

Sounds
OF THE
Season

Opera
BIRMINGHAM

DECEMBER 2020 VIRTUAL CONCERT



Sounds OF THE Season

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Sounds OF THE Season

DECEMBER 2020 VIRTUAL CONCERT

FEATURING

Sopranos Natalie Bergeron, Kathleen Farrar Buccleugh, Lauren Marino

Mezzo-Soprano Marissa Blount

Tenors Roderick George, Joseph Robinson

Baritone Daniel Seigel

Pianist Christy Vest

WITH GUEST "AT-HOME" PERFORMANCES BY

Sopranos Chandra McKern, Anika Sampson-Anderson, Tai-Kristin Smedley,
Brandie Sutton, Kali Wilder-Blue

Mezzo-Soprano Millinee Bannister

Baritones Corey McKern, Mark Womack

Pianists Terrence Dove, Mark Francis, Cody Martin, Andrew Sun



ALABAMA PIANO GALLERY
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Opera Birmingham acknowledges that we are on the traditional land of the Kosati speaking Mvskoke (Muscogee/Creek) People. Alabama has been home to the Alabama, Biloxi, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Mobile Tribes—including the Abihka, Alabama-Coushatta, Coosa, Tallapoosa, and the Yuchi Peoples—and is home to the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, the Cherokee Tribe of Northeast Alabama, the Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama, the Machis Lower Creek Tribe, the Mowa Band of Choctaw, and the Star Clan of Muskogee Creeks. We honor and thank the Indigenous peoples connected to this territory and give gratitude to this land.

PROGRAM

Rejoice Greatly George Frideric Handel
from *Messiah*
Kathleen Farrar Buccleugh

Surely Handel, arr. Robert Burton
from *The New Young Messiah*
Anika Sampson-Anderson, Brandie Sutton,
Kali Wilder-Blue
Mark Francis, piano

Wexford Carol Traditional
Mark Womack

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus arr. Mark Hayes
Joseph Robinson

Coventry Carol arr. Mary K. Jackson
Daniel Seigel

Mary's Lullaby Mary K. Jackson
Roderick George

Night of Silence Daniel Kantor
(featuring Silent Night)
Chandra and Corey McKern
Cody Martin, piano

Sweet Little Jesus Boy Robert MacGimsey
Natalie Bergeron

**Mary, What You Gonna Call
Your Pretty Little Baby** arr. Uzee Brown, Jr.
Roderick George

O Holy Night Adolphe Adam
Natalie Bergeron

Let It Snow Jule Styne
Tai-Kristin Smedley
Andrew Sun, piano

I'll Be Home for Christmas Kim Gannon
and Walter Kent
Roderick George

Christmas Waltz Jule Styne
Daniel Seigel

Baby, It's Cold Outside Frank Loesser
from *Neptune's Daughter*
Millinee Bannister and Mark Womack

Santa Baby Joan Javits, Phil Springer
and Tony Springer
Lauren Marino

Christmas Once More Gene Scheer
Corey McKern
Cody Martin, piano

One More Sleep Richard Stannard, Leona Lewis,
Jez Ashurst, Brad Ellis
and Iain James
Marissa Blount

The Christmas Song Mel Tormé and
Robert Wells
Brandie Sutton
Terrence Dove, piano

**Have Yourself a Merry
Little Christmas** Ralph Blane and Hugh Martin
Tai-Kristian Smedley
Andrew Sun, piano

My Favorite Things Oscar Hammerstein II and
Richard Rodgers
from *The Sound of Music*
Kathleen Farrar Buccleugh

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MEET THE ARTISTS



MILLINEE BANNISTER MEZZO-SOPRANO

Described as “a luscious mezzo” (*The Boston Globe*) and praised for her “rich, robust voice” (*The Montgomery Advertiser*), Millinee Bannister has performed repertoire spanning opera and musical theatre with companies including Nashville Opera, Opera Cleveland, Opera North, San Antonio Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Opera Birmingham, Amarillo Opera, and Utah Festival Opera in roles including Rosina in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, Meg Page in *Falstaff*, Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel*, Siebel in *Faust*, Elsa in *The Sound of Music*, and Nettie in *Carousel*.

On the concert stage, Millinee’s appearances include performances with the Akron Symphony Orchestra, the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra, Las Cruces Symphony, and the Utah Symphony. She has been featured as alto soloist in works such as Honegger’s *Le Roi David*, Vivaldi’s *Gloria* and *Lauda Jerusalem*, Handel’s *Messiah* and *Dixit Dominus*, Mendelssohn’s *Elijah*, and Mozart’s *Requiem*. A native of Alabama, Millinee currently resides in New York with her husband, baritone Mark Womack.



NATALIE BERGERON SOPRANO

Birmingham native Natalie Bergeron achieved an enormous success in her debut as Elsa in Richard Wagner’s *Lohengrin* at the Teatro Municipal São Paulo. *Concerto* magazine noted of her performance, “Natalie wowed us immediately...Hers is a splendid voice, young, loving, with a warm timbre but with a silvery shimmer at the same time, and also musical with perfect emission, but what’s more than this, she is Elsa, portraying her love, fear and contradictions.”

While she has enjoyed performing around the world, one of her favorite moments on stage was on New Year’s Eve with the Alabama Symphony for her solo debut in her hometown of Birmingham. Previous to that, she was seen as Maddalena opposite the late tenor Marcello Giordani in *Andrea Chenier*, with the Orchestra La Verdi Milano under the baton of the renowned maestro Jader Bignamini, who subsequently brought her back to sing with the Orchestra in numerous concerts in Milan. Natalie created the role of Blanche Germont in the premiere of *Dodici Personaggi in Cerca di Voce* by the late Maestro Bruno Rigacci in Chiari, Italy, and has performed a variety of roles including Donna Elvira in Mozart’s *Don Giovanni*, Rosalinda in Strauss’ *Die Fledermaus*, Lady Billows in Britten’s *Albert Herring*, Countess Almaviva in Mozart’s *The Marriage of Figaro*, Sylvianne in Lehar’s *The Merry Widow*, Musetta in Puccini’s *La Bohème*, and with Opera Birmingham in the role of Giovanna in Verdi’s *Rigoletto*. Natalie is a recipient of many awards, one of which included her debut at Carnegie Hall.



MARISSA JANE BLOUNT MEZZO-SOPRANO

Marissa Jane Blount is a twenty-nine-year-old mezzo-soprano with a Bachelor’s Degree in Musical Performance from The Masters University in Santa Clarita, CA. As a Native American member of the Coushatta Tribe, she grew up on the tribe’s reservation in Elton Louisiana. She now resides in Birmingham, AL, with her husband Caleb; their three daughters Abigail, Mya, and J’nai; and their two fur babies Iffa and Khaleesi. Outside of music, you will find her either working one

of her three jobs or enjoying her family's company at home. Always busy as a wife and working mother of three, she enjoys dancing, physical fitness, exploring wildlife, and watching ASMR videos in what little free time she ends up having.

While enjoying opera, Marissa also likes performing in various styles of music, including classical, jazz, soul, gospel, and R&B. Her wide range of interests help to show off her multiple talents as a singer, dancer, actress, and overall entertainer. Some of her previous performances with Opera Birmingham include Giuseppe Verdi's *La Traviata*, Charles Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*, and Giacomo Puccini's *Tosca*. This is Marissa's third year performing in Opera Birmingham's *Sounds of the Season*.

Marissa would like to extend her thanks to the following people for helping her to get to where she is today: Caleb Blount, Thad and Teresa Blount, Dan Seigel, Brittany and Megan Cernek, Keith Wolfe-Hughes, Amy Richardson, Dr. Kimberlyn Jones, Dr. Carolyn Simons, Dr. and Mrs. Paul and Pamela Plew, Lois Goodwin, Ayla Lippincott, and Muthoni Gaciku-Kittredge.

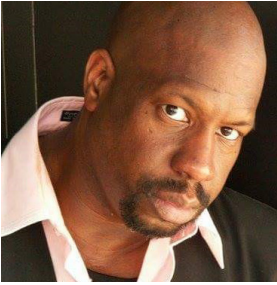


KATHLEEN FARRAR BUCCLEUGH SOPRANO

Soprano Kathleen Farrar Buccleugh, described as “purely lovely” and “delightfully touching” by *The Tuscaloosa News* and praised for her “light, pure tone” and “totally natural” comedic acting by artsBHAM.com, is an accomplished young artist with a performance history reflecting her versatility in opera, oratorio and musical theatre.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began to force opera companies to pivot to creative and safe means of sharing their art, she has been engaged in various virtual and socially distanced performing initiatives. She represented Opera Birmingham in the *Birmingham Arts Drive-In* experience at the end of July. She also joined Savannah VOICE Festival for her debut with the company, being featured in their *Shooting Stars* virtual concert and other virtual concerts throughout the festival dates of Aug. 8-22. She has more to-be-announced virtual and distanced concerts coming up in her schedule.

Last season, Ms. Buccleugh returned to the role of Younger Alyce in *Glory Denied*, this time for her debut with Penn Square Music Festival; and she was rehearsing with Opera Birmingham as Noémie in *Cinderella* when the pandemic forced cancellation of the production. Other recent career highlights include Younger Alyce (*Glory Denied*) with Opera Birmingham, Despina with Mobile Opera, various concerts in Germany and Italy, and *Candide* with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra/Alliance Theatre.



TERENCE DOVE PIANO

A native and current resident of Long Island, NY, Terence Dove is a pianist and musician who is not only respected by the local Christian community, but who is also known both nationally and internationally. Born into a musical family, Mr. Dove began tinkering with his grandmother’s organ at the age of twelve, followed by actually demonstrating his talent in public by playing hymns by ear at fourteen. During his years at Oakwood University in Huntsville, AL, Terence played for several choirs on and off campus. He studied English as a major, and Music Performance and Appreciation as a minor. Although not well versed in reading music, Terence studied piano with Dr. Shirley Beary, and voice with Mrs. Charlotte Regni and Mrs. Ginger Beasley.

After graduation in 1989, Mr. Dove worked for Abraham and Straus in New York as an in-house pianist and entertainer. He began playing for a well-established New York choir – The Lindennaires. This was followed by other choral piano appointments for the next several years, which had him working in various parts of New Jersey, Brooklyn, Queens and Long Island. He also became musical director for The Jenkins Brothers, a well-known recording duo and hosts of McDonald’s Gospelfest contests in the greater New York area. As time passed, Terence would become settled into his career playing for several churches throughout New York and New Jersey, while also recording and composing for gospel artists such as Courtney Fadlin (saxophone) and Cheryl Linton (soprano). Mr. Dove also assists in teaching a class of gospel choral music at The New School in Manhattan, as well as collaborating on various musical projects that come his way.



MARK FRANCIS PIANO

Mark Francis is a resident of the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area. He was born in Toronto, Canada, but moved to Huntsville, AL at a young age. Mark attended Oakwood University in Huntsville and received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music. After leaving Oakwood he moved to Baltimore, MD and attended Morgan State University, where he received a Master of Arts in Music (Piano Performance). After graduating from Morgan State, Mark began teaching in the public school system. He taught music at both the elementary and middle school levels. He has worked with such artists as Daryl Coley and Joey Kibble of Take 6. He has also had the opportunity to play for Rachelle Ferrell in conjunction with the Wilberforce University Choir at the Greater Allen AME Cathedral in Queens, NY. Mark has served as the choral director for the Community Praise Center in Alexandria, VA and church accompanist at many notable churches in Baltimore, MD and the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area including the world-recognized Washington National Cathedral. Mark currently works with the Washington Performing Arts Society as an accompanist and instructor for the Children of the Gospel choir. Mark has facilitated music workshops covering topics such as the role of music in worship, music preparation, rehearsal strategies, and vocal blend.

In 2012 Mark completed additional graduate degrees, including a Master of Science in Homeland Security Management and a Master of Business Administration, and went on to pursue a second career in law enforcement.



RODERICK GEORGE TENOR

Tenor Roderick George made his New York Lincoln Center solo debut in Handel's *Messiah* at David Geffen Hall. Recent seasons have included Adolphus Hailstork's *I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes* with Nashville Symphony, Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* with Alabama Symphony, Mozart *Requiem* with Northwest Florida Symphony, *Carmina Burana* with Huntsville Symphony Orchestra and *Messiah* with the El Paso Choral Society. Internationally, he has been heard throughout Europe, the United Kingdom, South America and Russia. Recent highlights included concerts throughout Russia with Orpheus Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Krasnoyarsk Philharmonic, and he was also privileged to perform at the Spaso House, residence of the U.S. Ambassador in Moscow. He has performed a diversity of leading lyric tenor opera roles including a recent role debut as the Leader in Kurt Weill's *Last in the Stars* with Union Avenue Opera and Nemorino in Opera Birmingham's 2017 production of *L'elisir d'amore*. Other role highlights include Rodolfo in *La Bohème*, Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly*, Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*, Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*, Alfredo in *La Traviata*, Sportin' Life in *Porgy and Bess*, Roméo in *Roméo et Juliette*, Gérald in *Lakmé* and the title role of Albert Herring. In addition to his active performance career, George heads the voice program at the University of Montevallo and is on the artist faculty rosters of the Bay View Music Festival in northern Michigan and the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity in Canada.



LAUREN MARINO SOPRANO

Classically trained in voice, Lauren Marino has performed opera on a local and national level. A native of Birmingham, Lauren studied voice at Samford University and has been performing with Opera Birmingham since 2016. Highlights include *The Elixir of Love*, multiple *Opera Shots*, the Sound Edge Music Festival and the *Sounds of the Season* concerts. This holiday show holds a special place in her heart; Lauren has performed in this concert every year since joining Opera Birmingham and was a featured soloist last year. Lauren sang the role of Antonia in *Man of La Mancha* with Virginia Samford Theatre in 2018, and has appeared in Birmingham Music Club's productions of *Die Fledermaus* and *Desert Song*. Lauren enjoys acting as well as singing. She has appeared in numerous SEC Shorts comedy sketches that air on social media and television, as well as acted in digital sketches for Southern Living. Lauren would like to thank her family and friends for their continued love and support. She is proud to be part of the Opera Birmingham family and could not ask for a better director, manager and company to share her passion for the arts with. She is especially appreciative of the careful efforts put forth to make this holiday concert possible.



CODY MARTIN PIANO

Cody Martin is currently the Director of Education and Director of the Artists in Residence Program at Pensacola Opera. During the 2019-20 season, he led productions of *As One* and *Don Giovanni* in Pensacola. Recent seasons have seen Cody conducting productions of *Florencia en el Amazonas*, *Man of La Mancha* and *María de Buenos Aires* in Pensacola, as well as making his debut with Fargo-Moorhead Opera conducting Jake Heggie's *Three Decembers*. He was on the music

staff of Des Moines Metro Opera for three seasons, most recently serving as associate conductor for *Rusalka*. He previously worked on productions of *A Little Night Music*, *Orphée et Eurydice*, and *Falstaff* in Des Moines. He was on the music staff at Arizona Opera for two seasons, working most recently on productions of *Rusalka*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Riders of the Purple Sage* (world premiere), and *La Cenerentola*. Cody holds degrees from Florida State University and Murray State University.



COREY MCKERN BARITONE

Award-winning baritone Corey McKern continuously earns critical acclaim and accolades in every appearance he makes. Of his performance as Figaro in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, critics hailed: "Corey McKern... has all the goods to rise to star stature – timing, stamina, vocal heft and an easy-going stage presence – especially telling in Figaro's signature aria, 'Largo al factotum della città.'"

This season's engagements include a return to Handel's *Messiah* with the Alabama Symphony, the role of Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly* with Inland Northwest Opera and the title role of *Don Giovanni* with Pensacola Opera. Recent engagements include Older Thompson in *Glory Denied* with Opera Birmingham, performances as a soloist in *Carmina Burana* with Missoula Symphony, Handel's *Messiah* with the Alabama Symphony, and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* with the Tallahassee Symphony. He also returned to the Florentine Opera for a concert of "Opera's Greatest Hits." Mr. McKern garners attention at leading opera houses for his charming and dynamic portrayals of his signature roles: Marcello in *La bohème*, Figaro in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, the Count in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Gabriel von Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus*, Papageno in *Die Zauberflöte*, and Silvio in *Pagliacci*.



JOSEPH ROBINSON TENOR

Joseph Robinson is a tenor from Meridian, MS. He received an Associate of Arts from Meridian Community College where he participated in multiple shows including *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Tarzan*, and *The King and I*. Joseph then moved on to pursue a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Southern Mississippi. At USM, he participated in shows like *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Carmen*, and *Turandot*. Most recently, he was seen on the stage with Mobile Opera playing Giuseppe in Verdi's *La Traviata*. Joseph is currently in the graduate program at Samford University where he is working on a Master of Voice.



ANIKA SAMPSON-ANDERSON SOPRANO

Soprano Anika Sampson-Anderson has had innumerable opportunities to perform a wide range of repertoire from opera and oratorio to contemporary and inspirational/gospel music across the United States and abroad including Bermuda, Czech Republic, England, France, Spain, and Russia. She has graced the stages of the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in Baltimore, MD, with Soulful Symphony and Darin Atwater; the Strathmore in Bethesda, MD, as featured soprano soloist for Wynton Marsalis' *All Rise* with the National Philharmonic under the direction of William Eddins; at

the National Cathedral with the *Ten Commandments Musical*; and on Capitol Hill at the request of Rear Admiral Barry C. Black, Chaplain of the United States Senate. On numerous occasions Ms. Sampson-Anderson has performed on the Concert Hall Stage at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. with the Choral Arts Society of Washington and Alfred Street Baptist Church as well as on Millennium Stage with NEWorks Productions.

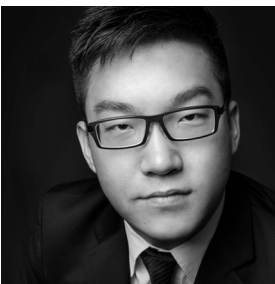
Ms. Sampson-Anderson attended Oakwood University in Huntsville, AL and Morgan State University in Baltimore, MD and completed a Bachelor of Arts in Music with an emphasis in Vocal Performance. She was later accepted to Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., where she began studying for a master's degree in Vocal Performance and performed the lead role of Madame Glavari in the operetta *The Merry Widow* composed by Franz Lehár.

Known for her soaring high notes and vocal flexibility Ms. Sampson-Anderson receives frequent performance requests and is honored to have been given the gift of singing.



DANIEL SEIGEL BARITONE

Daniel Seigel, baritone, is a graduate of Birmingham-Southern and earned a Master of Music and Graduate Performance Diploma in opera from the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore. He has performed with Opera North, NJ Opera, Mobile Opera and Opera Birmingham, where he was a finalist in the 2008 and 2009 Vocal Competitions. He has also been a winner of the Metropolitan Opera district auditions. For Opera Birmingham, Daniel is the Chorus Master. He also won the National Federation of Music Clubs Biennial Young Artist Competition in 2009, a prize that led to a Carnegie Hall solo recital debut in October 2010.



ANDREW SUN PIANO

Andrew Sun enjoys a varied career as a performing artist and arts administrator. Currently the Executive Assistant to the President at Minnesota Opera, he was previously a Resident Artist with the same company for two seasons. A sought-after collaborative pianist and vocal coach, Mr. Sun has served on the staff of Berkshire Opera Festival and Manhattan School of Music. He is also an alum of the Merola Opera Program and Music Academy of the West. Mr. Sun was named winner of the 2018 Marilyn Horne Song Competition with mezzo-soprano Kelsey Lauritano. Their recital tour in spring 2019 featured the world premiere of *Without Music* by Ricky Ian Gordon and included performances in New York City, Chicago, Santa Barbara, and London, UK. Mr. Sun has also performed on Carnegie Hall's Neighborhood Concerts series and participated in "The Song Continues," a week-long series of masterclasses and recitals in Carnegie Hall led by Marilyn Horne. In 2012, he performed the radio broadcast premiere of the then newly-discovered *Albumblatt* by Johannes Brahms, for which he is cited in the Bärenreiter edition. Other performance highlights include vocal masterclasses with Sir Thomas Allen, Stephanie Blythe, Thomas Hampson, and Jane Eaglen. Mr. Sun holds bachelor's and master's degrees from New York University and a Professional Studies Certificate from Manhattan School of Music.



TAI-KRISTIN SMEDLEY SOPRANO

Tai-Kristin Smedley is a native of Montgomery, AL, who has been performing professionally for over 20 years. In her youth, Ms. Smedley made her acting debut at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. After graduating from the University of Kentucky class of 2012 with a B.A. in Fine Arts in Music, she performed for professional venues such as Cincinnati Opera, Kentucky Classical Theater Conservatory, and Red Mountain Theater Company. A card carrying member of Actors Equity Association, she was most recently employed at Walt Disney World as a principle performer in the *Festival of the Lion King* for the past 7 years.



BRANDIE SUTTON SOPRANO

Hailed by Opera News for her “sumptuous, mid-weight soprano,” and The New York Times for her “warm, ample voice,” “ravishing performance” and “distinctive earthy coloring,” Ms. Brandie Sutton began her professional career with a solo recital in the province of St. Maarten and many presentations of Handel’s *Messiah*. She has appeared in concert halls and opera stages around the world. She has performed with opera houses such as Semperoper Dresden, Palacio de Bellas Artes, Seattle Opera, Knoxville Opera, Opera Maine, Teatro Petruzzelli, New York City Opera and The Metropolitan Opera. She has also been featured with the Richmond Symphony Orchestra, South Florida Symphony Orchestra, Royal Danish Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, Radio Orpheus Symphony Orchestra in Moscow, the Krasnoyarsk Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra and Wynton Marsalis’ Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, to name a few. She has also made appearances at Carnegie Hall and The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. She would have debuted this year with Opera Birmingham and returned to Seattle Opera and The Metropolitan Opera. All were cancelled due to the pandemic, but Ms. Sutton looks forward to returning to normalcy soon so that she may return to these stages. Should things go as planned, she returns to Seattle Opera and The Metropolitan Opera next fall.



CHRISTY VEST PIANO

Christy Vest has served as a vocalist, accompanist, music director, and teacher at several local theatres, churches, and schools, including Red Mountain Theatre Company, Virginia Samford Theatre, Birmingham Children’s Theatre, Opera Birmingham, Samford University, Birmingham-Southern College, and All Saints’ Episcopal Church.



KALI WILDER-BLUE SOPRANO

Kali Wilder-Blue is a lyric soprano who hails from New Jersey. She received her bachelor's degree from Oakwood University (2003 Bachelor of Music) and her master's degree from University of Kentucky (2006 Master of Music). Mrs. Wilder-Blue has had the honor of being a guest soloist during the Wratislavia Cantans, in Wroclaw, Poland. She has sung the title role in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, Pamina and Papagena in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* and Micaëla in Bizet's *Carmen*. Mrs. Wilder-Blue has been a guest clinician for the Music Society of the Bahamas and the guest artist for the inaugural performance of the Bahamas National Opera Company. In 2012, Mrs. Wilder-Blue sang the role of Arlene, in a new production by Karen Saillant and Carlo Pedini, called *Buffalo Soldiers*.

With a strong desire to spread the importance of "vocal health," Ms. Wilder-Blue teaches voice in New York City. In her voice studio the importance of "healthy sound production," no matter the genre, is the main focus for her students. In addition to her devotion to her craft, Kali has a great love for helping those who are in need of support. She is an active member of *Adventist Against AIDS in Africa*, an outreach organization focused on aiding the people of Malawi. Ms. Wilder-Blue has also served as a volunteer EMT in New Jersey since 2008.

Kali's 2014 performances include a concert of Civil War songs with the performance troupe Courtesy of the Artists. In 2018 Kali had the honor of singing for the Inaugural Prayer Service of Governor Phil Murphy and Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver. Mrs. Wilder-Blue can be heard on The Oakwood College Aeolians' 2000 recording of *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, the Lloyd Mallory Singers' 2003 *Live Album*, and Secret Weapons' 2015 recording of *Something New*.



MARK WOMACK BARITONE

Praised by *Opera News* as "strikingly warm and gracefully honey toned," Mark Womack's recent performances include Fred Graham in *Kiss Me, Kate* and the title role in *Eugene Onegin* with Intermountain Opera Bozeman, Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly* with Opera Connecticut, *Carmina Burana* with the Utah, Fargo-Moorhead and Allentown Symphonies, *The Verdi Requiem* with The Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra, Vaughan William's *A Sea Symphony* at Jorgensen Auditorium with the UConn Symphony, Carl Magnus in *A Little Night Music* with Syracuse Opera, Marcello in *La Bohème* with Opera Birmingham, Danilo in *The Merry Widow* with The Northern Lights Music Festival, and Juan Peron in *Evita* with Opera North. Mark is privileged to have performed both Marcello and Schaunard in the Tony Award-winning Broadway production of *La Bohème*, under the direction of Baz Luhrmann. In recent seasons he has been heard as Giorgio Germont in Knoxville Opera's *La Traviata*, Macheath in *The Threepenny Opera* with Amarillo Opera, Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly* with Sarasota Opera, Guglielmo in Skylight Opera Theater's *Così fan Tutte*, Henry Higgins in Opera North's *My Fair Lady*, the title role in *Don Giovanni* with both Utah Festival Opera and Anchorage Opera, Friedrich Bhaer in *Little Women* with Syracuse Opera, Marcello in *La Bohème* and Enrico in *Lucia di Lammermoor* with Chattanooga Symphony and Opera, Escamillo in *Carmen* with Utah Festival Opera, Count Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro* with Mississippi Opera, Lescaut in *Manon Lescaut* with Dicapo Opera Theater and numerous appearances with Connecticut Opera, Chautauqua Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, El Paso Opera and Des Moines Metro Opera. Mark is currently on faculty at the Hartt School of Theatre and Dance, the University of Connecticut School of Music, and the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City.

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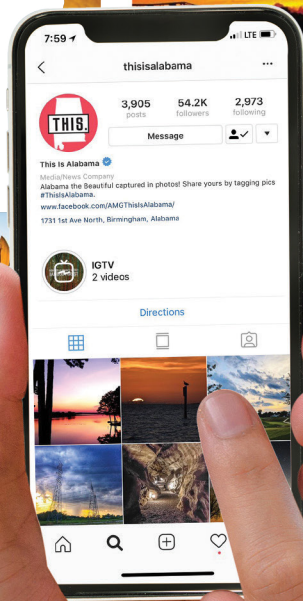
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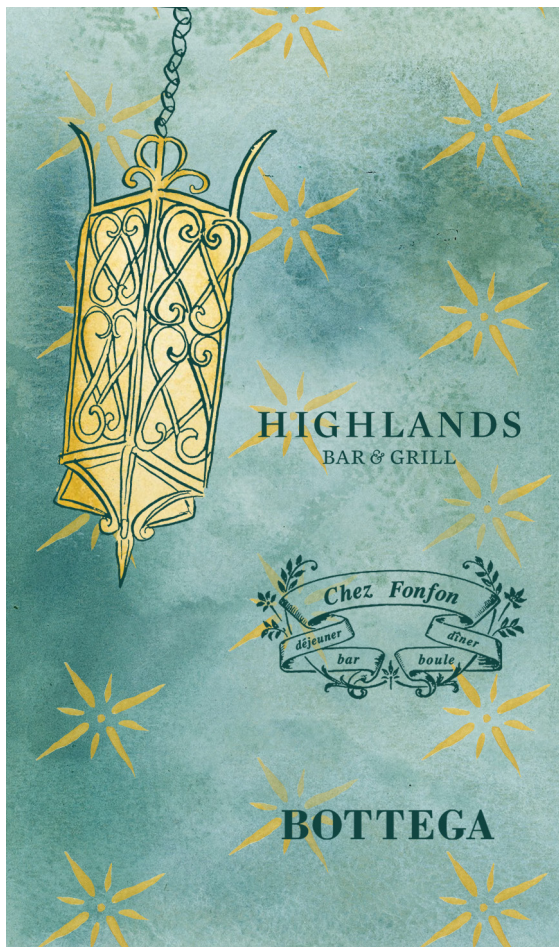
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