UNLV Opera proudly announces its 2016-17 season. On November 17 and 18 in Dr. Arturo Rando-Grillot Recital Hall, *Orfeo ed Euridice* will be paired with *Les malheurs d’Orphée*. Phillip Harris plays Milhaud’s Orpheus with Lacy Burchfield and Nichole Jarlson alternating as his doomed Eurydice. In Gluck’s more familiar opera, Erin Gonzalez sings Orpheus with Casey Dakus and Karin Hochman as Euridice. Heather Elise and Taylor Madrid play Amor/Cupid. Dr. Linda Lister directs the production, which will feature a chamber ensemble conducted by DMA student Maya Sprouse.

In the spring, UNLV Opera turns to Shakespeare. In the Judy Bayley Theatre March 16-18, we will present Benjamin Britten’s operatic adaptation of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. UNLV Entertainment Engineering and Design faculty member Michael Genova will design the production. The season concludes with a concert version of a new English translation of the French opera *Hamlet* by Ambroise Thomas. DMA student Bonita Bunt wrote the adaptation and directs its world premiere May 6 as part of UNLV Opera’s Hamlet Festival.

Phillip Harris (Orphée)  
Nichole Jarlson (Eurydice)
Opera Outreach: The Bohemians sing high notes in high schools

It’s not a glamourous setting: a fan stands in for less-than-efficient air conditioning, and fluorescent lighting predominates; announcements occasionally interrupt over the loud speaker; and it’s morning, when most singers prefer not to be singing. But despite the early hour and the lack of fancy costumes and flattering light, opera outreach is a labor of love. Over the past five years, UNLV Opera singers have performed for student audiences all over the valley. Barab’s Little Red Riding Hood opera was a favorite at Woodbury Middle School while “Figaro and Friends” toured to Greenspun Junior High School. In addition, arias were sung at Canarelli Middle School and Green Valley Christian School. Last spring, the cover or understudy cast of La bohème presented an abridged version of the opera at Las Vegas Academy and Clark High School. Up close and personal just feet away from the singers, audience members cried at Mimi’s death in “The Bohemians” and giggled at the dancing and fake dueling of Colline and Schaunard. After the performances, students are invited to ask questions of the UNLV singers. Frequent inquiries are: How long did it take you to learn your part? Where did you go to high school? How do you deal with stage fright?

Senior Eliysheba Anderson has been a frequent opera outreach performer. She believes outreach is “an amazing way to not only inspire the next generation in the best way we know how, but to educate them on the amount of dedication and work they have to put forth to achieve their goals. I think showing them how much fun opera can be, as well as showing and telling them how much time and effort we put in to make it happen, makes them aware that music can be both fun and challenging, but all worthwhile in the end.”

This academic year, UNLV Opera looks forward to upcoming performances at Claude Perkins Elementary School and the Thurman White Academy of the Performing Arts.

Eliysheba Anderson (Mimi) and Miguel Alasco (Rodolfo) performing at the Las Vegas Academy
When did you realize you wanted to sing opera? I never would have thought I would want to sing opera until I met my voice teacher Monica McCullough. I knew that to be a voice major you had to take classical singing lessons, but I could never have known how much I would fall in love with it. She was so encouraging, intelligent, and inspiring, and if it weren’t for her, I probably never would have realized my love for classical singing. Performing my first operatic role with Sin City Opera was confirmation that this really is for me!

What are your career aspirations? At this point, I am just trying to learn and do everything and anything that I can, and gain as much experience as possible. As far as my ideal career, though, I would absolutely love nothing more than to be able to support myself financially by singing opera one day.

Is there anything else you’d like to share? I have been helped by so many people, from amazing teachers, supportive family, experienced peers, knowledgeable directors, etc., and I have also been given many wonderful opportunities that I have been blessed with thanks to people who cannot know how much it means to me.

Soprano Casey Dakus is a junior at UNLV. A graduate of Las Vegas Academy, Casey sings the role of Euridice in UNLV Opera’s Orfeo ed Euridice in November. A first place winner at the 2016 Cal-Western Regional NATS Auditions, she has appeared with Sin City Opera as the Foreign Woman in The Consul and Berginella in La Périchole. She also performed in the Opera Las Vegas production of Carmen. In opera workshop scenes, she has sung Helena in A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Jenny in Roman Fever, and Don Ettore in La cenerentola. (She also makes an excellent vegan, gluten-free cupcake.)

Law and Order and Opera

Inspired by the long-running television series and franchise Law & Order, our fall opera workshop performance Law & Order: UNLV will be presented December 3 at 7:30 pm in Dr. Arturo Rando-Grillot Recital Hall. The program will feature opera scenes exploring issues of crime and punishment. Excerpts will range from comedic selections such as the Policeman’s Chorus from Gilbert and Sullivan’s The Pirates of Penzance and trios from the operettas Die Fledermaus and La Périchole to dramatic scenes from Bizet’s Carmen, Beethoven’s Fidelio, Menotti’s The Old Maid and the Thief, Corigliano’s The Ghosts of Versailles, and Poulenc’s Dialogues of the Carmelites. Whether you are a fan of SVU, Criminal Intent or the original series, join us December 3 for Law & Order: UNLV.

Q & A with Diva-in-Training Casey Dakus

SUMMER SINGING

Nichole Jarlson was a Young Artist in Germany at Musiktheater Bavaria.

Eliysheba Anderson sang at the American Negro Spirituals Intensive at the Bayview Music Festival in Petoskey, Michigan.

Christopher Martin played Alfred in the Utah Lyric Opera production of Die Fledermaus.

Jesse Law sang the national anthem at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio.

Lillian Roberts traveled to Great Britain to be a Britten-Pears Young Artist at the Aldeburgh Festival.

Richard Hodges attended the Institute for Young Dramatic Voices in Reno.

Olivera Gjorgoska won a slot on the fall season of the NBC-TV show The Voice.

Eliysheba Anderson, Daveon Bolden, and Ranon Pador participated in the semi-finals of the NATS National Student Auditions in Chicago.

Gianni Becker played the role of Randall in Bring It On: The Musical at the Super Summer Theatre.

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UNLV Opera Theater

Opera Rebels

UNLV

Editor: Linda Lister

Fall 2016 Performances

November 17-18  UNLV Opera Theater:
   Gluck’s Orfeo ed Euridice
   Milhaud’s Les malheurs d’Orphée

December 3  UNLV Opera Workshop:
   Law and Order: UNLV

UNLV Opera’s 2016 production of La bohème
(Photo by Don Cadette)

Left to right: Alex Price, Jordan Madagame, Emily Botts
Standing: Miguel Alasco, Lacy Burchfield, Rabuel Aviles, Rodbel Virula
Seated: Kathryn Martinson, Aldo Perrelli, Michael Parham,
   Christophe Kennedy