



# Carols — AND — Classics

The  
Florentine  
Opera

# CAROLS AND CLASSICS

Thursday, December 14, 2023

7:30 PM Performance

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

914 E Knapp St, Milwaukee, WI 53202



Sung in Multiple Languages

Run Time: 65 minutes, no intermission

# BAUMGARTNER STUDIO ARTISTS

Laura McCauley.....Soprano

Tzytle Steinman.....Mezzo-soprano

Jerek Fernández .....Tenor

Brandan Sanchez.....Baritone

Fumiyasu Kawase.....Piano



## PRODUCTION

Jason Fassel, AntiShadows LLC.....Lighting Designer

Skylar Delk.....Head Electrician

FEATURING



Milwaukee  
Children's Choir

Milwaukee Children's Choir is Southeastern Wisconsin's premier youth choir. Founded in 1994 by Emily Crocker, Milwaukee Children's Choir has been delighting audiences throughout our city and around the country through in-person concerts, online video performances and live streams. We provide children, ages 4 through 18, with exceptional choral music education and performance experiences that foster creativity, personal expression and social growth.

As an audition-based, advanced children's choral music program, we are celebrating our 30th Season! Milwaukee Children's Choir is becoming known for our collaborations and relationships with local arts organizations. Milwaukee Children's Choir collaborated with Danceworks in our concert, *Sing Me A Story*, performed with Bel Canto Chorus in their Christmas in the Basilica concerts, and continues to perform with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra for their annual educational program, ACE (Arts in Community Education). Previous seasons, MCC created artworks that were displayed in Milwaukee's City Hall with Walker's Point Center for the Arts for our Force for Good concert, organized a donation drive to the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee for our Give Thanks concert and volunteered at the Urban Ecology Centers for our Brilliant Earth concert. This year we are excited to continue collaborating with MSO, Florentine Opera, and Danceworks for our 30th Anniversary Season.



**Rachel Maki**, *Artistic Director  
of Milwaukee Children's Choir,  
Lyric Chorale and Milwaukee  
Youth Chorale Conductor*

Rachel Maki has educated students of all levels throughout Michigan, New Jersey and Wisconsin. As an advocate of music education, Rachel led a Wisconsin school to receive the 2014 GRAMMY Select Schools Enterprise Award, an award given to high schools that are retaining their music programs despite budgetary limitations. Ms. Maki has served the Milwaukee Children's Choir for seven years and is now in her fourth season as Artistic Director.

Ms. Maki holds a Bachelor of Music Education from Northern Michigan University and a Master of Music with distinction from Westminster Choir College, New Jersey. While at Westminster, she was a member of the GRAMMY nominated Westminster Williamson Voices and studied conducting with Dr. James Jordan. She has performed with many notable groups including the Philadelphia Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, New Jersey Symphony, and Vienna Philharmonic. She has also performed at New York's City's Apollo Theater and at New York City's Carnegie Hall.



**Brendan Fox**, *Collaborative Pianist, Lyric Chorale and Milwaukee Youth Chorale*

Brendan Fox is a pianist and composer from Wilton, CT. He received a B.M. in Composition and in Piano Performance from Wheaton College, IL and a M.M. in Composition from Ithaca College. In Milwaukee he has performed with groups including Camerata Milwaukee, DIY Chamber Music, Festival City Symphony and Milwaukee Chamber Choir. His compositions have been played by the Milwaukee Philharmonic and Tontine Ensemble. Brendan currently works as a classical music editor at Hal Leonard. A frequent side project has been a lecture-recital of Charles Ives's Concord Sonata, which he has performed in cities including New York, Chicago, Toronto, and Milwaukee.

# REPERTOIRE

Deck the Halls \* (trad. Welsh)

O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion, from *Messiah* (Handel)

Villancico yaucano (Torregrosa)

Gesu bambino (arr. S. DeCesare)

Simple Song, from *Mass* (Bernstein)

Ave Maria (Gounod)

The Candlelight Canon\* (A. Snyder)

Act III Quartet, from *La bohème* (Puccini)

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (J.S. Bach)

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (Praetorius)

A la nanita nana (trad. Spanish)

Agnus Dei (Bizet)

Mary, Did You Know (M. Lowry & B. Greene)

The Holly and the Ivy (trad. British)

Pie Jesu (Fauré)

A Winter Walk \* (V. Courtney)

Night of Silence (arr. D. Haas et al)

Jingle Bells \* (Pierpont)

\* Sung by or with the Milwaukee Children's Choir



## Laura McCauley

Laura McCauley, has been hailed for her "gleaming" voice and "explosive presentation" (Ken Herman, San Diego Story). Laura

was a winner in the Metropolitan Opera Laffont District Competition in 2022 and 2018, and the Encouragement award winner in 2019 and 2017. In 2020 Laura was a finalist in the Tri-Cities Next Online Vocal Competition. Laura has been a Young Artist with Seagle Festival and Studio Artist with Opera Neo. Her past roles include Mimi (*La Bohème*), Fiordiligi (*Così fan Tutte: A Remix*), Tiresias (*Les Mamelles de Tirésias*), Pamina (*Die Zauberflöte*), and scenes as Gilda (*Rigoletto*), Adina (*L'elisir d'amore*), Norina (*Don Pasquale*), Lucia (*Lucia di Lammermoor*), Juliette (*Romeo et Juliette*) and Baroness (*Der Wildschütz*).

Laura is happy to be back at The Florentine Opera as a Baumgartner Studio Artist for the 2023-2024 season. She will be singing Gianetta, Guadalupe, and covering Musetta.





## Tzytle Steinman

Tzytle Steinman (Mezzo-Soprano) is originally from San Diego, CA.

This is her second year as a Baumgartner Studio Artist. She has performed with multiple companies including Ohio Light Opera, Fargo-Moorhead Opera, San Diego Opera, and Utah Festival Opera. This summer she will be a Young Artist with the Glimmerglass Festival. Her roles include Buttercup in *HMS Pinafore*, Venus in *Orpheus in the Underworld*, Rosina in the *Barber of Seville (Tour)*, Dinah in *Trouble in Tahiti*, Tisbe in *La Cenerentola* and Prince Orlofsky in *Die Fledermaus*. Tzytle is a recipient of three Encouragement Awards from the Metropolitan Opera Competition and is a Grand Prize winner of the Patricia Crump Vocal Competition. She was also a contestant on the Price is Right.



## Jerek Fernández

Jerek Fernández is a tenor hailing from San Juan, Puerto Rico. Fernández is currently a

Baumgartner Studio Artist at The Florentine Opera. During the summer, Jerek was part of The Florentine Opera Summer Ensemble, performing scenes as Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*) and Basilio (*Le nozze di Figaro*). After his studies at The Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico, Jerek became an Apprentice Artist at Sarasota Opera for their 2023 winter season. For this upcoming summer, Jerek looks forward to being part of the Wolf Trap Opera's Studio Artist Program.



## Brandon Sanchez

Baritone Brandon Sanchez has performed roles including Schaunard (*La Bohème*), Belcore (*L'elisir d'amore*), Sergeant of Police and Samuel (*The Pirates of Penzance*), the title role of Gianni Schicchi and The Celebrant (*Bernstein's Mass*). He has been featured with the Symphony Silicon Valley, Peninsula Cantare, the Lafayette Master Choral, and internationally with the Ireland Limerick Sinfonia and the Cairo Festival Symphony. Brandon holds a Master of Music in Voice Performance and a Performance Diploma in Solo Voice Performance from Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Born and raised in the Bay Area, he holds a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from San José State University. Brandon has been a young artist with Cedar Rapids Opera and Nashville Opera.



## Fumiyasu Kawase

Fumiyasu Kawase, collaborative pianist and vocal coach, always brings a flourishing emotion and passion to his performance. He is currently at The Florentine Opera for his first year as a Baumgartner Studio Artist. He received his professional studies certificate in collaborative piano under the tutelage of Warren Jones at Manhattan School of Music, where he was receiving the prestigious president's award. He has served as a vocal coach at Manhattan school of Music. Mr. Kawase, as an accompanist, performed at the celebration of the Japanese Emperor's birthday for the Japanese Ambassador to the United States in New York.



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