

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a bottle of sparkling wine. The person is wearing a white dress shirt and checkered trousers. They are also wearing a beaded bracelet on their left wrist and a watch on their right wrist. The bottle has a white label with the word 'L' visible. The background is a red and white checkered pattern.

All Fresco

SUMMER STUDIO ENSEMBLE

The
Florentine
Opera

Al Fresco: Summer Studio Ensemble

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Rain Date: Friday, July 28, 2023

6:30 PM Cocktail Hour, 7:30 PM Performance

Hosted at the River Hills Home of
Amalia and Luke Todryk

Sung in Multiple Languages

Run Time: 75 minutes, no intermission

About Al Fresco

The Al Fresco summer series are some of the best events located in some of the most beautiful and intimate gardens around Southeastern Wisconsin that feature some of opera and musical theater's top talents.

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ARTISTS

Summer Studio Ensemble

Cara Bender Soprano

Alianis Lozada Mezzo-soprano

Jerek Fernández Tenor

Alan Saldaña-Silva..... Baritone

Saira Frank Soprano

Eric McEnaney Piano

REPERTOIRE

MOZART Scenes from *Don Giovanni*

MOZART Scenes from *Le Nozze di Figaro*

GUERRERO "Oh, condesita gentil" from *La Montera*

ROSSINI "Zitti, zitti; piano, piano" from *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*

VERDI "Libiamo ne' lieti calici" from *La traviata*

PRODUCTION


Studio Gear

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Cara Bender

Cara Bender is an operatic soprano hailing from Corning, New York. Currently a 2023 Summer Studio Artist with The Florentine Opera Company, Cara is performing scenes as Donna

Anna and Contessa Almaviva in abridged productions of *Don Giovanni* and *Le nozze di Figaro*. In March, Cara performed in the premiere of a new choral opera, *Adrift*, with Nightingale Vocal Ensemble. She concluded her second summer as an Apprentice Artist with Des Moines Metro Opera in 2021, where she covered Masha in *The Queen of Spades* and performed selections from *Don Giovanni*, *Falstaff*, *Bluebeard's Castle*, *Così fan tutte*, *Die Walküre*, and *The Rape of Lucretia*.

Favorite role debuts of Cara's include Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*, the Witch and the Mother in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*, the Lady with a Cake Box in Argento's *Postcard from Morocco*, and Miss Jessel in Britten's *The Turn of the Screw*. Also a passionate champion of art song, Cara was a Young Artist at the 2019 Leeds Lieder Festival for her UK debut. Cara holds an MM in Vocal Performance from The New England Conservatory of Music and a BM in Vocal Performance from The Oberlin Conservatory of Music.



Alianis Lozada

Alianis Lozada is a mezzo-soprano hailing from Humacao, Puerto Rico. Having obtained her Bachelor of Music from The Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico this year, Ms. Lozada is currently a Summer Studio Artist with The Florentine Opera Company where she can be seen performing Donna Elvira and Cherubino in abridged versions of *Don Giovanni* and *Le nozze di Figaro*. Her upcoming engagements include performing the role of Tisbe in Rossini's *La Cenerentola* with Portland Opera to Go in the fall of 2023, where she will also be featured on various concerts. During her recent studies at The Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico, Alianis performed multiple roles including Véronique in a Spanish production of Bizet's *El doctor Milagro*, La Ciesca in Puccini's *Gianni Schicci*, and Mrs. Nolan in Menotti's *The Medium*. In 2022, Alianis received an Encouragement Award from the Puerto Rico District of the distinguished Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition.



Jerek Fernández

Jerek Fernández is a tenor hailing from San Juan, Puerto Rico. Fernández is currently the tenor of The Florentine Opera's Summer Ensemble, performing scenes as Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*)

and Basilio (*Le nozze di Figaro*). Fernández looks forward to continuing his residency at The Florentine Opera for the 2023-2024 season as a Baumgartner Studio Arist, where he will perform the role of Clergy in Offenbach's *Songbird* and understudy the roles of Nemorino in *L'elisir d'amore* and Rodolfo in *La bohème*. After his studies at The Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico, Jerek became an Apprentice Artist at Sarasota Opera for their 2023 winter season, where he covered the role of Un officier in *Thérèse* and performed scenes as Count Almaviva (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*) and Nemorino (*L'elisir d'amore*). Fernández debuted as Kaspar in Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors* in 2019, the same year that he made his soloist debut with the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra. An active member of the Lyrical Chorale of Puerto Rico, Fernández has participated in multiple productions including *Carmen*, *La bohème*, and *Los Gavilanes*. In 2022, Fernández received an Honorable Mention at the Young Patronesses of the Opera Vocal Competition, and was a Summer Feedback Winner at Classical Singer Magazine.



Alan Saldaña-Silva

Mexican baritone Alan Saldaña-Silva is a highly sought after performer in opera, oratorio, and recital repertoire. Past engagements

include being the soloist for sacred works such as the Faure's *Requiem, Op. 48*, Mozart's *Missa Brevis in D, KV 194*, Handel's *Messiah, HWV 56*, and Franck's *Seven Last Words of Christ*. In the opera field Alan has sung scenes from Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*, Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Moore's *The Ballad of Baby Doe*, and Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd* during his undergrad and has made his operatic debut in the title role in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* at Utah Vocal Arts Academy summer program, as well in Baylor Opera Theatre singing the role of Bunthorne in Sullivan's *Patience* and Maestro in Salieri's *Prima la musica poi le parole*. Alan is a recent graduate with a Bachelor of Arts specialized in Vocal Performance from University of St. Thomas and currently a first-year graduate student pursuing a vocal performance degree at Baylor University.



Saira Frank

Soprano Saira Frank's credits run from opera to stage works to Broadway recitals, including roles with Madison Opera, Pacific Opera Project, Painted Sky Opera and Elgin Opera. Saira has been a featured soloist with the Grant Park Symphony & Chorus, the Florentine Opera, and Opera San Luis Obispo. Operatic roles include Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*, the Governess in *The Turn of the Screw*, Tatiana in *Eugene Onegin*, the Duchess Christina/Sagredo in *Galileo Galilei*, Rosalinda in *Die Fledermaus* and the title roles in *Tosca*, *The Merry Widow* and *Alcina*. She holds degrees in voice and French from Northwestern University and a Master of Music in opera from UW Madison. An avid teaching artist and outreach performer, Saira has performed with Opera for the Young in seven productions and spent two years as resident teaching artist for Madison Opera. As a tenured, core soprano of the Grant Park Chorus, Frank has performed over 50 masterworks on the Pritzker stage. In addition to performing, Saira works as Managing Director for Opera for the Young and is a voice instructor at Carroll University.



Eric McEnaney

Eric McEnaney enjoys a multifaceted career as a distinguished pianist, vocal coach, administrator, and artist teacher whose Grammy-nominated work has been heard on stages throughout the country and abroad.

He is currently a Master Vocal Coach for Minnesota Opera and has prepared more than 125 productions for such companies as Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Central City Opera, Virginia Opera, and Opera Southwest, among others. Additionally, Dr. McEnaney served as Principal Production Pianist & Coach at Florentine Opera Company for four seasons, where he oversaw the musical preparation of two world premiere recordings, *Sister Carrie* and *Prince of Players*, nominated for the Grammy in Best Opera Recording.

A dedicated advocate for the creative training of young singers, Dr. McEnaney is frequently in demand as a master clinician. His guest teaching credits include masterclasses and coaching for Yale School of Music, Wolf Trap Opera Studio, The University of Minnesota, and various other institutions. He is the co-founder and Creative Advisor of Opera Reading Project, a Twin Cities-based role reading series for singers that serves as a professional-level music preparation tool for working and aspiring artists. At ORP he co-developed the IDEA Fellowship, a fully-funded scholarship opportunity for Minnesota singers from underserved populations to advance in the classical singing industry.

As a recitalist, Dr. McEnaney has appeared with singers from the rosters of the nation's leading opera companies and has assisted many of the most renowned classical vocal artists of our time, including Christine Brewer, Anna Christy, Elizabeth Futral, Denyce Graves, Marilyn Horne, Thomas Hampson, Frank Lopardo, Susanne Mentzer, Susanna Phillips, Patricia Racette, John Relyea, Nadine Sierra, and Carol Vaness. He serves as an official accompanist for the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, has played more than 50 concerts as an orchestral keyboardist for Minnesota Orchestra, and his performances have been broadcast on PBS, Great Performances, American Public Media, Minnesota Public Radio, Colorado Public Radio, and Twin Cities Public Television. Dr. McEnaney holds advanced degrees in piano performance and collaborative piano and makes his home in Minneapolis. www.ericmcenaney.com