

Marrying today's sounds with opera hits, this exploration of opera through fresh eyes will undoubtedly take you on a "once in a lifetime" journey.

Covers 21 & Under February 8, 2023 at 5:00 pm Covers
February 9 & 10, 2023
at 7:30 pm

Co-curated by Will and Kevin Bush of Immortal Girlfriend

**Directed by Dimonte Henning** 

Featuring the Baumgartner Studio Artists and Laurann Gilley, Head of Music

The Florentine Opera

The Cooperage 822 S. Water Street, Milwaukee, WI Marrying today's sounds with opera hits, this exploration of opera through fresh eyes will undoubtedly take you on a "once in a lifetime" journey.

Jason Fassl, AntiShadows LLC - Lighting Designer

Robert Sharon - Wardrobe Stylist and Supervisor

Erica Cartledge - Hair and Makeup Designer

Dyan Yoder, Captus Creative Supertitles and Translation Designer

**Tammy Jasinski - Supertitles Prompter** 

**Maram Samaha - Production Manager** 

Erin Joy Swank - Stage Manager

Skylar Delk - Head Electrician

**Debbie Steidl - Production Assistant** 

The Florentine Opera

Brandon Logic - Audio Technician with Support from Studio Gear



# **REPERTOIRE LIST**

Intro by Immortal Girlfriend	
"Habanera" from Carmen	Bizet
"Quando M'en Vo" from <i>La Bohème</i>	Puccini
"Fin ch'chan dal vino" (Champagne Aria) from Don Giovanni	Mozart
"Deh vieni alla finestra" from Don Giovanni	Mozart
"Marechiare"	Tosti
"Au fond du temple saint" (Pearl Fishers Duet) from <i>The Pearl Fishers</i>	Bizet
"Polonaise" from Eugene Onegin	Tchaikovsky
"Votre Toast" (Toreador Song) from Carmen	Bizet
"Engenho Novo"	Braga
Beams by Immortal Girlfriend	
"Dein ist mein ganzes Herz"	Lehár
"Barcarolle" from Les Contes d'Hoffman	Offenbach
"O mio babbino caro" from Gianni Schicchi	Puccini
"La donna è mobile" from <i>Rigoletto</i>	Verdi
"Soave sia il vento" from Così fan tutte	Mozart
Seeker by Immortal Girlfriend	
"Nessun Dorma" from <i>Turandot</i>	Puccini

Verdi

"Libiamo" from La Traviata

# Biographies



#### Will and Kevin Bush - Immortal Girlfriend

Immortal Girlfriend is an alternative electronic/ Retrofuture band and production duo, made up of brothers Kevin and William Bush. The self proclaimed "Dark Knights of Synth" define their sound as a blend of synth, cinema, nostalgia, and long car rides at night. Recently, Immortal Girlfriend has been involved in composing film scores and other commercial work, with their projects being recognized by NPR and Essence. Read more about Immortal Girlfriend in this 88Nine interview.

### **Dimonte Henning**

Dimonte is grateful to direct COVERS for the Florentine Opera. Dimonte is a trained actor, director, and theatre producer, having spent almost two decades working in the performing arts. Dimonte received his formal theater training from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with additional training from Milwaukee Repertory Theater's Emerging Professional Residency (2015/2016 season). He is a Founding Member of the Milwaukee Black Theater Festival and performing arts organization Lights! Camera! Soul!. Dimonte's favorite directing credits include: The Colored Museum, Black Nativity, Dutchman, The Niceties, and Pretty Fire.



Dimonte's regional theater credits include: TONI STONE (Alliance Theatre), Stick Fly (Writers Theater), The Island & Deathtrap (Milwaukee Chamber Theater), Skeleton Crew (Forward Theater Co.), Our Town, A Christmas Carol, & Dimonte has several TV and commercial credits including: Guest starring roles on NBC's Chicago PD (Seasons 4& Disney's Encore!, UBER, Inpro Designs, and Harley-Davidson.



### **Patrick Bessenbacher**

With "purity of tone and ardent, youthful stage presence" (Opera News), tenor Patrick Bessenbacher is from Overland Park, KS. He received his Bachelor's in Music at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and his Master's in Music from The Juilliard School. Recently, Patrick played Tybalt in Florentine Opera's production of Roméo et Juliette and performed in the company's recent project, Covers. This upcoming summer, Patrick will return to Vermont to study chamber music at Marlboro Music Festival. Patrick is represented by Robert Mirshak and Mirshak Artists. Patrick enjoys spending his free time with family and friends, in the mountains skiing, on the beach having a drink, or just on the couch, enjoying everyones' company.



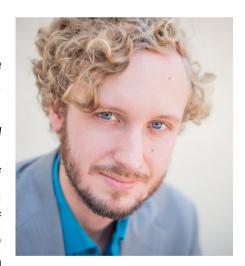
#### **Zach Crowle**

Zachary Crowle is excited to be returning to Milwaukee for his second year as a Baumgartner Studio Artist. This season, he will be performing as Gregorio in Gounod's Romeo et Juliette, Figaro in the Florentine's touring school production of Rossini's II Barbiere di Siviglia, Guglielmo in a reimagine of Mozart's Cosi fan Tutte, and II Sergente in our mainstage production of il Barbiere di Siviglia, as well as performing in Covers, our exciting collaboration with the band Immortal Girlfriend. Last season, Zach was seen as Le Baron du Pictordu in Viardot's Cendrillon, The Black Cat and The Grandfather Clock in Ravel's L'enfant et les sortilèges, Vidal Hernando in Luisa Fernanda, and Marullo in Verdi's Rigoletto.

Zachary has sung with Opera North, Seagle Music Colony, Opera in the Ozarks, the Russian Opera Workshop, and the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. Some of his favorite past roles include Count Almaviva in Le nozze di Figaro, Guildenstern in the world premiere of Herschel Garfein's Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, Der Tod in Ulmann's Der Kaiser von Atlantis, Dan Packard in Bolcom's Dinner at Eight, Dr. Pangloss/Martin/Cacambo in Bernstrin's Candide, Alfred Doolittle in My Fair Lady, and Leporello in Don Giovanni. Zach received his Master degree and Specialist Degree from the University of Michigan, studying with Stephen Lusmann, and his Bachelors from the New England Conservatory of Music, studying with Karen Holvik. He is based out of Brooklyn, New York, where he spends his time with his girlfriend and two loving cats.

#### **Edward Forstman**

Edward Forstman is a pianist and vocal coach in his second year as the Baumgartner Studio Artist pianist at the **Florentine Opera** in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. During the 2021-22 season, he worked on productions of *Rigoletto*, *Luisa Fernanda* (Torroba), *Cendrillon* (Viardot), *L'enfant et les sortilèges*, and *La bohème*. Before beginning at the Florentine, Forstman was a Tomita Young Artist pianist for **Finger Lakes Opera** and worked on their production of *Il barbiere di Siviglia*. For the summer 2022 season, he joined **Chicago Summer Opera** as a Resident Coach for their production of *Cendrillon* (Massenet) and held a staff pianist position at **dell'Arte Opera Ensemble**'s *Finding Home* festival, where he was chorus master, répétiteur, and harpsichordist for their production of Carla Lucero's 2019 opera *Juana*.



An advocate for contemporary opera, Forstman has worked on the premieres of Julie (Whitney George, New Camerata Opera, 2020), Princess Maleine (George, dell'Arte Opera Ensemble, 2019) and MILA, Great Sorcerer (Andrea Clearfield, Prototype Festival, 2019). His studio work includes For You, Solitude and Secrecy (both Pinch Recording Studios; 2021) and Buried Alive, recorded by Leon Botstein and The Orchestra Now with soloist Michael Nagy, baritone (Bridge Records; 2020) Concurrent with the recording, the program was performed at the Fisher Center for the Performing Arts and Carnegie Hall.

Forstman holds a Master's degree in Contemporary Performance from the **Manhattan School of Music** where he studied with Margaret Kampmeier, Christopher Oldfather, and Anthony de Mare.



## **Laura McCauley**

Laura McCauley, Uzbek-American Soprano, 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 for 2022-St. Louis and 2018-Arizona, and was awarded the Encouragement Award in 2019 and 2017. She was also a finalist in Tri-Cities Next Online Vocal Competition in 2020.

Laura is currently at The Florentine Opera as a Baumgartner Studio Artist for the 2022–2023 season. Laura has covered Juliette in Gounod's Romeo et Juliette, will sing Fiordiligi in Cosi: An Adaptation, and Bertha in The Barber of Seville. Laura was also the featured soprano in Covers, a collaborative new work performance with Immortal Girlfriend.

Laura has sung with Arizona Opera's OPERAtunity as the Stepsister and Fairy Godmother in their production of Cinderella as well as their Opera 101 program. As a Young Artist with Seagle Festival, Laura sang her first Mimi in La Bohème in 2021. As a Studio Artist with Opera Neo, she sang the role of Satirino in La Calisto in 2018. While living in Chicago, her most recent home base, Laura sang in the American premier of Die Kathrin with Folks Operetta, sang with MIOpera's production of Sound of Music as Sister Margaretta, and was a member of the ensemble in Opera Festival of Chicago's production of Verdi's II Corsaro.

Her past roles include Tirésias (Les Mamelles de Tirésias), Rosalinde (Die Fledermaus), Pamina (Die Zauberflöte), the title role in Semele, and scenes as Gilda (Rigoletto), Adina (L'elisir d'amore), Norina (Don Pasquale), Lucia (Lucia di Lammermoor), Servilia (La clemenza di Tito) and Baroness (Der Wildschütz). Laura received her Master's Degree from Arizona State University and her Undergraduate Degree from Ithaca College.

### **Tzytle Steinman**

Tzytle Steinman, once described as, "Wickedly funny and talented" by The Fargo Forum, is a Mezzo-Soprano originally from San Diego, CA. She has performed with multiple companies across the United States including Fargo-Moorhead Opera, San Diego Opera and Florentine Opera. This season as a Baumgartner Studio Artist she will perform as Rosina in the Barber of Seville (Tour) and Dorabella in Cosi fan tutte: remix. Her roles include Dinah in Trouble in Tahiti, Tisbe in La Cenerentola, Prince Orlofsky in Die Fledermaus, Stephano in Roméo et Juliette and Mercedes in Carmen. Tzytle is a recipient of the Farwell Trust Award from the Musicians Club of Women in Chicago and three Encouragement Awards from the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions.



She received her MM in Voice and Opera from **Northwestern University** in 2018 and her BM from **Boston Conservatory** in 2016. She also has a large background in dance, musical theatre and choreography. Her choreography has been seen in many productions including *Carmen* (Opera NEO) and *La Cenerentola* (Fargo-Moorhead Opera). In 2021, she was a contestant on **the Price is Right**. When she isn't singing, Tzytle loves to knit, bake, hike and take her rescue dog, Golde, to her favorite dog beach. You can follow her on TikTok and Instagram **@Tzytle** 

# **Photo Credits**

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Friday, March 17 - Sunday, March 26
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