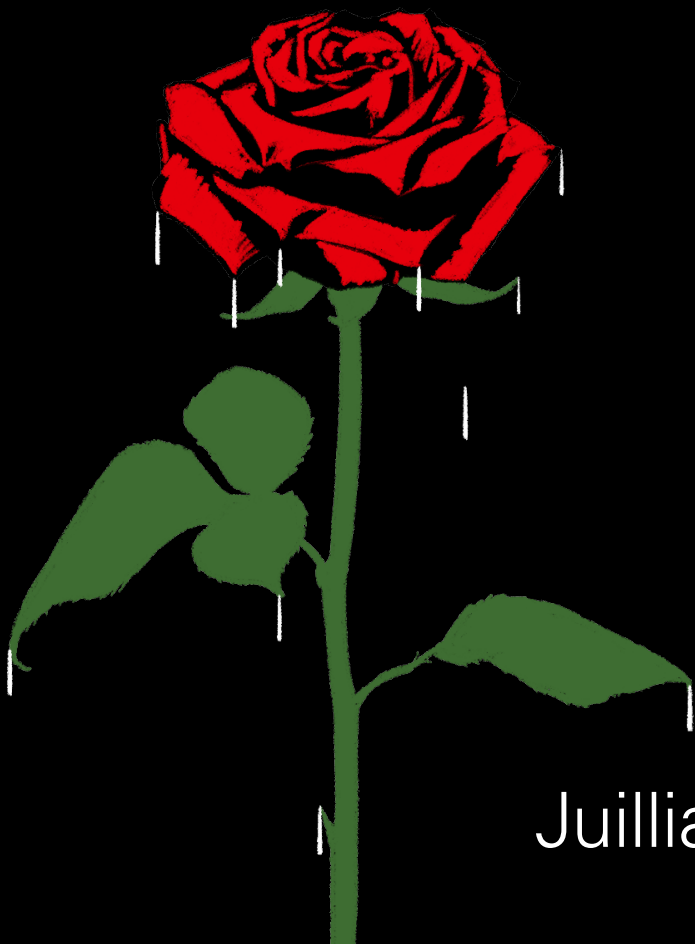


JUILLIARD OPERA PRESENTS

Flowers and Tears

A program of bel canto scenes from
operas by Donizetti, Rossini, and Verdi



Juilliard



Photo by Claudio Pappalardo

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The Juilliard Scholarship Fund provides vital support to any student with need and helps make a Juilliard education possible for many deserving young actors, dancers, and musicians. **With 90 percent of our students eligible for financial assistance**, every scholarship gift represents important progress toward Juilliard's goal of securing the resources required to meet the needs of our dedicated artists. Gifts in any amount are gratefully welcomed!

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The Juilliard School
presents

Flowers and Tears

Music by Gaetano Donizetti, Gioachino Rossini, and Giuseppe Verdi

Recorded May 26-30, 2021

Rosemary and Meredith Willson Theater

Kamal Khan, Music Director

Mo Zhou, Director

The Cast

Patrick Bessenbacher

Lydia Grace Graham

Erik Grendahl

Deborah Love

Santiago Pizarro

Matthew Soibelman

Erin Wagner

Lighting Designer and Visual Collaborator: Marie Yokoyama

Costume Stylist: Andrea Hood

Juilliard's Ellen and James S. Marcus Institute for Vocal Arts was established in 2010 by the generous support of Ellen and James S. Marcus.

The Juilliard School is grateful to Sarah Billingham Solomon and Howard Solomon for their generous support of the Ellen and James S. Marcus Institute for Vocal Arts and the Juilliard Opera season.

Juilliard's livestream technology is made possible by a gift in honor of President Emeritus Joseph W. Polisi, building on his legacy of broadening Juilliard's global reach.

Juilliard is committed to the diversity of our community and to fostering an environment that is inclusive, supportive, and welcoming to all. For information on our equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging efforts, and to see Juilliard's land acknowledgment statement, please visit our website at juilliard.edu.

GAETANO DONIZETTI (1797-1848)	from <i>Torquato Tasso</i> Instrumental interlude
GIOACHINO ROSSINI (1792-1868)	from <i>L'assedio di Corinto</i> "Cessi vittoria ... Sorgete, sorgete" Matthew Soibelman, Bass
DONIZETTI	from <i>Lucrezia Borgia</i> "Ciel! ... Che vegg'io?" Deborah Love, Soprano Patrick Bessenbacher, Tenor
DONIZETTI	from <i>Anna Bolena</i> "Per questa fiamma indomita" Erin Wagner, Mezzo-Soprano Santiago Pizarro, Tenor Matthew Soibelman, Bass
GIUSEPPE VERDI (1813-1901)	from <i>Oberto</i> "Ah! Sgombro è il loco alfin ... Sotto il paterno tetto" Deborah Love, Soprano
DONIZETTI	from <i>Roberto Devereux</i> "Ed ancor la tremenda porta ... A te dirò" Santiago Pizarro, Tenor Patrick Bessenbacher, Tenor
DONIZETTI	from <i>Fausta</i> "A te, Signor del mondo" Lydia Grace Graham, Soprano Erin Wagner, Mezzo-Soprano Santiago Pizarro, Tenor Erik Grendahl, Baritone Matthew Soibelman, Bass
ROSSINI	from <i>Il turco in Italia</i> "Squallida veste" Lydia Grace Graham, Soprano
ROSSINI	from <i>Il barbiere di Siviglia</i> "Cessa di più resistere" Patrick Bessenbacher, Tenor
DONIZETTI	from <i>Torquato Tasso</i> "Qual son? Qual fui? Che chiedo? ... Perchè dell'aure in sen" Erik Grendahl, Baritone, with the company

Covers

Amanda Batista, Maggie Reneé, Joseph Parrish, Richard Pittsinger

Music Preparation: Reed Woodhouse

Language Preparation: Corradina Caporello

Associate Coach and Rehearsal Pianist: John Arida

Production Stage Manager: Nicole Mitchell Mommen

Assistant Costume Designer: John Polles*

Assistant Stage Managers: Paulina Campbell* and Christian Rodriguez*

Titles Creator: Celeste Montemarano

**Member, Professional Apprentice Program*

Creating opera during the pandemic is not for the faint of heart—not only do we need to abide by stringent safety protocols such as face-masking and maintaining 12 feet of social distancing between singers, but we also face a challenging question: Why do we present this art form now? How can we make it relevant in this challenging time?

What you are going to see from this streaming performance is a candid capture of our exploration of those two questions at Juilliard during the peak of the pandemic in May. Our production presents a medley of *bel canto* scenes, reflecting on our psychological landscape as human beings and as artists during this unprecedented time.

When it comes to presenting the style of *bel canto* opera, we often get stuck in the stereotypical ideas of elaborate scenic pieces and lavish costumes. I deliberately want to strip away the frivolous skin of this notion and force us to face the naked emotional crucible of each individual character—in a way, it mirrors our individual struggle during the confinement of the lockdown.

Though each scene is carefully selected from drastically different repertoire, I aim to create a throughline story. In this production, we start with the character of an artist and, through his eyes, follow each inspiration he gleans from strangers on the street. We witness how those fictionalized journeys unfold and intertwine with his own experience as an artist during the lockdown—as he creates them, in the end, they also rescue him during the darkest moment of his life.

I am proud of this ensemble of students and how sincerely and bravely they present this narrative through their artistry and courage. It validates my belief that, as artists, we rescue and heal through our artistic creation. That is what makes artists essential and relevant.

When we all emerge out of this chaotic time of deep loss, how would we distill this experience and move forward? I think it would be like a line from Donizetti's *Torquato Tasso*:

“Un fiore ed una lagrima”—“A flower and a tear”



Kamal Khan (Music Director)

Indian-American Kamal Khan combines an active performing career as conductor and pianist with a passionate commitment to the globalization of operatic training. He is a founding member of Opera for Peace and artistic director of Classical Vocal Arts International. He is visiting extraordinary professor at NWU, South Africa; director of the Taller de Jóvenes Cantantes in the Dominican Republic; and is affiliated with the Royal Opera Jette Parker Young Artists Program, Guildhall School, iSING Festival, China, and Voices of South Africa Festival. He has performed with artists such as Michael Fabiano, Nadine Sierra, Bryn Terfel, Levy Sekgapane, Pretty Yende, Dmitri Hvorostovsky, Teresa Stratas, Plácido Domingo, and Joshua Bell. The Emmy Award-winning PBS documentary *I Live to Sing* centers on his work at the University of Cape Town.



Mo Zhou (Director)

Mo Zhou is a Chinese-born stage director based in New York City. She has directed at Staatsoper Berlin, NCPA China, the Santa Fe Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Wolf Trap Opera, and Juilliard, among others. She has also worked as a staff director with companies such as Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, and Dallas Opera. Zhou has completed trainings as a directing fellow at Juilliard's Ellen and James S. Marcus Institute for Vocal Arts and Wolf Trap Opera, 2050 artistic fellow with New York Theatre Workshop, and apprentice stage director at Merola Opera Program in San Francisco. She earned her BA at Bowdoin College and MFA at Columbia. She will join the faculty of the University of Missouri—Kansas City Conservatory as its new director of opera this fall.



Patrick Bessenbacher

Patrick Bessenbacher is a tenor from Overland Park, Kansas, in his first year as a master's student at Juilliard. He received his BM in vocal performance from the University of Colorado, Boulder, where he sang many roles including Lurcanio in *Ariodante*, George Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life*, Bénédict in *Béatrice et Bénédict*, and Tony in *West Side Story*. Bessenbacher has also spent time in Schroom Lake, New York, at the Seagle Music Festival, where he appeared as Monkey in Kamala Sankaram's children's opera *Monkey and Francine in the City of Tigers* as well as other supporting and chorus roles. Bessenbacher is a student of William Burden.

- Mildred H. Kellogg Scholarship



- Abraham Sheingold Voice Scholarship

Lydia Grace Graham

Hailing from Danville, Kentucky, soprano Lydia Grace Graham is a first-year master's student studying with Marlena Malas. Last season at Juilliard, she sang Lillian Russell in *The Mother of Us All*, with MetLiveArts and the New York Philharmonic as well as Blanche de la Force in a devised version of *Dialogues of the Carmelites*. In 2019, she made her Chautauqua Opera Company debut in *The Ghosts of Versailles* and was a soloist in Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra. She won second prize in the 2020 Dayton Opera Guild Competition. Graham performed at the Kennedy Center as a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts and at National Sawdust debuting two opera scenes with the Opera-Composer Collaborative Project.



Erik Grendahl

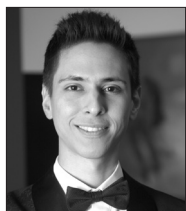
Originally from Boydton, Virginia, baritone Erik Grendahl is a first-year Master of Music student at Juilliard, where he studies with Darrell Babidge. Grendahl graduated from James Madison University (JMU) in Harrisonburg, Virginia, with degrees in music and statistics. His recent performances include Sharpless in IN Series Opera's adaptation of *Madama Butterfly*, the Count in Bel Cantanti Opera's production of *Le nozze di Figaro* and Joseph De Rocher in JMU Opera's production of *Dead Man Walking*. Grendahl was a festival artist for Opera Saratoga's 2020 season. Although the traditional season was impacted by the pandemic, he appeared in several of Opera Saratoga's digital initiatives throughout the summer.



- New York Community Trust Schoen-René Scholarship, Loretta Lewis Award in Voice

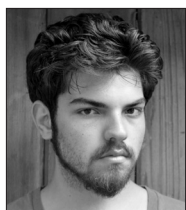
Deborah Love

American soprano Deborah Love, who hails from Harlem, is enrolled in the Graduate Diploma program at Juilliard studying with Elizabeth Bishop. She earned her MM in 2019 from the Aaron Copland School of Music. In 2017, she made her international debut as First Lady in *Die Zauberflöte* under the baton of Olaf Storbeck at the National Opera of Weimar. Recent engagements include performances as the soprano soloist for Mozart's *Requiem* with Queens College Choral Society as well as La Contessa in *Le nozze di Figaro* and Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte* with the Aaron Copland School of Music. Last year, Love sang the role of Constance Fletcher in *The Mother of Us All* with the New York Philharmonic at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



Santiago Pizarro

Peruvian tenor Santiago Pizarro won first prize at the 2017 National Classical Singing Competition of Filarmonía Radio, Peru. He is a creative, outgoing and passionate artist as well as an advocate for intercultural communication. He has portrayed roles in diverse styles, from Nerone in *L'incoronazione di Poppea* to Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Pizarro has performed at venues such as Opera Holland Park in London, the Gran Teatro Nacional in Lima, and Opéra Royal in Versailles. His commitment to innovation has taken him to commission and premiere several original works. This summer, he will be performing the role of Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte* at the Lyric Opera Studio Weimar, Germany. He is a Master of Music student at Juilliard, studying with William Burden.



Matthew Soibelman

Bass Matthew Soibelman, from Los Angeles, is a Graduate Diploma in Vocal Arts student at Juilliard, where he studies under Darrell Babidge. He was a Bailey Apprentice Artist with Palm Beach Opera for its 2019–20 season, covering Zaretsky and study-covering Gremin in *Eugene Onegin* as well as study-covering Bartolo in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and performing the role in a shortened children's performance. He received his bachelor's degree from California State University of Northridge. He can also be heard on the motion picture soundtracks of *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, and *Transformers: The Last Knight*.

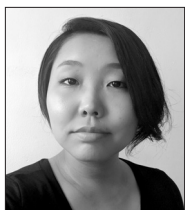
- Marion L. Dears Memorial Scholarship, Robert A. Morgan Scholarship



Erin Wagner

Mezzo-soprano Erin Wagner, originally from El Paso, is pursuing a master's degree at Juilliard studying with Darrell Babidge. This year, she won the Naumburg International Vocal Competition with a recital program that examined the affliction of women. As winner of the Juilliard Vocal Arts Honors Recital, she presented songs by Peter Lieberman as well as her collaborator and pianist, Shawn Chang. Wagner won second place in the Saengerbund German Vocal Competition, participated in Renée Fleming's Carnegie Hall SongStudio, and sang in recital with Steve Blier and Bénédicte Jourdois at Caramoor. At Juilliard, she has performed in Brian Zeger's Songfest, Pierre Vallet's Liederabend (heard on WQXR), and *The Mother of Us All* with the New York Philharmonic and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. This summer, she joins Aspen's Renée Fleming Artist Program.

- Jack Bakal Classical Artist Scholarship, Lorna Dee Doan Scholarship, Allen R. and Judy Brick Freedman Scholarship



Marie Yokoyama (Lighting Designer and Visual Collaborator)

Marie Yokoyama is a lighting and occasional set designer based in New York, where she spends the majority of her time designing for new plays and dabbling in film lighting for commercials. Her live design credit includes *Orpheus in the Underworld* with Juilliard, *pen/man/ship* with Molière in the Park, *The Mystery of Irma Vep* with St. Louis Rep, *Testmatch* with American Conservatory Theater San Francisco, *Tiny Beautiful Things* with Merrimack Repertory Theatre, *Do You Feel Anger* with Vineyard Theatre, and *Pillowtalk* with Kyoung's Pacific Beats. She is the associate artist for the Redhouse Arts Center, where she has designed *God of Carnage*; *Almost, Maine*; *On Golden Pond*; *Ragtime*; *Passion Play*; and *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*. Her film lighting programming credits include the Nike 2020 Olympic Instagram Promotion, Met Gala Vogue Instagram Booth 2017, New York City Ballet 2017-18 season promo, and Ansel Elgort's "Thief" music video.



Andrea Hood (Costume Stylist)

Juilliard Opera credits include *Dialogues of the Carmelites* and *Orpheus in the Underworld* (with Mo Zhou). Select credits include: Off Broadway, *Hercules*, *Twelfth Night*, *As You Like It*, *Romeo and Juliet* (Public Theater/Shakespeare in the Park); *Love and Information* (New York Theatre Workshop; Lucille Lortel nomination); *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Othello*, *The Comedy of Errors* (Classic Stage Company); Regional, *The Who's Tommy* (Kennedy Center); Williamstown Theatre Festival, Glimmerglass Festival, Huntington Theater Company, Two River Theater, Maltz Jupiter Theatre, and PlayMakers Rep; International Opera, National Centre for the Performing Arts, Beijing; Berlin State Opera House, Germany.

Nicole Mitchell Mommen (Production Stage Manager)

Nicole Mitchell Mommen made her Juilliard Vocal Arts debut as production stage manager for *Così fan tutte* in 2019 and is thrilled to return for *Flowers and Tears*. She is an AGMA Stage Manager and works for New York City Ballet. Favorite past productions include *Ballet Under the Stars* at the 2021 Spoleto USA Dance Festival, 2019 and 2021 Vail International Dance Festival, *The Table of Silence* with Buglisi Dance Theater, DEMO at the Kennedy Center, *El Sueño Americano* in Spain, and Les Étés de la Danse festival in Paris with Miami City Ballet. During the COVID-19 shutdown, Mommen became a certified COVID safety officer and has worked with Palm Beach Opera, New York City Ballet, and Opera Saratoga in this capacity.

Ellen and James S. Marcus Institute for Vocal Arts

One of America’s most prestigious programs for educating singers, The Juilliard School’s Ellen and James S. Marcus Institute for Vocal Arts offers young artists programs tailored to their talents and needs. From bachelor and master of music degrees to an advanced Artist Diploma in Opera Studies, Juilliard provides frequent performance opportunities featuring singers in its own recital halls, on Lincoln Center’s stages, and around New York City. Juilliard Opera has presented numerous premieres of new operas as well as works from the standard repertoire.

Juilliard graduates may be heard in opera houses and concert halls throughout the world; diverse alumni artists include well-known performers such as Leontyne Price, Renée Fleming, Risë Stevens, Tatiana Troyanos, Simon Estes, and Shirley Verrett. Recent alumni include Isabel Leonard, Susanna Phillips, Paul Appleby, Erin Morley, Sasha Cooke, and Julia Bullock.

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