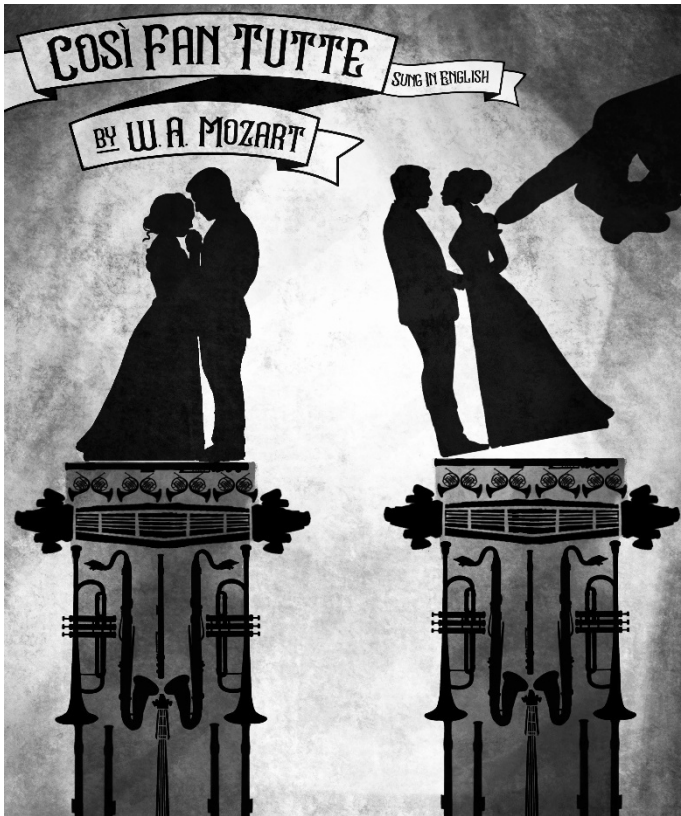


# BRONX OPERA

EST. 1967

*Presents*



**2024-2025  
58<sup>th</sup> Season**

Lovinger Theatre, Lehman College

Saturday evening,  
April 26, 2025 – 7:30 pm  
May 3, 2025 – 7:30 pm

Sunday afternoon,  
April 27, 2025 – 2:30 pm  
May 4, 2025 – 2:30 pm



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **THURSDAY, MAY 8 @ 6:30PM BRONX OPERA IN CONCERT**

Queens Public Library – Hunters Point Branch  
47-40 Center Boulevard, Queens  
Information: (646) 281-9963  
Admission: Free, no tickets required

### **SATURDAY, JUNE 7 @ 1PM BRONX OPERA IN CONCERT**

New York Public Library – Spuyten Duyvil Branch  
650 West 235<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx  
Information: (646) 281-9963  
Admission: Free, no tickets required

### **SUNDAY, JUNE 8 @ 3:00PM ORCHESTRA OF THE BRONX CONCERT**

**Schumann & Sibelius**  
Lovinger Theatre, Lehman College  
250 Bedford Park Boulevard West, The Bronx  
Information: (718) 365-4209  
Admission: Free, no tickets required

### **SATURDAY, JULY 6 @ 2PM BRONX OPERA IN CONCERT**

New York Public Library – Parkchester Branch  
1985 Westchester Avenue, Bronx  
Information: (646) 281-9963  
Admission: Free, no tickets required

Check out what Bronx Opera created during the pandemic:  
Two BxO Video Productions

### **THE IMPRE\$ARIO and TRIAL BY JURY**

Search YouTube for  
“Bronx Opera Impresario” or “Bronx Opera Trial by Jury”  
Please watch and enjoy!

# THE BRONX OPERA COMPANY

Michael Spierman, Artistic Director  
Benjamin Spierman, General Director  
proudly presents

## *Così fan tutte*

*Music by*  
W.A. Mozart

*Words by*  
Lorenzo da Ponte

*Translation compiled by*  
Benjamin Spierman

*Conductors*  
Michael Spierman (4/27, 5/3, & 5/4)  
Eric Kramer (4/26)

*Stage Director / Producer*  
Benjamin Spierman

*Orchestra Contractor*  
Bohdan Hilash

*Set Designer*  
Kyle Higgins

*Lighting Designer*  
Joshua Rose

*Costume Designer*  
Eric Lamp

*Senior Production Manager*  
Scott H. Schneider

*Assistant Director*  
Tess Klibanoff

*Technical Director*  
Christopher Higgins

*Production Stage Manager*  
Holly Thomas

*Chorus Master*  
Michael Haigler

### **THE BRONX**

Lovinger Theatre @ Lehman College

Saturday, April 26, 2025 @ 7:30 pm ▪ Sunday, April 27, 2025 @ 2:30 pm

Saturday, May 3, 2025 @ 7:30 pm ▪ Sunday, May 4, 2025 @ 2:30 pm

*There will be one 15-minute intermission.*

## ABOUT THE COMPANY

The Bronx Opera Company (BxO), now in its 58<sup>th</sup> season, enjoys a distinguished reputation as a developer of outstanding professional operatic artists who come to New York from all parts of the United States and abroad. With support from various private, business, and governmental sources, carefully rehearsed full productions are presented in The Bronx. All productions are sung in English, with full orchestra and chorus. Repertoire has included well-known works such as *Carmen*, *La bohème*, and *The Magic Flute*, as well as important American or New York premieres of operas such as Smetana's *The Secret*, Vaughan Williams' *Hugh the Drover*, and Rossini's *L'equivoco stravagante*. We were proud to add our 2010 production of the Weber/Mahler *Die drei Pintos* (a New York staged premiere) to this list, as well 2014's East Coast premiere of Kirke Mechem's *The Rivals*.

In addition to full productions, we present concerts throughout the year in The Bronx and surrounding areas from Long Island to Sullivan County. We also have an active program in Bronx schools that promotes a greater understanding of opera among students from elementary grades through high school. Our aim is to introduce opera to those who are unfamiliar with it, to provide a meaningful opportunity for outstanding performers to further their promising careers, and to proudly represent the quality of life in our community. BxO's Teaching Artists are also placed throughout the Bronx in various Community Centers, Senior Centers, and Schools, where they use their knowledge to improve the lives of people across our borough.

This production of *Costi fan tutte* is made possible with the invaluable production and rehearsal support of Amalgamated Housing Corporation and Lehman Stages, each of which played host to important rehearsals. This production would have been impossible to create without their help.

BxO adheres to the code of ethics jointly agreed upon by the American Guild of Musical Artists and the Council for Independent Opera Companies of the Tri-State area. Bronx Opera is also part of the New York Opera Alliance, a consortium of small and mid-sized opera producers within the five boroughs. Information about the Alliance can be found at [NewYorkOperaAlliance.org](http://NewYorkOperaAlliance.org).

BxO wishes to acknowledge that we live and work on land which is the traditional territory of the Munsee Lenape, Wappinger, and Schaghticoke nations, who were violently displaced as a result of European settler colonialism over the course of 400 years.

## ABOUT THE OPERA

Mozart completed *Così fan tutte, ossia la scuola degli amanti* (*All Women Behave Like That, or The School for Lovers*) in early winter 1789-1790. This opera, assigned the number 588 in Ludwig von Köchel's catalog of Mozart's works, marked the last of the composer's collaborations with Lorenzo da Ponte (1749-1838), the Italian adventurer and poet who was also the librettist for *Le nozze di Figaro* (1786) and *Don Giovanni* (1787). *Così* was commissioned by Emperor Joseph II in the autumn of 1789, and was apparently complete by December 29<sup>th</sup>, when Mozart invited his friends Joseph Haydn and Michael Puchberg to hear it in "a little opera rehearsal." The premiere took place a month later, on January 30, 1790. The opera's subsequent life is a fascinating history in itself, with many adaptations of the story (including one to *Love's Labour's Lost*) and numerous changes in title made by producers who thought its original plot was too frivolous. Many prominent musicians, including Beethoven and Wagner, agreed. Thus, *Così* received relatively few performances in its original form in the nineteenth century. Its American premiere did not take place until the Metropolitan Opera mounted it on March 24, 1922. Nowadays, the opera has long become established as one of the finest creations from the end of Mozart's tragically short life. "This opera is iridescent, like a glorious soap bubble, with the colors of buffoonery, parody, and both genuine and simulated emotion," observed Mozart biographer Alfred Einstein. He added, "To this, moreover, is added the color of pure beauty...There is an evening glow over the whole score."

*Così* was the first opera mounted by Bronx Opera, with its initial performance taking place on Friday, November 24, 1967 at Vladeck Hall in The Bronx (where many rehearsals for this production took place). The opera received subsequent BxO productions in 1976, 1986, 1993, and 2006. The present production updates the action from eighteenth century Naples to the New York City area, in 1966.

— M.S.

## ABOUT THIS PRODUCTION

The plot of *Così* centers around Alfonso (reimagined as a civilian professor at an unnamed military academy), his cadet students (Ferrando and Guglielmo), their sweethearts (sisters Dorabella and Fiordiligi), and Despina, the sisters' "Gal Friday". Tired of Ferrando and Guglielmo's oft-expressed certainty that their sweethearts are perfect, Alfonso bets them that he can prove that the women (like all of us) are human beings who can, and will fall. The men take the bet, pretend to leave for "war", return wearing (what I hope are good) disguises, and set out to woo each other's sweetheart. Encouraged by Despina (who is working with Alfonso behind the scenes), the sisters decide to give in, leading to confusion and heartbreak as the opera concludes.

As mentioned in my father's essay, the title of *Così* specifically cites the behavior of women. As I have grown older, I increasingly see the plot as being about all of us fallible mortals. I think that the subtitle (*The School for Lovers*) is really a more accurate depiction of what *Così* is all about. The school, convened by Mozart and da Ponte, teaches that we are all imperfect, especially when it comes to relationships. This opera brilliantly depicts the interplay of profound friendship and love with the human capability to betray those we care for most. Ferrando and Guglielmo try to seduce each other's partners; their relative success changes their friendship. Fiordiligi and Dorabella try to flirt with the disguised men, hoping to keep their emotions in check. Ultimately, none of the four come out unscathed. The end of the story, as written, sees the couples fully reconcile, recommitting unreservedly to their original partners. However, many productions have interpreted the ending differently, making the case that it's unrealistic for these couples to just go on with their lives after experiencing the trauma set in motion by Alfonso's bet. Bronx Opera's 2025 version is no exception to this trend: the story starts as a farce, but it doesn't end that way. Mozart's work always asks profound questions of us and, often, there are no simple answers. The plot of this piece has, over time, been frequently portrayed with an ambiguity that reflects a deeper truth about humanity ... and, in the end, this is the quality I love most about *Così fan tutte* (or, as it truly should be retitled, *Così fan TUTTI*).

– B.J.S.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

|                 |                                                                           |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fiordiligi..... | Alina Tamborini (4/26 & 5/4)<br>Samantha Long (4/27 & 5/3)                |
| Dorabella.....  | Linda Collazo (4/26 & 5/4)<br>Miastasha Gonzalez-Colón (4/27 & 5/3)       |
| Guglielmo.....  | Brian J. Alvarado (4/26 & 5/4)<br>Johannes Linneballe (4/27 & 5/3)        |
| Ferrando.....   | Gabriel Enrique Hernandez (4/26 & 5/4)<br>Matthew Youngblood (4/27 & 5/3) |
| Despina.....    | Caroline Tye (4/26 & 5/4)<br>Emily Hughes (4/27 & 5/3)                    |
| Alfonso.....    | Samuel Rachmuth (4/26 & 5/4)<br>Michael Niemann (4/27 & 5/3)              |

### **Chorus.....**

John Carr, Victoria Falcone, Anneke Honor, Kira Neary, Cophelia Pertez, Aaron Petrovich, Zachary Tirgan, Christopher Toussaint

### **Covers.....**

Victoria Falcone (Dorabella), Anneke Honor (Despina), Kira Neary (Fiordiligi), Aaron Petrovich (Guglielmo), Zachary Tirgan (Ferrando)

### **Staff for *Così fan tutte***

|                                                                                         |                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Stage Director / Producer.....                                                          | Benjamin Spierman   |
| Assistant Conductor.....                                                                | Eric Kramer         |
| Set Designer.....                                                                       | Kyle Higgins        |
| Lighting Designer.....                                                                  | Joshua Rose         |
| Costume Designer.....                                                                   | Eric Lamp           |
| Chorus Master.....                                                                      | Michael C. Haigler  |
| Assistant Stage Director.....                                                           | Tess Klibanoff      |
| Production Stage Manager.....                                                           | Holly Thomas        |
| Senior Production Manager.....                                                          | Scott H. Schneider  |
| Technical Director.....                                                                 | Christopher Higgins |
| Wigs & Makeup.....                                                                      | Brittany Chapa      |
| Scene Shop Assistant.....                                                               | Iryna Tomarova      |
| Rehearsal Pianists.....                                                                 |                     |
| Michael Haigler, Eric Kramer, Christine Pulliam Melamed, Marijo Newman &<br>David Štech |                     |

### **Staff for the Bronx Opera Company**

|                                                            |                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Artistic Director/Music Director.....                      | Michael Spierman                     |
| General Director.....                                      | Benjamin Spierman                    |
| Associate Conductor.....                                   | Eric Kramer                          |
| Chorus Master.....                                         | Michael C. Haigler                   |
| Orchestra Contractor.....                                  | Bohdan Hilash                        |
| Senior Production Manager.....                             | Scott H. Schneider                   |
| Public Relations.....                                      | Audrey Ross                          |
| Graphic Designer.....                                      | Dominiq Thraillkill                  |
| Press & Archival Photographer.....                         | John Bruno                           |
| Treasurer.....                                             | Emanuel Nadelman                     |
| Legal Consultant.....                                      | Jackson, Lewis, Schnitzler & Krupman |
| Social Media Manager/Administrative Assistant/Program..... | Hannah Spierman                      |
| Administrative Assistant .....                             | Robert McGowan                       |



## Staff for Lehman Stages

|                                      |                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Director.....                        | Dante Albertie                                                                                                 |
| Assistant Director.....              | Henry Ovalles                                                                                                  |
| Technical Director.....              | Christopher Higgins                                                                                            |
| Production Manager.....              | Felix Otero                                                                                                    |
| Director of Production Services..... | Amira Mustapha                                                                                                 |
| Administrative Assistant.....        | Aleigi Dumé                                                                                                    |
| Lehman Stages Load-In Staff.....     |                                                                                                                |
|                                      | Gabriela Garcia, Tatyana McIntosh, Ibrahim Mustapha                                                            |
| Lehman Stages Run Crew.....          |                                                                                                                |
|                                      | Gabriel Agostinelli, Matthew Garaicoa, Jayleen Maldonado, Tatyana McIntosh,<br>Bethany A. Rondón, Edward Solis |

*This production was made possible with the assistance of the New York State Council on the Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, Assemblymember Jeffrey Dinowitz, and City Councilmember Eric Dinowitz.*



Instagram & Twitter: **@BronxOpera** -- Facebook: **“Bronx Opera Company”**

Use **#BxOCosìFanTutte** to continue the conversation on social media!

Learn more at **[www.bronxopera.org](http://www.bronxopera.org)**

# The Bronx Opera Orchestra

## **Violin I**

Urara Mogi  
Jessica Li  
Jonathan Block  
David Steinberg

## **Violin II**

Sharon Gunderson  
Dominique Valenzuela  
Andy Didorenko  
Siona Loughnane  
Sam Glazman  
Max Levin  
Camilla Caldwell

## **Viola**

Ina Litera  
Jacob Rollins  
Edmundo Ramirez

## **Cello**

Matt Goeke  
Anastasia Golenishcheva  
Katsura Mori

## **Bass**

Mark Wade

## **Flute**

Koaki Shinkai  
Victoria Carchietta

## **Oboe**

Alan Morris  
Matthew Maroon

## **Clarinet**

Monte Morgenstern  
David Sapiden  
Bohdan Hilash

## **Bassoon**

Shotaro Mori  
Kennedy Plains  
Jean Dubey-Gockowski  
Joe Swift

## **Horn**

Tim McCarthy  
Alejandro Salaverry  
Constance Mulford

## **Trumpet**

Grace O'Connell  
Ryan Crites  
Robert Williamson

## **Timpani**

Barbara Allen

## **Harpsichord**

Michael Haigler

**We thank the following individuals for their generous support  
of the current season:**

**PRINCIPAL (\$1000 and up)**

In memory of Bernie Frishwasser

Peter Heiman

Deirdre I. Jersey

Eric Lamp

Marjorie Laury

Jennifer Moore

Manny Nadelman

Gloria Neuwirth

Michael Spierman

**COMPRIMARIO (\$100 - \$999)**

Barbara Lynne Anders

Susan Berenzweig

Nancy Braman

Stephen Carman

Lorraine Coyle

Beverly Cumbo

Ali Dogramaci

Joel Feinberg

Anne & Paul Grand

Judith Gurland

Christina Harcar

Lindsey K. Howard

Benjamin Hoyer

Ruth Kohn

Donald Lewis

Thomas Love

Roger Malouf

Karen Marcus

Christine Mastrangelo

Linn Mehta

Audrey & Danny Meyer

Sybille & Howard Millard

Jack Nayer

Albert Neal

Kyle & Laura Pfortmiller

Elizabeth Pimentel

Michael Presser

Andrea Rockower

Kathleen M. Sanders

Nancy M. Scovotti

Bruce & Helene Schneider

Kaspar Schroeter

Cheryl Simmons-Oliver

Richard Slate

Pamela Sloane

Joseph Sherman

Helene R. Spierman

Walter Stingle

Andrew P. Tothy

Leslie Swanson

**ENSEMBLE (up to \$99)**

Hillary Brown, Renee Vera Cafiero, Josephine Costa, Dawn Cotter-Jenkins,  
Dorothy Dobkowski, Laura Endrizzi, Irving & Blu Greenberg, Patrick  
Hegde, Dani Ivanov, Cynthia Lane, Ron Link, Denise Orr, Harvey M.  
Rosenstein, Bernard & Selma Stern

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

**This production was made possible by public and private funds from:**

|                                   |                                              |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Assemblymember Jeffrey Dinowitz   | I.W. Foundation                              |
| Brooklyn Public Library           | National Park Service                        |
| Blackbaud Giving Fund             | New York City Department of Cultural Affairs |
| Councilmember Eric Dinowitz       | New York State Council on the Arts           |
| The Jarvis and Constance Doctorow | New York State Department of Education       |
| Family Foundation                 | Paul Hastings LLP                            |
| Wallace Fox Foundation            | Rotary Club of The Bronx                     |
| The Francesco and Mary Giambelli  | Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation     |
| Foundation                        |                                              |

**These organizations played an important role in making this season happen:**

|                                        |                                      |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Amalgamated Housing Corporation        | Lehman Stages                        |
| ExxonMobil Corporation                 | Moikgantsi Enterprises               |
| International Business Machines, Inc.  | New Beginnings Older Adult Center at |
| JASA Van Cortlandt Older Adult Center  | The Riverdale Y                      |
| Lehman College Department of Music,    | New York Public Library Culture Pass |
| Multimedia, Theatre, and Dance         | Program                              |
| Lehman College Office of the President |                                      |

**The Bronx Opera Company would like to thank the following groups and individuals:**

|                              |                            |                          |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Dante Albertie               | Ilyssa Gillman             | Henry Ovalles            |
| Vincent Amendola             | Christopher Higgins        | Aaron Petrovich          |
| Debby Appel                  | Kyle Higgins               | Rita Putnam              |
| Sharon Asherman              | James P. Hart              | Jac-que Robinson         |
| Bedford Park Café Restaurant | Sr. Jeanne Marie Humphries | Andrea Rockower          |
| Susan Berenzweig             | Intuitive Production       | Philip B. Rose           |
| Bklyn Public Library Orch.   | Management                 | Hon. Jose M. Serrano     |
| Collection                   | Rosemary Kaplan            | Bruce & Helene Schneider |
| Alessandra Casale            | Nathan Keidel              | Hannah Spierman          |
| Brenda Cohen                 | Michael Max Knobbe         | Staging Techniques, Inc. |
| Richard Coraine              | Lehman Stages              | Harold Stern             |
| Brendan Crain                | Judith S. Levi             | St. Paul's Historic Site |
| Hon. Eric Dinowitz           | David Lewis                | Leslie Swanson           |
| Hon. Jeffrey Dinowitz        | Robert Marx                | Dominiq Thrailkill       |
| Aleigi Dumé                  | Joseph Mitchell            | Alyssa Van Gorder        |
| Evelyn Fernandez             | Amira Mustapha             |                          |
| Elizabeth Figueroa           | Gloria Neuwirth, Esq.      |                          |
| Frost Valley YMCA            | Felix Otero                |                          |



Brian J. Alvarado



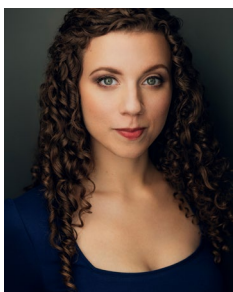
Linda Collazo



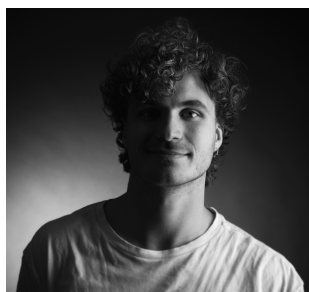
Miastasha Gonzalez-Colòn



Gabriel Enrique Hernandez



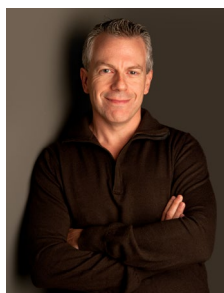
Emily Hughes



Johannes Linneballe



Samantha Long



Michael Niemann



Samuel Rachmuth



Alina Tamborini



Caroline Tye



Matthew Youngblood

## Cast

### **Brian J. Alvarado – Guglielmo (Bronx, NY)**

BxO: Peter, *Hansel and Gretel*; George, Earl of Mountarat, *Iolanthe*; Filiberto, *Il signor Bruschino* / Simone, *Gianni Schicchi*; etc.

Credits: Dr. Falke, *La Chauve-Souris*, Orchestre classique de Montréal; Baritone, *The Four-Note Opera*, Festival d'art vocal de Montréal; Silvio, *Pagliacci*, New Rochelle Opera; Eugene Johnson, *Blind Injustice*, Opera Theatre of the Rockies; Angelotti, *Tosca*, Opera Vermont; Tom, *Un ballo in maschera*, Opera Project Columbus

### **Linda Collazo – Dorabella (Bronx, NY)**

BxO Debut

Credits: Carmen (cover), *La Carmencita*, The Opera Next Door; Maud Dunlop, *The Music Man*, Charlottesville Opera; Stepmother, *The Juniper Tree*, Opera Orlando; Soloist, Choirs of America, Carnegie Hall; Lupe / Frida (cover), *Frida*, Opera Colorado; Meg (cover), *Falstaff*, Aspen Music Festival

### **Miastasha Gonzalez-Colón – Dorabella (New York, NY)**

BxO: Queen of the Fairies, *Iolanthe*; Zita, *Gianni Schicchi*

Credits: Mother Marie, *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, Purchase Opera; Dido, *Dido and Aeneas*, Purchase Opera; Hand, *In the Green*, Mannes School of Music; Soloist, Palmeri's *Misa a Buenos Aires*, New York City Master Chorale; Mezzo soloist, Abbi Betinis' *Bar xizgam*, New York Choral Society; Semi-finalist, SAS Performing Arts Vocal Competition

### **Gabriel Enrique Hernandez – Ferrando (New York, NY)**

BxO: Rinuccio, *Gianni Schicchi*; Ottavio, *Don Giovanni*

Credits: Peter Quint, *Turn of the Screw*, Opera Ithaca; Aret, *Jupiter's Journey to the Earth*, the little OPERA theatre of ny; Remendado, *Carmen*, Hogfish Festival; Le Comte Barigoule, *Cendrillon*, Resonance Works; Torquemada, *L'heure Espagnole*, New Camerata Opera; Don Ottavio, *Don Giovanni*, Fargo Moorhead Opera

### **Emily Hughes – Despina (Carbondale, IL)**

BxO: Iolanthe, *Iolanthe*, Annio, *La clemenza di Tito*

Credits: Flora, *La traviata*, Oper Kiel; Smeton, *Anna Bolena*, Winter Opera St. Louis; Cherubino, *Le nozze di Figaro*, Southern Illinois Music Festival; Suor Zelatrice, *Suor Angelica*, Opera on the James; Camille, *Camille Claudel: Into the Fire*, New Camerata Opera; Vivaldi's *Gloria*, DCINY / Carnegie Hall

### **Johannes Linneballe – Guglielmo (Copenhagen, Denmark)**

BxO Debut

Credits: Leporello, *Don Giovanni*, Off-Brand Opera; Father, *La Passion de Simone*, Opéra de Reims; Uberto, *La serva padrona*, Garden State Opera; Lilas Pastia / Zuniga, *La tragedie de Carmen*, New Camerata Opera; Figaro, *Le nozze di Figaro*, Theater im Delphi; M.M. – Classical Voice, Manhattan School of Music

**Samantha Long – Fiordiligi  
(Johnson, IA)**

BxO: Gertrude, *Hansel and Gretel*; Nella, *Gianni Schicchi*; Phyllis (cover), *Iolanthe*  
Credits: Alcina, *Alcina*, Operativo;  
Pamina, *Die Zauberflöte*, Miami Music  
Festival; Iolanta, *Iolanta*, Russian Opera  
Workshop; Susannah, *Susannah*, Rice  
University; Congregant/Various, *Taking  
Up Serpents*, Rice University; Contessa  
Almaviva, *Le nozze di Figaro*, Prague  
Summer Nights

**Michael Niemann – Alfonso  
(Detmold, Germany)**

BxO: George, Earl of Mountararat,  
*Iolanthe*; Gianni Schicchi, *Gianni Schicchi*  
Credits: Germont, *La traviata*, Oswego  
Opera; Vanzetti, *Sacco and Vanzetti*  
(orchestral premiere), After Dinner  
Opera Company; John Shears (cover),  
*Paul Bunyan*, New York City Opera;  
Captain Corcoran, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, New  
York Gilbert & Sullivan Players;  
Dandini, *La Cenerentola*, New York City  
Opera (production for students); El  
Dancaïro, *Carmen*, Chautauqua Opera

**Samuel Rachmuth – Alfonso  
(New York, NY)**

BxO: A Detective, *Il signor Bruschino* /  
Amantio di Nicolao, *Gianni Schicchi*  
Credits: Seneca, *L'incoronazione di Poppea*,  
Mannes Opera; Figaro, *Le nozze di Figaro*,  
Opera Magnifico; Sciarrone, *Tosca*,  
Charlottesville Opera; Giove, *La Calisto*,  
Mannes Opera; The Jailer, *Tosca*, Sarasota  
Opera; 2022 & 2023 District  
Encouragement Prize Winner,  
Metropolitan Opera Eric and Dominique  
Laffont Competition

**Alina Tamborini – Fiordiligi  
(Okemos, MI)**

BxO: Sofia, *Il signor Bruschino* /  
Lauretta, *Gianni Schicchi*; Blanche de la  
Force, *Dialogues of the Carmelites*;  
Servilia, *La clemenza di Tito*  
Credits: Giulietta, *I Capuleti ed i Montecchi*,  
Teatro Nuovo; Adele, *Die Fledermaus*, Bel  
Cantanti Opera; Berta, *Il barbiere di  
Siviglia*, Teatro Nuovo; Isoletta, *La  
straniera*, Teatro Nuovo; Soprano soloist,  
Mahler's *Symphony No. 4*, Stony Brook  
Symphony Orchestra; Upcoming:  
Euridice, *Orfeo ed Euridice*, Libero Canto

**Caroline Tye – Despina  
(Belmont, MA)**

BxO: Queen of the Fairies, *Iolanthe*; Mother  
Marie of the Incarnation, *Dialogues of the  
Carmelites*; Mother, *The Consul*, etc.  
Credits: La zia principessa, *Suor Angelica*,  
VAM; Carmen, *Carmen*, Regina Opera;  
Suzuki, *Madama Butterfly*, Regina Opera;  
Madame Flora (Baba), *The Medium*, New  
Camerata Opera; Augusta Tabor, *The Ballad  
of Baby Doe*, Utopia Opera; Mercédès,  
*Carmen*, Saint Petersburg Opera

**Matthew Youngblood – Ferrando  
(Benton, KY)**

BxO: Thomas, Earl Tolloller, *Iolanthe*;  
Florville, *Il signor Bruschino* / Gherardo,  
*Gianni Schicchi*  
Credits: Mayor Upfold, *Albert Herring*,  
Aaron Copland School of Music; The  
Defendant, *Trial By Jury*, Oswego Opera  
Theater; Box, *Cox and Box*, Oswego Opera  
Theater; Upcoming: Gherardo, *Gianni  
Schicchi*, Salt Marsh Opera; Pluto, *Orpheus in  
the Underworld*, Quisisana Resort; Tybalt,  
*Roméo et Juliette*, Quisisana Resort

## Staff

### **Michael C. Haigler – Chorus Master (Atlanta, GA)**

BxO: Chorus Master since 2006;  
Assistant Conductor, *Albert Herring*, *La gazza ladra*, *Hansel and Gretel*, etc

Credits: North American Finalist,  
Maazel-Vilar International Conducting  
Competition; Guest Conductor, National  
Chorale (Lincoln Center); Music  
Director, Long Island Choral  
Society; Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* and  
Mahler's "Resurrection," Concerts at  
Christ Church, Oyster Bay; *A Midsummer  
Night's Dream*, University of Tennessee  
(Knoxville); *Don Giovanni*, *Carmen*, etc.  
Cartersville Opera, GA;  
www.ConductorMichael.com

### **Kyle Higgins – Set Designer (Croton-on-Hudson, NY)**

BxO: Set Designer, *Iolanthe*, *Dialogues of  
the Carmelites*

Credits: Scenic Designer for Lehman  
College Theater Department, 2010-  
present; Adjunct Faculty, Lehman  
College Theater Department (2023-  
present) and Art Department (2024);  
USA829 Scenic Artist and USA829  
Union Shop Steward, Hudson Scenic  
Studio, 2000-2019

### **Tess Klibanoff – Assistant Stage Director (Rochester, NY)**

BxO: Assistant Stage Director / Stage  
Manager, *Hansel and Gretel*

Credits: Associate Director, *Rinaldo*,  
Chicago Summer Opera; Stage Director,  
Bach's *Coffee Cantata*, Queen City Opera;  
Hortensius, *La fille du régiment*, Opera  
Company of Middlebury; Third Lady,  
*Mozart: Super Flute*, Queen City Opera;

Upcoming: The Unwanted Child, Clarice  
Assad's *The Selfish Giant*, Buffalo Opera  
Unlimited; Stage Director, *Bastien und  
Bastienne* & *Cavalleria Rusticana*, Modern  
Vintage Opera (Summer 2025)

### **Eric Kramer – Associate Conductor (Chicago, IL)**

BxO: Conductor, *Gianni Schicchi*, *The  
 Consul*; Associate Conductor, *Iolanthe*,  
*Dialogues of the Carmelites*, etc.

Credits: Music Director, New York  
Symphonic Arts Ensemble; Assistant  
Conductor, Budapest Festival Orchestra;  
Assistant Conductor, Opéra National de  
Lyon; Guest Conductor, Sorrento  
International Music Festival; Guest  
Conductor, Berlin Sinfonietta; Solo  
pianist and composer, Civic Orchestra of  
Chicago

### **Eric Lamp – Costume Designer (Hedgesville, WV)**

BxO: Co-Stage Director /  
Choreographer / Associate Costume  
Designer, *Lady in the Dark*; Costume  
Designer, *Il signor Bruschino* / *Gianni  
Schicchi* (co-designer),

*Iolanthe*, *Impresario*, *Trial By Jury*, *Mikado*;  
Bardolph, *Sir John In Love*;  
Ensemble, *Trial By Jury*

Credits: Featured Acrobat, *Parade*,  
Metropolitan Opera; Lo Singh, *La Cage  
aux Folles* (world premiere), Palace  
Theater (Broadway); Ensemble, *Einstein  
on the Beach*, World Tour and Nonesuch  
recording; Ensemble, *Lost Objects*, BAM  
Next Wave Festival; Ensemble, *A More  
Perfect Union*, Dhiagilev Festival (Perm,  
Russia); Vocal Artist, *The Crucible*, Walter  
Kerr Theater (Broadway)



**Joshua Rose – Lighting Designer  
(New York, NY)**

BxO: Lighting Designer / Associate Production Manager - *Iolanthe*; Lighting Designer - *Il signor Bruschino* / *Gianni Schicchi*; *Dialogues of the Carmelites*; etc.

Credits: *Rent*, Sugarloaf Performing Arts Center; *Rooms*, *The Edge of Some World*, and *Mazurkas*, Limon Dance Co.; *The Other Mozart*, HERE Arts Center; *Don Giovanni*, *Les contes d'Hoffman*, *L'elisir d'amore*, and *La traviata*, Martina Arroyo Foundation

**Scott H. Schneider – Senior  
Production Manager  
(Elmont, NY)**

BxO: Production Manager since 2007

Credits: Senior Production Manager, Intuitive Production Management; *Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors*; *Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground*; *The Meeting: Interpreter*; *Puffs*; *Once Upon a (korean) Time*, Ma-Yi Theatre Company; *Cheek to Cheek*, York Theatre Company

**Benjamin Spierman – Stage Director  
(Bronx, NY)**

BxO: General Director; Stage Director - *Iolanthe*; *Il signor Bruschino* / *Gianni Schicchi*; *Dialogues of the Carmelites*; etc.

Credits: *Dracula* (world premiere), New Opera Lyra Ottawa; *The Golden Cage* (world premiere), Oswego Opera Theater; *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Opera San José; *La bohème*, Syracuse Opera; *Carmen*, *Turandot*, Dayton Opera; Co-General Director, Oswego Opera Theater

**Michael Spierman – Conductor  
(Bronx, NY)**

BxO: All since 1967

Credits: Co-founder of the Bronx Opera and Artistic Director since its inception

in 1967; Music Director of The Orchestra of the Bronx since 1973; Guest Conductor of orchestras in Brazil, Mexico, Bulgaria, and England; Member of the Hunter College music faculty, 1970-2008; former Chairman of the Music Panel of the New York State Council on the Arts

**Holly Thomas – Production Stage  
Manager  
(Dayton, OH)**

BxO Debut

Credits: *La tragédie de Carmen*, New Camerata Opera; *Flesh + Stone*, New Camerata Opera; *Operapalooza*, Prelude Opera; *The Magic Flute*, Prelude Opera; *Der Kaiser von Atlantis*, Manhattan School of Music; *The Medium*, Rutgers University

## **BxO at the MET**

Bronx Opera is proud to have helped launch the careers of so many talented artists, many of whom have gone on to sing on opera's great stages all over the world. The Metropolitan Opera right here in New York City is among the greatest, and it has welcomed numerous BxO alums over the years. These are some of the singers who have sung on our stages AND at the Met:

### **Kirsten Arnold**

(Met Debut: 2016 – BxO: 2008)

### **Connie Barnett**

(Met Debut: 1973 – BxO: 1974)

### **Joshua Benaim**

(Met Debut: 2010 – BxO: 2000-2001)

### **Howard Bender**

(Met Debut: 1991 – BxO 1978)

### **Eleanor Bergquist**

(Met Debut: 1981 – BxO 1973-1977)

### **John Bills**

(Met Debut: 1981 – BxO: 1977)

### **Philip Booth**

(Met Debut: 1970 – BxO: 1986-1992)

### **Barry Brandes**

(Met Debut: 1993 – BxO: 1989)

### **Helena Brown**

(Met Debut: 2019 – BxO: 2015-2016)

### **Amy Burton**

(Met Debut: 1993 – BxO: 1982)

### **Lenus Carlson**

(Met Debut: 1973 – BxO: 1972)

### **Augusta Caso**

(Met Debut: 2018 – BxO: 2015)

### **Claudia Catania**

(Met Debut: 1981 – BxO: 1974)

### **Theresa Cincione**

(Met Debut: 1991 – BxO: 1991)

### **Philip Cokorinos**

(Met Debut: 1985 – BxO: 1980-1984)

### **Steven Cole**

(Met Debut: 1987 – BxO: 1979)

### **Richard Crist**

(Met Debut: 1985 – BxO 1978)

### **Clamma Dale**

(Met Debut: 1973 – BxO: 1971-1975)

### **David Evitts**

(Met Debut: 1994 – BxO: 1978)

### **Shirin Eskandani**

(Met Debut: 2017 – BxO: 2009)

### **Michele Farruggia**

(Met Debut: 1992 – BxO: 1980)

### **Christine Flasch**

(Met Debut: 1987 – BxO: 1977-1979)

### **Eve Gigliotti**

(Met Debut: 2010 – BxO: 2007)

### **Juliana Gondek**

(Met Debut: 1990 – BxO: 1982-1983)

### **Eric Greene**

(Met Debut: 2023 – BxO: 2000)

### **Joyce Guyer**

(Met Debut: 1981 – BxO: 1983-1984)

### **Brenda Harris**

(Met Debut: 1997 – BxO: 1984-1985)

### **Ethan Herschenfeld**

(Met Debut: 2014 – BxO: 1999)

**Bernard Holcomb**

(Met Debut: 2023 – BxO: 2016)

**Richard Hobson**

(Met Debut: 2000 – BxO: 1998)

**Kelly Cae Hogan**

(Met Debut: 2008 – BxO: 1988)

**Christopher Job**

(Met Debut: 2013 – BxO: 2006)

**Camellia Johnson**

(Met Debut: 1989 – BxO: 1987)

**Peter Kazaras**

(Met Debut: 1990 – BxO: 1977-1981)

**David Lowe**

(Met Debut: 2000 – BxO: 1989)

**Walter MacNeil**

(Met Debut: 1989 – BxO: 1982)

**Barbara Martin**

(Met Debut: 1973 – BxO: 1972)

**Molly Melachouris**

(Met Debut: 1974 – BxO: 1975-1977)

**Raul Melo**

(Met Debut: 2005 – BxO: 1992)

**Gregory Mercer**

(Met Debut: 1994 – BxO: 1976-1977)

**Ronald Naldi**

(Met Debut: 1983 – BxO: 1974-1975)

**Rod Nelman**

(Met Debut: 2014 – BxO: 1994)

**Andrew Oakden**

(Met Debut: 2010 – BxO: 2014-2015)

**Lindsay Ohse**

(Met Debut: 2019 – BxO: 2014)

**Donald Osborne**

(Met Debut: 1985 – BxO: 1982)

**John Mack Ousley**

(Met Debut: 1974 – BxO: 1974)

**Richard Pearson**

(Met Debut: 2001 – BxO: 1994)

**Dennis Petersen**

(Met Debut: 1994 – BxO: 1984)

**Kyle Pfortmiller**

(Met Debut: 2010 – BxO 1997-2002)

**Lori Phillips**

(Met Debut: 2010 – BxO: 1989-1993)

**Mary Phillips**

(Met Debut: 2006 – BxO: 1987-1996)

**Arnold Rawls**

(Met Debut: 2011 – BxO: 1994)

**Alex Richardson**

(Met Debut: 2016 – BxO: 2006)

**Neil Rosenshein**

(Met Debut: 1987 – BxO: 1973-1975)

**Lucy Schauer**

(Met Debut: 2004 – BxO: 1993)

**Sandra Walker**

(Met Debut: 1986 – BxO: 1972)

**Arthur Warren**

(Met Debut: 1973 – BxO: 1975-1976)

**Andrew Wentzel**

(Met Debut: 1986 – BxO: 1981-1982)

**Sir Willard White**

(Met Debut: 2000 – BxO: 1971-1972)

**Arthur Woodley**

(Met Debut: 2019 – BxO: 1980)

**Carol Yahr**

(Met Debut: 1993 – BxO: 1982)

## Bronx Opera Repertoire: 1967-2025

### 2025:

Humperdinck – *Hansel and Gretel*  
Mozart – *Così fan tutte*

### 2024:

Rossini – *Il signor Bruschino* &  
Puccini – *Gianni Schicchi*  
Gilbert & Sullivan – *Iolanthe*

### 2023:

Weill/Gershwin – *Lady in the Dark*  
Poulenc – *Dialogues of the Carmelites*

### 2022:

Mozart – *La clemenza di Tito*  
Gilbert & Sullivan – *Trial by Jury*  
(video)

### 2021:

Mozart – *The Impresario* (video)

### 2020:

Mozart – *Don Giovanni*

### 2019:

Menotti – *The Consul*  
Gilbert & Sullivan – *The Mikado*

### 2018:

Mozart – *The Abduction from the Seraglio*  
Weber – *Der Freischütz*

### 2017:

Vaughan Williams – *Sir John in Love*  
Verdi – *Falstaff*

### 2016:

Blitzstein – *Regina*  
Rossini – *Cinderella*

### 2015:

Britten – *Albert Herring*  
Mozart – *The Marriage of Figaro*

### 2014:

Mechem – *The Rivals*  
Verdi – *La traviata*

### 2013:

Rossini – *La gazza ladra*  
Puccini – *La bohème*

### 2012:

Vaughan Williams – *The Poisoned Kiss*  
Humperdinck – *Hansel and Gretel*

### 2011:

Auber – *Fra Diavolo*  
Mozart – *Don Giovanni*

### 2010:

Mahler/Weber – *Die drei Pintos*  
Donizetti – *Don Pasquale*

### 2009:

Smetana – *Two Widows*  
Mozart – *The Magic Flute*

### 2008:

Offenbach – *Orpheus in the Underworld*  
Mozart – *The Impresario* &  
Leoncavallo – *Pagliacci*

### 2007:

Copland – *The Tender Land*  
Bizet – *Carmen*

### 2006:

Chabrier – *An Incomplete Education* &  
Purcell – *Dido and Aeneas*  
Mozart – *Così fan tutte*

**2005:**

Menotti – *The Consul*

Puccini – *La bohème*

**2004:**

Rossini – *L'equivoco stravagante*

Verdi – *La traviata*

**2003:**

Smetana – *The Bartered Bride*

Lehár – *The Merry Widow*

**2002:**

Suppé – *Boccaccio*

Mozart – *The Marriage of Figaro*

**2001:**

Weber – *Der Freischütz*

Rossini – *The Barber of Seville*

**2000:**

Blitzstein – *Regina*

Donizetti – *Don Pasquale*

**1999:**

Nielsen – *Maskarade*

Mozart – *The Abduction from the Seraglio*

**1998:**

Vaughan Williams – *Hugh the Drover*

J. Strauss – *Die Fledermaus*

**1997:**

Schubert – *The Conspirators &*

Menotti – *The Medium*

Mozart – *Don Giovanni*

**1996:**

Mechem – *Tartuffe*

Donizetti – *The Elixir of Love*

**1995:**

Copland – *The Tender Land*

Gilbert & Sullivan – *The Yeomen of the Guard*

**1994:**

Verdi – *Un giorno di regno*

Mozart – *The Magic Flute*

**1993:**

Smetana – *The Bartered Bride*

Mozart – *Così fan tutte*

**1992:**

Floyd – *Susannah*

Rossini – *The Barber of Seville*

**1991:**

Donizetti – *Don Pasquale*

Sullivan – *Trial by Jury &*

Moore – *The Devil and Daniel Webster*

**1990:**

Offenbach – *La belle Hélène*

Mozart – *The Marriage of Figaro*

**1989:**

Smetana – *The Secret*

Rossini – *La Cenerentola*

**1988:**

Vaughan Williams – *Sir John in Love*

Mozart – *The Abduction from the Seraglio*

**1987:**

Moore – *The Ballad of Baby Doe*

Donizetti – *The Elixir of Love*

**1986:**

Weber – *Der Freischütz*

Mozart – *Così fan tutte*

**1985:**

Offenbach – *Bluebeard*

Verdi – *La traviata*

**1984:**

Smetana – *Two Widows*

Mozart – *Don Giovanni*

**1983:**

Nielsen – *Maskarade*

Verdi – *Un giorno di regno*

**1982:**

Vaughan Williams – *Hugh the Drover*

Mozart – *The Magic Flute*

**1981:**

Mussorgsky – *The Fair at Sorotchinsk* &

Weber – *Abu Hassan*

Mozart – *The Marriage of Figaro*

**1980:**

Gounod – *The Doctor in Spite of Himself*

Floyd – *Susannah*

**1979:**

Offenbach – *Orpheus in the Underworld*

Mozart – *The Abduction from the Seraglio*

**1978:**

Donizetti – *Don Pasquale*

Vaughan Williams – *Sir John in Love*

**1977:**

Verdi – *La traviata*

Auber – *Fra Diavolo*

**1976:**

Copland – *The Tender Land*

Gilbert & Sullivan – *The Pirates of Penzance*

Mozart – *Così fan tutte*

**1975:**

Schubert – *The Conspirators* &

Offenbach – *Ba-ta-clan*

Donizetti – *The Elixir of Love*

**1974:**

Britten – *Albert Herring*

Mozart – *The Magic Flute*

**1973:**

Humperdinck – *Hansel and Gretel*

Mozart – *Don Giovanni*

**1972:**

Rossini – *The Barber of Seville*

Mozart – *The Impresario* &

Menotti – *The Medium*

**1971:**

Verdi – *La traviata*

Weber – *Der Freischütz*

**1970:**

Mozart – *The Marriage of Figaro*

**1969:**

Gilbert & Sullivan – *Iolanthe*

**1968:**

Mozart – *The Abduction from the Seraglio*

**1967:**

Mozart – *Così fan tutte*

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We are proud to support the wonderful work of our friends at the Bronx Opera Company and we congratulate them on their fifty-first season.

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This year's participating schools are

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We are proud of our association with these schools.

BxO is part of the City Council's SU-CASA program, which places arts organizations in residence at older adult centers. This program is run by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA). We thank Councilmember Eric Dinowitz for choosing us to participate in this program.



The **New York Opera Alliance** is a consortium of New York opera companies and producers established to enhance and support the visibility and viability of our organizations. Together we aspire to increase awareness of participating organizations, share ideas and resources, and generate revenue for collaborative projects. We hold quarterly meetings that include a workshop or presentation on a topic of interest to opera producers and artists, as well as a chance to engage with other member organizations. In addition, we maintain a shared website with an online events calendar, and publish a monthly e-newsletter about upcoming member events.

NYOA consists of numerous organizations and producers throughout the five boroughs. Those organizations and producers are listed below:

The American Opera Project, Amore Opera, Beth Morrison Projects, Bronx Opera Company, Chelsea Opera, City Lyric Opera, Collectio Musicorum Ltd, Conservatory of Music of Brooklyn College, Death of Classical, dell'Arte Opera Ensemble, Divaria Productions Inc., Douglas Moore Fund for American Opera, Encompass New Opera Theatre, Experiments in Opera, Harlem Opera Theater, Heartbeat Opera, HERE Arts Center, Hunter Opera Theatre, Indie Opera Podcast, International Brazilian Opera Company, The Lighthouse Opera Company, Inc., Manhattan School of Music Opera Theater, Mannes Opera, Martina Arroyo Foundation, MORE Opera, Music of the Americas, National Opera Center/Opera America, New Amsterdam Opera, New Camerata Opera, New York Festival of Song, On Site Opera, Opera for Earth, Opera Lafayette, Opera on Tap, Opera Praktikos, Professional Women Singers Association, Prototype Festival, Queens College Opera, Regina Opera, SAS Performing Arts Company and Studios Inc., the little OPERA Theatre of NY, Untitled Theater Company No. 61, Utopia Opera Ltd, Vertical Player Repertory, Vital Opera, Welltone New Music Inc.



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