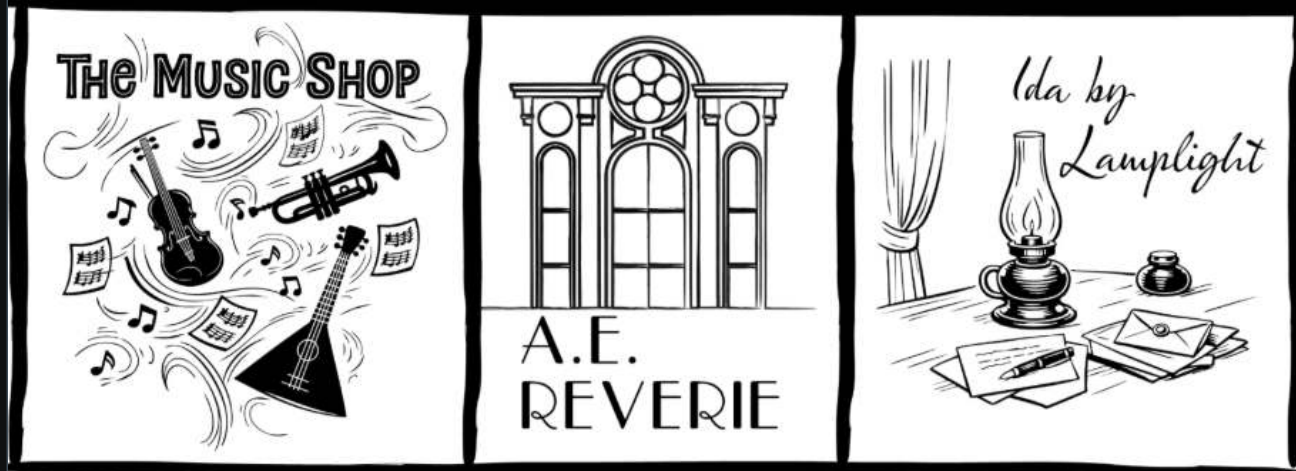




CHAUTAUQUA OPERA COMPANY • TRIPLE BILL



Chautauqua Opera Company: The Music Shop, A.E. Reverie, & Ida By Lamplight

July 22, 2026

Program

Chautauqua Opera Company Presents: A Triple Bill The Music Shop, A.E. Reverie, and Ida by Lamplight

Steven Osgood, Conductor

Ned Canty, Director

Michael Baumgarten, Scenic, Lighting, and Video Designer

Cristine Patrick, Costume Designer

Martha Ruskai, Wig and Makeup Designer

Valerie Wheeler, Production Stage Manager

The Music Shop

Richard Wargo, composer & librettist

Rick Hoffenberg, musical preparation

Cast:

Masha: Kelsey Watts

Dmitri: Joel Clemens

Ivan: Tyrese Byrd

Wife: Sarah Dyer-Jones

Synopsis:

A mild-mannered man comes to the music shop on an urgent mission – to purchase music for a song that his wife has been requested to sing at the wedding of the prince. Unfortunately, he cannot remember the title or the tune. What ensues are hallucinations of the rage of his Wagnerian soprano wife, his own unhappy fate when he returns empty-handed and a mad scramble through the entire stock of "the largest collection of music in all of Russia" in a desperate attempt to recognize the requested melody in the ill-fated music shop.

A.E. Reverie

from *The Summer Place*

Kamala Sankaram, composer

Jerre Dye, librettist

Miriam Charney, musical preparation

The libretto for *The Summer Place* was commissioned by the Chautauqua Opera Guild.

Cast:

Young Woman: Kelsey Watts

Synopsis:

A.E. Reverie unfolds the night after Amelia Earhart gracefully landed her plane at Chautauqua in 1929. After witnessing Amelia's empowering Amphitheater lecture, a young woman stares at the night sky, dreaming of taking her own life to new heights.

Ida by Lamplight

World Premiere

from *The Summer Place*

Jeremy Gill, composer

Jerre Dye, librettist

Miriam Charney, musical preparation

The libretto *The Summer P* was commissioned by the Chautauqua Opera Guild.

Cast

Ida Tarbell: SarahAnn Duffy

Kate Kimball: Sarah Rachel Bacani

Mrs. Talbot: Sara Nealley

Mrs. McNeil: Sarah Dyer-Jones

John Heyl Vincent: Brian Linares

Synopsis

When: 1886

Where: An office of *The Chautauquan*, late at night

As the editor of *The Chautauquan*, it's Ida's duty to take on the arduous, time-consuming job of correspondence with the reading circles and the over 25,000 individual Chautauquan readers across the United States. She is passionate about having personal correspondence with each individual.

(Special thanks to Athena Anderegg, Helen Fischer and Rosie Fischer, our featured Newsies!)

Ida by Lamplight is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.



Orchestra

**The Music Shop* only

***The Music Shop* and *Ida by Lamplight* only

Violin 1

Vahn Armstrong

Amanda Gates

Anton Shelepov

Adrienne Finet

Leslie Anderegg
Molly McDonald
Kurt Munstedt
Laura Herrera

Violin 2

Simon Lapointe
Jonathan Richards
Karen Lord-Powell
Zhe Deng
Zhen Liu
Ordabek Duissen
Gabrielle Monachino
Irina Shelepov

Viola

Karl Pedersen
Jennifer Stahl
Eva Stern
Carrie Fischer
Javier Otalora
Pedro Mendez

Cello

Daryl Goldberg
Igor Geftler
Daniel Kaler
Maximiliano Oppeltz
Samuel Pierce-Ruhland

Double Bass

Caitlyn Kamminga
Wendell Rosa
Corey Wazek
Caleb Edwards

Flute

Luke Fitzpatrick
Kathryn Levy*

Oboe

Adam Dinitz

Clarinet

Stanislav Chernyshev*
Olivia Hamilton*
Daniel Spitzer

Bassoon

Jeffrey Robinson
Benjamin Atherholt*

Horn

Mark Robbins**

Daniel Kerdelewicz*

Trumpet

Leslie Linn*

Trombone

Vladislav Petrachev*

Timpani

Matthew Strauss*

Percussion

Tom Blanchard

Pedro Fernandez*

Harp

Madeline Olson

Keyboard

Rick Hoffenberg*

Creatives Biographies**Steven Osgood****Conductor**

This is Steven Osgood's eleventh season as General and Artistic Director of the Chautauqua Opera Company. During his tenure the company has produced operas by Puccini, Verdi, Mozart and Humperdinck alongside contemporary works by Missy Mazzoli, John Corigliano, Philip Glass and others. In 2024 he conducted the world premieres of *A.E. Reverie* and *Love, Loss and the Century Upon Us* -- two chamber operas commissioned by Chautauqua Opera. With the 2026 season, the company draws on his vast experience in the development of new works with the New Opera Workshops.

Steve has conducted the world premieres of over 20 operas, including in recent seasons *The Rising World* at Seoul Arts Center, *Intimate Apparel* at Lincoln Center Theater, *Breaking the Waves* at Opera Philadelphia, *JFK* at Fort Worth Opera, *The Scarlet Ibis*, *Thumbprint*, *Blood Moon*, and *Sumeida's Song* for the PROTOTYPE festival, as well as Missy Mazzoli's *Song from the Uproar* with Beth Morrison Projects. He has been conductor-mentor on two occasions for Washington National Opera's American Opera Initiative, leading the premieres of six new operas.

From 2001 to 2008 Steven was Artistic Director of American Opera Projects, where he conducted numerous developmental workshops. He founded the company's internationally

recognized Composers and the Voice Fellowship and remains the program's Artistic Director. He conducted the premieres of *As One* in its sold-out run at BAM, and Paula Kimper's *Patience and Sarah* at the 1998 Lincoln Center Festival.

Steve has been a member of the Music Staff at The Metropolitan Opera since 2006, with whom he has conducted workshops of several of the company's commissions. He made his mainstage conducting debut at the Met in 2023 with *Dead Man Walking* and returned to conduct Jeanine Tesori and George Brant's *Grounded* in the 2024/2025 season.



Ned Canty

Director

Ned Canty has directed at dozens of companies, including Glimmerglass Opera, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Santa Fe Opera, New Orleans Opera, and the Shanghai Conservatory. The New York Times described his stage direction as having "a startling combination of sensitivity and

panache."

He joined Opera Memphis as general director in 2011, expanding the repertoire and launching a series of commissions centered on Memphis stories. The signature program under his leadership is "30 Days of Opera", which has brought free performances to over 500,000 Memphians since 2012.

In 2005, he helped found The New York Television Festival, and served as its director until 2010, helping it grow into a nationally recognized forum for discovering new television talent and exploring digital and new media storytelling.

Before discovering opera, Canty worked as an actor, director, and stuntman at Hartford Stage Company, McCarter Theatre, and the New York Renaissance Festival, among others.



Richard Wargo

Composer & Librettist, The Music Shop

Composer and librettist Richard Wargo has been lauded by *The Philadelphia Inquirer* as a "fresh new voice in American opera" and by *Opera News* as "a born opera composer." A native of Scranton, Pennsylvania, he graduated from the Eastman School of Music. He is a

two-time recipient of the Belin Arts Scholarship and has received grants from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, National Endowment for the Arts and Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. Richard served as composer-in-residence of Milwaukee's Skylight Opera Theatre, where his opera *Ballymore* was premiered and recorded for PBS. Subsequent performances of *Ballymore* include productions by the Wexford Festival Opera in Ireland, Chelsea Opera in New York City and the North Carolina School of the Arts. In May, the cast and orchestra from the 2025 North Carolina production reassembled to make a studio recording of the opera, set for future release. Wargo's *A Chekhov Trilogy* was premiered by Chautauqua Opera in 1993 and since then has received numerous productions. "The Music Shop," the third segment of the *Trilogy*, has received hundreds of performances, in the US and abroad.

Richard has served as Artistic Director of The Sembrich, a museum and performance venue in Bolton Landing, NY, since August 1990. In November of 2015, Wargo was awarded the "Order

of Merit” medal for his work at The Sembrich by the Polish government at the Lviv Opera House in Ukraine.



Kamala Sankaram

Composer, A.E. Reverie

Praised as “strikingly original” (*New York Times*), Kamala Sankaram moves freely between the worlds of experimental music, sound installation, and contemporary opera. Known for pushing the boundaries of form and style, she has created work for the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (as 2023 Artist-in-Residence), an opera for the trees of Prospect Park, a techno-noir featuring live datamining of the audience and a chorus of 25 singing tablet computers, and the world’s first virtual reality opera, among other pieces. She has been commissioned by the Minnesota Opera (where she is currently a Composer-in-Residence), the Glimmerglass Festival (as 2022 Artist-in-Residence), Washington National Opera, Houston Grand Opera, the PROTOTYPE Festival, and Creative Time, among others. As a biracial Indian-American and trained sitarist, Kamala has drawn on Indian classical music in many of her works, including *Thumbprint*, *A Rose*, *Monkey and Francine in the City of Tigers*, and *The Jungle Book*. Her work in sound has been featured in the magazines *Hyperallergic* and *Pioneer Works Broadcast* and installed during Art Basel and at the Hudson River Museum. Also an educator and writer, Kamala has been a featured speaker at TEDx Riverdale Country Day, has contributed critical essays on opera for Routledge and Opera America magazine, and has been a frequent panelist at conferences and organizations including AWE, The Nature of Cities, and CTHQ, among others.

As an accomplished performer, Kamala has been hailed as “an impassioned soprano with blazing high notes” (*Wall Street Journal*). Notable collaborations include Anthony Braxton’s *TRILLIUM E*, *TRILLIUM J*, and *GTM (Syntax)* 2017; Meredith Monk’s *ATLAS* with the LA Philharmonic, The Wooster Group’s *LA DIDONE* (Kaaaitheater, Brussels, Edinburgh International Festival, Rotterdam Schouberg, Grand Théâtre de la Ville, Luxembourg, St. Anne’s Warehouse, NY, REDCAT, Los Angeles), and the PROTOTYPE Festival’s *THUMBPRINT* (Baruch Performing Arts, NY, REDCAT, Los Angeles), among others. Kamala is the leader of Bombay Rickey, an operatic Bollywood surf ensemble whose accolades include two awards for Best Eclectic Album from the Independent Music Awards, the 2018 Mid-Atlantic Touring Grant, and appearances on WFMU and NPR. Dr. Sankaram holds a PhD from the New School and is currently a member of the composition faculty at the Mannes College of Music.



Jerre Dye

Librettist, A.E. Reverie & Ida by Lamplight

Jerre Dye is a Chicago-based director, librettist, playwright and performer. He has spent over three decades focusing primarily on developing new works for theatre and opera. He is especially passionate about collaborative expression, site-specific work, and community-based projects. Dye received the Award for Dramatic Literature from the Fellowship of Southern Writers.

Some opera commissions include: the upcoming *Woman With Eyes Closed* for Pittsburgh Opera and Opera Philadelphia in collaboration with Pulitzer Prize and two-time, Grammy Award-winning composer Jennifer Higdon; *Taking Up Serpents* for Washington National Opera with composer Kamala Sankaram; *The Transformation of Jane Doe* for Chicago Opera Theatre with composer Stacy Garrop; *The Falling and the Rising* for the U.S. Army Field Band and Chorus, Seattle Opera, Opera Memphis, Arizona Opera, San Diego Opera, Texas Christian University and Seagle Music Colony with composer Zachary Redler; and *Pretty Little Room* for Opera Memphis with composer Robert Patterson.

Short form operas include: *Opera 901* for Opera Memphis with composers Kamala Sankaram, Sam Shoup, Zach Redler and Robert Patterson; *Portraits* for the U.S. Army Field Band and Chorus and Seattle Opera with composers Damien Geter and Tim Takach; *Parksville*, a filmed, virtual reality opera for Opera on Tap/New York with composer Kamala Sankaram; and *Ghosts of Crosstown* for Opera Memphis with composers Zachary Redler, Kamran Ince, Nathaniel Stookey and Jack Perla. He is currently in process for two, site-specific operas: *The Cabinets* with composer Kamala Sankaram for Opera on Tap and *The Singing Rooms* with composer Larry Axelrod. His plays include *Cicada*, *Distance*, *Short/Stories*, *Threads*, *The New Adventures of Hansel and Gretel*, *Wild Swans*, and *Live Studio Audience*. He is also developing a new musical, *Self Storage*, with Zachary Redler.



Jeremy Gill

Composer, *Ida By Lamplight*

The music of American composer Jeremy Gill is celebrated for its emotional breadth and diversity of expression. His vocal music ranges from “vibrant settings” of texts by Blaise Pascal (Gramophone) for vocal sextet through song settings of texts by Italo Calvino, Anne Carson, Ann Patchett, and Georg Trakl to “vividly colored” (The New York Times) dramatic reworkings of Ancient Greek texts and modern authors like Don Nigro and Michael Zand.

The 2026–27 season will feature the world premieres of *Soft as the massacre of Suns*, a new oboe concerto for Erin Hannigan and the Shepherd School of Music Chamber Orchestra under Music Director Miguel Harth-Bedoya, and *11 Fantasies on a Phrygian Chorale* for string orchestra, by the New York Classical Players under Dongmin Kim. Boston Modern Orchestra Project will release its second CD devoted to Jeremy's music, featuring his BMOP-commissioned, hour-long tone poem cycle *Four Legends from the Silmarillion*.

Music Staff Biographies



Rick Hoffenberg

Musical Preparation, The Music Shop

Rick Hoffenberg is an Associate Professor, Director of Choral Activities, and Co-Director of the Insalaco School of Visual and Performing Arts at Marywood University. He is also Music Director of the Wyoming Seminary Civic Orchestra. He previously held conducting positions at the University of Northern Iowa and Williams College. Rick has directed more than a dozen choral tours throughout the United States; he has also conducted high school festival concerts and workshops in the Eastern and Midwestern United States. He has spent the past 27 summers at Chautauqua Opera, where he is a pianist and coach on the music staff. He has also worked in various capacities for New York City Opera, BMG Classics/RCA Victor Red Seal, Columbia Artists Management, the Milken Archive, and Spoleto Festival USA. As a pianist, he has performed at Orchestra Hall in Chicago, the Music Institute of Chicago, Rockefeller Chapel in New York City, and Richardson Auditorium in Princeton, New Jersey. He was the state winner, division winner, and national finalist in the 1994 MTNA Wurlitzer Piano Competition. Rick holds degrees from Princeton University, Yale University, and Westminster Choir College, where his conducting teachers included Andrew Megill and the late Joseph Flummerfelt. He made his Carnegie Hall conducting debut in May 2026 with a performance of Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*.



Miriam Charney

Musical Preparation, A.E. Reverie & Ida by Lamplight

Miriam Charney is an opera coach, music director, collaborative pianist, and educator with a dynamic career spanning major festivals and opera companies including Glimmerglass, Banff, NYCO, Des Moines Metro, and Chautauqua Opera, where she has worked since 1995. She has collaborated with leading conductors such as Gerard Schwarz and George Manahan and has performed with vocal artists including Lauren Flanigan and Raehann Bryce-Davis. An active champion of contemporary opera, she has prepared premieres by Lee Hoiby, Ricky Ian Gordon, and Tobias Picker, and has collaborated with American Opera Projects and NYU-Tisch Opera Lab as well as Music Directing for CoOperative Opera. Her theater credits include collaborations with the Wooster Group, Elizabeth Swados, and NYU's Experimental Theatre Wing. A National Opera Institute grant recipient, she has taught at Juilliard, Hartt, UConn, and Vassar, where she co-directs the Opera Workshop and teaches collaborative piano. On faculty at the Manhattan School of Music since 1996, she teaches vocal literature, recital coaching, and aria accompanying, and created the MSM Contemporary Opera Ensemble.

Production Biographies



Michael Baumgarten

Director of Production

Mr. Baumgarten has designed lighting, video, and scenery for over 450 productions at regional and international opera companies, including New York City Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Opera Lyra Ottawa, Manitoba Opera, Arizona Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Lyric Opera Kansas City, Palm Beach Opera, Opera Carolina, and Michigan Opera Theater during his design career of over forty years. A graduate of SUNY Binghamton (1978), the Yale School of Drama (MFA 1981), and a member of United Scenic Artists-Local 829, Mr. Baumgarten worked on over a dozen productions on Broadway as an assistant lighting designer. Mr. Baumgarten has also served as Director of Production and Resident Lighting/Video Designer for Chautauqua Opera since 1999 and held the same position for twenty years at Opera Carolina, until he retired.



JP Woodey

Technical Director

John has designed lighting and scenery for numerous companies including the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, Opera Carolina, Indianapolis Opera, Imagination Stage, Shaker Mountain Opera, Theatre Charlotte, Gallery Players (Off Broadway), Access Theatre (Off Broadway), the Chautauqua Opera Company, Blumenthal Arts, Caroline Calouche and Company, and Charlotte Ballet. John has also designed lighting for broadcast including Netflix's Fortune Feimster's Sweet and Salty and the ACC Football Honors Programs. John spent time in London designing for the Central St. Martins School of Art where he designed lights for "The Birds Project." John was faculty and designer at DeSales, Catholic and Johnson C. Smith Universities. He is the Assistant Professor of Theatre and Dance at Winthrop University specializing in technical direction and design. He completed his graduate work at Ohio University where he received the regional Peggy Ezekiel Award of Outstanding Achievement in Design. He is a member and Vice President of the IATSE Local 322 in Charlotte, NC.



Valerie Wheeler

Production Stage Manager

Valerie Wheeler has served as Production Stage Manager for opera companies across the U.S. including New York City Opera, Wolf Trap Opera, Portland Opera, Toledo Opera, Opera Grand Rapids, Wichita Grand Opera, Opera Cleveland, Opera on the James, and Opera Santa Barbara. Valerie was most recently the Production Stage Manager & Acting Director of Production for Opera Carolina. She is thrilled to be back as the Production Stage Manager for the Chautauqua Opera Company.



Alexandria Griner

Assistant Stage Manager

Alexandria Griner is thrilled to be returning to the Chautauqua Opera Company this summer. A selection of opera credits include: *La bohème* (Chautauqua Opera), *Carmen* (Opera Carolina); *Man of la Mancha*, *Joan of Arc*; *Trial at Rouen*, *Marriage of Figaro*, *Il trovatore*, *Don Pasquale*, *La traviata* (Piedmont Opera); *Tosca*, *Così fan tutte*, *The Barber of Seville*, *Albert Herring*, *Impresario*, *Scalia/Ginsberg* (Princeton Festival); *Carmen* (Opera North); and *Romeo and Juliet* (Boston Lyric Opera). Theatre credits include: *Twelfth Night* (People's Light Theater); *Mrs. Christie*, *I & You: The Musical*, *Primary Trust*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Empire Records*, *Choice*, *Bulrushier*, *Between Two Knees* (McCarter Theater); *Tell Me You're Dying* (Chautauqua Theater Company).



Hanna Atkinson

Assistant Stage Manager

Hanna Atkinson (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to return to the Chautauqua Opera Company & Conservatory for her fifth season. She has worked with a variety of companies, including Piedmont Opera, Toledo Opera, Opera Carolina, and the Charlotte Symphony. Hanna is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where she earned degrees in Theater Design & Technical Production and Business Administration.



Christine Patrick

Costume Shop Supervisor

Cristine calls Cleveland, Ohio home and works seasonal full time at The Cleveland Play House. She also lends her sewing, draping and designing skills as needed at Sweet Lorain Vintage Store, Karamu House, Seat of the Pants Productions and other homegrown projects as they find her. She has the privilege to return to the Chautauqua Opera Company for her 18th season. She rarely has the opportunity to be unattached from her sewing machine, but when she does she enjoys a good fantasy and/or historical book, antiquing, and baking. She misses traveling like she used to, so hopefully in the coming year she can find time to see old friends and explore new places.



Natalie Juran

Costume Shop Craft Artisan

Natalie is a Costume Technician at UNC School of the Arts, where she has enjoyed being back in her hometown of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She works part time at the Reynolda House Museum of American Art sharing her love of history and art with visitors, with a special interest in the historic clothing collection. Natalie loves to learn new skills, explore new places, and meet new

people. When she's at home, she can be found reading or crafting, always supervised by her two cats, Persephone and Orion.



Claire Gibbons

Costume Shop Craft Artisan

Claire Gibbons is a 19-year-old incoming junior at University of North Carolina School of the Arts. She is studying to become a Costume Technician and aspires to make people feel incredible in the clothes that they wear. While her hometown is in Fairfax, Virginia, she has traveled to Chautauqua to work with and learn from other incredible artists. She loves to scrapbook, call her best friend, and cuddle up with her cat, Bing Bong. She would like to thank Gaby for being a great upperclassman (and for connecting her to Chautauqua).

Cast Biographies - The Music Shop



Kelsey Watts

Masha

Filipina-American soprano Kelsey Ann Watts is a Binghamton University graduate holding degrees in Opera, Vocal Performance, and Chemistry. In addition to her time as a 2024 Studio Artist at Chautauqua Opera, where she covered roles in Kamala Sankaram's *A.E. Reverie*, Nicolás Lell Benavides' *Pepito*, and Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, she has performed with Tri-Cities Opera, Syracuse Opera, Delaware Valley Opera, and Binghamton University's Opera Ensemble in roles including Zerlina (Mozart's *Don Giovanni*), Clorinda (Rossini's *La Cenerentola*), Pamina (Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*), Gilda (Verdi's *Rigoletto*), and Gretel (Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*). Her passion for contemporary works has led to her performances in Jorge Sosa's *I Am A Dreamer Who No Longer Dreams* and Leif Haley's *Prunella*, though her fondest experience was self-producing a performance of Jake Heggie's *Another Sunrise* paired with a collection of songs written during, in response to, and by victims of the Holocaust.



Joel Clemens

Dmitri

Philadelphia-based baritone Joel Clemens has been praised for his strong dramatic acting and thrilling baritone. He recently returned to White Snake Projects to premiere the roles of Marlow and Sam in Mary D. Watkins' *Is This America?*, and sang Ginger Chap in the orchestral workshop of Missy Mazzoli's *Lincoln in the Bardo* with Chautauqua Opera Company. He was named a winner in

the Boston District of the Metropolitan Opera Eric and Dominique Laffont Competition and took home second prize in the New England Regional Finals. This season Joel joined the Opera Memphis Handorf Company Artists to sing the role of Fiorello (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*) and the Doctor (*Pretty Little Room*). In spring 2026, he made his Boston Baroque debut singing La Voce (*Idomeneo*) before joining the Gerdine Young Artist Program at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis to sing Giuseppe Naccarelli (*The Light in the Piazza*) and cover Gregorio (*Roméo et Juliette*).



Tyrese Byrd

Ivan

Tyrese Byrd, tenor, is a native of Greenville, South Carolina, hailed for his “golden tenor” voice (*Times of San Diego*). Recent performances include Ubaldo (Haydn’s *Armida*) with Opera NEO and the Hungarian State Opera, Prologue/Peter Quint (*The Turn of the Screw*) and Pluton/Aristée (*Orphée aux enfers*) at the University of Michigan, Police Buddy 1 (*Blue*) with Toledo Opera, and Don Basilio (Kjartansson’s *Bliss*) with Detroit Opera. As a 2024 Studio Artist, Tyrese covered the role of David in Chautauqua Opera’s *Pepito* (Koch/Benavides), part of the triple bill performance *Love and Longing by the Lake*. As a Madison Opera Studio Artist, Tyrese appeared as Normanno (*Lucia di Lammermoor*), Mercury (*Orpheus in the Underworld*), and Don Basilio (*Le nozze di Figaro*) as a guest artist. Tyrese is also an active concert soloist and recitalist, including performances with the Hugo Wolf Akademie in Stuttgart, The Washington Chorus on their Argentinian tour, the Toledo Symphony, the Akron Symphony, and SC Bach. Tyrese holds degrees from Furman University and the University of Michigan.



Sarah Dyer-Jones

Wife

Sarah Dyer-Jones, mezzo-soprano, leads a multifaceted career spanning opera, concert, musical theatre, and chamber music. She has performed a wide range of roles with organizations including Central City Opera, Music Academy of the West, Ars Lyrica Houston, Opera in the Ozarks, and the Moores Opera Center at the University of Houston. Notable performances include Federico García Lorca in *Ainadamar*, Cornelia in *Giulio Cesare*, Madame de la Haltière in *Cendrillon*, and Larina in *Eugene Onegin*, among others. She also has been a featured soloist in The Ponce Project, Handel’s *Messiah*, and in Houston Grand Opera’s “Seeking the Human Spirit” series. Beyond her work onstage, Dyer-Jones is passionate about education, musicology, and community engagement. She is the founder of ConTempo Studios, an interdisciplinary nonprofit dedicated to inclusivity and accessibility in the performing arts. A strong advocate for creative expression, she trains in circus arts, often incorporating aerial and physical theatre techniques into her genre-spanning performances.

Cast Biography - A.E. Reverie



Kelsey Watts

Young Woman

Filipina-American soprano Kelsey Ann Watts is a Binghamton University graduate holding degrees in Opera, Vocal Performance, and Chemistry. In addition to her time as a 2024 Studio Artist at Chautauqua Opera, where she covered roles in Kamala Sankaram's *A.E. Reverie*, Nicolás Lell Benavides' *Pepito*, and Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, she has performed with Tri-Cities Opera, Syracuse Opera, Delaware Valley Opera, and Binghamton University's Opera Ensemble in roles including Zerlina (Mozart's *Don Giovanni*), Clorinda (Rossini's *La Cenerentola*), Pamina (Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*), Gilda (Verdi's *Rigoletto*), and Gretel (Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*). Her passion for contemporary works has led to her performances in Jorge Sosa's *I Am A Dreamer Who No Longer Dreams* and Leif Haley's *Prunella*, though her fondest experience was self-producing a performance of Jake Heggie's *Another Sunrise* paired with a collection of songs written during, in response to, and by victims of the Holocaust.

Cast Biographies - Ida by Lamplight



SarahAnn Duffy

Ida Tarbell

Praised for her "liquid gold" mezzo (*Opera Today*), American mezzo-soprano SarahAnn Duffy is quickly establishing herself as an exciting communicator of repertoire spanning the Baroque to the present day.

Upcoming events include a return to Carnegie Hall for her debut as the mezzo soloist in Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 and her return to Chautauqua Opera. Recent performances of the 2025 season include debuting at Carnegie Hall with MidAmerica Productions and the New England Symphonic Ensemble in Notareschi's *Climate Mass*, as well as in *Sunday in the Park with George* as Celeste 2 and Elaine at the Glimmerglass Festival. Her 2024 season included the debuts of Mercédès in *Carmen* and Laura in *Luisa Miller*, both with Sarasota Opera, as well as the role of Endimione in Cavalli's *La Calisto* with the Glimmerglass Festival. Events of the 2023 season included her role and company debut as Rosina in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* at Opera NEO, and Kate Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* in her return to the Sarasota Opera, where she was awarded the Helen Jepson Deller Fellowship Award for an outstanding Studio Artist. Other recent events included joining Chautauqua Opera, where she workshopped *Love, Loss and the Century Upon Us*, a commission with music by Rene Orth and libretto by Jerre Dye.



Sarah Rachel Bacani

Kate Kimball

As a Resident Artist with Toledo Opera, Filipino-American soprano Sarah Rachel Bacani appeared in the company's spring season as Giannetta (*L'elisir d'amore*), having recently made her role debut as Micaëla (*Carmen*). She will then make her debut with Opera Saratoga this summer, singing the role of Marie (*Drift*) and covering Giannetta (*L'elisir d'amore*). Previous engagements include Gretel (cover) and Dew Fairy (*Hänsel und Gretel*) with Lakes Area Music Festival; Juliette (*Roméo et Juliette*) and Mariola (*Two Remain*) with Central City Opera; and Donna Elvira (*Don Giovanni*) and Pamina (*Die Zauberflöte*) with the Indiana University Opera Theater. An accomplished competitor, Bacani has earned distinctions including an Opera Index prize, Third Place in the Fort Worth Opera McCammon Voice Competition, and additional honors from James Toland Vocal Arts, Opera Naples, Florida Grand Opera, and Shreveport Opera. She is an alumna of the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music and the Manhattan School of Music.



Sara Nealley

Mrs. Talbot

Sara Nealley, soprano, is a native of Ardmore, Pennsylvania. She completed her undergraduate studies in Vocal Performance at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, and her graduate studies at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow. Sara is currently pursuing a GPD at the Peabody Institute where she studies with Randall Scarlata. Her previous roles include: Rusalka (*Rusalka*), LAH-SOW; Vitellia (*La clemenza di Tito*), Peabody Opera Theatre; Gianetta (*The Gondoliers*), Ohio Light Opera; Violetta (*La traviata*), Mediterranean Opera Studio and Festival; Fiordiligi (*Così fan tutte*), Opera in the Ozarks; and Hanna Glawari (*The Merry Widow*), College Light Opera Company. Sara was a finalist in the Elgar/Spedding Memorial Lieder Competition and the Ye Cronies Opera Award at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. She is the recipient of an Encouragement Award in Arkansas District of the Metropolitan Opera Eric and Dominique Laffont Competition.



Sarah Dyer-Jones

Mrs. McNeil

Sarah Dyer-Jones, mezzo-soprano, leads a multifaceted career spanning opera, concert, musical theatre, and chamber music. She has performed a wide range of roles with organizations including Central City Opera, Music Academy of the West, Ars Lyrica Houston, Opera in the Ozarks, and the Moores Opera Center at the University of Houston. Notable performances include Federico García Lorca in *Ainadamar*, Cornelia in *Giulio Cesare*, Madame de la Haltière in *Cendrillon*, and Larina in *Eugene Onegin*, among others. She also has been a featured soloist in The Ponce Project, Handel's *Messiah*, and in Houston Grand Opera's "Seeking the Human Spirit" series. Beyond her work onstage, Dyer-Jones is passionate about education, musicology, and community engagement. She is the founder of ConTempo Studios, an interdisciplinary nonprofit dedicated to inclusivity and accessibility in the performing arts. A strong advocate for creative expression, she trains in circus arts, often incorporating aerial and physical theatre techniques into her

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Brian Linares

John Heyl Vincent

Brian is a bass with a Master's degree and Performance Diploma from the Manhattan School of Music. He has appeared in a wide range of operatic repertoire, including Sarastro in *The Magic Flute*, Der Lautsprecher in *Der Kaiser von Atlantis*, Nick Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Don Alfonso in *Così fan tutte*. Known for his commanding stage presence and warm, flexible tone, he is equally at home in classical, contemporary, and comedic repertoire. He has performed with university and professional opera companies in roles spanning Mozart, Britten, and 20th-century works. In addition to opera, he is an active concert soloist and ensemble performer. Brian is particularly passionate about character-driven roles and remains dedicated to continued artistic growth through performance, collaboration, and teaching.

Leadership & Staff

General & Artistic Director: Steven Osgood

Music Administrator: Carol Rausch

Music Staff: Miriam Charney, Rick Hoffenberg, Nathaniel LaNasa, and Allison Voth

Director of Production: Michael Baumgarten

Production Stage Manager: Valerie Wheeler

Assistant Stage Managers: Hanna Atkinson and Alexandria Griner

Technical Director: JP Woodey

Costume Shop Supervisor: Cristine Patrick

Costume Shop Crew: Claire Gibbons and Natalie Juran

Wig Supervisor: Martha Ruskai

Manager: Helen Hassinger

Company Scheduler: Rick Hoffenberg

Management Associate: Kara Post

Marketing Associate: Nick Kemp

Opera Guild Intern: Mia O'Malley

Composer Intern: Jeremiah Trowbridge

Supporters

2026 Chautauqua Opera Guild

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Osgood, Steven

Saulino, Lorraine

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