



Converging Arts Columbus

MAY 6 & 7, 2022 | 7:30 PM

COLUMBUS DANCE THEATRE

- PRESENTS -

ASTRONOMER DREAMING

COLUMBUS
DANCE
THEATRE

Ohio Arts
COUNCIL



gcac

Greater Columbus
Arts Council

Director/Conductor/Concept

Jason Hiester

Assistant Music Director

Rachel Parfenchuk

Music Composition and Arranging

Lauren Spavelko & Rebecca Larkin

Choreography

Jaime Kotrba

Film Design & Projections

Josh Martin

Artwork

Carl DeScott, Maggie Myers, Mukami Mboche, & Isaiah Harris

With additional contributions by

Kayla Rondinelli and Mary Kate McElroy

Lighting

Alanna Easley

Stage Manager

Jaylene Jennings

CAST (in order of appearance)

Mary (film)	Lyla Opitz
Mother (film)	Michelle Opitz
Mary	Grace Burkhart
Galileo	Anthony Ludovico
Mother	Vera Clemens
Father	Andrew LeVan

READERS

"Stars"	Ryan Jenkins
"The Sun never says"	Lauren Spavelko
"Sure on This Shining Night"	Austin Wood

CONVERGING ARTS COLUMBUS CHORUS

Hannah Carpenter	Ryan Jenkins	Lauren Spavelko
Joshua Cook	Michael Kirkman	Jasmine Spitzer
Vera Cremeans	Andrew LeVan	Tom Stevenston
Billy Edwards	Alex Pope	John Schlabach
Basil Fett	Rachel Parfenchuk	Regan Tackett
Nina Greer	Gretchen Rutz	Emily Totedo
Christine Hiester	Barbara Sahr	Austin Wood
Abby Jenkins		

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Jana Ross, Violin 1	Chien-Hui, Pianist
Devin Copfer, Violin 2	Lauren Spavelko, Percussion
Nancy Nehring, Viola	Colleen Gallick, Singing Bowls
Jane Van Voorhis, Cello	

DANCERS

Erika Alloway
Luke Ciminillo Delamotte
Brennan Johnson

Thomas McGuire
Alex Napoli

PRODUCTION CREW

Stage Manager
Media Projections
Lighting
Video Operator
Load-in Assistance

Jaylene Jennings
Joshua Martin
Alanna Easley
Benjamin Becker
Chad Knuston

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In December 2020, I found myself in bed for twelve days with a really bad case of COVID-19. While recovering, I came up with the concept for *Astronomer Dreaming*, where I planned and wrote the core elements of the piece. I wanted to design a collaborative performance incorporating visual arts, dance, acting, and choral singing with orchestral accompaniment. I also wanted to find a way to create a transcendent theatrical experience—one where moments in time slow down and we are fully present, not simply entertained, but moved.

My hope is that through all the dark days these last couple years, we can still find beauty, wonder, and mystery in the world that surrounds us. I wish to sincerely thank all the artists who have participated on the project. Without their imagination and talent we could have never completed the work.

— Jason Hiester

AUDIENCE ETIQUETTE

You are welcome to take photos and short videos.
(No flash please!) Please share on social media with these
hashtags so others can find our work.

#AstronomerDreaming #ConvergingArtsColumbus #CAC

ASTRONOMER DREAMING

Scene I

Mary's Dream

music by Lauren Spavelko and Rebecca Larkin

Soloist: Regan Tackett

Scene II

Dark Night of the Soul

music by Ola Gjielo

Soloist: Jasmine Spitzer

One dark night,
fired with love's urgent longings
– ah, the sheer grace! –
I went out unseen,
my house being now all stilled.

In darkness, and secure,
by the secret ladder, disguised,
– ah, the sheer grace! –
in darkness and concealment,
my house being now all stilled.

On that glad night,
in secret, for no one saw me,
nor did I look at anything,
with no other light or guide
than the one that burned in my heart.



Scene III

Stars

music by Erik Ešenvalds

Alone in the night
On a dark hill
With pines around me
Spicy and still,

And a heaven full of stars
Over my head
White and topaz
And misty red;
Myriads with beating
Hearts of fire

The aeons
Cannot vex or tire;
Up the dome of heaven
Like a great hill
I watch them marching
Stately and still.

And I know that I
Am honored to be
Witness
Of so much majesty.

— Sara Teasdale —

Scene IV

The Sun never says

music by Dan Forrest

Even after all this time
The sun never says to the earth,
“You owe Me.”
Look what happens with
A love like that,
It lights the Whole Sky.

— Shams-ud-din Muhammad Hafiz —



Scene V

Trial

music by Lauren Spavelko and Rebecca Larkin

Scene VI

Lux Aeterna

music by Steve Dobrogosz

Soloist: Abby Jenkins

<i>Lux aeterna luceat eis,</i>	May eternal light shine on them,
<i>Domine,</i>	Lord,
<i>Cum sanctis tuis in aeternum,</i>	With your saints forever
<i>Quia pius es.</i>	For You are good.
<i>Requiem aeternam dona eis,</i>	Give them eternal rest,
<i>Domine,</i>	Lord,
<i>Et lux perpetua luceat eis.</i>	And may light perpetual shine upon them.

Scene VII

Sure on This Shining Night

music by Morten Lauridsen

Sure on this shining night
Of star made shadows round,
Kindness must watch for me
This side the ground.

The late year lies down the north.
All is healed, all is health.
High summer holds the earth.
Hearts all whole.

Sure on this shining night
I weep for wonder
wand'ring far alone
Of shadows on the stars.

— James Agee —



Scene VIII

Luminous Night of the Soul

music by Ola Gjielo

Long before music was sung by a choir,
Long before silver was shaped in the fire,
Long before poets inspired the heart,
You were the Spirit of all that is art.

You give the potter the feel of the clay;
You give the actor the right part to play;
You give the author a story to tell;
You are the prayer in the sound of a bell.

Praise to all lovers who feel your desire!
Praise to all music which soars to inspire!
Praise to the wonders of Thy artistry
Our Divine Spirit, all glory to Thee.

– Charles Anthony Silvestri –

O guiding night!
O night more lovely than the dawn!
O night that has united
the Lover with his beloved,
transforming the beloved in her Lover.

– St. John of the Cross –

Scene IX

Mary's Dream (reprise)

music by Lauren Spavelko and Rebecca Larkin

Soloist: Regan Tackett



CREATIVE TEAM

Dr. Jason Hiester (Artistic Director & Conductor) performs professionally on both sides of the baton. As a conductor Dr. Hiester was assistant conductor of Opera Columbus for five seasons and is currently artistic director of Converging Arts Columbus, and conductor for the Sacred Music Institute of America. As a vocalist his credits include roles with West Palm Beach Opera, Utah Festival Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Columbus Opera, ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, Florida Grand Opera and concert work with Miami Bach Society, Musica Sacra of Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky Symphony, Columbus Bach Ensemble, Columbus Dance Theater, Central Ohio Symphony Orchestra, Vocal Arts Ensemble of Cincinnati, Springfield Symphony, and Vocal Arts Ensemble of Springfield. He was a winner of both the Schloss Leopoldskron competition in Salzburg, Austria and the West Palm Beach Opera Competition. Locally, he is Associate Professor Music at Ohio Wesleyan University and organist at Powell United Methodist church.

Jamie Kotrba (Choreographer)

Jaime Kotrba is currently the Executive Director at Columbus Dance Theatre where she produces, choreographs and teaches for the professional company and school. Jaime grew up in Northern Michigan and graduated from Interlochen Arts Academy as a dance major under the direction of Sharon Randolph. She attended the Dance Theatre of Harlem School before joining the second company and later the main company dancing work nationally and internationally by George Balanchine, John Taras, Michael Smuin and Geoffrey Holder, to name a few. She has had the pleasure of performing in theaters around the world including State Theatre in New York City, Sadler's Wells Theater in London, England, in the Bermuda Arts Festival and in 2006, at the White House for President George W. Bush, honoring Dance Theatre of Harlem's late Artistic Director, Arthur Mitchell.

In 2006, Jaime helped found the Janusphere Dance Company in New York City, where she choreographed a work that premiered in Santa Barbara, California. In 2007, she joined BalletMet Columbus and enjoyed dancing works by Gerard Charles, David Nixon and many others. She has been a guest artist with Les Grands Ballet Canadiens' production of The Nutcracker, Viewpoint Dance in New York City, and Collage Dance Collective in Memphis, Tennessee. With Collage, she also had the joy of performing in Port Au Prince, Haiti with Ballet D'Afrique Du Haiti.

Jaime has enjoyed being a guest teacher and choreographer for various studios in New York and Michigan and has had the honor of receiving the Greater Columbus Arts Council's Choreography Fellowship in 2011.

Rebecca Larkin (Composer) is a musical storyteller. As a composer and flutist, her music conveys an unraveling narrative that she and her audience can interpret in any way they wish. Inspired by soundtracks and concert music alike, Rebecca writes visual music for the stage and screen. She has been named a finalist for the ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer awards and a scholar for the Game Audio Network Guild (GANG). She is an enthusiastic collaborator and constantly seeks opportunities to create new cross-disciplinary work. Rebecca received her B.M. Flute Performance degree from Ohio Wesleyan University where she studied flute with Nancy Gamso and Randall Hester and composition with Jennifer Jolley and Clint Needham. She earned her M.M. Composition degree from the University of Oregon where she studied composition with Robert Kyr and David Crumb and flute with Molly Barth. When Rebecca is not composing or performing, she is an avid gamer and spends quality time with her rabbit, Oreo.

Joshua W. Martin (Filmmaker & Projections Designer) is a North Carolina native and a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University, with a degree in Theatre & Performance, Film & Media Studies, Sociology & Anthropology, and a concentration in Peace & Conflict studies. As a first-generation theatre artist and maker, Josh has spent the last decade cultivating a career in the performing arts working and designing in with Theatre in the Park, Burning Coal Theatre, Women's Theatre Festival, Imperium Theatre Company, CAM Raleigh, NC Governor's School, and nationally with notable work for La Mama Experimental Theatre, Columbus School for Girls, Converging Arts, Ohio Wesleyan Drama, OWU Opera, Zenon Dance, American Dance Festival, and for independent artists Ryan J. Haddad, Tim Miller - 'NEA Four', Monica Bill Barnes, Ira David Wood III, Evan Rachael Wood, and Tory Bend. His avid commitment to Theatre for Social Change and his vision to make theatre accessible and acceptable, drive his current pursuit of democratizing voices through unconventional spaces. Josh is the Artistic Director of Imperium Arts Inc. and the technical director / resident scenic designer at Theatre in the Park. [www.josh-w-martin.com]

Lauren Spavelko (Composer/Chorus) is a composer, arranger, studio teacher, performer, and visual artist. She has been commissioned by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Johnstone Fund for New Music, the Central Ohio Symphony, and more. Her work has been awarded multiple prizes including the Spoleto Festival's Young Composers Prize (Italy, Baby Book) and the Ruth Anderson Commission Prize (IAWM, Black Box 2.0). She has been a finalist for the NATS Art Song Composition Award and the American Prize in Vocal & Orchestral Music. Lauren operates Musical Life Studio and teaches at Otterbein University. You can hear her laughing through the city while swing dancing, singing, fiddling, and making a joyful raucous with her circle of friends. Learn more: www.LaurenSpavelko.com

CAST & CREW

Erika Alloway (Dancer) began her dance training at Dance Centre North and the Center for Ballet and Dance Arts in Syracuse, NY, and is a graduate of BalletMet Columbus' Pre-Professional and Professional Trainee Programs under the direction of Gerard Charles. Most recently, Erika has performed and choreographed for CDT's Dancers Making Dances and was a winner of the 2014 Columbus Dance Fellowship. She has also guest performed the role of Sugar Plum Fairy for the Warren County Theatre Project from 2016-2018 as well as Rose in the premier of "I Will Wait." Notable favorite CDT roles include Juliet in "Romeo and Juliet," the premiere performance of "Anne: Diary in Dance," in which she originated the role of Anne Frank, and title role of the encore performance of "Claudel," which won the 2015 Greater Columbus Arts Council's Artistic Excellence Award. Erika has also enjoyed performing works by Jaime Kotrba, Seth Wilson, Stella Kane, Laura Wade, and Jan Erkert.

Grace Burkhart (Mary) started dancing before she could even walk. However, her dance education began when she was two years old in Columbus, Ohio. From 2002 until her graduation in 2018, she was a student at Dublin Dance Center. Grace continued her dance education at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music as a ballet-performance major. She has also spent summers training with American Ballet Theater and Boca Ballet Theater. Grace is so excited to start her first year at CDT.

Hannah Carpenter (Chorus) is a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University, where she was a member of two choirs throughout her four years on campus. Originally from the Dayton area, she currently lives in Delaware and teaches middle school language arts and social studies in Marion. Hannah enjoys music, baking and cooking, and learning new things. She is often found wandering a garden center or a bookstore with a coffee in hand. Hannah participated in this production when it premiered at OWU and is thrilled to see it being brought to a new stage! She hopes you enjoy the show!

Joshua Cook (Chorus) is a rising American director, performer, and teacher of opera and music theatre. In April 2022, Joshua adapted and directed 'Cabaret of Hope: Warsaw 1941' for Cincinnati Opera as part of the Jewish Cincinnati Bicentennial. In Spring 2021, Joshua directed Act One of 'La Rondine' and 'La Voix Humaine' for CCM Opera. During July 2021, Mr. Cook joined Cincinnati Opera as their Live Video Score Director. In October 2019, Joshua directed Hildegard von Bingen's 'Ordo Virtutum' with Collegium Cincinnati. In Spring 2020, Joshua directed 'Die Fledermaus' for Opera Project Columbus and 'Falstaff' for CCM Opera. Joshua holds voice & directing degrees from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and The Ohio State University. At both institutions, Joshua performed leading stage roles while receiving

awards from the MONCA and Opera Columbus. In the fall of 2021, Joshua joined the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music as an Adjunct Instructor of Opera.

Devin Copfer (Violin) is a performer, recording musician, arranger, registered Suzuki teacher, and arts entrepreneur based in Columbus, OH. Devin is the Co-Founder and Director of Chamber Brews, a chamber music ensemble committed to breaking down the barriers within classical music. She currently sits on the advisory board of the Johnstone Fund for New Music, serves as Concertmaster of the Worthington Chamber Orchestra, Assistant Concertmaster of the Newark Granville Symphony Orchestra, and violinist for Columbus' Janus String Quartet. Some of her performances include work with the BalletMet, Dr. Mark Lomax, Counterfeit Madison, the Central Ohio Discovery Ensemble, Michael Bubl , the Trans Siberian Orchestra, Columbus Dance Theater, the Columbus Museum of Art, Ohio Wesleyan University, the Ohio State University, Capital University, and the Wexner Center for the Arts.

Vera Ryan Cremeans (Chorus/Mother) is thrilled to be collaborating on her first work with Converging Arts Columbus! Described as "energetic" and "a shining performer" by the Columbus Dispatch, Ms. Cremeans is an accomplished actress and crossover artist who has been fortunate to become a regular performer with Short North Stage, Opera Columbus, Opera Lucca, New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players, Trinity United Methodist Church, and Weathervane Playhouse. She would like to thank her family and friends for always being so supportive of all her endeavors!

Luke Ciminillo Delamotte (Dancer) started his training at the age of nine at The School of Columbus Dance Theatre. He trained as an Intensive Training Program student and joined Columbus Dance Theatre's professional company as a Trainee in 2017 at the age of 16. In 2019, Luke was promoted into the company as an apprentice and is joining the 21-22 season as a full company member. Luke has had the opportunity to attend summer programs at Cincinnati Ballet, American Ballet Theatre and The Juilliard School. One of his favorite roles is Porthos in Columbus Dance Theatre's, "The Three Musketeers." He is currently a student at the Ohio State University, double majoring in City & Regional Planning and Economics. He is very excited to start another season as a dancer at Columbus Dance Theatre.

Alanna Easley (Lighting) is a lighting designer and technician from Philadelphia, PA who graduated with her B.A. in Theatre from Ohio Wesleyan University in 2018. She currently works full time as the L.D. and a performer at Shadowbox Live in Columbus, OH where some of her recent designs include Which One's Pink, Leather & Lace, and Not So Silent Night. She has enjoyed designing and performing in productions everywhere from home living rooms to the Columbus Commons, and was nominated for a Theatre Roundtable Award for Excellence in

Lighting Design for Shadowbox Live's "Holiday Hoopla 2019". Alanna is thrilled to be tackling yet another project with some of her OWU family, and hopes you enjoy the show!

Basil Fett (Chorus) is the retired Director of Choral Music at Wayne High School. Mr. Fett attended Miami University, where he earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree. He also holds a Master of Music Performance degree in choral conducting from Bowling Green State University, where he was a Graduate Conductor in the choral department. Basil studied voice with Fred Gerston, Dr. Orcenith Smith, and Andreas Poulemenos; conducting with Dr. Terry Eder and Richard Mathey; and Score reading with Robert Spano. Mr. Fett has taught voice, directed choirs and taught methods courses as part of the adjunct faculty at Wittenberg University from 1988-2017. In 2004, Basil was instrumental in the formation of Choral Arts Springfield, a professional choir, and the reestablishment of the Springfield Symphony Chorale, now in its eighteenth season with Mr. Fett at the helm. In recent years Fett has been active as a clinician for several honor choirs in the area and conducted the Springfield Symphony in a concert of Mozart in the 2014-2015 season and Brahms' Requiem this past season.

Chien-Hui (Piano) is a native Taiwanese and received her Doctoral of Musical Arts in Piano Performance at The Ohio State University. She is currently an accompanist at OWU Choir and Pianist at Indian Run United Methodist Church in Dublin, OH.

Abby Jenkins (Chorus) has been teaching music since 2017, and currently teaches 6th grade and high school choir in Delaware City Schools. She graduated from The Ohio State University in 2017 with a degree in Choral Music Education. Abby is also the soprano section lead at Linworth United Methodist Church in Dublin, OH. Previously, Abby also has experience with children's choir and competitive pop a cappella. Outside of teaching and performing, Abby enjoys spending time with her husband and two pups.

Ryan Jenkins (Chorus) is a high school choral director, an active choral conductor, and vocalist from Columbus, Ohio. He has been teaching high school choral music since 2017 and is currently the Choral Director at Bishop Watterson High School. Along with his teaching, Ryan is the Director of Traditional Music at Trinity United Methodist Church. Prior to his current appointments, Ryan has experience working with a wide variety of groups including chamber ensemble, children's choir, competitive a cappella and show choir, community choir, sacred music, and high school/collegiate groups. As a vocalist, Ryan has most recently performed with Opera Columbus and the Sacred Music Institute of America's Schola Cantorum. Ryan holds degrees from The Ohio State University (B.M. in Vocal Performance) and University of Toronto (M.M. in choral conducting) where he studied with Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt.

Brennan Johnson (Dancer) began his dance career through musical theater at the age of eight. Brennan also performed alongside his father in numerous variety-style charity shows around Columbus with Columbus Entertainment Productions 4 Charity. Brennan started his ballet training at the age of 16, where he attended BalletMet for three years under Tim Lynch and Daryl Kamer. He became a full time student at Columbus Dance Theatre at the age of 19. Brennan was promoted to a Trainee position in the following year, and then accepted an Apprentice position with the Company the next year. During his time with Columbus Dance Theatre, Brennan had the opportunity to work alongside with and learn from many amazing local and out of state artists and choreographers. Brennan is thrilled to return for the new season as a Company dancer and Young Children's Division Instructor with Columbus Dance Theatre.

Michael Kirkman (Chorus) is well known to Columbus audiences as both a soloist and ensemble singer. He most recently appeared as Spoletta in Opera Columbus' exciting production of "Tosca" as the company returned to the Southern Theater and celebrates its 40th Anniversary. He has performed in roles and as a chorister for the company since 1991, as well as singing with Columbus Light Opera; Columbus Symphony Chorus; Cantari Singers; Cecilian Singers; Lancaster Chorale; and Capriccio Columbus. He has been the soloist for numerous Messiahs and Mozart Requiems, as well as Britten's Agnus Dei; Saint-Saen Requiem; Bach Magnificat; Dubois Seven Last Words of Christ; and Bernstein Chichester Psalms. He is in his twenty-third year as tenor soloist and section leader with the BroadStreet Choir at Broad Street Presbyterian Church.

Andrew LeVan (Chorus/ Father) is a tenor from Dublin, Ohio. He attended The College of Wooster and received his Master's Degree in vocal performance from Indiana University where he studied with Dr. Brian Horne. Andrew premiered the role of Nô in P. Q. Phan's opera The Tale of Lady Thi Kình and has performed as Mayor Upfold (Albert Herring), a Priest in Philip Glass' Akhnaten and others in performances with the Indiana University Opera Theater, The Indiana Festival Theater and the Ohio Light Opera. He was most recently seen playing Grimsby in the Butterfly Guild production of The Little Mermaid, as David in SRO's production of Company and as Njagus in Opera Project Columbus's production of The Merry Widow.

Tony Ludovico (Galileo) is overjoyed to make his debut with Converging Arts Columbus. He's performed in numerous local community theater productions and last appeared as Santa in Columbus Children's Theater performance of "A Christmas Story Musical". He's also played bass for "Grease" (LTOB), "Bare" (Worthington Community Theater), "Bonnie & Clyde" (LTOB) and did the set design for "Present Laughter" (Curtain Players). He has an engineering degree from Texas A&M and works as a Sr. Engineer in information technology. He'd like to sincerely thank all the talented performers, crew and you for supporting CAC.

Thomas McGuire (Dancer) started dancing in Columbus Dance Theatre's School at the age of 2 and 17, and is currently a student in CDT's Intensive Training Program. He is currently a senior at Hilliard Davidson High School and was invited to join the company as a trainee for the 21-22 season. A couple of his favorite dance roles at CDT have been dancing Yoda in the school's production of "Star Wars: The Ballet", and a part of the Trinity in "Matchgirl". Thomas has had the pleasure of attending both Joffrey Ballet Summer Intensive and Nashville Ballet's Summer Intensive for four summers and is excited to join the company this year.

Alexandra Napoli (Dancer) began her dance training in Pittsburgh, PA at The Dance Company for the Performing Arts under the artistic direction of Patricia McKeown. She has attended the Vaganova Summer School with Mansur Kamaletdinov, director and master teacher, The Pittsburgh Youth Ballet Summer Intensive Workshops, and The Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre Summer Intensive Workshops. Alexandra attended Wright State University as a dance major before acquiring an apprenticeship opportunity at the Columbus Dance Theatre in 2005/2006. While at CDT, Alexandra had the title role in Matchgirl and danced in numerous roles with the Company. In 2007-08 she danced as a company member with the Canadian Pacific Ballet under co-artistic directors Roberta Taylor and Graham McMonagle performing various roles in a number of classical ballets. Alexandra is very excited to be back at CDT for her ninth year as a company member.

Nancy Nehring (Viola) started out as a piano major but ended up with degrees in Viola Performance from the Universities of Kansas and Michigan. She was a member of the Oklahoma Symphony, and played with many orchestras in California, Oregon, Colorado, Wyoming, Mexico & Canada. As an administrator she has worked for a college music dept., a national music competition, and a summer chamber music program. Nancy taught viola at every level from Suzuki beginners to college students, and frequently performed with chamber ensembles in Canada, Ohio, Missouri & Minnesota. Formerly principal viola of the Central Ohio Symphony, she is now asst. principal of the Newark-Granville Symphony and a member of Janus String Quartet. Nancy is Personnel Manager for the Newark-Granville Symphony, and accompanies the voice studio of OSU Prof. Kat Rohrer as well as string students around Columbus.

Rachel Parfenchuk (Chorus) is a performer, conductor, and teacher who is passionate about finding new ways to engage the arts with her community. Ms. Parfenchuk, a central Ohio native, has earned degrees in voice from both Cleveland Institute of Music and Ohio Wesleyan University. Her performance highlights include both concert and opera repertoire with Opera Columbus, Columbus Dance Theater, Cleveland Institute of Music Opera Theater, and Ohio Wesleyan Opera Theater. Parfenchuk serves as Director of Music Ministries at Powell United

Methodist Church, maintains a thriving private studio, and continues to perform both solo and choral repertoire around Columbus.

Alexander Pope (Chorus) is thrilled to perform as part of the Astronomer Dreaming before he graduates as part of the Ohio Wesleyan University's class of 2022. Alex has been studying music since middle school and has loved every minute of it. While in college, he has been a part of not only the OWU choir since freshman year, the OWU alumni barbershop quartet, Go Four Broke, for 2 year, and OWU's all-male acapella group, the Jaywalkers, including serving as their president this previous year. He would like to thank his conductors throughout the years, his fellow singers, and his family.

Jana Ross (Violin) performs extensively in Central Ohio as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral player. She currently serves as the concertmaster for the Newark Granville Symphony Orchestra and the principal second violin for the Central Ohio Symphony Orchestra. She was a member of the Colorado Symphony for two years, and served as principal second violin and/or acting concertmaster of the Roanoke Symphony for ten years. She also performed regularly with the Houston Symphony, Ballet, and Opera as well as being an Associate Musician with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra. She has served on the faculty of Chamber Music Connection and was a member of the James Piano Quartet and Summit String Quartet. Jana Ross is in her sixth year as an orchestra director for Gahanna Jefferson Schools. She holds degrees in violin performance from Oberlin Conservatory and Rice University, and her teaching license from Otterbein University.

Gretchen Rutz (Chorus) is an Ohio-born singer and instrumentalist. She received her Bachelor of Music in Music Education from Capital University, and her Juris Doctorate from the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. While pursuing a career as an attorney, she regularly enjoys performing with local music organizations.

Barbara Sahr (Chorus) has performed variously as solo pianist, collaborative pianist, and singer in such national venues as The Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall, Carnegie Hall and Carnegie's Weill Hall, and in European venues of Austria, Germany, France, Italy, Switzerland, and England. Barbara holds performance degrees from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and Westminster Choir College, where she performed with such conductors as Claudio Abbado, Leonard Bernstein, Zubin Mehta, and Riccardo Muti, recording with both Bernstein and Muti. Barbara served as Adjunct Faculty Coach/Accompanist for the Ohio State University's School of Music 1999-2008. She is currently a member of the Adjunct Faculty of the Capital University Conservatory of Music and of the coaching staff for Chamber Music Connection, and serves as rehearsal pianist for the Lancaster Chorale.

Jasmine Spitzer (Chorus) is a freelance vocalist and music educator residing in Columbus, Ohio. She teaches for Columbus City Schools and performs regularly as a jazz vocalist throughout the city. When not singing or teaching, she enjoys cooking, reading, and spending time with her partner and their two sweet pitbulls.

Regan Tackett (Chorus), soprano, holds a degree in Vocal Performance from Oakland University and a Master of Arts degree in Voice Pedagogy from The Ohio State University. During her graduate studies, Ms. Tackett welcomed many performances as Queen of the Night with Opera Columbus's "Opera Goes to School" production of The Magic Flute and enjoyed the opportunity to perform the role of Cunegonde in Ohio State Opera & Lyric Theatre's production of Candide. While currently maintaining a voice studio, Ms. Tackett continues to enjoy a variety of musical genres, performing both modern and classical-period works from the operatic and concert repertoire.

Jane Van Voorhis (Cello) A native of Detroit, Jane Van Voorhis resides in Columbus where she holds a private studio and is an avid freelance cellist. Ms. Van Voorhis performs regularly with the Newark Granville Symphony Orchestra, Dayton Philharmonic, New Albany Symphony, and other various ensembles. Ms. Van Voorhis earned her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the Ohio State University.

Austin Wood (Chorus) graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University in 2021 with a degree in Music Education. A native of Powell, OH, he currently works as an Enrollment Advisor at Game-U, an online school that teaches students how to make video games, of which he is a former student himself. Austin can frequently be found singing in and around Columbus in a variety of choruses and ensembles, including Opera Columbus, OWU's Choral Art Society, and his own barbershop quartet composed of OWU alumni.

BOARD MEMBERS

Rachel Parfenchuk, President
Jason Hiester, Artistic Director
Michael Kirkman, Treasurer

Destiny Coleman
Barbara Sahr
Lauren Spavelko

SPECIAL THANKS

Ohio Arts Council
Greater Columbus Arts Council
Columbus Dance Theater
Hixon Dance
Powell United Methodist Church
Chad Knuston
Ohio Wesleyan University Media Center

Unsplash photography by Simon Berger, Daniel Pascoa, and Benjamin Voros.

