by their court, are enjoying a day outdoors with a hunt and feasting. Their festivities are ended by the promised storm, and as all are rushing back to the palace, Aeneas is stopped by the disguised Mercury. Aeneas consents to what he believes are the orders of the Gods, but he is distraught because he must leave Dido.

## **ACT III**

### **Scene 1 - The seaside**

At the shore, Aeneas' men are preparing to set sail. The witches gloat over their success.

### **Scene 2 - The Palace**

Dido has been informed of her lover's planned departure and furiously dismisses Belinda's attempts to calm her. She confronts Aeneas over his unforgivable betrayal of their love. Though he vows to stay, she orders him away. Knowing she must die at his leaving; she asks that she be remembered well.

### ***Dido & Aeneas* Background**

*Dido and Aeneas* is based on Book IV of Virgil's epic *The Aeneid*. It is one of the earliest known English operas, and one of the most important and often performed operas written in the Baroque period. It is also Henry Purcell's only true opera; that is, his only all-sung dramatic work.

What is most remarkable for such an important work in the opera repertoire, is that so little about it is known. A copy of a libretto from the 1700's exists (possibly from the first performance), so we know it originally was composed as a Prologue and Opera. However, the music for the Prologue, the end of the act II Grove scene, and several dances have been lost, and indeed no score exists in Purcell's handwriting.

Moreover, the dates of composition and the first performance are uncertain. It is known, through references in letters, that it was performed at a girls' school in Chelsea, London, some time before the end of 1689. However, some scholars argue that the opera was composed and performed for the Royal Court of either James II or Charles II with a date as early as 1684 and argue that the reference in the Prologue to the joy of a marriage between two monarchs is an allegorical one.

## Meet the Artists

**Rima Abram** is a junior pursuing a double degree in Violin Performance and Neuroscience on the pre-med track. She has been studying violin under Dr. Misha Galaganov. Rima is from Coppell, Texas, a homeschooler who began her violin studies at the age of three. She has played with the Greater Dallas and Fort Worth Youth Orchestras since her elementary years, and she served as assistant concertmaster of the Fort Worth Youth Orchestra. Rima is currently a member of the TCU Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Dr. German Gutierrez. She enjoys performing chamber music, working with student composers, and playing at local senior centers. Rima is honored to be a part of this program and hopes you enjoy the performance.

**Faith Adams** (soprano) is a senior Vocal Performance major at TCU studying under the esteemed Angela Turner Wilson. She is ecstatic to unleash her inner dark side as First Witch in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*! Additionally, this season, Ms. Adams will make her Mozart debut as Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*. Her most notable TCU Opera credits include Pernille in *The Beautiful Bridegroom*, La Modista in *The Italian Straw Hat*, Talkative Ex and Papagena in *Speed Dating Tonight!!*, and Fiordiligi in TCU Opera Scenes. With the Taos Opera Institute, Ms. Adams performed the roles #7 and #10 in *Remove Shoes Before Entering* under composer Michael Ching himself, scenes from *La Traviata*, *La Bohème*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, and *Carousel*, and arias from *The Elixir of Love*, *The Ballad of Baby Doe*, and *Der Freischütz*. Since entering college, she has been named both Texoma NATS Semi-Finalist and Finalist. Ms. Adams is a sought-after soloist with various productions under her belt, but her favorites include TCU's 2020 Festival of American Song with Libby Larsen, Dr. Corey Trahan's *Evolution of Broadway in 90 Minutes* lecture, the National Rodeo at Billy Bob's, and Handel's *Messiah* performances across the metroplex. Aside from her opera pursuits, Ms. Adams has received the title of TCU Scholar and membership on the TCU Dean's List, and she is a Choral Scholar and frequent soloist at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church.

**Catherine Anderson** is a soprano in her senior year studying vocal music under Professor Angela Turner-Wilson. She also studies business, as well as

film and television, at TCU. Most recently, Catherine starred as Julie in *Speed Dating Tonight!!* with TCU Opera Studio and as Titania in *The Loathly Lady* with The Vienna Summer Music Festival.

**Scott Bellen** is thrilled (and humbled) to join such a talented cast and chorus for *Dido and Aeneas*. He has performed with SATB and men's choirs and ensembles in a variety of musical styles including a cappella, jazz, madrigal, gospel, and now opera. His theatrical experience includes roles as Kaspar and chorus member in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, Sir Evelyn Oakleigh in *Anything Goes*, Ambrose Kemper in *Hello Dolly*, men's quartet and chorus in *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, and choruses of *My Fair Lady*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, and *Bye, Bye Birdie*. He currently sings in his church choir and enjoys helping to select music for worship services.

**Natalie Benefield** is a senior Bachelor of Arts in Music student under the instruction of Dr. Juliette Herlin. This is her second semester in Collegium, and she has enjoyed playing Baroque cello since her junior year. In addition to Collegium, Natalie has participated in the Symphony Orchestra and Cello Ensemble since her first year at TCU. During her undergraduate studies, Natalie has performed in masterclasses for cellists such as Dmitri Atapine and Akiva Cahn-Lipman. After graduating, Natalie hopes to obtain an MM in Musicology and continue her study of music history and the cello. In addition to music, Natalie also studies French and is an officer in the TCU French Club. Natalie is grateful to be a part of *Dido and Aeneas* and to get to collaborate with so many wonderful musicians!

**Anna Borges** is a sophomore vocal performance major under the tutelage of Professor Twyla Robinson. Ms. Borges was involved in two TCU Opera Studio productions in the spring of 2022; she was a part of the ensemble (Le Modiste/Friend of Elena) in Nino Rota's *The Italian Straw Hat* and played the role of Dater #33 (UFO) in Michael Ching's *Speed Dating Tonight!* This past summer, Ms. Borges had the privilege of performing the role of Barbarina in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, her Mozart opera debut. Her next stage appearances include Henry Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* (chorus) and Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* (First Spirit). Ms. Borges enjoys singing with TCU's flagship choral ensemble, Concert Chorale. She has been featured as a soloist in *Cantiamo*, TCU's treble choir, and as a descantist in University Singers. Along with her voice studies, Ms. Borges is a member of the professional music fraternity Mu Phi Epsilon and works at St. Patrick Cathedral as a choral scholar and section leader.

**Aubrey Bosse**, who recently appeared as Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel*, is a senior studying vocal performance under Dr. Corey Trahan at Texas Christian University. She most recently performed as Charlotte Rosenstock in the world premiere of Blaise Ferrandino's *A Service of Love* and as both the Waitress and the Hostess in Michael Ching's *Speed Dating Tonight!* Other roles include La Baronessa in Nino Rota's *Il Cappello di Paglia di Firenze*, L'Opinion Publique in Jacques Offenbach's *Orpheus in The*

*Underworld*, Mrs. Grose in Benjamin Britten's *The Turn of The Screw*, Theodorine in Jacques Offenbach's *The Isle of Tulipatan*, and ensemble member in the world premiere of Evan Mack's *Yeltsin! In Texas*. She has sung at the Utah Vocal Arts Academy Summer Opera Festival and the Taos Opera Institute, two esteemed summer programs. She will sing Second Lady in W. A. Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* in the spring with the TCU Opera Studio.

**Jacob Burk** maintains a studio of violinists and violists, frequently performs with various quartets, and is a violist in regional symphonies around Texas. He has also had the opportunity to perform concerts with the Music for Food initiative as well as work with and learn from renowned artists such as Matthew Lipman, The Rolston Quartet, Miguel Harth-Bedoya, Paul Silverthorne. Jacob also volunteers for the Through the Staff organization and teaches students who otherwise could not afford lessons. Recently, Jacob has been hired as faculty for chamber music festivals and has taught masterclasses over orchestral and solo repertoire. Jacob is also a recent Virtu Foundation scholar, performing on a viola from the organization. The viola is of late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup>-century French origin bearing a facsimile label of Nestor Audinot dated 1890. Jacob has recently organized fundraising concerts, enjoys discovering music for the viola, and has arranged music for viola.

**Kaden Burns** is studying music education at TCU and is a section leader at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church. This season, Kaden will be Papageno in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* and the Wolf in *Little Red Riding Hood*.

**H. Joseph Butler** is Professor of Music and University Organist at TCU, where he directs the Collegium Musicum. In 2017 he received the TCU Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Achievement as a Creative Teacher and Scholar. He holds a DMA and Performer's Certificate in organ from the Eastman School of Music, an MM in organ from the New England Conservatory, and a BA from Bowdoin College. Dr. Butler has performed widely in the United States and England, including conventions of the American Guild of Organists and the Historical Keyboard Society of North America, and the cathedrals of Canterbury, Liverpool, Leeds, Ripon, and Chester. He has also performed recitals at Hong Kong Baptist University, the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, the Shanghai Oriental Arts Centre, and the Shenyang Conservatory Concert Hall. He has recorded two CDs on the Pro Organo label. Also active as musicologist, he has published articles in *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, *Organ Yearbook*, *The American Organist*, *The Diapason*, *Bach*, and *Early Keyboard Journal*. His editions of early American keyboard music, published by Wayne Leupold Editions, include *The Peter Pelham Manuscript of 1744: An Early American Keyboard Tutor*, and *The Keyboard Manuscript of Francis Hopkinson*.

**Stephen Carey (pianist/vocal coach)** is starting his 4th year, as the vocal coach for the TCU Opera Studio. In the 2021-2022 TCU school year, Mr. Carey served as music director, and pianist, for the double-bill of *A Service of Love* (Ferrandino), and *Speed Dating Tonight!* (Ching), music director, and conductor, for *Il cappello di paglia di Firenze* (Rota), and, music director, and pianist, for the double-bill of *The Beautiful Bridegroom* (Dan Shore), and *The Island of Tulipatan* (Offenbach). In the 2020-2021 TCU school year, Mr. Carey served as music director, and pianist, for an online opera scenes program in the fall of 2020, and in the spring 2021 semester, served as music director, and pianist, for 4 one-act operas, consisting of *Remove Shoes Before Entering* (Michael Ching), *The Island of Tulipatan* (Offenbach), *The Beautiful Bridegroom* (Dan Shore), and *The Four Note Opera* (Tom Johnson). In the 2019-2020 TCU school year, Mr. Carey served as music director, conductor, and pianist, for a contemporary opera program, as well as music director, and conductor, for the world premiere of Evan Mack's opera, *Yeltsin In Texas*. In the 2018-2019 school year, Mr. Carey was the assistant music director of the UNT opera program, where he served as vocal coach in productions of Janacek's *Cunning Little Vixen*, and Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*, and as music director, and conductor, for a concert production of Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. From the fall of 2012, through the spring of 2018, Mr. Carey served as the principal pianist/vocal coach, with Fort Worth Opera. From the fall of 2001, through the spring of 2012, Mr. Carey served as the assistant artistic director, chorus master, and rehearsal pianist/vocal coach for Opera Memphis. Mr. Carey has previously served on the artistic staffs of AIMS in Graz, *Opera In The Ozarks*, *Ashlawn Opera*, *Chautauqua Opera*, and *Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theatre*. This past summer, Mr. Carey spent his second summer with Charlottesville Opera, where he served as music director for the Ader Emerging Artist Program, cover conductor, and chorus master.

**Wonjin Choi**, Korean Tenor, is in Vocal Performance MM of Texas Christian University with a full scholarship award. He graduated Korea National University of Arts, Bachelor of Music, at the top of Department of Music. He had a successful opera debut, singing Rodolfo in Puccini's opera *La Bohème* at KimSun international opera company, Seoul, South Korea in 2020. He had performed Ernesto in *Don Pasquale*, Ferdinand in *Il Cappello di Paglia di Firenze* and Hermosa in *The Island of Tulipatan* He received encouragement award from The Metropolitan Opera Laffont Minnesota District Competition in 2022. He won lots of competitions. Also, He has received a diploma from Riccardo Muti Academy [*La Traviata*] in 2016. In this season, he looks forward to performing as Governor in Bernstein's operetta *Candide* with The Rapides Symphony Orchestra in Alexandria, Louisiana. He will perform as Tamino from *Die Zauberflöte* by W. A. Mozart, and Sailor from *Dido and Aeneas* by H. Purcell in TCU Opera.

**Alicia Cruz** is a junior vocal performance major from San Marcos, TX, here at TCU. She has been in several productions here including, *Remove Shoes Before Entering*, *The Italian Straw Hat*, and *Speed Dating*. She is also going to be a part of operas coming up later this semester, as well as

playing the mother in next semester's production of *Little Red Riding Hood*. Alicia has always loved performing, and her passion for music was first realized while growing up singing and playing mariachi music. She was a part of a mariachi band for almost 10 years. She is excited about all the exciting things coming up this year for the opera program and is grateful to be surrounded by a supportive and talented group of peers!

**Catherine DiGrazia** is a sophomore Vocal Performance major studying under Angela Turner Wilson at TCU. Ms. DiGrazia has performed with TCU Opera Studio in roles including a hat maker in Nino Roti's *Italian Straw Hat* and Dater #14 in Michael Ching's *Speed Dating Tonight*. She has also had the pleasure of performing with the Texas All State Mixed Choir as a first chair Soprano 1 for three consecutive years. She has also been awarded Outstanding Performer for three years in Texas State UIL Solo and Ensemble. In 2021, Mrs. DiGrazia competed and was awarded first place for Texoma NATS in First Year Classical Treble division where she sang Mozart's "Una donna a quindici anni". Most recently, Ms. DiGrazia has sung solos in Janson Gullien and Patrick Vu's recital choirs. After graduating from TCU in May 2025, Ms. DiGrazia plans to attend graduate school with the goal of obtaining her Master's degree in Vocal Performance.

**John Dubois** is currently a junior vocal performance student at Texas Christian University where he studies with Dr. James Rodriguez. He has performed and studied arias from works ranging from Handel's *Messiah*, Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. During the Fall 2022 season John will play Aeneas in TCU Opera's production of Henry Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* in collaboration with TCU's Baroque ensemble.

**Drew Echols** recently completed the first year of his master's degree in vocal performance at TCU studying with Dr. James Rodriguez. During the year he performed the roles of Beaupertuis in Nino Rota's *Il Cappello di Paglia di Firenze* and Dater #22 in Michael Ching's *Speed Dating Tonight!* Appearing locally in St. Stephen's Presbyterian church's production of Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors* he sang the role of Melchoir under the direction of Dr. Corey Trahan. Drew received his undergraduate degree from Centenary College of Louisiana studying with Dr. Gale Odom. While at Centenary he performed the roles of Frank in *Prince Orlofsky's Ball* (an adaptation of act two of Johann Strauss II's *Die Fledermaus*), Paul in Stephen Sondheim's *Company*, and covered the title role of *Elijah* from Felix Mendelssohn's oratorio. Drew received the Shirley Hawn Outstanding Freshman award from the Hurley School of Music, competed in the semifinals round of the 2017 National Association of Teachers of Singing Southern Region Conference in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and placed second in the freshmen men's category of the 2018 regional NATS competition in Lake Charles, Louisiana. He will sing the role of Papageno in W. A. Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* in the spring with the TCU Opera Studio.

**Brandon Fain** is on the TCU School of Music staff and works in stage management and technical theatre.

**Olivia Flores**, who was recently seen as Gretel in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, is a senior at TCU pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance, studying under Professor Angela Turner Wilson. Her other performances consist of Flora in Benjamin Britten's *Turn of the Screw* during TCU's summer program. She was also seen in the world premiere of Evan Mack and Joshua McGuire's *Yeltsin in Texas!* In her most recent role at TCU, Olivia was seen as Elena in Nino Rota's *Italian Straw Hat*. She will sing the role of Papagena in W. A. Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* in the spring with the TCU Opera Studio. Olivia hopes you will enjoy the show!

**Robbie Fultz** is a retired Garland firefighter. He is married to Beth Fultz, DCE at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church. He is the father of 3 daughters. Robbie has three granddaughters and one grandson. He is happy to have the opportunity to build sets and help with the TCU Opera.

**Olivia Garza** is a junior vocal performance and music education major. She is a student of Dr. James Rodriguez. She has placed first in both regional and tri-state collegiate N.A.T.S. Her previous roles include Claire in *Ordinary Days* and Betty Haynes in *White Christmas*.

**Madilynn Gomez** is a junior vocal performance major at TCU. With TCU's opera studio, she has performed the roles of Kaylee the Coordinator in Michael Ching's *Speed Dating Tonight!* and hat maker/wedding party in Nino Rota's *Il cappello di paglia di Firenze*. Madilynn is excited to be your sorceress in *Dido and Aeneas!*

**Henry Haas** is a junior at TCU, studying a Bachelor of the Arts degree in music with a minor in general business. He frequently works in both music and business roles, including various gigs in and around Fort Worth, and volunteered at Children's Medical Center of Dallas. There, he worked closely with the music therapy department, providing an album of recordings for children to listen to at their bedside, and for the hospital's use in various programs. He is a TCU Chancellor's Scholar, an Eagle Scout, and runs a Nonprofit Organization. He's performed in venues such as the Meyerson Symphony Center and Carnegie Hall, and has played violin for various recording artists and events, such as the jingle for the Winspear Opera House in Dallas. After completing his time at TCU, Henry hopes to work in and around music before returning to school to obtain a Master's degree in business administration.

**Mary Jane Kennedy Harbison** moved to Fort Worth to begin her career teaching German and French. Upon retirement 30 years later, she began a second career at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art library. Now completely retired, she enjoys traveling (especially to the Europe),

studying languages and culture, reading, golf, watching sports on TV, art, music of all types and being with her husband of 48 years, Larry, and their little dog, Libby. Although not musically trained except for voice lessons with Dr. Corey Trahan, she has participated in choirs most of my life. She is active in her church, St. Stephen Presbyterian, and has participated in the choir there for many years. She believes it is a great pleasure to be connected to TCU music department recently and to take part in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and *Dido and Aeneas*.

**Klark Johnson** is a junior BM Vocal Performance major from Dallas, Texas. This is Klark's fourth appearance on stage for TCU Opera after her other performances in TCU Opera's *Il capello di paglia di Firenze* (Hat Maker) and *Speed Dating Tonight* (Triathlon Ann). Klark also performed with Theatre TCU's *Black Excellence TCU Sings*, Theatre TCU's *Black Excellence's Blackout Cabaret* and several performances with TCU's University Singers and Cantiamo Treble Chorus. Klark is an accomplished singer and is planning to attend graduate school for vocal performance and directing.

**Riley Kee** is a second-year cello student at TCU, working towards a Bachelor of Arts in music with hopes of getting a graduate degree in music theory. Raised in Tomball, TX, Riley began playing cello in 6th grade. Since coming to TCU, they have found the most joy playing in the TCU Symphony, as well of the many smaller ensembles that they have been a part of. This is Riley's first semester with the Collegium Musicum ensemble, and they have loved getting to know Dr. Butler and the other string players more intimately. They have a wide range of creative interests that they pursue alongside cello, whether they be musical ones such as arranging and composing music for various ensembles, or actively working as a digital artist, both with clients and more personal relationships. In Riley's free time, they love to cook, garden, and explore Fort Worth with their friends.

**Alyssa Lewis** is a junior Vocal Music Education major studying with Professor Angela Turner-Wilson. This is her first year in opera studio. She is also in University Singers and Chorale. Along with these she is an active member of Mu Phi Epsilon and a section leader at University Christian Church. She is excited to continue performing with TCU opera studio!

**Andres Losada** is a first year Artist Diploma Candidate at TCU and a Fort Worth Opera Studio Artist. He will be seen in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, *Die Zauberflöte* and *Little Red Riding Hood*.

**David Mejia** is a proud Latinx vocalist from Brownsville, Texas and is a graduate of The University of Texas at Arlington. He is currently pursuing his Masters in Vocal Performance at TCU and is an active performing artist across the DFW metroplex. Mejia has performed as tenor soloist for multiple major works across Texas such as Handel's *Messiah* and

Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. He is an active performer for ensembles which include Orpheus Chamber Singers, Pasion and Awaken Ensemble.

**Anna Morgan** is a Senior Vocal Music Education major studying under Twyla Robinson. She recently had her opera debut as Cherubino in TCU's Summer production of Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Coming up this season she will perform as Queen of the Night in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*.

**Lotta Mushkatblat** is in her final year of her BM in Vocal Performance at TCU. Previously, Ms. Mushkatblat studied at The University of California Santa Cruz. While at UCSC, Ms. Mushkatblat performed in multiple Opera Scene programs and fully staged productions as Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*, Marcellina in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Isabel in *Pirates of Penzance* and Giannetta in *L'elisir d'amore*. At TCU, Ms. Mushkatblat has sung the Card Trio from *Carmen* as *Carmen*, The Contralto in *The Four Note Opera*, Baronessa in *Il cappello di paglia di Firenze* and Steampunk Girl in *Speed Dating Tonight!*. Ms. Mushkatblat has attended the summer Young Artist Programs at MusicFest Perugia, OperaViva, and Musica Proibita Management where she covered Mimi in *La Boheme*. This season at TCU, she is excited perform the roles of Witch and Mother in *Hansel and Gretel* as well as the Mother in *Little Red Riding Hood*.

**Elijah Un-Hao Ong** is currently pursuing his master's in violin performance under Dr. Hae-rim Lee, having previously received his master's in piano performance under Professor John Owings. He was awarded the prestigious Nordan Scholarship upon entering Texas Christian University and has since won the 2018 TCU Concerto Competition and been the recipient of the Judith Solomon Award for Vocal Accompanying, the Presser Scholarship, and the Helen Hamilton Award for Excellence in Creative Expression. He has also played in masterclasses for world-class musicians such as Emanuel Ax, Murray McLachlan, Veda Kaplinsky, and Eddy Marcano, and now frequently works as a collaborative pianist and violinist for various soloists and studios at TCU. He is an avid and proficient teacher in both instruments and enjoys digital production and content creation outside of his studies.

**Robin Owhonda** is a recently retired teacher of 27 years. After receiving her MFA from Southern Methodist University, she designed at Casa Manana and freelanced around the Fort Worth/Dallas area. Thanks to TCU Opera, she is rediscovering her love of theatre and set design.

**Sydney Palomo** is a graduate student at Texas Christian University studying vocal pedagogy. She graduated from Texas Christian University Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Music Education and a minor in sociology. Throughout her undergraduate career, she was granted various performance and academic opportunities that broadened her knowledge of music education and its importance within our society. Sydney is a major advocate for social justice, mental health, and vocal

wellness. Sydney believes music is a channel for self-expression and serves as a vehicle to convey and promote prevalent social messages in our efforts to create a better world.

**Courtney Parnitke** is a junior music education major at TCU from Flower Mound, Texas, studying under Professor Angela Turner Wilson. She is thrilled to be participating in her first opera at TCU. Courtney has previously performed in stage-acting and musical theatre productions, with notable roles such as Cosette in *Les Misérables* and Hedy Larue in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. During her time at TCU, Courtney has also competed in both the Texoma regional NATS competition and the DFW NATS chapter competition and was awarded first place in the first-year treble division of DFW NATS in 2021. Courtney thanks our audience for attending the show and supporting opera at TCU!

**Igor Parshin** is a graduate of the famous Gnessin State Musical College (2004 – 2008) and Gnessin Russian Academy of Music (2008 – 2015), Igor Parshin graduated with the highest marks of his graduation year. His professors included Irina Temchenko and the world-renowned Tatiana Zelikman. In 2015 he received the coveted Lili Kraus Scholarship at the TCU School of Music and completed the Artist Diploma program under the guidance of Doctor Tamas Ungar in 2018. In 2020 Igor completed the Master of Music program in Collaborative Piano under the guidance of Doctor Michael Bukhman. He is currently pursuing Doctor of Musical Arts degree at TCU under the guidance of Doctor Tamas Ungar. Igor has successfully participated in international competitions, winning first prize in the "Ciudad de Huesca" International Competition in Huesca, Spain in 2005; first prize in the International Piano and Chamber Music Competition "21st Century Art" in Kiev, Ukraine in 2006; and first prize in the Concorso Internazionale "Don Vincenzo Vittori" in Castellana Grotte, Italy in 2014. Igor received 2019-2020 Judith Solomon Award in Vocal Accompanying. He has performed in numerous venues in Russia, United States, Ukraine, Belarus, Spain, Italy, Germany, Hungary, and Israel. He received return invitations to such festivals as Rachmaninoff International Music Festival in Tambov, Ivanovka (2007 – 2013); Chamber Music Festival in Ireland and Russia "From John Field to the present day" (2012); and Tel Hai International Piano Masterclasses in Israel (2015, 2016).

**Jordan Riek** (She/Her), mezzo-soprano, is a sophomore music education major at Texas Christian University. She is so excited to be singing with this amazing cast! She has previously performed the roles of Barbarina in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Madame Thernardier in *Les Misérables*, Tammy in *Hairspray*, and silly girl in *Beauty and the Beast*. Jordan also performed in the ensemble of *Il Cappello di Paglia di Firenze* and as Dancer in *Speed Dating Tonight*. She placed 5th in NATS in fall of 2020 and made the Texas all state choir in 2021. Jordan also works as a choral scholar for Arborlawn United Methodist Church in Ft. Worth. Jordan is so grateful for this

experience and would like to thank her TCU music professors and her family.

**Prof. Twyla Robinson**, soprano, serves TCU as an Assistant Professor of Professional Practice. She combines her teaching with an ongoing performing career. She is a frequent recitalist and has served on the recitalist roster of the Marilyn Horne Foundation. She received her Bachelor of Music from Centenary College of Louisiana, studying with Dr. Gale Odom, and her Master of Music from Indiana University, studying with Costanza Cuccaro. She recently completed a 4-year term as Artist-in-Residence at Centenary College of Louisiana, where she taught the Singers' Workshop, Applied Voice and directed the operatic and musical theatre productions. She has served as a guest clinician for such organizations as National YoungArts, NATS Texoma, the Marilyn Horne Foundation, Spotlight on Opera, and the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts.

**Janell Stallard**, Soprano, is a current Artist Diploma candidate under the tutelage of Dr. San-ky Kim. She is looking forward to a "high-note" season with TCU opera as Belinda in *Dido and Aeneas* and the Queen of the Night in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*. Ms. Cherie has been a soloist in various TCU productions, and her former operatic credits include Nina Rota's *The Italian Straw Hat*, Dan Shore's *The Beautiful Bridegroom*, and Michael Ching's *Speed Dating Tonight!!*

**Dr. Corey Trahan** is an active performer, educator and stage director in opera, oratorio, musical theatre, operetta, and recital venues. Recent engagements include a debut at Pensacola Opera as Sir Joseph Porter in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, stage director for Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* and *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and vocal soloist for Louisiana Delta Ballet's *Power and Grace*. Corey presented a lecture recital, "The Evolution of Broadway in 90 Minutes", for T.C.U.'s 2022 Faculty Lecture Series and will return to Des Moines Metro Opera for their 50th Anniversary Season production of Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Corey was the Biedenharn Endowed Chair in Music at the University of Louisiana, Chair of Musical Theatre at Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand and an Associate Professor of Theatre/Coordinator of Musical Theatre at Northwestern State University. Currently, Corey is the new Director of T.C.U. Opera and a member of the vocal arts faculty. Corey's academic degrees include the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of North Texas, the Master of Music degree from the University of Houston and the Bachelor of Music degree from Louisiana State University.  
[www.coreytrahan.com](http://www.coreytrahan.com)

**Katherine Watson**, soprano, is an Artist Diploma candidate at TCU under the mentorship of Twyla Robinson and is currently Fort Worth Opera Studio Artist. Future Engagements at TCU include Erste dame in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* and Dido in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*. As part of Fort Worth

Opera Outreach Program, Katherine is currently Gretel in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, will be Fiordiligi in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, and High Priestess in Verdi's *Aida* (cover with Fort Worth Opera). Katherine earned her Master of Music degree at the University of North Texas in 2020 where she performed the roles of Donna Anna in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and Christine in Roussel's *Le testament de la tante Caroline*.

**Maggie Williams** is a senior vocal music education student and leadership scholar here at TCU, where she participates in student development services, is a member of Mu Phi Epsilon, and performs in TCU's Choral and University Singers. She joined the opera program in 2018, and has since performed roles in Verdi's *Falstaff*, Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Bizet's *Tragedy of Carmen*, Michael Ching's *Remove Shoes Before Entering*, Dan Shore's *The Beautiful Bridegroom*, and most recently, *The Italian Straw Hat*, composed by Nino Rota. Maggie offers special thanks to Dr. Kim, Dr. Trahan, Dr. Rodriguez, and Professor Robinson for their continued support and trust for her journey in the TCU music department.

**Alexia Wixom** is currently a junior, undergraduate student studying under Dr. Elizabeth Adkins for violin. She is working towards a Music BA with a General Business Minor and hopes to continue fostering her love for violin performance by attending graduate school. Alexia has experience in solo, orchestra, chamber, and pit settings and has dabbled in both classical and baroque styles of music. She is very excited to be performing with the TCU opera as a fellow violinist.

**Devyn Woodruff**, a Fort Worth Native, received her BFA in Dance from West Texas A&M University. She has danced in the *Texas Outdoor Musical Drama*, *The Nutcracker* with the Festival Ballet of North Central Texas, and with the Dallas Opera in *Show Boat*. Devyn is also a classically trained singer and has played the role of the Principessa in *Suor Angelica*. Devyn is currently 2nd Alto section leader in the chancel choir at First Presbyterian Church Fort Worth.

### **SPECIAL THANKS:**

The TCU College of Fine Arts, Dr. Amy Tully, Dean  
The TCU School of Music, Dr. Sean Atkinson, Director  
Prof. Twyla Robinson  
Robin Owhonda, Robert Fultz III  
Karen Minatra, Nita Ferrell, Lori Stowe, Sarah Walters  
T.C.U. Vocal Arts Faculty, Dr. James Rodriguez, Division Chair

Please join us for our next opera with the TCU Symphony Orchestra:  
*W. A. Mozart's Die Zauberflöte*

Ed Landreth Auditorium  
February 3 & 4, 2023  
7:00 P.M.