

Mimmi Fulmer

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FORMER and CURRENT STUDENTS

Fall 2024

Brenda Rae (BM 2004), is enjoying international operatic stardom. A 2021 winner of the Beverly Sills Award, she made her debut at the Metropolitan Opera in 2020 in the role of Poppea in *Agrippina*, and at the Lyric Opera in 2019 in the role of Ginevra in *Ariodante*. She performed numerous major roles as a member of the ensemble at Oper Frankfurt. Recent debuts include Zerbinetta in *Ariadne auf Naxos* at the Edinburgh International Festival and the Queen of the Night in *Die Zauberflöte* at the Royal Opera House (London). She made her debut with the Vienna State Opera in 2012 in the role of Lucia (broadcast live over international radio). She returned to the Metropolitan Opera in the 2021-22 season as Zerbinetta and as Ophelia in Brett Dean's *Hamlet*.
<http://www.brendarae.com/>

Nathaniel Stampley (BM 2008) starred as Porgy in the 2013-14 national tour of "The Gershwin's Porgy and Bess, and as Mufasa in "The Lion King" on Broadway. He was in the cast of the Broadway production "The Color Purple", played Mufasa in West End London in a long-run production of "The Lion King", and toured across the United States in "Ragtime". He was featured in a new work, "Lempicka" on Broadway in 2024, as well as in "Paradise Square" in Chicago and on Broadway, and "A Man of No Importance" on Broadway in 2022. He recently starred in the title role in "Sweeney Todd" with Signature Theatre in Washington D.C. and played the role of Herbie in Chicago Marriott Theatre's 2023 production of "Gypsy". He performed in the premiere of "In Every Grain of Sand" with the Knickerbocker Chamber Orchestra. <https://www.nathanielstampley.com/>

Hein Jung (MM 2002, DMA 2006) is a Professor of Voice and Director of Vocal Studies at the University of Tampa. Recent performances include recitals with the Sarasota Artist Series and guest soloist with the Sarasota Chopin Festival, Queen of the Night in *Die Zauberflöte* with the University of Florida -Gainesville, Zerbinetta with St. Petersburg Opera, and concerts in Tampa and Illinois for the New Music Festival. Her CD of songs of Liszt was released on Centaur Records in 2013. The recipient of a Collins Fellowship, she was a Fellow at Tanglewood, and an apprentice at Merola. <http://www.heinjung.com>

Tenor **Greg Schmidt** made his Metropolitan Opera debut in the role of Arbace in Mozart's *Idomeneo*, with James Levine conducting. His professional debut with Washington D. C. Opera was in the role of Belfiore in Mozart's *La Finta Giardiniera*, and he returned to the Kennedy Center the following season as Tamino in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*. Recent engagements include Edgardo and Almaviva with Opera Tampa, Nemorino and Tebaldo with Tulsa Opera, Camille and Alfredo with St. Petersburg Opera, Don Ramiro with Fresno Grand Opera, and Ferrando with El Paso Opera. Schmidt has performed leading roles with Tacoma Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Chattanooga Opera, Nevada Opera, Skylight Opera Theater, Nashville Opera, Opera Carolina, Skylight Opera and Madison Opera. In 2023 he appeared in *A Capacity for Evil* with Opera Las Vegas.
<http://www.lombardoassociates.org/gregory-schmidt>

Emily Eagen (MM 1999) received a Fulbright Scholarship to attend the Royal Conservatory of the Hague. Since moving to New York City she has been active in performance and teaching in the city and across the country. She was a co-founder of the M6: Meredith Monk Third Generation, an ensemble that works close with Monk to prepare and perform her works. She serves on the faculty at the Amherst Early Music Festival where she performs and teaches, and she has toured with the contemporary ensemble Bang on a Can for their production of Julia Wolfe's *Steel Hammer*. She is a teaching artist for Carnegie Hall, where she teaches songwriting workshops, in particular to young mothers who learn to write lullabies for their children. She is co-composer of "NOOMA", an

opera for babies, premiered at Carnegie Hall in April 2019. The opera premiered at Minnesota Opera later that year, with additional performances set for the San Francisco Opera in a future season.

<https://www.emilyeagen.com/>

Anthony Cao (BM music ed 2002, MM music ed 2010) has been the Director of Choirs at Madison West High School since 2004. He teaches Freshman Chorale, Treble Choir, Concert Choir, Popular Vocal Styles, History of American Popular Music, and Hip Hop Studies. Cao has worked as guest clinician/composer with choirs throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest. Equally comfortable in many genres of music, he stays active as a pianist/vocalist, including his all-request show every week at The Ivory Room. He served as artistic director of Madison Chamber Choir, and has been chorus master of Madison Opera since 2010.

Jordan Wilson (DMA 2014) completed his undergraduate and MM studies at the Eastman School of Music and taught at Roberts Wesleyan College. While a student at Madison, Jordan taught at Beloit College as well as serving as TA for the voice area, winning the Campus-Wide Teaching Award. He joined the faculty at Missouri Southern State University in fall 2014 as an Assistant Professor, and in 2018 joined the faculty at Wingate University, where he is an Associate Professor and Assistant Dean in the Honors College. He was granted a Spivey Fellowship from Wingate for 2022-23 to pursue his research and performance of Russian song repertoire.

Abbie Furmansky has sung leading roles at New York City Opera, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Mainz Oper, and Canadian Opera, and performed with the Los Angeles Symphony and the Amsterdam radio symphony. She performed her first Madama Butterfly in 2010 under the direction of Katharina Wagner. <http://abbiefurmansky.net/>

Anne Seaton had a decades-long career as a member of the Singing Sergeants in Washington D.C. and performed with them on numerous official occasions.

Rachel Renee performed as lead singer/dancer on round-the-world cruises, and is free-lancing in Chicago.

Randy Pagel (MM in music education) directed the choirs at Thurman White Middle School (Las Vegas), winning national competitions, performing at venues including Carnegie Hall and the White House, and releasing CDs including original works. The choirs were featured in the music video *Love Sees No Color*, which aired on national networks and was presented at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival. Randy served as principal of Morris Sunset East High School (Las Vegas) for ten years, and continued to mentor young singers in Las Vegas as administrator and Dean at Morris Sunset East HS. His book, "The Choral Director's Guide to Sanity... and Success!" was published in 2004. He continues to conduct honor choirs and music clinics around the country, as well as serving as conductor of the Southern Nevada Musical Arts Society. His Ritchie Valens Medley was published by Hal Leonard Corporation. randypagel.com

Antonio Souza (MM 2016) is an active performer and teacher in Fortaleza, Brazil. He most recently sang with the Ceará Nova Ensemble. He teaches classical singing in the new Municipal School of Music, the first of its kind in Fortaleza.

Kristin Schwecke (MM 2010) made her orchestral debut as soprano soloist in "Carmina Burana" with the Cobb Symphony in Atlanta. She participated in the Crested Butte Festival Young Artist Program, and was fifth place winner in the 2009 International Czech-Slovak Competition in Montreal. She won an Encouragement Award in the 2011 Regional auditions of the Metropolitan National Council and was a Fellow with the AJ Fletcher Opera.

Karen Bishop (MM in opera 2008, DMA 2011) focused her research and performance on unpublished songs of American composers. Her first volume of songs by Ernst Bacon was published by Classical Vocal Reprints and showcased at the National NATS Convention in 2013. She has edited a volume of songs by John Duke, and her article on these was published in the NATS Journal in 2014. She presented a lecture on her work at the International Congress of Voice Teachers in Brisbane in summer, 2013.

Venezuelan baritone **Juan Tomás Martínez** (BA 1988) enjoys an extensive international career as a singer of opera, zarzuela, oratorio, recitals and musicals. In 1995 he won the Latin-American Luciano Pavarotti International Voice Competition. His operatic career has taken him to Perú, Ecuador, El Salvador, Puerto Rico, Colombia, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, the United States, Spain, Portugal, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Rumania, Bulgaria and Korea.

Jeffery McGhee (DMA 2006) is Professor of Voice at Roberts Wesleyan University. He has appeared as soloist with the Rochester Orchestra and the Rochester Oratorio Society. He has presented a lecture-recital on spirituals at universities and churches around the country and at the 2017 NYSSMA Winter Conference.

Melanie Cain (MM 2003, DMA 2005) is artistic director and founder of [Fresco Opera Theatre](#) and owner of [Maven Vocal Arts](#). She served on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Teachers of Singing and as Co-Director of The Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Wisconsin District.

Dan Plummer Koehn (BM 1997, DMA 2003) was general director of Opera for the Young for many years, and also served as Director of New Initiatives & Special Projects at Florida Grand Opera. He is currently Alumni Relations Director for Student Affairs Advancement at UW-Madison.

Benjamin Schultz-Burkel (DMA 2012) is the author of *Singing in Polish: A Guide to Polish Lyric Diction and Vocal Repertoire*. Published in 2015 by Scarecrow Press, it is based on his doctoral research on this repertoire. He has taught as lecturer of voice at UW-Platteville and Beloit College and performed numerous roles with University Opera. He currently serves as Director of Faculty and Executive Recruitment for the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health.

David Williams (DMA 1995) holds a JD from New York Law School. A fierce advocate for artists' rights, he left the corporate setting in 2015 to dedicate himself to this work full time focusing on completing his first book, *The Enterprising Musician's Guide to Performer Contracts* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2017). His second book, *The Enterprising Musician's Legal Toolkit*, was published by Rowman & Littlefield in 2023. As a writer, he is a regular contributor to *Modern Singer Magazine*. He has been a faculty member at the Crane Institute for Music Business at SUNY Potsdam and the College of Performing Arts at The New School in New York City. An active guest lecturer, he has delivered talks on music industry law at Yale University, Tanglewood, Manhattan School of Music, New England Conservatory, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, among others.

Lindsey Meekhof (DMA 2022) was selected to be a Studio Artist with Madison Opera in 2022-23, making her company debut in their production of *Salome*.

Amanda Lauricella (DMA 2021) toured with Opera for the Young in 2022-23 as Rosina in *The Barber of Seville* and in their 2023-24 production of *Beauty and the Beast*. She served on the voice faculties at Beloit College and Viterbo University in 2021-22 and is currently serving on the faculties at Beloit College and Carroll University.

Cayla Rosché (MM 2018, DMA 2020) was awarded a Fulbright Arctic Scholar Grant for fall 2022, and taught diction, voice and master classes at the Iceland University for the Arts in Reykjavik, as well as continuing her research on Icelandic song repertoire. She was awarded an American-Scandinavian Foundation grant in support of her research on Icelandic repertoire and diction. She has served on the voice faculties at UW-Oshkosh and Edgewood College, and started a new position teaching voice at Lawrence University in fall 2023.

Jessica Timman Schwefel (MM 2005, DMA) runs a private music studio in Madison. She served on the faculty at UW-Whitewater, and her articles have been published in the VOICEPrints Journal of the NYSTA, the Wisconsin School Musician Magazine, and the NATS Journal of Singing. She has performed in over 35 operatic productions with the Florentine Opera Company, Madison Opera, Candid Concert Opera, Opera for the Young, Fresco Opera Theatre, Milwaukee Opera Theatre, Stoughton Opera, UW Opera, among many other professional engagements. Dr. Schwefel will be appearing this season with Four Seasons Theatre, Just Bach Concert Series, and Madison Choral Project. She has also been actively promoting Korean Art Songs with with her colleagues, Youngjoo Hong and Susan Gaeddert, giving many performances in the Dane County area. Jessica is joining the voice faculty at UW-Madison in fall 2024 as Lecturer in Voice.

Anja Pustaver (MM 2020) was selected to be a Studio Artist with Madison Opera for the 2021-22 season.

Lydia Eiche (BM 2014) won 1st place in Upper College Musical Theatre Women at National NATS in 2017. She has been performing processional throughout the Midwest, including special projects with Milwaukee Opera Theatre and Wild Space Dance Company <https://onmilwaukee.com/ent/articles/svadba-wedding-review.html>

Baritone **Ryan Thorn** (BM 2009) completed his MM in Voice at UCLA. He sang the role of Figaro in both *Le Nozze di Figaro* and *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* with Pacific Opera Project. He participated in the 2015 Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, and performed in January 2016 in Carnegie Hall as part of Marilyn Horne's "The Song Continues". Ryan was a resident artist at Portland Opera in 2016-17.