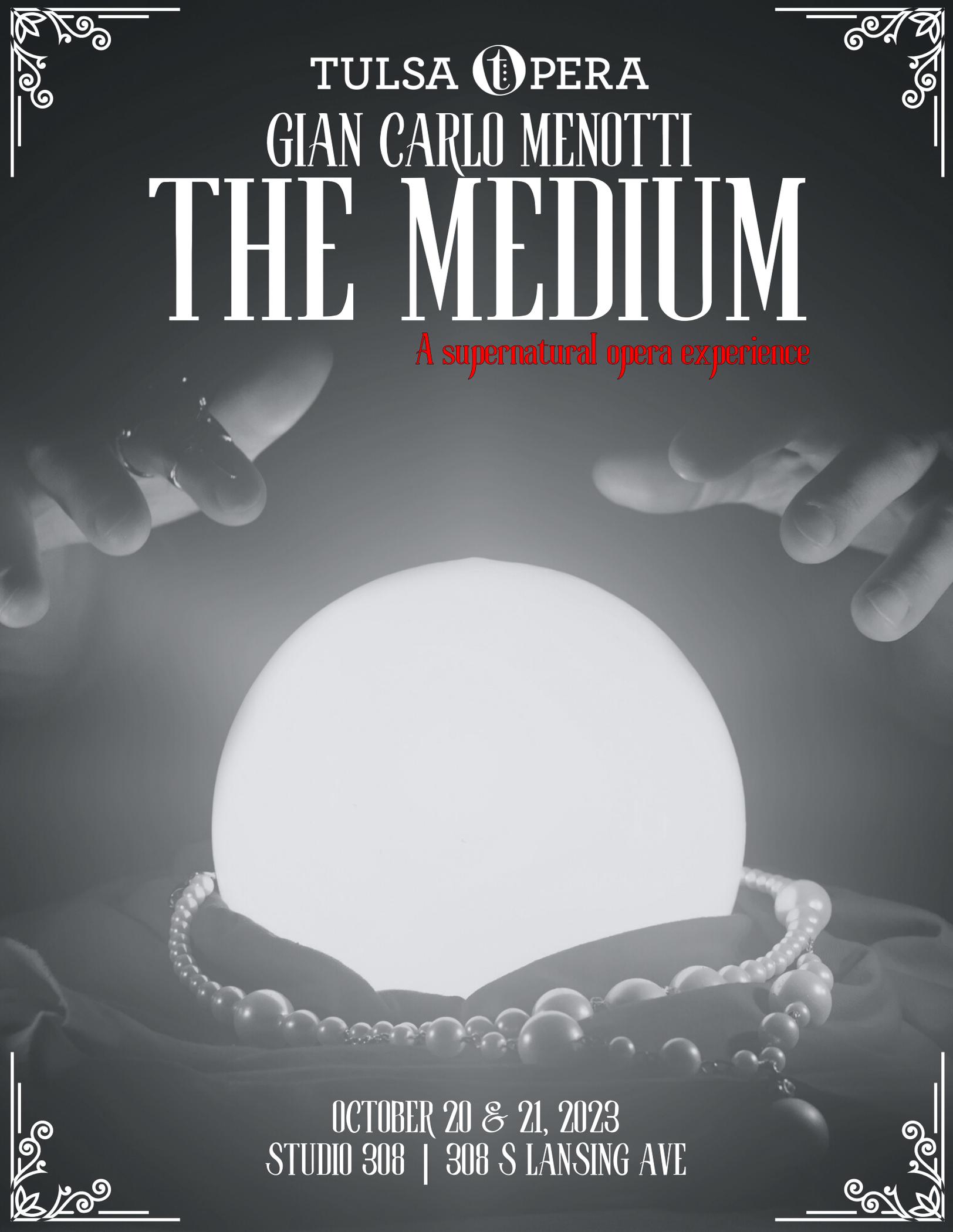




TULSA OPERA
GIAN CARLO MENOTTI
THE MEDIUM

A supernatural opera experience



OCTOBER 20 & 21, 2023
STUDIO 308 | 308 S LANSING AVE



Tulsa Opera's 23-24 Season Continues!



Sarah Coburn

A Benefit Concert for Tulsa Opera

Lyndon Meyer, piano

Saturday, December 2, 2023
at 7:30pm

Lorton Performance Center at the
University of Tulsa

Amahl and the Night Visitors



JANUARY 6 | 2:30 & 7:30PM

JANUARY 7 | 2:30PM

LIDDY DOENGES THEATRE
TULSA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

COMPOSED BY GIAN CARLO MENOTTI
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TULSA YOUTH OPERA
2023-24 Season

The Musical Guide to Relationships: First Dates, Break-Ups, Marriage, Children, Growing Old, and more!

I LOVE YOU,
YOU'RE PERFECT,
NOW CHANGE

Book & Lyrics: Joe DiPietro
Music: Jimmy Roberts
February 9th, 10th, & 11th
Lynn Riggs Theater



Opera Fizz: A Bubbly Night of Music and Mixology

Saturday, April 6, 2024 at 7:30pm
Living Arts of Tulsa



Opera ROCKS the Country



Saturday, June 1st, 2024 at 6-9pm
THE Church STUDIO

TULSA OPERA

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The Medium

Composition by Gian Carlo Menotti
Libretto by Gian Carlo Menotti
presented under license from G. Schirmer Inc, copyright owner
sung in English
run time: 55 minutes without intermission

CAST

<i>Madame Flora (Baba)</i>	Mary Ann Stewart
<i>Monica</i>	Bree Nichols*
<i>Toby</i>	Justin Tomlinson
<i>Mrs. Gobineau</i>	Paige Dickey*^
<i>Mr. Gobineau</i>	Kevin Eckard
<i>Mrs. Nolan</i>	Maddie Breedlove^

CREATIVE LEADS

<i>Music Director & Principal Pianist</i>	Lyndon Meyer
<i>Stage Director</i>	Jennifer Alden*
<i>Scenic Designer</i>	Benjamin Johnson
<i>Costume Designer</i>	Carmen Gilbert
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Matthew Reed*
<i>Hair & Makeup Designer</i>	Sable Brown
<i>Production Stage Manager</i>	Nan Luchini

*Indicates Tulsa Opera debut ^Indicates member of the Tulsa Opera Filstrup Resident Artist Program

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<i>Head of Properties</i>	Nick Mueller
<i>Head of Wardrobe</i>	Maegan Swick
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FRONT of HOUSE ARTISTS

<i>Tarot Card Artist</i>	Anna Katz
<i>Zoltana</i>	Deanna Venable

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Bill & Paddy Harwell
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Baker Sleep 3.4
Tulsa Performing Arts Center Costume Stock

Stage and Wardrobe labor provided under agreement with IATSE local 354 and IATSE local 904.



THE MEDIUM

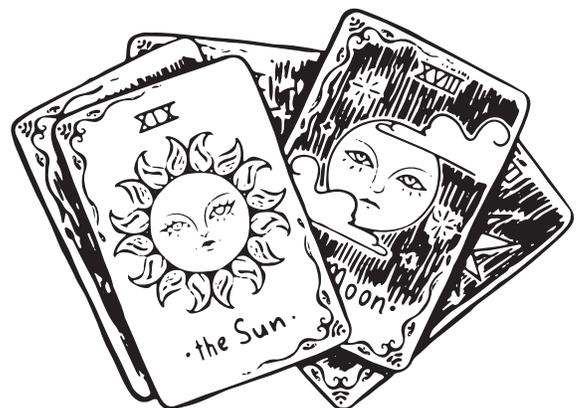
Setting: The 1930s. Madame Flora's parlor.

ACT 1

Monica, the daughter of Madame Flora ("Baba"), and Toby, a mute boy living with them, are amusing themselves while Madame Flora is away. When Madame Flora drunkenly returns home, she is furious that they are not ready for the seance she has planned that evening; she becomes violent, but Monica prevents her from striking Toby. They hurriedly prepare for the seance. Soon three guests arrive: Mr. and Mrs. Gobineau, regular attendees, and Mrs. Nolan, a first-time visitor. With everyone in place, Madame Flora enters into a trance, and the seance begins. Monica pretends to be the departed daughter of Mrs. Nolan, conversing with her. Mrs. Nolan, overcome, rushes to her "daughter" but is quickly restrained by the Gobineaus. Subsequently, Monica begins to laugh like the Gobineaus' deceased two-year old son. They call out to him, and "his" laughter fades. Suddenly, Madame Flora stops the seance and demands the guests leave. She explains she felt a hand clutch her throat during the seance, and after the guests leave, she tells Monica she suspects Toby. As Monica tries to comfort her mother with a lullaby, a mysterious voice terrifies Madame Flora and flings her into another rage against Toby. Monica tried to soothe her mother, but her attempts are foiled, and Madame Flora begins reciting Hail Marys.

ACT II

A few days later, Monica is cheered up watching Toby perform a puppet show for her. Monica, pretending to be Toby's voice, professes their mutual love. When Flora returns, she tries to cajole Toby into confessing that he was the one who touched her during the seance or that he knows something about it. When he does not answer, she begins to whip him but is interrupted by a knock at the door. The three clients from the previous seance enter. Flora gives them their money back and tries to convince them they have been cheated, even revealing to them her tricks, but they refuse to believe her. She throws them out, and despite Monica's protests, throws Toby out as well. Upset by Toby's exit, Monica goes to her room, and Flora, frightened by what she has experienced, drinks herself to sleep. Toby returns, hoping to sneak into Monica's room. He accidentally awakens Flora, who, terrified, begins to shout out. Toby hides from her, but Flora, screaming, attacks the "ghost." Monica returns to find her mother in a state of insanity and Toby in a bloody heap.





AARON BECK
Artistic & Interim
General Director

Aaron Beck joined the team at Tulsa Opera, the twelfth-oldest opera company in the United States, in 2010, and was appointed Artistic Director in 2022. As Artistic Director,

Beck oversees the extensive artistic programs of the company, which include the annual mainstage productions, the Filstrup Resident Artist Program, the Tulsa Opera Orchestra, the Tulsa Opera Chorus, the Tulsa Opera Signature Chorale, and the Tulsa Youth Opera, and he collaborates on dozens of annual outreach performances. As a native of southwest Missouri and an adopted Tulsan, Beck affirms a revitalized commitment to both local and international artists, bringing the best of both worlds together in Tulsa’s premiere performing arts organization. The son of music teachers, Beck feels a strong commitment to the education of those students who will create the future of music. Under his leadership, Tulsa Opera’s education programs have grown to reach thousands of students and teachers annually across Oklahoma and the surrounding region. Beck is Music Director of Tulsa Youth Opera, Tulsa Opera’s prestigious vocal music training program for students in grades 3-12. Over forty Tulsa-area students receive free training through this program. Under Beck’s baton, Tulsa Youth Opera students have presented productions ranging from Menotti’s *Amahl and the Night Visitors* to Dean Burry’s *The Hobbit*. Additionally, in 2017-2018, Beck spearheaded the development of Tulsa Opera’s Raise Your Voice program (now the Raise Your Voice Tour), bringing vocal music to disadvantaged schools throughout Oklahoma. Beck received his Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance from the Manhattan School of Music (with additional studies at the Eastman School of Music) and a Master of Music in Opera Coaching from Florida State University. He lives in northeast Oklahoma with his wife and two children.



LYNDON MEYER
Music Director
Principal Pianist

Lyndon Meyer is a Tulsa-based pianist and conductor. He has served as chorus director, assistant conductor, principal pianist, and vocal coach for the Tulsa Opera since 2014. As a vocal coach, Mr.

Meyer has held positions at the University of Oklahoma, Michigan State University, and the Eastman School of Music, as well as at the Florida Grand Opera, the OK Mozart International Festival, and in Urbana, Italy. In February 2019, he made his

professional conducting debut for Heartland Opera’s production of *La bohème*. In the world of music theatre, he has directed numerous productions around the country and has served as staff accompanist for the annual Lotte Lenya competition since 2009. Mr. Meyer also appears frequently as a recitalist and chamber musician throughout the region. In Tulsa, he holds the post of Director of Music at the Church of Saint Mary and appears as a guest choral conductor and clinician, in addition to maintaining an active coaching studio. Mr. Meyer is a graduate of the University of Arkansas (BM) and the Eastman School (MM).



JENNIFER ALDEN
Stage Director

Jennifer Alden studied under Susan Zadoff at the University of Oregon and Eugene Ballet in Eugene, Oregon. She was a company member of Dance Oregon, performed regularly with the Eugene Opera

Ballet, and danced as a soloist with the State Ballet of Oregon under the direction of Eric Hyrst. Before arriving in Tulsa, she danced with several contemporary dance companies in Portland. At the age of 17, Jennifer choreographed her first musical, *West Side Story*. She has choreographed frequently for Tulsa Opera in productions of *Carmen*, *Roméo et Juliette*, and *Samson et Dalila*. She has directed and choreographed for the “Link Up” program with the Tulsa Symphony Orchestra and has had the pleasure of working with Theatre Tulsa, choreographing productions of *A Chorus Line*, *Oklahoma!*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Ragtime*, *The Producers*, *The Wedding Singer*, *My Fair Lady*, *The Music Man*, *Something Rotten*, and, most recently, *The Sound of Music*, which she also stage directed. A robust community and arts supporter, Jennifer served on the Board of Living Arts of Tulsa as treasurer for five years and served as chair for the Tulsa Young Professionals’ (TYPROs) Arts and Entertainment Crew. Jennifer was Founding Co-Artistic Director, Choreographer, and Company Manger of Oklahoma Movement (formerly Portico Dance Theatre) in Tulsa, where for the last 13 years, she has created, directed, and choreographed 13 full-length works. Jennifer has received awards for 40 Under 40 from both *Tulsa People* and *Business and Legal News*.



MARY ANN STEWART
Madame Flora (Baba)

Mary Ann Stewart sang “Mrs. Julian with a clarion dramatic soprano, capable of both fragility and ice-cold cruelty,” according to Steven Jude Tietjen of *Opera News*, was “a firm and moving Madame Lidoine,”

according to Zachary Woolfe of *The New York Times*

and is “...a major operatic talent...” according to Joseph McLellan of *The Washington Post*. Notable engagements include The Baker’s Wife in *Into the Woods* and Herodias (cover) in *Salome* with Tulsa Opera, the title role of Tobias Picker’s *Thérèse Raquin* with Chicago Opera Theater, Mrs. Julian in *Owen Wingrave* with LOTNY, Adriano in *Rienzi* with the National Philharmonic, the title role in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth* and Madame Lidoine in *Dialogues des Carmélites* with dell’Arte Opera Ensemble, Adalgisa in *Norma* with Bilbao Opera, Miss Jessel in *The Turn of the Screw* at the Festival de Opera de Tenerife, Brangäne in *Tristan und Isolde* with Virginia Opera, Giovanna Seymour in *Anna Bolena* with Opera Orchestra of New York, Sixth Flowermaiden in *Parsifal*, Siegrune in *Die Walküre* and Idamante in *Idomeneo* with Washington National Opera, Stéphanie in *Roméo et Juliette* with the Macau Opera Festival, The Secretary in *The Consul* with Opera Boston, Isolier in *Le comte Ory* with the Opéra Royal de Wallonie, Urbain in *Les Huguenots* with Orquesta Sinfónica del Estado de México, Old Lady in *Candide* at the Teatro Argentina in Rome, Hippolyta in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* with Opéra de Nice, and Rose 3 in Jonathan Sheffer’s Off-Broadway premiere of *Blood on the Dining Room Floor*. One of her greatest thrills was singing the Opera Angel in *Gift of Angels II – The Song of an Angel* at Universal Studios Japan for three consecutive seasons. She returned to USJ in 2019 - 2020 to sing the Queen of the Faeries in *The Crystal Promise*. Highlights of Mary Ann’s concert engagements include Strauss’ Vier letzte Lieder, Fauré Requiem, Mozart Requiem, and Beethoven’s Mass in C at Carnegie Hall, Handel’s *Messiah* at Lincoln Center, Beethoven’s Missa Solemnis at Lehigh University, Ravel’s *Schéhérazade* at the Ravello Festival, Italy, and Manuel de Falla’s *Siete Canciones* with Morales Dance Company. She has had the pleasure to work with conductors Yves Abel, Richard Cordova, Josep Caballé-Domenech, Jacques Delacôte, John DeMain, Plácido Domingo, Arthur Fagen, Christopher Fecteau, Heinz Fricke, Piotr Gajewski, Steven Jarvi, Peter Mark, John Massaro, Andreas Mitisek, Steven Osgood, Victor Pablo Pérez, Eve Queler, Gil Rose, Cathy Venable, Alberto Zedda, and David Zinman.



BREE NICHOLS

Monica

Bree Nichols is a young American soprano praised for her “rich vocal disposition” (KlasikaPlus) and compelling stage presence. A Fulbright grantee to the Czech Republic in 2021-22, Bree is known for her sensitive interpretations of

Czech vocal music as well as over a dozen operatic roles spanning a diverse repertoire. Her career has

taken her to the stages of the North Czech Philharmonic, Opera Pilsen, Symphony of the Mountains, Capitol City Opera, Opera Roanoke, Lewisville Lake Symphony, the Olomouc Baroque Festival, and more. She is pleased to make debuts this season with Tulsa Opera as well as Music On Site as Rosalinde in *Die Fledermaus*. Earlier this season, Bree won 1st prize in the Artist Division of the National Opera Association’s Carolyn Bailey Argento Vocal Competition, as well as the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition. She was named a 2023 recipient of the Bonnie Cummins Fielder Grant for Career Advancement and was winner of the 2020 Presser Award in support of her performance and study of Czech opera. Her recent roles include the title roles of *Lucia di Lammermoor* and *The Bartered Bride* as well as *Gilda* in *Rigoletto* and *Nedda* in *Pagliacci*. Off the stage, Bree Nichols is an innovator in community opera, where her performance experience informs her leadership in shaping the next generation of musicians. In 2022, she founded Opera Arlington, an organization created to inspire the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex through opera while galvanizing the careers of emerging singers. Bree is also founder and former general director of Stafford Opera Troupe in her hometown of Stafford, Virginia, where she created the Summer Opera Program offering free training and performance opportunities to young singers. Bree holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from University of North Texas and a Master of Music degree from University of Georgia. Her dissertation, culminating in the creation of an anthology of Czech opera arias with corresponding research, translations, and phonetic transcriptions, has galvanized her continuing performance and study of Czech opera and art song in the U.S. and abroad.



JUSTIN TOMLINSON

Toby

Justin Tomlinson is thrilled to be doing another show with Tulsa Opera. They have been in Tulsa Opera productions of *Tosca*, *Turandot*, and *Into the Woods*. Justin holds a BFA in Theatre Performance from the University of Central Oklahoma. They perform as a standardized patient actor for the University of Oklahoma’s Simulation Center. In the past they have worked with almost every theatre company in Tulsa and have written for Heller Theatre Company’s Sunday Serial Project. Justin is a frequent artist educator for American Theatre Company’s educational programs and teaches private acting classes.

**PAIGE DICKEY****Mrs. Gobineau**

Paige Grilliot Dickey holds a Bachelor of Music in Education from the University of Arkansas and a Master of Music in Opera Performance from Oklahoma City University. Paige has been a

longtime member of the Tulsa Opera Chorus where she also performs frequently as an Outreach Artist through the Filstrup Resident Artist Program. Paige was a young artist performer with both the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival and the Castleton Music Festival. An equal lover of musical theatre, Paige has enjoyed performing with local theatre companies, appearing most recently as Ghost of Christmas Past in ATC's *A Christmas Carol*. As a highly respected educator, Paige has worked as a high school music teacher and choir director, a collegiate instructor of voice, and, currently, as the elementary music teacher at Mayo Demonstration Elementary of TPS, a position she is thrilled to hold. Paige is so thankful for the support of her husband, Andy, their precious baby boy, Marty, and their perfect dogs, Luna and Mulligan.

**KEVIN ECKARD****Mr. Gobineau**

Kevin Eckard, bass-baritone, is currently a professor of voice and head of the vocal arts division at the University of Central Oklahoma and is thrilled to be returning to the Tulsa Opera stage. Kevin has

performed frequently throughout the United States, Italy, China, Mexico, Austria, and Great Britain. He has performed as a soloist with The Messiah Festival in Lindsborg, Kansas, the International Choir Festival in Chester, England, Painted Sky Opera, Indianapolis Opera, Tulsa Opera, Denver Opera, Wichita Opera, Colorado Symphony, National Repertory Orchestra, Pueblo Symphony, Boulder Philharmonic, the Carmel and Anderson Symphonies in Indiana, Augusta Opera, Opera Carolina, Canterbury Choral Society, Tulsa Oratorio Chorus, Enid Symphony, and Lyric Theater of OKC. Kevin has been the featured soloist in productions of the Mozart Requiem, Brahms Requiem, Faure Requiem, Handel's *Messiah*, and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, among others. His many credits include the roles of Boris Godunov (*Boris Godunov*), Raimondo (*Lucia di Lammermoor*), Budd (*Albert Herring*), Blich (*Susannah*), Don Magnifico (*La Cenerentola*), Monterone (*Rigoletto*), Masetto (*Don Giovanni*), Secret Policeman (*The Consul*), Don Alfonso (*Così fan tutte*), Escamillo (*Carmen*), Dulcamara (*L'elisir d'amore*), Bishop of Basingstoke (*Jekyll and Hyde*) and Caiaphas (*JCS*).

**MADDIE BREEDLOVE****Mrs. Nolan**

Maddie Breedlove, named Voice of the Heartland in 2018, is currently a Filstrup Resident Artist with the Tulsa Opera in Tulsa, OK. Maddie is known for her extreme versatility in her comedic and dramatic

performances and her passion for genuine connection to the audience, the role, and cast. Her notable operatic and musical theatre roles include Cinderella's Stepmother in *Into the Woods* (Tulsa Opera), Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, Judith in *Bluebeard's Castle*, Eduige in *Rodelinda*, Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel* (OU University Theatre), and Nancy in *Oliver!* (Sooner Theatre). European concert work includes singing as the mezzo-soprano soloist in Haydn's St. Nicholas Mass, Mozart's Requiem, and Haydn's *Heiligmesse* performed in Eisenstadt, Austria. Maddie has also traveled as a soloist with the Zielinski singers across Poland. Maddie graduated with her master's degree in opera from the University of Oklahoma where she studied under the guidance of Dr. Delores Leffingwell, Dr. Donna Mitchell-Cox, Dr. Celia Wollenberg, Marilyn Horne, and Lorne Richstone.

**CARMEN GILBERT****Costume Designer**

Carmen Gilbert is proud to be designing for Tulsa Opera. As a member of IATSE Wardrobe Local 904, she has stitched and dressed for numerous touring productions. She has designed costumes for American

Theatre Company and the theatre department at Tulsa Community College, where she also served as an adjunct instructor. She has worked with Tulsa Ballet, Shakespeare in the Park, and Tulsa Project Theatre. Carmen recently designed the costumes for the film *Love at the Christmas Contest*, which can be seen on Pluto and Amazon Video. When not doing costumes, Carmen maintains her Etsy shop "Yaneedahat" selling "Landfill Luxury" bucket and trapper hats!

**MATTHEW REED****Lighting Designer**

Matthew Reed is a graduate of the Wichita State University Theatre Department. He has worked in theatres across the United States and England, designing for dance, musicals, corporate events, and plays.

Currently, Matthew is the Director of Performance Facilities at The University of Tulsa and an IATSE Local 354 Journeyman.

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Dr. & Mrs. Bruce C. Stoesser
Dr. Robert C. Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. John B. Turner
Mr. & Mrs. Randolph Wagner
Mrs. Cayce Wendeborn
Mrs. Randi Wightman
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Mr. Peter Martin Walter
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REVERENCE

Gifts made in honor or in memory of others are tributes distinct and deserving of the highest respects. Our sincerest thanks to the following.

Recognition from July 1, 2021 - October 1, 2023

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Mr. Peter Athens
Mr. Dennis Neill & Mr. John Southard
Dr. Marilyn Carver
Mr. John Dyer
Mrs. Charlotte Curry
Mr. & Mrs. Scott H. Filstrup
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Mrs. Amanda McCollough
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Mr. & Mrs. Scott H. Filstrup
Mrs. Dave Sylvan (Barbara)



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SIGNATURE CHORALE



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TULSA YOUTH OPERA

RAISE YOUR VOICE TOUR

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

SONGS BY HEART

ARIAS & ALES



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#TRADITION&INNOVATION

ARIA YOGA



Root Tulsa
photo by Destiny Green