

TCU School of Music | Opera Studio

presents

# La Canterina

Music by Joseph Haydn | Libretto by Karl Friberth

Sung in the original Italian with projected English text over the stage

JAN  
19, 21

7:00 PM 2:00 PM

*Secrest-Wible Black Box Theatre*

3015 Merida Avenue  
Fort Worth, TX 76109

## Tickets:

\$10 General Admission

\$5 Children and Students

Free with Current TCU ID

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**TCU**  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

## ***La Canterina***

Music by Joseph Haydn and translation by Carl Zytowski

### **Cast:**

Gasparina	Anna Borges (Friday) Sarah Squires (Sunday)
Apollonia (her mother)	Owen Harvey
Don Ettore (her lover)	Sydney Palomo
Don Pellagio (her singing teacher)	Courtney Parnitke
Porters	Jae Medlin Kai Diamond David McDaniel

### **Production Team:**

#### **Stage Director and Producer:**

Dr. Corey Trahan

#### **Music Director & Pianist:**

Igor Parshin

#### **Set Design and Construction:**

Robin Owhonda  
Robert Fultz III

#### **Lighting Design:**

Dillon Thomas

#### **Costume Designer:**

Dr. Corey Trahan

#### **Poster Design:**

Eric Laine

#### **Social Media:**

Faith Adams  
Cassie Westlund  
Catherine DiGrazia

#### **Props:**

Klark Johnson

#### **Stage Manager:**

Klark Johnson

#### **Hair & Makeup:**

David Mejia

## **Synopsis Courtesy of Stage Agent website**

Originally intended as a moment of light relief to be performed between the acts of an opera seria, Haydn's intermezzo *La Canterina* tells the story of a mother and daughter who are rather down on their luck, and how they play with men's affections to continue living the life of the wealthy.

The young and wealthy Don Ettore brings gifts for Gasparina that he has stolen from his mother and invites the ladies out to lunch. Before he can take his leave, a knock at the door announces the arrival of Don Pellagio, Gasparina's singing teacher. To prevent any scandal, the ladies immediately pretend that Don Ettore is a linen merchant and swiftly finish a deal with him.

Singing teacher Don Pellagio has brought Gasparina a new aria to learn. While the two of them are alone together, he uses the recitative to pass little love messages to Gasparina, before finally bursting out with a proposal of marriage for her. Gasparina leads him on, saying everything she knows will flatter his vanity, but refusing to agree to marry him.

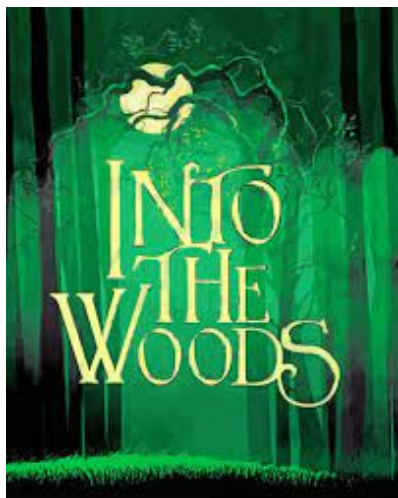
When Don Pellagio finds out about Don Ettore, and realizes what Gasparina has been doing, he takes back all of the gifts he has brought her, and demands payment for all of the singing lessons, instructing a bailiff to remove all of her furniture and seize her property. Gasparina uses every tactic she has left to save her precious belongings, singing an aria, offering him flattery, and eventually fainting. Don Ettore rushes in with the only remedy sure to work on a fainted woman, diamonds.

Gasparina revives, and Don Pellagio has returned all of her belongings, and given her many of his own as well. She and her mother rejoice that their scheme has succeeded, and they have duped the men to continue giving them gifts.

### **SPECIAL THANKS**

Professor Twyla Robinson  
Dean Amy Hardison Tully, College of Fine Arts  
Dr. Sean Atkinson, Director of TCU School of Music  
Robin Owhonda, Robert Fultz III  
Karen Minatra, Nita Ferrell, Lori Stowe  
T.C.U. Vocal Arts Faculty

Join us for our next TCU Opera Studio production on March 1 & 2:



Meet the Cast and Crew



Anna Borges



Kai Diamond



Owen Harvey



Klark Johnson



David McDaniel



Jae Medlin



David Mejia



Sydney Palomo



Courtney Parnitke



Igor Parshin



## Sarah Squires

**Anna Borges**, soprano, is a junior vocal performance major under the tutelage of Professor Twyla Robinson. Her previous roles with the TCU Opera Studio include First Spirit in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, ensemble in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, Gingerbread Child/Chorus of Echoes in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, Barbarina in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Dater #33 (UFO) in Michael Ching's *Speed Dating Tonight!*, and Le Modiste/Friend of Elena in Nino Rota's *The Italian Straw Hat*. This summer, she had the opportunity to perform internationally at Music Fest Perugia in Italy.

**Kai Diamond**, baritone, is a freshman studying vocal music education. He is new to TCU Opera and is incredibly excited to be involved in the upcoming season. He is a student of Dr. James Rodriguez, and sings in Chorale and University Singers. Upcoming performances include King Melchior in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, and Rapunzel's Prince in *Into the Woods*. Instagram: @kaiiidiamond

**Owen Harvey** is a sophomore vocal music education major at Texas Christian University and is excited to make his TCU opera debut. He will be playing Elder Hayes in Floyd's *Susannah* as well as Appolonia in

Haydn's *La Canterina* and both the Wolf and Cinderella's Prince in *Into the Woods* this spring.

**Klark Johnson**, Soprano, is a Senior BM Vocal Performance Major. Recent roles include Clorinda in *La Cenerentola*, Little Red Riding Hood in *Little Red Riding Hood*, Beth in *The Tender Land*, and Flore in *Orpheus in the Underworld*. She placed First in the 2022 Texoma National Association of Teachers of Singing in African American Spirituals and is a member of TCU Cantiamo Treble Choir. Upcoming performances include Cinderella in *Into the Woods*, Chorus in *Susannah*, and Chorus in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Klark is a student of Twyla Robinson.

**David McDaniel** is a second-year student studying Vocal Music Education. David is currently performing with Concert Chorale, University Singers, Horned Tones, & St. Monica's Church Choir. David's upcoming performances include Elder Ott in *Susannah*, Page in *Amahl & The Night Visitors*, & the Narrator in *Into the Woods*. He is studying under Dr. James Rodriguez.

**Jae Medlin** is no stranger to the stage; his resume includes dozens of roles in community theaters around the DFW area. Some of his most memorable roles include Tony in *West Side Story*, The Genie in *Aladdin*, and Fyedka in *Fiddler on The Roof*. Jae performs with the TCU Concert Chorale and University Singers as well as being a soloist at St. John's Anglican Church. He is also an award nominated set designer and builder and is leading the set crew for this season.

**David Mejia** is originally from Brownsville, Texas and received his BM in Voice Performance at UT Arlington and is now pursuing his MM in Voice Performance at TCU. He recently made his debut in NYC at Lincoln Center for the American Pops Orchestra and placed 2nd for male vocalists. David also placed 1st amongst Advanced Tenor-Bass Voices at the Summer 2023 NATS: National Student Auditions in San Diego, CA. He is also employed with The Dallas Opera's Education and Outreach Program for their 2023-24 season.



**Sydney Palomo** is a graduate student at Texas Christian University studying vocal pedagogy. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Texas Christian University with a Bachelor of Music Education and a minor in Sociology in May of 2022. Throughout her undergraduate career, she was granted various performance and academic opportunities that broadened her knowledge of music education and its importance in society. Her recent research and projects include "The Ideal Woman: A Narrative on the Female Musician Experience in the Classical Music Industry" as well as the TCU School of Music Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative that aims to create a welcoming community for students of underrepresented communities/identities in the TCU SOM. Additionally, she serves as the DEI graduate representative of the TCU College of Fine Arts. Sydney is a prominent 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 senior Vocal Music Education major currently studying under Dr. Gwendolyn Alfred. Ms. Parnitke is a previous DFW NATS 1st place winner in the First-Year Collegiate category and most recently placed 6th in her category at the 2022 Texoma NATS competition. This is her first principal role in a TCU Opera production, and she is grateful and thrilled to have the opportunity!

**Igor Parshin**, a graduate of the famous Gnessin State Musical College (2004 – 2008) and Gnessin Russian Academy of Music (2008 – 2015), 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 Vitti” 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).

**Sarah Squires**, soprano, is a first year Vocal Performance major studying with Dr. James Rodriguez. This is her first show with TCU Opera, and she is very excited to be making appearances throughout this season. She also sings in TCU's Concert Chorale and University Singers.

**Corey Trahan** is an active performer, educator, and stage director. In 2023-24, Corey will stage direct productions of *La Canterina*, *Amahl & the Night Visitors*, *The Tragedy of Carmen* (Fort Worth Opera's Resident Artists), *Into the Woods*, *La Voix Humaine*, *Bluebeard's Castle* and *Gianni Schicchi* (Amarillo Opera). Additionally, Corey will join the faculty of the 2024 Fairbanks Summer Music Festival (Alaska) and the faculty of a new training program in Venice, Italy. Recent engagements include Spoletta in *Tosca* (Amarillo Opera), Snout in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Des Moines Metro Opera), guest vocalist with Louisiana Delta Ballet, baritone soloist in Durafle's *Requiem* and Sir Joseph Porter in *H.M.S. Pinafore* (Pensacola Opera). Currently, Corey is Director of Opera Studio at T.C.U. and a member of the Vocal Arts Faculty and Faculty Senate. Additionally, he is President of the Dallas-Fort Worth Chapter of N.A.T.S. and President of TCU's Gamma Epsilon Society (Pi Kappa Lambda). 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. He has been an apprentice with Lake George Opera, Central City Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Amarillo Opera, Shreveport Opera, and the Seagle Music Colony. Corey is a current member of the American Guild of Music Artists, Actor's Equity Association and National Association of Teachers of Singing. [www.coreytrahan.com](http://www.coreytrahan.com)