

Spring 2017

University of
Nevada,
Las Vegas

Opera Theater

Director

- **Dr. Linda Lister**
- linda.lister@unlv.edu

Tickets

- **UNLV Box Office**
- **(702) 895-ARTS**

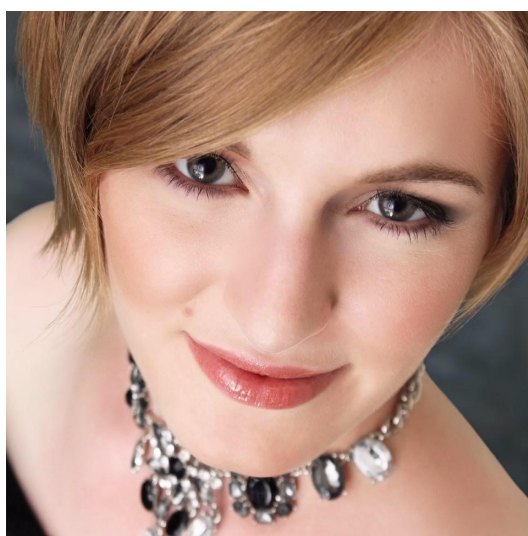
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Opera Rebels

UNLV Opera presents Midsummer in March

UNLV Opera proudly presents Benjamin Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the Judy Bayley Theatre March 16-18 with the UNLV Symphony Orchestra. **Rabuel Aviles** and **Maia Thielen** play Oberon, King of the Fairies, with **Bonita Bunt** and **Joan Sobel** as his Queen Tytania. **Austin Champion** plays Puck, while **Lacy Burchfield**, **Casey Dakus**, **Nichole Jarlson**, and **Ashlee Ruder** round out the band of fairies along with singers from Greenspun Middle School. The partner-swapping lovers are **Erin Gonzalez**, **Karin Hochman**, **Michael Parham**, and **Aldo Perrelli**. The troupe of rustic actors, who perform the play-within-the-play "Pyramus and Thisbe," is comprised of **Christopher Garcia**, **Christophe Kennedy**, **Alex Price**, **Kurt Sedlmeir**, **Andrew Williams-Liberato**, and **Tianci Zheng**. **Manny Gamazo** and **Celeste Dixon** are the Athenians Theseus and Hippolyta. **Dr. Linda Lister** directs the production, with vocal coach **Dr. Christina Wright-Ivanova** preparing the music and coaching the British dialects. **Taras Krysa** conducts. The staff also includes **Michael Genova** (scenic designer and technical director), **Daniella Toscano** (costume designer), **Andrew Killion** and **John Wampler** (lighting designers), **Hunter Rose Turner** (Stage Manager) and **Kathryn Omune** (Assistant Director). Join us in March for this Shakespearean classic in Britten's striking realization.



Maia Thielen (Oberon)



Joan Sobel (Tytania)

NATIONAL OPERA ASSOCIATION HONORS

UNLV Opera's
**Trial by Jury &
The Beautiful Bride-**
groom won 2nd
place in Division 1
of NOA's 2015-16
Opera Production
Competition.

Nichole Jarlson and
Ranon Pador won
2nd place in the
Musical Theatre
Division of NOA's
2017 Collegiate
Opera Scenes
Competition.

Bonita Bunt was
invited to NOA to
give a poster presen-
tation entitled
"A DIY Guide to
Revitalizing Under-
performed Works:
Translating and
Reducing Ambrose
Thomas's *Hamlet* for
University Forces
and Budgets."

Hamlet Festival

The Shakespearean semester continues with UNLV Opera's Hamlet Festival May 1-6. This interdisciplinary event will explore *Hamlet* from musical, theatrical, and literary angles. Here is the schedule for the festival:

UNLV OPERA HAMLET FESTIVAL

Monday May 1	Lecture: Dr. Evelyn Gajowski , Professor of English "Frailty, thy name is woman"
Tuesday May 2	Lecture Recital: Bonita Bunt , DMA candidate "Finding the Shakespeare in Ambrose Thomas's <i>Hamlet</i> "
Wednesday May 3	Lecture: Dr. Lezlie Cross , Assistant Professor of Theatre "Edwin Booth's Quest to Solve the <i>Hamlet</i> Problem"
Friday May 5	Art song recital: Hamlet-inspired art songs performed by UNLV students under the direction of Dr. Christina Wright-Ivanova , UNLV Opera vocal coach and collaborative pianist
Saturday May 6	Opera: Ambrose Thomas's <i>Hamlet</i> , the world premiere of a new English translation by Bonita Bunt

UNLV Opera Theater's *Hamlet* will be presented Saturday May 6 at 7:30 pm in Dr. Arturo Rando-Grillot Recital Hall. Directed by **Bonita Bunt**, the production features **Richard Hodges** as Hamlet and **Casey Dakus** as Ophelia, with **Michael Parham** and **Dominique Williams** as the Hamlet and Ophelia covers. **Christophe Kennedy** plays King Claudius and **Mariah Wilcox** is Queen Gertrude. **Keri Rusthoi** and **Breanna Lesure** are the grave-diggers. **Daveon Bolden** sings Laertes with **Andrew Williams-Liberato** as Polonius, while **Ranon Pador** and **Kurt Sedlmeir** play Hamlet's friends Marcellus and Horatio. The company is rounded out by the players **Dawn McCollum**, **Hunter Rose Turner**, **Tianci Zheng** and ensemble members **Rabuel Aviles**, **Celeste Dixon**, **Jaime Resser**, **Ashlee Ruder**, and **Maia Thielen**. The production staff includes **Dr. Linda Lister** as Music Director, **Kelly Hawes** as Assistant Director, and **Jae Ahn-Benton** as Assistant Music Director and Pianist. For more detailed info on UNLV's *Hamlet* world premiere and Hamlet Festival, follow UNLV Opera on Facebook and/or Twitter for schedule updates, locations, and other details.

Opera Outreach at Claude Perkins Elementary



Christophe Kennedy, Alex Price, Nichole Jarlson, and Phillip Harris with second graders at Claude Perkins Elementary School in North Las Vegas on December 9. In thank you notes to the UNLV singers, the second graders wrote: "I loved how you performed. How did you guys raise your voice? The music was awesome." "I liked your acting and the music. Your high pitch voices were greaaaaat!" "I wish you can come back any time. Just ask the prisible." (Principal, we presume.) "I like your singing, your different languages, and impromptu acting of Rudolph and Elsa." "I have a great voice, I might go to UNLV some day." "You inspired me, now when I grow up I want to do opera."

Opera Workshop feels Girl Power

On April 27 at 7:30 pm in Dr. Arturo Rando-Grillot Recital Hall, Opera Workshop I will present a program of scenes celebrating strong female characters. The program will include some familiar pieces, such as "Sull'aria" from *Le nozze*

di Figaro, the Sorceress scene from *Dido and Aeneas*, "We are Women" from *Candide*, and arias by Despinna and Don Alfonso from *Così fan tutte*. Lesser known but great examples of works celebrating women will complete the program.

These highlights include excerpts from *Princess Ida*, *The Red Mill*, *Little Women*, *La serva padrona*, *Les mamelles de Tirésias*, and *Die Csárdásfürstin*. Don't miss opera full of Girl Power when Op Shop performs on April 27!

AWARDS and ACTIVITIES

Kathryn Omune was named a winner in the 2016 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, Las Vegas District. Encouragement Awards went to Phillip Harris, Christophe Kennedy, and Dominique Williams.

Erin Gonzalez played Hansel in the Pacific Symphony's *Hansel and Gretel*.

ALUMNI

ACTIVITIES

Bethany Smith was cast as Anne Page in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* with Loveland Opera Theatre.

Nicole Thomas, who is currently attending the Juilliard School of Music, was accepted as a studio artist with Wolf Trap Opera.

Save the dates!

UNLV OPERA THEATER

Opera Rebels

UNLV

Editor: Linda Lister

Spring 2017 Performances

March 16-18

UNLV Opera Theater:

Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

April 27

UNLV Opera Workshop:

Girl Power: Women in Opera

May 1-6

UNLV Opera Theater:

Hamlet Festival

Photo by Richard Poppino:

NOA President-Elect Paul Houghtaling awards Ranon Pador and Nichole Jarlson 2nd place in the 2017 NOA Collegiate Opera Scenes Competition held at the national conference in Santa Barbara.

