

The
Florentine
Opera

*W*ANDER*L*UST

AN EXPLORATION OF SONGS ABOUT TRAVEL

March 22, 2024 | 7:30 PM

Wayne & Kristine Lueders Opera Center
926 East Burleigh Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212

BAUMGARTNER STUDIO ARTISTS

Laura McCauley Soprano
Tyztle Steinman Mezzo-Soprano
Jerek Fernández Tenor
Brandan Sanchez Baritone
Fumiyasu Kawase Pianist

ARTISTIC

Shannon McGinnis Programmatic Curation
Eric McEnaney Principale Coach

REPERTOIRE LIST

Madrid.....Viardot

Voyage à Paris.....Poulenc

California.....arr. S.M. Kohn

Où voulez vous aller?.....Gounod

Youkali.....Weill

Let's Take a Walk.....Thomson

Come Fly with Me.....Sinatra

Kennst du das Land?.....Schumann

Romance de Mignon.....Duparc

La partida.....Alvarez

Siempre en me corazon.....Lecuona

Chanson de l'adieu.....Tosti

Veggio co'bei vostri occhi un dolce lume.....Britten

Glückwunsch.....Korngold

For the Shores of Your Far Homeland.....Borodin

None but the Lonely Heart.....Tchaikovsky

Places to Live.....Bolcom

Wir wandelten.....Brahms

Bonjour mon coeur.....Viardot

When I Was a Dreamer (and You Were My Dream).....Alystyne

Travel's End.....Price

New Moon.....R.I. Gordon

SPOTLIGHT

SHORT, SWEET & SOCIAL

Chaz'men Williams-Ali



March 28, 2024 at 5:30 PM

Milwaukee County Historical Society

florentineopera.org | 414.291.5700 x224

BIOGRAPHIES



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 for her second season as a Baumgartner Studio Artist. Laura has covered Juliette in Gounod’s *Roméo et Juliette*, sang Fiordiligi in *Così: REMIX*, and sang Berta in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*. Laura was also the featured soprano in *Covers*, a collaborative new work performance with Immortal Girlfriend. With the Florentine Opera’s outreach initiative, Laura sang Donna Bartola and Donna Basilia in an adaptation of *The Barber of Seville* for children and this season will be singing a variety of characters in *The Child and the Enchantments*. This season, Laura will be singing Gianetta in *L’Elisir d’amore* and covering Adina. She will also be featured in *María de Buenos Aires* and singing Guadalupe in *Songbird*.

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 *Pirates of Penzance* as Mable, and was a member of the ensemble in Opera Festival of Chicago’s production of Verdi’s *Il Corsaro*.

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 Ohio Light Opera, Fargo-Moorhead Opera, San Diego Opera, Utah Festival Opera, Sarasota Opera, and Florentine Opera. This season, as a second year Baumgartner Studio Artist with the Florentine Opera, she will be seen as *Enfant* in *L'enfant et les sortilèges* and *Mastrilla* in *Songbird*.



Her other roles include Buttercup in *HMS Pinafore*, Venus in *Orpheus in the Underworld*, Rosina in *the Barber of Seville (Tour)*, Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, 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 and her BM from Boston Conservatory.

She also has a large background in dance, musical theater, 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. Check her out on tiktok and Instagram. @Tzytle



Jerek Fernández

Jerek Fernández is a tenor hailing from San Juan, Puerto Rico. Fernández is currently the Baumgartner Studio Artist resident tenor at The Florentine Opera for the 2023-2024 season, where he will perform the roles of the Teapot, the Little Old Man, and the Frog in *L'enfant et les sortilèges*, the role of Clergy in Offenbach's *Songbird*,

and understudy the roles of Nemorino in *L'elisir d'amore* and Rodolfo in *La Bohème*. Most recently, Jerek was the tenor for The Florentine Opera's Summer Studio Ensemble, where he performed 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, 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.

Brandan Sanchez



Baritone Brandan Sanchez has quickly built a dynamic and visible career, having performed some of the most beloved operas, oratorios, and art song cycles popular with today's audiences. Roles include Don Pedro (Songbird), Schaunard (*La Bohème*), Belcore (*L'elisir d'amore*), Sergeant of Police and Samuel (*The Pirates of Penzance*), The Celebrant in *Bernstein's Mass* and the title role of *Gianni Schicchi*.

Brandan has had the pleasure of singing with Symphony Silicon Valley (CA), Peninsula Cantare (CA), the Lafayette Master Chorale (IN) and internationally with the Ireland Limerick Sinfonia and the Cairo Festival Symphony. Brandan holds a Master of Music in Voice Performance and a Performance Diploma in Solo Voice Performance from Indiana University's 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. He is a recipient of Mu Phi Epsilon Foundation's Liana K. Sandin Voice Scholarship. Brandan has been a young artist with Cedar Rapids Opera and the Mary Ragland Emerging Artists of Nashville Opera, and is currently a Baumgartner Studio Artist with the Florentine 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.



April 19, 2024

at 7:30 pm

April 21, 2024

at 2:30 pm

Uihlein Hall,
Marcus Performing
Arts Center

LA BOHÈME

Experience this beautiful powerhouse opera, now set in Milwaukee's 1940s Bronzeville. Luxuriate in the lush movie music and an all-star cast telling this double love story and bromance. Original sets and artwork will bring Bronzeville alive for all of us to celebrate.

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