

FRIENDS OF  
*Eastman Opera*

# 22ND ANNUAL VOICE COMPETITION

Adjudicated by

**PRITI GANDHI**

*Artistic Director, Portland Opera*

Friday, February 17, 2023

Kilbourn Hall

8:00 PM



**EASTMAN**  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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UNIVERSITY *of* ROCHESTER

# PROGRAM

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*There will be one 15 minute intermission after the fifth performance.*

**AMY PRESSMAN, SOPRANO**  
**Hanyun Gu, pianist**

**Bester Jüngling** from *Der Schauspieldirektor* Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
(1756-1791)

**Quel guardo, il cavaliere** from *Don Pasquale* Gaetano Donizetti  
(1797-1848)

**Sul fil d'un soffio etesio** from *Falstaff* Giuseppe Verdi  
(1813-1901)

Soprano **Amy Pressman** is excited to be studying at the Eastman School of Music as a first-year Master's student. Amy received her Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance at Baylor University under the tutelage of Dr. Jamie Van Eyck, becoming a Presser Scholar and receiving The Thomas Stewart Award for Vocal Excellence. Favorite roles include Gasparina (*La canterina*), Amore (*L'incoronazione di Poppea*), and Valletto (*L'incoronazione di Poppea*). Amy would like to thank her mentors and family for all their support!

**MADELIN MORALES, MEZZO-SOPRANO**  
**Chun-Hsin (Cynthia) Liu, pianist**

**Paula's Aria** from *Florencia en el Amazonas* Daniel Catán  
(1949-2011)

**Allez-laissez moi seul** from *Cendrillon* Jules Massenet  
(1842-1912)

**When I am laid in earth (Dido's Lament)** from *Dido and Aeneas* Henry Purcell  
(1659-1695)

Cuban-American mezzo-soprano **Madelin Morales** is a fourth-year undergraduate vocal performance major with a business minor at the University of Rochester. She is also an Arts Leadership Certificate Candidate. Recent operatic roles include: Mercédès (*Carmen*), Oberto (*Alcina*), and Taller Daughter (*Proving Up*). This spring, Madelin will sing Paula in EOT's production of Daniel Catán's *Florencia en el Amazonas*. Madelin is a 2022 Ornest Award recipient, awarded for excellence in academic and musical study at Eastman. She is also a 2019 U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts. This summer, Madelin will attend Music Academy of the West as a Lehrer Fellow.

# PROGRAM

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ALEXANDRA ROSE HOTZ, SOPRANO

Maeve Berry, pianist

- Non, Monsieur mon mari from Francis Poulenc  
*Les mamelles de Tirésias* (1899-1963)
- Quando m'en vo' from *La bohème* Giacomo Puccini  
(1858-1924)
- Orpheus never liked words... Matthew Aucoin  
This is what it is to love an artist from *Eurydice* (b. 1990)

Praised for her musicianship and shimmering tone, soprano **Alexandra Rose Hotz** is equally at home on the opera and recital stage. Originally from Toledo, OH, she has performed at Eastman as the title role in *Alcina*, as Mlle. Silberklang in *Der Schauspieldirektor*, and as Phaino in *Here Be Sirens* by American composer Kate Soper. As a concert soloist, she has performed several oratorios, including *The Creation* and *Messiah*, as well as Bach cantatas. Most recently, she performed Mahler's *Symphony No. 2* at Kodak Hall. This season, Alexandra received an Encouragement Award at the 2022-2023 Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition at the Buffalo/Toronto District.

ORI MARCU, MEZZO-SOPRANO

Hannah Harnest, pianist

- Parto, parto ma tu ben mio from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
*La clemenza di Tito* (1756-1791)
- Olga's Aria from *Eugene Onegin* Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky  
(1840-1893)
- Faites-lui mes aveux from *Faust* Charles Gounod  
(1818-1893)

**Ori Marcu** is a mezzo-soprano from Portland, Oregon in her final year of undergraduate studies at the Eastman School of Music. Ori made appearances in Eastman Opera Theater's 2022-2023 season as Bradamante in Handel's *Alcina* and as Tara in Anthony Davis's *Lear on the 2nd Floor*. Other credits with EOT include Colin in Bologne's *L'Amant anonyme*, Pane in Cavalli's *La Calisto*, and Tobias Ragg in *Sweeney Todd*. In the summer of 2022 Ori also appeared as Mercury in Amherst Early Music Festival's production of *The Judgement of Paris* by Daniel Purcell and as Cherubino in Matador Opera Workshop's *Le nozze di Figaro*.

## PROGRAM

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**KATHERINE CULVER JOSLYN, SOPRANO**  
Kelly Soderdahl McNeilly, pianist

- The Transport from Holland** from *Out of Darkness* Jake Heggie  
(b. 1961)
- My Darling Jim** from *Glory Denied* Tom Cipullo  
(b. 1954)
- Bester Jüngling** from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
*Der Schauspieldirektor* (1756-1791)

Soprano **Katherine Culver Joslyn** is completing her masters degree at the Eastman School of Music. She will be making her professional operatic debut as Papagena in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra this season. Katherine is a graduate of SUNY Fredonia School of Music, where she was the winner of the 2019 Concerto Competition. She sang with the Hillman Opera Company, performing roles that include Carolina in Cimarosa's *Il matrimonio segreto*, La Fée in Massenet's *Cendrillon*, and Zerlina in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. Katherine is also devoted to contemporary American repertoire.

**BENJAMIN KRUTSCH, TENOR**  
Chun-Hsin (Cynthia) Liu, pianist

- It was something I could stroke** from Carlisle Floyd  
*Of Mice and Men* (1926-2021)
- Durch die Wälder, durch die Auen** from Carl Maria von Weber  
*Der Freischütz* (1786-1826)
- Ch'ella mi creda** from *La fanciulla del West* Giacomo Puccini  
(1858-1924)

**Benjamin Krutsch**, tenor, recently made his debut as Don José (*Carmen*) with Music on Site Inc. (Kansas). He also appeared as Levi in the world premiere of Lori Laitman's chamber opera *Uncovered*. Last season he was a finalist in the Michael Ballam Vocal Competition at Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theatre, where he covered Don José (*Carmen*), Armored Man (*The Magic Flute*), and Mr. Splinters (*The Tender Land*). This season Benjamin will return to UFOMT as Lohengrin (cover) and Mr. Bumble (*Oliver!*). Benjamin is a Doctoral Candidate in Vocal Performance and Literature at the Eastman School of Music.

## PROGRAM

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KAYLA STEIN, SOPRANO  
Rebecca Golub, pianist

Song to the Moon from *Rusalka*

Antonín Dvořák  
(1841-1904)

Or sai chi l'onore from *Don Giovanni*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
(1756-1791)

Je dis que rien ne m'épouvante from *Carmen*

Georges Bizet  
(1838-1875)

**Kayla Stein** is a 21-year old soprano currently finishing her undergraduate studies at Eastman. Most recently, she was seen in Eastman Opera Theater's production of Anthony Davis's *Lear on the 2nd Floor*, where she sang the title role of Dr. Nora Lear. This past summer, she attended Prague Summer Nights, where she performed the role of Marcellina and covered The Countess in *Le nozze di Figaro*, as well as performed selected scenes as the title role of Dvořák's *Rusalka*. Other past performances include the chorus in Cavalli's *La Calisto* and Granny in Sondheim's *Into the Woods*.

EMILY SKILLING, MEZZO-SOPRANO  
Maeve Berry, pianist

Va! Laisse couler mes larmes! from *Werther*

Jules Massenet  
(1842-1912)

Witch's Aria (Hurr, hopp) from *Hänsel und Gretel*

Engelbert Humperdinck  
(1854-1921)

Cruda sorte! Amor tiranno! from *L'italiana in Algeri*

Gioachino Rossini  
(1792-1868)

**Emily Skilling** is a first year doctoral candidate at Eastman School of Music, where she recently sang the role of Bradamante in Handel's *Alcina*. Professional role credits include Ulrica in *Un ballo in maschera* (Boheme Opera New Jersey), Dame Quickly in *Falstaff* (Martina Arroyo's Prelude to Performance) and Third Lady in *Die Zauberflöte* (The CoOPERative Program). In recent years she has performed as a soloist with the American Bach Soloists Academy, Opera on the James, and Berkeley Community Chorus and Orchestra. Upcoming performances include Mendelssohn's *Elijah* (Berkeley Orchestra), Handel's *Messiah* (Messiah University), Durufle's *Requiem* (Hobart and William Smith Colleges), and Countess Ceprano in Verdi's *Rigoletto* (Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra). She can be heard as the soloist in Georgia State University's upcoming recording of Durufle's *Requiem*, which will be released by Gothic Records later this spring.

# PROGRAM

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SOFIA SCATTARREGGIA, SOPRANO  
Rebecca Golub, pianist

- Escúchame from *Florencia en el Amazonas* Daniel Catán  
(1949-2011)
- Ain't it a pretty night from *Susannah* Carlisle Floyd  
(1926-2021)
- Letter Scene from *Eugene Onegin* Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky  
(1840-1893)

**Sofia Scattarreggia** is a half-Italian, half-American, lyric soprano from Spain praised for her warm, dramatic tone and her facility with languages. Sofia is currently a Doctoral student at Eastman and has been cast in roles including; Florencia in Catán's *Florencia en el Amazonas*, Alcina in Händel's *Alcina*, Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi*, Lady with a Cake Box in Argento's *Postcard from Morocco*, and Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*. Sofia has received numerous accolades, including winning the Buffalo-Toronto District of the Metropolitan Opera's Laffont Competition, winning first place in the NYSMTA Heddy Killian Vocal Competition, and placing third in Eastman's Friends of Eastman Opera Competition.

*After a brief pause, there will be an award ceremony on the Kilbourn stage to announce the winners.*

## ABOUT THE PRIZES

**The Lynne Clarke Vocal Prize** was established in 2003 from a fund created in 1998 by John Clarke in memory of his late wife and continues to be supported through the generosity of John's widow, Stephanie Cooper-Clarke. John and Lynne were founding members of the Friends of Eastman Opera.

**The Annabel Muentner Vocal Prize** was established in 2012 to honor the memory of Ms. Annabel Muentner, a lifelong opera lover and longtime board member of Friends of Eastman Opera.

## MEET THE COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS

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Collaborative pianist **Rebecca Golub** is currently an adjunct professor in RIT's College of Liberal Arts, where she teaches private piano lessons and serves as the pianist for their university choir. She is finalizing her DMA in Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music with a minor in Vocal Coaching at Eastman, where she studies with Dr. Andrew Harley. Rebecca holds an MM in Collaborative Piano from CU Boulder, and a BM from Eastman. This summer, she is thrilled to be joining the faculty of the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival as head vocal coach and collaborative pianist of the Opera Workshop.

**Maeve Berry** is a collaborator who finds immense joy in working with both singers and instrumentalists. At Eastman, Maeve is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music with Dr. Andrew Harley and holds a graduate assistantship in both studio accompanying and music theory. She has appeared at numerous festivals nationally and internationally including Toronto Summer Music Festival, SongFest, and Source Song Festival.

**Hanyun Gu** was born in Suzhou, China and began her music education at the age of six; received her Bachelor's degree in Music Education from the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, and continued her studies at the Manhattan School of Music, where she earned a Master's degree in Piano Performance and a Professional Certificate in Collaborative Piano. She is currently pursuing the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music at the Eastman School of Music, where she holds a Graduate Assistantship in Studio Accompanying, studying with Dr. Andrew Harley.

## MEET THE COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS

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German-American pianist **Hannah Harnest** recently established the critically-acclaimed Music for Thought Series in New York, collaborating with the German Consulate, the Fritz Ascher Society for Persecuted, Ostracized, and Banned Art, New Chamber Ballet, Leo Baeck Institute, 1014-New York, Nicholas Roerich Museum, and James Conlon on concerts considering the intersection of music and cultural events. In March, she is invited to the international art song competition Das Lied with soprano Alexandra Flood and in the summer she will join Seagle Festival as a vocal coach. At Eastman, Hannah is pursuing her Doctorate in Musical Arts with Andrew Harley.

**Chun-Hsin (Cynthia) Liu**, originally from Kaohsiung, Taiwan, is now pursuing her DMA degree in Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music at the Eastman School of Music, where she holds a Graduate Assistantship in Studio Accompanying, Opera Pianist Assistantship in the Voice and Opera Department and studies with Dr. Andrew Harley. Cynthia is also a receiver of the William and Joycelyn Macy Sloan Scholarship (2021-2022), the Barbara M. H. Koeng Award (2021) and Excellence in Accompanying Awards (2022).

**Kelly Soderdahl McNeilly**, originally from Iowa City, is pursuing an MM in Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music at the Eastman School of Music, where he studies with Dr. Andrew Harley. In 2016, he received a BA in Music and Mathematics from St. Olaf College, where he studied piano with Dr. Kent McWilliams, as well as viola. Since then, he has also served as a freelance collaborative pianist, working with undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Iowa.



## 22ND ANNUAL VOICE COMPETITION ADJUDICATOR

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Artistic Director **Priti Gandhi** joined Portland Opera in the fall of 2021 as an artistic and strategic leader, as part of a new leadership team structure for the company. Her role leads the discussions for season planning, casting, development of the young artist program, and oversight of the company's community engagement and educational programs.

Previous to her post in Portland, she was Chief Artistic Officer at Minnesota Opera, where she advised on topics related to company programming, casting, and commissions related to the New Works Initiative. She also created new processes for company-wide conversations regarding diversity in traditional narratives and casting – most notably, exploring the growing discussion of the relevance of the operatic canon in the evolving lens of today – and has become a frequent contributor to panels, podcasts, and published articles regarding the ongoing dialogue of new perspectives in the traditional repertoire. Ms. Gandhi has also served on a number of advisory panels regarding grants and commissions for new work relating to BIPOC stories, including the National Endowment for the Arts, Arts Midwest, IDEA grants with Opera America, Atlanta Opera's 96 hour project, and American Lyric Theater.

She is also passionate about connecting to singers regarding career paths and resources, as well as creating more empowering spaces for artists in the industry – speaking on panels hosted by Opera America (The Changing Audition Landscape, the New Works Forum), The Asian Opera Alliance, Boston Lyric Opera (The Butterfly Process), the Broadway EPIC conference, and various opera companies and universities throughout the region.

In her performance career, she has appeared with the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Opera, Seattle Opera, Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris, the Prague Estates Theatre, Philadelphia Orchestra, and San Francisco Opera, among others. Ms. Gandhi graduated with a BA in communications and a minor in theater from the University of California, San Diego. An alumna of programs at Cleveland Opera and San Diego Opera, Ms. Gandhi is also an amateur painter and flamenco dancer.

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*Music Director, Eastman Opera Theater*  
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For more information, please check the Eastman School of Music website at <http://www.esm.rochester.edu>.

If you would like to register to receive e-mail notification of Eastman events, please go to <http://www.esm.rochester.edu/concerts/ mailing/>

# UPCOMING OPERA EVENTS AT EASTMAN

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March 30-April 1, 2023 at 7:30 PM | April 2 at 2:00 PM

## FLORENCIA EN EL AMAZONAS

*Music by Daniel Catán*

*Libretto by Marcela Fuentes-Berain*

*Based on a novel by Gabriel García Márquez*

Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre

Tickets available at [EastmanTheatre.org](http://EastmanTheatre.org)

Saturday, May 6, 2023

## Jessie Kneisel Competition

Kilbourn Hall, 1:00 PM

Free Admission

Saturday, May 13, 2023

## Jessie Kneisel Winner's Concert

Kilbourn Hall, 8:00 PM

Free Admission

Scan this QR code to see all of the exciting concerts coming up in our 22-23 Eastman Presents Season!



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**Please note:** The use of unauthorized photographic and recording equipment is not allowed in this building. We reserve the right to ask anyone disrupting a performance to leave the hall.

**Restrooms** are located on the main floor of Kilbourn Hall. Fully-accessible restrooms are available on the first floor of the Eastman School. Our ushers will be happy to direct you to them.

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