



The UWSP Opera Workshop presents

# Acis and Galatea

George Frideric Handel

**Matthew Markham**  
Director of Opera

**Matheus Cruz**  
Artistic Director

**DISCOVER**  
**YOUR PURPOSE**



Department of Music  
College of Fine Arts & Communication  
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

**UW-Stevens Point Opera Workshop presents**

# **Acis and Galatea, HWV 49a**

**Music by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)  
Libretto by John Gay, Alexander Pope and John Hughes**

Director and Producer **Matthew Markham**  
Music Director **Matheus Cruz**  
Assistant Director **Emily Ruth**  
Choreographers **Kaitlin Kopp and Lenna Wren**

### **Indigenous Peoples Land Acknowledgement**

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point exists upon land inhabited by the original indigenous people of this area, including the Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and the many other nations and groups that predate colonial borders.

We acknowledge that with colonization Native American people have been dispossessed of their lands and irreparably changed by the actions of individuals and institutions.

We acknowledge our responsibility to understand and respond to those actions. In partnership with the Native American Center, we commit to working together to honor the past, be intentional in the present, and to build our future with truth.

# **SYNOPSIS**

***Ancient Greece***

***Festival of Dionysus***

***Sunset to Sunrise***

*Acis is in love with Galatea.*

*The monster, Polyphemus, also loves her.*

*In a jealous rage, and spurned by Galatea,*

*Polyphemus hurls a boulder at Acis and mortally wounds him.*

*Galatea uses her immortal powers to transform her dead lover*

*into a stream that will flow eternally.*

**- Matthew Markham**

# A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTORS

## Good evening and welcome to the Festival of Dionysus in Ancient Greece!

As is typical of the Dionysia, you will celebrate life, love, freedom, fertility – and best of all, get to watch a dramatic performance. This evening's festival features Handel's first dramatic work in the English language, *Acis and Galatea*, which is described as a pastoral opera or as Handel wrote in one of his letters, a "little opera." The action of the show takes place in a courtyard turned amphitheater. Damon, an ethereal sprite, will be your guide through the festival and will provide you with morals and messages along the way.

Though clearly operatic and full of Handel's signature da capo arias, the style of *Acis and Galatea* is reminiscent of great English music of the late 17th century. Throughout the opera, there are echoes of Purcell's warm choral writing, along with elements of concerto grosso style in the instrumental writing, French elegance and transparency in the vocal writing, and Germanic counterpoint in some of the graver moments of the piece. It holds together as an organic whole and is a beautiful snapshot of Handel's genius. It became his most performed work during his lifetime.

At its core, *Acis and Galatea* explores the ways in which we are transformed by loss – and how we cling to hope amid the pain. In preparing this work for the stage, we pored over *Acis and Galatea's* source material: Book XIII of Ovid's 2,000-year-old epic *Metamorphoses*. Ovid's poetry contains tales of people and gods who, because of extreme grief or calamity, become transformed into a tree or a rock, or in the case of Acis, a stream of water. The basic idea behind these stories is that extreme grief and extreme loss lead to a metamorphosis.

Ovid suggested that only art enables people to transcend suffering. In our own lives, people who have experienced extreme loss are never the same. We are transformed by the sudden loss of those who are nearest and dearest to us, and that's what this piece is all about. While *Acis and Galatea* touches on some somber themes, it also has joy, levity, and love! The Baroque period is categorized by balance and contrast. Chaos and calm, light and dark, good and evil, all are present in Baroque art. Is this not true in life, too?

As you enjoy the night's festivities, we encourage you to bear in mind the words of Ovid, "what we have been, or now are, we shall not be tomorrow."

- Dr. Matthew Markham and Emily M. Ruth

## ABOUT THE INTERMISSION

The program will run for approximately two hours, including a 25-minute intermission.

Enjoy the performance at the festival and partake of the festivities at the intermission. Wines in the names of each of the four main characters have been provided by Sunset Point Winery. You may enjoy the Acis, the Galatea, the Damon, and if you dare, the Polyphemus. You might spot Damon and observe firsthand the magical powers of our dancers, as they may approach you and “stir the *plot!*”

Please enjoy an array of cheeses generously donated by Wisconsin's own Mullins Cheese, a proud UWSP Opera Workshop sponsor.

**The Acis** = Pisces Pinot Grigio: An aromatic dry white wine with notes of ripe pear and stone fruit and a clean finish.

**The Galatea** = Galactic Gris: Made with 100% Wisconsin Frontenac Gris. Notes of grapefruit and honey come together for a smooth, sweet wine.

**The Damon** = Tradewinds Cabernet: A full-bodied dry red with a bold bright flavor and black fruit finish. Pairs well with hearty dishes, red meat, and strong cheese.

**The Polyphemus** = Tramonto: Rich full-bodied Italian red; Nebbiolo from the Piedmont region in Italy. Smooth cherry notes with hints of dark chocolate.



# CAST

## Friday Night Cast “Purple Cast”

**Galatea:** Reagan Conklin  
**Acis:** Jaden Richards  
**Damon:** Megan Griffith  
**Polyphemus:** Benjamin Franklin

### Orchestra of Gods & Goddesses (both performances)

**Violin 1:** Ashley Springer  
**Violin 2:** Joanna Johnson  
**Cello:** Zachary Preucil  
**Double-Bass:** Dave Story  
**Oboe:** Stacy Berk  
**Flute:** Karina Verdette  
**Harpichord:** JeHae Kim-Bixby

### Chorus of Townspeople (both performances)

Giovanni Anello IV  
Brayden Bellile  
Hannah Bolden  
Reagan Conklin  
Zach Dunbar  
Logan Foster  
Benjamin Franklin  
Morgan Gates  
Megan Griffith  
Marley Hansen  
Andrew Hartmann  
Meredith Johnson  
Alaina Kawleski  
Anna Kelly  
Zay Knueppel  
Kathryn Lamm

## Saturday Night Cast “Gold Cast”

**Galatea:** Meredith Johnson  
**Acis:** Austin Vonderloh  
**Damon:** Morgan Gates  
**Polyphemus:** Giovanni Anello IV

**Violin 1:** Hope Mahon  
**Violin 2:** Aaron Marx  
**Cello:** Heidi Corcoran

**Oboe:** Kiaeryn Lovell  
**Flute:** Lyssa Edwards

Alex Lederer  
Nola McDonald  
Lily Mehring  
Cannon Nash  
Ian Peot  
Jaden Richards  
Johanna Rutta  
Kennady Skougard  
Alliyah Treu  
Austin Vonderloh  
Nicholas Waldoch  
Briannah Wanca  
Irene Wilson  
Jessica Workman  
Megan Wurm  
Peyton Yancey

# CREATIVE TEAM

<b>Director and Producer</b>	Matthew Markham
<b>Music Director</b>	Matheus Cruz
<b>Assistant Stage Director</b>	Emily Ruth
<b>Scenic Designer</b>	Scott Wirtz-Olsen
<b>Lighting Designer</b>	Isaac Norman
<b>Assistant Lighting Designer</b>	Ryleigh Guelig
<b>Costume Designer</b>	Amy Schwab
<b>Costume Assistant</b>	Hannah Bolden
<b>Hair/Makeup Designers</b>	Becca Guth Nola McDonald Karina Verdette
<b>Dancers/Co-Choreographers</b>	Kaitlin Kopp, Lenna Wren
<b>Stage Managers</b>	Mackenzie Finger, Alliyah Treu
<b>Properties Manager</b>	Alliyah Treu
<b>Rehearsal Pianist</b>	JeHae Kim-Bixby
<b>Assistant Rehearsal Pianist/Conductor</b>	Chris Eaton
<b>Piano Technician</b>	David Hulbert
<b>Interns</b>	Mackenzie Finger, Briannah Wanca
<b>Photographers</b>	Tom Charlesworth, Robert Rosen
<b>COFAC Marketing Specialist</b>	Bobbie Erwin
<b>Administrative Specialist</b>	Andrew Slembariski



# THE LIBRETTO

## Act I

### Sinfonia

#### Chorus

O the pleasure of the plains!  
Happy nymphs and happy swains,  
Harmless, merry, free, and gay,  
Dance and sport the hours away.  
For us the zephyr blows,  
For us distills the dew,  
For us unfolds the rose,  
And flow'rs display their hue.  
For us the winters rain,  
For us the summers shine,  
Spring swells for us the grain,  
And autumn bleeds the wine.  
O the pleasure...

#### Recitative

#### Galatea

Ye verdant plains and woody mountains,  
Purling streams and bubbling fountains,  
Ye painted glories of the field,  
Vain are the pleasures which ye yield;  
Too thin the shadow of the grove,  
Too faint the gales, to cool my love.

#### Air

#### Galatea

Hush, ye pretty warbling choir!  
Your thrilling strains  
Awake my pains,  
And kindle fierce desire.  
Cease your song, and take your flight,  
Bring back my Acis to my sight!  
Hush, ye pretty...

#### Air

#### Acis

Where shall I seek the charming fair?  
Direct the way, kind genius of the mountains!  
O tell me, if you saw my dear!  
Seeks she the grove, or bathes in crystal  
fountains?  
Where shall I seek...

#### Recitative

#### Damon

Stay, shepherd, stay!  
See, how thy flocks in yonder valley stray!  
What means this melancholy air?  
No more thy tuneful pipe we hear.

#### Air

#### Damon

Shepherd, what art thou pursuing?  
Heedless running to thy ruin;  
Share our joy, our pleasure share,  
Leave thy passion till tomorrow,  
Let the day be free from sorrow,  
Free from love, and free from care!  
Shepherd...

#### Recitative

#### Acis

Lo, here my love, turn, Galatea, hither turn thy  
eyes!  
See, at thy feet the longing Acis lies.

#### Air

#### Acis

Love in her eyes sits playing,  
And sheds delicious death;  
Love on her lips is straying,  
And warbling in her breath!  
Love on her breast sits panting  
And swells with soft desire;  
No grace, no charm is wanting,  
To set the heart on fire.  
Love in her eyes...

#### Recitative

#### Galatea

Oh, didst thou know the pains of absent love,  
Acis would ne'er from Galatea rove.

#### Air

#### Galatea

As when the dove  
Laments her love,  
All on the naked spray;  
When he returns,  
No more she mourns,  
But loves the live-long day.  
Billing, cooing,  
Panting, wooing,  
Melting murmurs fill the grove,  
Melting murmurs, lasting love.  
As when...

#### Duet and Chorus

#### Galatea and Acis

Happy we!  
What joys I feel!  
What charms I see!  
Of all youth, thou dearest boy!  
Of all nymphs, thou brightest fair!  
Thou all my bliss, thou all my joy!  
What charms I see!  
Happy we...

**Act II****Chorus**

Wretched lovers! Fate has past  
 This sad decree: no joy shall last.  
 Wretched lovers, quit your dream!  
 Behold the monster Polypheme!  
 See what ample strides he takes!  
 The mountain nods, the forest shakes;  
 The waves run frighten'd to the shores:  
 Hark, how the thund'ring giant roars!

**Recitative****Polyphemus**

I rage, I melt, I burn!  
 The feeble god has stabb'd me to the heart.  
 Thou trusty pine,  
 Prop of my god-like steps, I lay thee by!  
 Bring me a hundred reeds of decent growth,  
 To make a pipe for my capacious mouth;  
 In soft enchanting accents let me breathe  
 Sweet Galatea's beauty, and my love.

**Air****Polyphemus**

O ruddier than the cherry,  
 O sweeter than the berry,  
 O nymph more bright  
 Than moonshine night,  
 Like kidlings blithe and merry.  
 Ripe as the melting cluster,  
 No lily has such lustre;  
 Yet hard to tame  
 As raging flame,  
 And fierce as storms that bluster!  
 O ruddier...

**Recitative****Polyphemus**

Whither, fairest, art thou running,  
 Still my warm embraces shunning?

**Galatea**

The lion calls not to his prey,  
 Nor bids the wolf the lambkin stay.

**Polyphemus**

Thee, Polyphemus, great as Jove,  
 Calls to empire and to love,  
 To his palace in the rock,  
 To his dairy, to his flock,  
 To the grape of purple hue,  
 To the plum of glossy blue,  
 Wildings, which expecting stand,  
 Proud to be gather'd by thy hand.

**Galatea**

Of infant limbs to make my food,  
 And swill full draughts of human blood!  
 Go, monster! bid some other guest:  
 I loathe the host, I loathe the feast!

**Air****Polyphemus**

Cease to beauty to be suing,  
 Ever whining love disdainning.  
 Let the brave their aims pursuing,  
 Still be conqu'ring, not complaining.  
 Cease to beauty...

**Air****Damon**

Would you gain the tender creature,  
 Softly, gently, kindly treat her:  
 Suff'ring is the lover's part.  
 Beauty by constraint possessing  
 You enjoy but half the blessing,  
 Lifeless charms without the heart.  
 Would you...

**Recitative****Acis**

His hideous love provokes my rage;  
 Weak as I am, I must engage!  
 Inspir'd with thy victorious charms,  
 The god of love will lend his arms.

**Air****Acis**

Love sounds th'alarm,  
 And fear is a flying!  
 When beauty's the prize,  
 What mortal fears dying?  
 In defence of my treasure,  
 I'd bleed at each vein;  
 Without her no pleasure,  
 For life is a pain.  
 Love sounds...

**Air****Damon**

Consider, fond shepherd,  
 How fleeting's the pleasure,  
 That flatters our hopes  
 In pursuit of the fair!  
 The joys that attend it,  
 By moments we measure,  
 But life is too little  
 To measure our care.  
 Consider...

**Recitative****Galatea**

Cease, O cease, thou gentle youth,  
 Trust my constancy and truth,  
 Trust my truth and pow'rs above,  
 The pow'rs propitious still to love!

**Trio****Galatea, Acis**

The flocks shall leave the mountains,  
 The woods the turtle dove,  
 The nymphs forsake the fountains,  
 Ere I forsake my love!

**Polyphemus**

Torture! fury! rage! despair!  
 I cannot, cannot bear!

Galatea, Acis

Not show'rs to larks so pleasing,  
 Nor sunshine to the bee,  
 Not sleep to toil so easing,  
 As these dear smiles to me.

**Polyphemus**

Fly swift, thou massy ruin, fly!  
 Die, presumptuous Acis, die!

**Recitative****Acis**

Help, Galatea! Help, ye parent gods!  
 And take me dying to your deep abodes.

**Chorus**

Mourn, all ye muses! Weep, all ye swains!  
 Tune, tune your reeds to doleful strains!  
 Groans, cries and howlings fill the  
 neighb'ring shore:  
 Ah, the gentle Acis is no more!

**Solo and Chorus****Galatea**

Must I my Acis still bemoan,  
 Inglorious crush'd beneath that stone?

**Chorus**

Cease, Galatea, cease to grieve!  
 Bewail not whom thou canst relieve.

**Galatea**

Must the lovely charming youth  
 Die for his constancy and truth?

**Chorus**

Cease, Galatea, cease to grieve!  
 Bewail not whom thou canst relieve;  
 Call forth thy pow'r, employ thy art,  
 The goddess soon can heal the smart.

**Galatea**

Say what comfort can you find?  
 For dark despair o'er-clouds my mind.

**Chorus**

To kindred gods the youth return,  
 Through verdant plains to roll his urn.

**Recitative****Galatea**

'Tis done: thus I exert my pow'r divine;  
 Be thou immortal, though thou art not mine!

**Air****Galatea**

Heart, the seat of soft delight,  
 Be thou now a fountain bright!  
 Purple be no more thy blood,  
 Glide thou like a crystal flood.  
 Rock, thy hollow womb disclose!  
 The bubbling fountain, lo! it flows;  
 Through the plains he joys to rove,  
 Murm'ring still his gentle love.

**Chorus**

Galatea, dry thy tears,  
 Acis now a god appears!  
 See how he rears him from his bed,  
 See the wreath that binds his head.  
 Hail! thou gentle murm'ring stream,  
 Shepherds' pleasure, muses' theme!  
 Through the plains still joy to rove,  
 Murm'ring still thy gentle love.

*Libretto based upon John Dryden's English  
 translation of Ovid's Metamorphoses, Book X111.*

# Acis and Galatea

## Matthew Markham: Director and Producer



**Matthew Markham** is an Artist-Teacher of Voice, Associate Professor of Music, and Coordinator of the Voice Area at UWSP. He enjoys an active career as a teacher and is the current President of the Wisconsin National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS). He has performed on numerous opera, concert, and recital stages including Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York City, and Suk Hall at the Rudolfinum in the Czech Republic.

An avid interpreter of art song, he has been the winner of various song competitions and has worked with musical luminaries throughout Europe and the United States. He holds the Doctor of Music and Bachelor of Music degrees in Voice Performance from The Florida State University College of Music and the Master of Music degree in Voice Performance and Pedagogy from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey. Dr. Markham has taught internationally at the Ameropa Festival in Prague, Czech Republic, and the International Lyric Music Academy in Italy.

His students have been accepted into reputable young artist summer programs and graduate programs in voice performance throughout the country. Dr. Markham was a winner of the 2018 University Excellence in Teaching Award at UWSP. *Acis and Galatea* marks his 5th fully staged (and performed for a live audience) UWSP Opera Workshop production as director and producer.



## **Matheus Cruz: Music Director**

**Matheus Cruz** is the new Director of Choral Activities at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, where he conducts the UWSP Concert Choir and Choral Union and teaches academic courses in music education. Dr. Cruz has also been appointed the new Artistic Director of the Monteverdi Chorale at Stevens Point. Born in Brazil, Dr. Cruz received his Bachelor of Music Education from the State University of Maringá and a master's degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia, where he studied with Dr. Paul Crabb and Dr. Brandon Boyd.

Before moving to the United States, Cruz worked as a K-12 public school teacher and directed community choruses and church choirs in Paraná. He received his D.M.A. from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Cruz's professional experience in the U.S.A. includes being the Conductor for *Canticum Novum* and the assistant conductor for the premier choral ensemble *Conservatory Singers* at UMKC, where he also taught choral arranging and introductory conducting courses and served as the Chorus Master for the 2021/2022 opera production *Così fan tutte* by Mozart. In the fall of 2021, he conducted the staged performances of Handel's *Acis and Galatea*. As a faculty at the UWSP, he is the music director of the 2024 opera production of Handel's *Acis and Galatea*.

Cruz's research focuses on Brazilian choral music, particularly the choral works of Osvaldo Lacerda (1927-2011) and José Maurício Nunes Garcia (1767-1830). His scholarship interest has led to publications and leadership positions with important choral organizations in Brazil and abroad. In 2023, he presented—"The Evolution of Brazilian Choral Music from the Baroque to Modernism"—at the National America Choral Directors Association (ACDA). Also, in 2023, Dr. Cruz presented "Choosing Repertoire" at the Wisconsin Music Education Association (WMEA). His publications include "Choral Singing and the Elderly – Rehearsal as a Moment of Great Possibilities" in the Brazilian Music Educators Association Magazine (ABEM)- 2014 and "Choosing the Choral Repertoire: A Conductor's Task?" in *Musica Hodie* -2016.

Cruz has served as the Repertoire and Resources Chair for World Music & Cultures for the ACDA Southwestern Division (2020-2022). He also maintains an active schedule as a clinician for festivals in Brazil and the U.S. He serves as the choral director in Brazil for two large music festivals in Cascavel and Pato Bragado, Paraná. Recent appearances include his work as a clinician and instructor for the 2022 UW-Madison Summer Music Clinic and the 2023 SCC Honors Choir. Aside from his work as a conductor and an educator, Dr. Cruz enjoys writing and performing his arrangements of Brazilian tunes, which Pavene and MusicSpoke have published.

# BIOGRAPHIES



## **Giovanni Anello IV: Polyphemus**

Giovanni Anello IV, B.M. (Vocal Performance) and B.M.E. (Music Education) '26 is a sophomore transfer student originally from Mukwonago, WI. He was last seen on stage at Drake University as the Father (cover) in *Hansel and Gretel* as well as participating in their Opera Scenes program in the fall of 2022. In what little free time he has, Giovanni is involved in Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and plays rugby for the UWSP men's team. He would like to thank his parents for their support through the years in all of his endeavors.



## **Hannah Bolden: Costume Assistant**

Hannah Bolden hails from Kiel, Wisconsin. She is pursuing the Bachelor of Music degree in Choral Music Education. *Acis and Galatea* is her first college production and 8th stage production overall. Hannah would like to express how much fun this show has been to work on both in the chorus and as the costume assistant.



## **Reagan Conklin: Galatea**

Reagan Conklin is a second-year vocal performance major. She performed the role of Announcer in *Gallantry* and covered the role of Laetitia in *The Old Maid and the Thief* last year in the UWSP Opera Workshop's production of *Dial M for Moore Menotti*. She has performed the role of Kate in *Pirates of Penzance* in addition to performance credits in *Godspell*, *Mamma Mia*, *Oklahoma!*, and more with the Chippewa Valley Theater Guild. Additionally, she was a director mentee for their production of *Bright Star*. Reagan was a NATS national semifinalist last spring and is a recipient of the Eunice DeBaker scholarship, the Krishnan and Yegneswaran Family scholarship, and the Urcille Power Memorial scholarship. She would like to extend her gratitude to Dr. Markham, Dr. Cruz, Dr. Kim-Bixby, and the performers alongside her for making this production a beautiful experience to be a part of.



## **Mackenzie Finger: Intern/Stage Manager**

Mackenzie Finger is a third year BA Art major and Music minor who is involved in performing on and off stage. In addition to being a recurring creative resource for opera in props she now works as a creative intern. Mackenzie also performed in musicals in high school and is cast as Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors* for this summer. Mackenzie is aspiring to become a professor and is continuing her education after undergrad doing residencies and going on to grad school.



### **Benjamin Franklin: Polyphemus**

Benjamin Franklin is a fourth-year student studying choral music education and vocal performance at UWSP. Some of his favorite past performances include Leporello in *Don Giovanni* (UWSP), and Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof* (Horace Mann High School). Last summer, he traveled to North Carolina and Italy to perform as Bartolo in *Le nozze di Figaro* with the International Lyric Academy, and will be traveling to Iowa this June to perform as Spinelloccio in *Gianni Schicchi*.



### **Morgan Gates: Damon**

Morgan is a senior vocal performance major. Recent opera credits include *The Telephone* (Lucy) with UWSP in 2023, *Le nozze di Figaro* (Barbarina) with FIO Italia in 2022, and *Don Giovanni* (Zerlina) with UWSP in 2022. She also performed in scenes from *Serse* and *L'Elisir d'Amore* with FIO Italia in 2022 and as a soprano for Brahms's *Liebeslieder Waltzes* with UWSP in 2021. She is delighted to now be a part of *Acis and Galatea* and thanks her teacher, Susan Bender, whose wisdom and caring spirit has been largely responsible for every one of Morgan's collegiate musical successes and who will be missed greatly in her retirement.



### **Megan Griffith: Damon**

Megan Griffith is a junior seeking degrees in Vocal Performance and Choral/General Music Education. Some recent previous roles performed are Lola in Douglas Moore's *Gallantry* at UWSP, Ella in *R&H Cinderella* at The American Gothic Performing Arts Festival, Ms. Pinkerton in Menotti's *The Old Maid and the Thief* at UWSP, and Suor Osmina/Una Novisia in Puccini's *Suor Angelica* with the International Lyric Academy in Vincenza, Italy. Megan is the proud winner of a few awards including Divisional First Place at the National Association of Teachers of Singing Competition, a recipient of the National Choral Award in 2021, and currently one of the winners of the 2024 UWSP Concerto Competition. Megan would like to thank all the staff, students, parents, and teachers for their constant support and dedication to the department.





### **Ryleigh Guelig: Assistant Lighting Designer**

Ryleigh Guelig is a freshman Theatre Design + Technology/Political Science double major here at UW-Stevens Point. This is her first time working on an opera, and she is very excited to expand her experiences beyond what she has done so far.



### **Becca Guth: Hair and Makeup Designer**

Becca is a Sophomore Jazz Studies major at UWSP. She participates in many musical groups on campus, including Jazz Ensemble, A Cappella, and Vocal Jazz. She is also a member of the brand-new Contemporary Voice Studio. You might have seen her onstage last spring as Lucy in *The Telephone*, and she is excited to return this year to help with hair and makeup! She hopes you enjoy the show!



### **Meredith Johnson: Galatea**

Meredith Johnson is a third-year student studying choral music education and vocal performance. This is her third opera workshop performance here at UWSP. Previous performance experiences includes Lola in *Gallantry*, Miss Pinkerton in *The Old Maid and the Thief*, Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel*, and Fantine in *Les Miserables*. Meredith is planning to student teach in the fall semester of 2025.



### **JeHae Kim-Bixby: Rehearsal Pianist/Harpsichord**

Collaborative Pianist JeHae Kim-Bixby holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Piano (The Seoul Theological University of Korea), a Master's degree and Performance Certificate in Piano Accompanying (Northern Illinois University), and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Collaborative Piano and Coaching (Canada Christian College). She has shared her talents as an adjunct professor in Korea and an accompanist for choirs and soloists worldwide until she came to the USA in 2020. Since moving to Wausau, WI, she has played as an accompanist at the Wausau Conservatory of Music, several musical productions put on by CWETA, and for local high school concerts. In 2022 she began collaborating with students and faculty members at the Music Department of UW-Stevens Point in both voice and instrument disciplines. Her talent, work ethic and willingness to collaborate at the highest level has been praised at the university and beyond. She is deeply grateful for all the opportunities that have been given to her. In her free time, she loves spending time with her husband and three children.



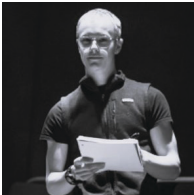
### **Kaitlin Kopp: Dancer/Co-Choreographer**

Kaitlin Kopp Winowiski is a third-year BA Dance Major with a certification in Pilates and a BS Business Administration Major with a Minor in Accounting. She has performed in UWSP's *Forthcoming* productions in 2021 and 2023 and completed her internship at Disney World in 2022.



### **Nola McDonald: Hair/Makeup Designer**

Nola McDonald is a sophomore at UWSP pursuing a degree in Music Education. This is her second theater production that she has participated in, and is very grateful for the opportunity. In her free time she enjoys crocheting, arranging music, and playing video games. She is also very passionate about art, and is pursuing a minor in Art with the hopes of being able to teach art as well as music.



### **Isaac Norman: Lighting Designer**

Isaac Norman is returning for his second season with UWSP Opera Workshop. In addition to his work with IATSE Local 470, and as a freelance lighting designer, you may have seen his work in the Department of Theatre and Dance's production of Jen Silverman's *The Moors*. You can find more information about Isaac and his work at [isaacnormanlighting.com](http://isaacnormanlighting.com).



### **Jaden Richards: Acis**

Jaden Richards is 3rd year Voice Performance and Choral Music Education major. *Acis and Galatea* marks his third opera performance on campus. He has also performed roles in *Hansel and Gretel* and *Gallantry* with UWSP's Opera Workshop. Prior to his time at UWSP, he participated in several music theatre productions spanning from *Beauty and the Beast* to *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Big Fish*, to name a few. This coming summer, Jaden will be performing the role of Monostatos in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* at the International Lyric Academy in Italy. Upon graduation, Jaden plans to pursue a graduate degree in Voice Performance.



### **Emily Ruth: Assistant Stage Director**

Emily Ruth (They/She) is a fourth year acting major with minors in arts management and music. Emily is thrilled to be helping out with the opera again this year! They were the assistant director for last year's opera workshop, *Dial M for Moore Menotti*, and the stage director of *Gallantry*. She was recently in the Department of Theatre and Dance's production of *Kodachrome* and last summer she played Nick Bottom in the Wisconsin Shakespeare Festival's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. They would like to thank Dr. Markham and everyone involved with *Acis and Galatea* for trusting them to help make this show amazing!



### **Amy Schwaab: Costume Designer**

Amy is thrilled to be costuming her third UWSP opera. She is a member of the cWACT Executive Board and has directed and costumed several plays and musicals for them including *Crazy For You*, *SpongeBob: the Musical* and *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Before relocating to Stevens Point, she spent 25 years working with school and community theaters in the Oconomowoc area. She has enjoyed working with this very talented cast and crew!



### **Alliyah Treu: Properties/Stage Manager**

Alliyah Treu is a fourth year Choral Music Education Major with an Art Minor originally from Wausau, WI. In previous years of UW-Stevens Point Opera Workshop, she has played the roles of Pointer Sister in *Dial M for Moore Menotti*, Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel*, and Cherubino in *Don Impresario di Figaro: A Medley of Mozart Madness*. Her current role for this semester is a Chorus Member and Prop Manager. Going forward, Alliyah is excited to continue her passion of the arts in her last semester of classes in the fall before student teaching in the spring.



### **Karina Verdetto: Hair/Makeup Designer**

Karina Verdetto is a fifth-year student at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. She is currently working to obtain her Bachelor of Music in Music Education and Flute Performance, where she studies under the direction of Dr. Danielle Breisach and Professor Susan Bender. Throughout her undergrad, she was the recipient of several scholarships and awards for her excellence in performance and academia. Recently, Karina studied the art of conducting under UWSP Director of Bands, Dr. John P. Lynch. Later this year, she will be student teaching and graduating in December. She plans to go directly into the field of education, specifically K-12 music.



### **Austin Vonderloh: Acis**

Austin Vonderloh is a fourth year Music Education student with an emphasis in choral, instrumental, and general music. He plays the French Horn and sings tenor. While in college, he has done a lot of performing and researching in the music field. In previous opera productions, he was a Jingle Singer in *Dial M for Moore Menotti* and played the Father, the Cuckoo, and the Narrator in *Hansel and Gretel*. In Spring 2022, Austin created and presented a research project on the topic entitled "Sixth Grade General Music Students' Self-Perception of Understanding Music Lessons Involving Creativity." A year later in Spring 2023, he wrote a research article entitled "Elaine Hagenberg: Compositional Style Involving Creativity and Text." He is set to graduate with his bachelor's degree in May 2025 and starting the UWSP Master of Music Education with a conducting specialization in Fall 2025. He aspires to become a high school choir or band teacher for a while before transitioning to collegiate teaching.



### **Briannah Wanca: Intern**

Briannah Wanca is a third year Music Education student who is preparing to student teach in the Fall of 2024. Briannah has never previously been involved in an opera, and to be an intern and part of a chorus for this production has been an absolute pleasure. Recently, Briannah gave her senior voice recital in collaboration with Kelly Nielsen (UWSP alumni) and Chris Eaton featuring works by Debussy, W.A. Mozart, and both Clara and Robert Schumann. Briannah is currently apprentice conducting the UWSP Choral Union ensemble and being mentored by Dr. Matheus Cruz. She would like to express gratitude to Dr. Cruz, Dr. Markham, and Professor Bender for supporting her throughout her college career whilst pushing her to become the best musician, educator, and performer she can be.



### **Scott Wirtz-Olsen: Set Designer**

Scott is thrilled to be rejoining everyone at UW-Steven Point as Scenic Designer for this year's Opera Workshop production of *Acis and Galatea*. He has been working professionally as a Designer, Technical Director, Production Manager and Theatre Project Manager/Consultant for the last 28 years. Select past design work includes: *A Chorus Line*, *Into The Woods*, and *Grand Hotel* for Santa Fe College in FL, *Sherlock's Last Case*, *Irena's Vow*, and *The Little Mermaid* for Cardinal Stritch University in WI, *The Rakes Progress* for Music Academy of the West in CA, *A Christmas Carol* for Madison Children's Theatre in WI, *The Barber of Seville* and *King and I* for Ash Lawn Opera in VA, *West Side Story* for Opera Illinois in IL, *Werther* for Bowen Park Opera in IL, and no fewer than twenty production for First Stage Children's Theatre and the First Stage Theater Academy in WI. Scott holds a MFA in Design and Technology from Northern Illinois University and a BFA in Design and Technology from UW-Stevens Point (1997) and served as Technical Director at UWSP Department of Theatre & Dance from 2013 to 2020; during which time he designed *The Tender Land* for UWSP Opera Workshop



### **Lenna Wren: Dancer/Co-Choreographer**

Lenna Magdeline Wren is a third year BFA Acting Major with a Minor in Dance and Peace Studies from Chicago, IL. She has most recently been in the UWSP staged readings *Eurydice* (2024) and *Animal Farm* (2023), alongside the production of *The Wolves* (2022). She is also the recipient of the COFAC Dedication Scholarship (2021-2022) and the Arts Bash Dedication to the Field Award (2022-2023).

# *A Tribute to Susan Bender*



The UWSP Voice Area and UWSP Opera Workshop would like to recognize and celebrate the teaching and legacy of Professor Susan Bender who will be retiring from UW-Stevens Point at the end of this semester. Many of the faculty and students wish to express their gratitude and deep appreciation for the immeasurable impact that she has had on the Music Department and Voice Area during her 21 years of teaching at UWSP. Professor Bender's influence stems from her work as a singer prior to her tenure at this institution - a Metropolitan Opera National Council Winner, a soprano with the Boston Pops Orchestra, and a soloist and member of the United States Navy Band Sea Charter Chorus are just a few of the highlights. Stevens Point then became the lucky college town where she made her musical home and imprint as a teacher. Her

devotion and work as a voice teacher and her service to the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) has influenced the lives and careers of countless singers, music educators, and voice colleagues throughout the state and country.

Reflections from current students and recent graduates include: "There isn't a week that goes by where I don't pass a lesson on to my own students that I learned from the teachings of Professor Bender," and "She has taught me how to be the most authentic version of myself in professional and casual settings," and "Without her I would not be the musician, educator, or performer I am today."

Her students regaled a few nuggets from voice studio classes which have been coined:

## ***The Wise Words of Professor Bender***

### **Quotations as recalled from her students:**

"Citing something that's said is called a 'quotation.'  
A quote is what you get from your plumber!"

"Don't hit the notes! What have the notes done to hurt you?"

(In context of improving a class performance) "You are such a nice person and so positive all the time...can you not be for now?"

"Stop being such a good musician and just have fun with it!"

(On forgetting a word in a song) "That was just a french fry in the mud!"

And perhaps the biggest compliment of all: "Now THAT'S singing!"



Colleagues within the department have been particularly grateful for Susan's service, insight, and collaborative spirit.

Dr. Molly Roseman states, "I will always cherish my musical collaborations with Susan over the past 20+ years. Cheers to a wonderful colleague and best wishes in your retirement!"



Professor Stacey Berk adds, "Susan Bender is a cherished colleague, exquisite musician, and dear friend. I treasure the performances we've done together and the many, many chats we've had over the years. I'll miss seeing her daily "down the hall" and working closely together on both musical and committee tasks but I wish her the very best on her next adventure."

And indeed, there will be a next adventure for Professor Bender. She has accepted the position of Director of the Wausau Conservatory of Music just 40 minutes up I-39. It is with sadness that we must say farewell to her as a colleague and professor within the department, but it is with Pointer Pride that we support her in this new chapter.

Finally, Matthew Markham writes: "Susan, I am so happy for you in this new and exciting chapter! It has been an honor to work so closely with you for what will be 12 full years come May. You have carved out and created a wonderful legacy. The UWSP Voice Area and I will be standing on your shoulders as we continue telling our stories and singing our songs."



## ***Congratulations on a stunning tenure at UWSP!***

*With gratitude for your teaching, service, and art,  
Your Friends, Colleagues, Students of the UWSP Voice Area,  
and the UWSP Opera Workshop Class*

Spring 2024

A special donation from Professor Emeritus Michael Keller has been given to this year's opera in recognition and honor of Professor Bender.



## FACULTY & STAFF

Our mission is to provide a dynamic environment where innovation and leadership in creativity, teaching, performance, and advocacy set a new standard for education through music.

Our vision is to advocate for a society in which music is a valued part of universal education and is an essential expression of the human experience.

**Brian Baldauff**, Associate Professor, Percussion

**Susan Bender**, Professor, Voice

**Stacey Berk**, Professor, Oboe, Music Theory, and Composition

**Myles Boothroyd**, Assistant Professor, Saxophone

**Rachel Brashier**, Associate Professor, Director of Music Education

**Danielle Breisach**, Associate Lecturer, Flute

**Timothy Buchholz**, Professor, Vocal Jazz and Contemporary Voice

**Mathew Buchman**, Professor and Director, Jazz Studies

**Anna Cromwell**, Assistant Professor, Violin and Viola

**Matheus Cruz**, Assistant Professor, Director of Choirs

**Brian Ellingboe**, Lecturer, Bassoon

**David Hulbert**, Senior Instrument Specialist and Shop Manager

**Kelvin Kaspar**, Associate Lecturer, Guitar

**Ryan Korb**, Lecturer, Jazz Percussion

**Patrick Lawrence**, Professor, Low Brass and Music Education

**John Lynch**, Professor, Director of Bands

**Sarah Manasreh**, Assistant Professor of Clarinet and Music Theory

**Matthew Markham**, Associate Professor, Voice and Director of Opera

**Andres Moran**, Associate Professor, Horn and Director of Orchestral Studies

**Rachel Neece**, Associate Lecturer, Guitar and Music History

**Zachary Preucil**, Interim Lecturer of Cello

**Molly Roseman**, Professor, Piano

**Andrew Slembariski**, Administrative Specialist

**Rachel Snyder Turney**, Associate Lecturer, Group Piano

**David Story**, Professor, String Bass

**Brent Turney**, Professor, Trumpet & Department Chair

**Lori Yonash**, University Services Associate

# Thank you for your support!

## 2023-2024 Opera Supporters

### Maestro's Circle (\$1000+)

Dave and Amy Bakken  
Michael Keller (in recognition of Susan Bender's retirement)  
Pete and Laura McPartland  
Brent Turney and the UWSP Music Department

### Mezzanine (\$500+)

Peter and Catherine Sanderson  
Aldis Siltumens

### Grand Tier (\$200+)

Timothy A. Benn and Becky Merk-Benn

### Patron to (\$50+)

Andrew Crooks  
Laura Peter

### Special thanks to...

Jacob Seavers, Facility Services Electrician at UWSP  
Andy Mullins with Mullins Cheese  
On Point Catering Team  
Sunset Point Winery  
Zest Bakery & Coffeehouse  
Lighting Load-in helpers: Paul Been, Sam Calaway, Mattie Ruona, Ben Schroder, Ike Smith, Nick Theisen  
Scott Girmscheid and the West Allis-West Milwaukee School District Theatre Department for graciously loaning lighting fixtures



The undergraduate singers at UW-Stevens Point mount full productions and scenes from the standard operatic literature every spring, giving our students experiential learning as they prepare full operatic roles, sew and design costumes, build sets, and publicize performances. Please consider supporting UW-Stevens Point Opera with a donation of any amount.



If you are interested in becoming a supporter of UWSP Opera Workshop, you can find more information at UWSP University Advancement on the Give Now Page and donate to Opera Enhancement Fund.

<https://give.uwsp.edu/give-now>

# NATIONAL AWARD RECOGNITION

The UW-Stevens Point Opera Workshop is proud to share that our 2023 production of *Dial M for Moore Menotti* was recognized by the National Opera Association!

## 2022-23 Collegiate Opera Production Competition

2nd Place (tie)

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

*Dial M for Moore Menotti: Gallantry, The Telephone, The Old Maid and the Thief*

Matthew Markham, Director and Producer

Kristin Ditlow, Music Director

Emily Ruth, Assistant Stage Director

Mathew Buchman, Jingle Composer

Keli Wonsmos and Amy Schwaab, Costume Designers

Sarah Ross, Scenic Designer


Isaac Norman, Lighting Designer

UWSP Opera Workshop would like to thank each of the cast members; creative team; Music Department and Theatre and Dance Department faculty, staff, and students; and individual supporters, donors, and local businesses who contributed financially to help earn UWSP a winning spot on the national stage!

## DIAL M FOR MOORE MENOTTI







UW-Stevens Point Opera Workshop Presents

# The Magic Flute

by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

April 11-12, 2025

7:30pm, Michelsen Hall

Matthew Markham  
Director/Producer

Andres Moran  
Conductor

With the UWSP  
Symphony Orchestra

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**YOUR PURPOSE**



Department of Music  
College of Fine Arts & Communication  
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point