

## Gothic Opera

10.29-31.21 | Shingleton Dance Space



### COVID-19 Safety

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#### ATTENDEES

Masks are required at all times for all patrons and visitors regardless of vaccination status during all indoor performances taking place at Shenandoah Conservatory. Masks must be worn in the lobby, inside the theatre/concert hall and in the restrooms.

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#### PERFORMERS

Performing artists will perform unmasked only if they are fully vaccinated and have tested negative for COVID-19 within 72 hours of their performance(s).

[Learn More >](#)

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## Gothic Opera

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### DIRECTED BY

**Ella Marchment**

### MUSIC DIRECTED BY

**Gonzalo Hidalgo**

### PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT BY

**Eoín Fleming**

### ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

**Vanessa Estaniel, Julia Derflinger**

Friday, October 29 –  
Sunday, October 31, 2021  
Shingleton Dance Space  
Shenandoah Conservatory

## Welcome to the Party!

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### Welcome

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from the Director

Welcome to a new year in the Shenandoah Conservatory opera calendar, and a year that promises to pack a punch as we find ways to navigate a brave new world of opera.

As we all know COVID-19 hit the arts industry especially hard, and now — more than ever — it is imperative that students are educated with wide-ranging skills that enable them to be adaptable and more flexible than ever before. The professional opera world is currently in flux, and the program here has been devised this year in order to harness students with the most valuable tools to not only survive in this system of change, but thrive too.

I have always been motivated by trying to challenge our preconception of what opera is and to make it a better, fairer and more equitable art form, whilst maintaining the highest standards of production possible. To this extent our first *Gothic Opera* program is testament to my ideology that opera must combine both old and new, honor tradition and break away from it simultaneously. This show features canonical gems, paired alongside pieces written by living composers, and is tied thematically together by the conceit of a special Halloween dinner party. It is devised to introduce audiences to as many students as possible, and I believe that there is truly something for everyone in this show.

Next semester we are delighted to announce that we will be performing Germaine Tailleferre's *4 Opéra's Bouffes* in the main theatre space. Tailleferre is famously the oft forgotten and only female member of the Parisian compositional troupe 'Les Six.' Bringing this production to Winchester audiences is a feat not only because we

## Shenandoah Conservatory

will be the first school to perform these works, but we will also be giving these pieces their American premiere too. Shenandoah is the conservatory that does things differently and this piece is a massive wake-up call to the world that we are giving worthwhile pieces a new lease of life.

My first semester has been incredibly busy but I have loved getting to know the students, listening to their ideas, and planning all sorts of exciting projects for the future (which I can only tease you about for now). Later this term David Butt-Phillip who is a tenor superstar and a soloist at the Kennedy Center Opera reopening will be delivering a speech and masterclass for our opera students, and there are plenty more events like this in the pipeline.

The opera department is a playground for ideas and I plan to make this course known for furthering traditional skills, but also for innovation, creation and for nurturing the future change makers for the genre, building on the great foundation that currently is in existence here.

So without further ado, please enjoy the first show of this new chapter.

- [Ella Marchment](#)

Director of Opera; Associate Professor  
Shenandoah Conservatory

## Program Notes

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Once upon a time in far away Winchester lived the Queen of the Vampires. Tormented by her ancestors, tortured by her fate to walk the Earth as the living dead until the end of time, and torn up by the fact that her most beloved sister Elisabeth has been missing for nearly 150 years, Vampirella tries to cheer herself up on all Hallows Eve by throwing the best party in all of the land.

Only - as with all parties - nothing ever goes quite to plan . . .

Dare you enter the Vampiress's lair? If so, welcome to this unforgettably spooky evening of operatic mischief as the Queen of the Vampires attempts to control the chaos that unravels around her during her annual Hallows Eve party.

And - most importantly - will they all live unhappily ever after?

## Program

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### Vampirella

Siobhán Cleary (b. 1970)

Carly Baron, *Countess*

Gabriella Pisacreta, *Countess (understudy)*

Lourdes Rodriguez, *soprano I*

Laterria Jordan, *soprano II*

Olivia Rood, *soprano II*

Morgan Brookman, *mezzo-soprano*

Journee Carter, *mezzo-soprano*

Evan Miller, *tenor*

Kevin Alexander Clark, *baritone*

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No. 6, Duet 'Schelm, halt, fest!' from *Der Freischütz*

## **Shenandoah Conservatory**

Carl Maria von Weber (1786–1826)

Jennie Gordon, *Annie*  
Kristen Sullivan, *Agnes*

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### **No. 3, 'Oh! Where's my girl?' from *Rip van Winkle***

Robert Planquette (1848–1903)

Matthew Jones, *Rip van Winkle*

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### **Witches Chorus from *Macbeth***

Guiseppe Verdi (1813–1901)

Rachel Balbi, Elena Fierer, Gabriella Pisacreta, Lourdes Rodriguez, *soprano I*  
Vanessa Estaniel, MiKayla Lynn Hatfield, Laterria Jordan, Ashmin Ramcharran, Olivia Rood, *soprano II*  
Morgan Brookman, Journee Carter, Juliana Derflinger, Sophia Dove, *soprano III*

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### **The Seal Man**

Rebecca Clarke (1886–1979)

Sophia Dove, *The Woman*

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### **Act II Scene I; Colloquy and Soliloquy from *The Turn of the Screw***

Benjamin Britten (1913–1976)

Rachel Balbi, *Miss Jessel*  
Elias Aguirre, *Peter Quint*

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### **Brother come and dance with me from *Hansel and Gretel***

Englebert Humperdinck (1854–1921)

Sophia Dove, *Hansel*  
Gabriella Pisacreta, *Gretel*

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### **Act I Scene XI, XII trio and arioso from *Orlando***

George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

Laterria Jordan, *Angelica*  
Lourdes Rodriguez, *Dorinda*  
Julia Derflinger, *Medoro*



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### The Ghosts of Versailles

John Corgliano (b. 1938)

Clint Curfman, *Beaumarchais*

MiKayla Lynn Hatfield, *Marie Antoinette*

Elias Aguirre, *Louis*

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### My Eyes are Fully Open from *Ruddigore*

William S. Gilbert (1836-1911)

Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)

Julian Baldwin, *Robin*

Kevin Alexander Clark, *Despard*

Olivia Rood, *Margaret*

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### Part II 'The Disappearance' from *The Vanishing Bridegroom*

Judith Weir (b. 1954)

Julian Baldwin, *Friend*

Elena Fierer, *Wife*

Juliana Rivelli, *Woman 1*

Vanessa Estaniel, *Woman 2*

Julia Derflinger, *Woman 3*

Kevin Alexander Clark, *Policeman*

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### How Could I Ever Know from *The Secret Garden*

Nolan Gasser (b. 1964)

Ashmin Ramcharran, *Lily*

Evan Miller, *Archie*

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### Elizabeth Cree

Kevin Puts (b. 1972)

Juliana Rivelli, *Elizabeth Cree*

Matthew Jones, *Little Victor Farrell*

Elias Aguirre, *Dan Leno*

Journee Carter, *Doris*

Kevin Alexander Clark, *Uncle*

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### Vampirella

## Shenandoah Conservatory

Siobhán Cleary (b. 1970)

Carly Baron, *Countess*

Gabriella Pisacreta, *Countess (understudy)*

Lourdes Rodriguez, *soprano I*

Laterria Jordan, *soprano II*

Olivia Rood, *soprano II*

Morgan Brookman, *mezzo-soprano*

Journee Carter, *mezzo-soprano*

Evan Miller, *tenor*

Kevin Alexander Clark, *baritone*

## Creative Leadership

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### Gonzalo Hidalgo

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Music Director

Gonzalo Hidalgo (Music Director) is a musician and surgeon who graduated from the Central University of Venezuela. He began his musical studies at the age of 9 in a nucleus of El Sistema in the state of Barinas, Venezuela. He was a founding member in 1994 of the National Children's Symphony of Venezuela, with whom he traveled to important stages in North America and Europe. He has received bassoon classes from the teachers Antonio Aray, Henning Trog and Stefan Schweigert, both members of the Berliner Philharmoniker, with Matthias Racz, he has taken classes with solo bassoon from the Tonhalle Zurich Orchestra, Sergio Azzolini, a bassoon teacher in

Basel, Switzerland, and with Dag Jensen bassoon teacher at the Munich art and music school, Klaus Thunemann Soloist and teacher at the Hans Eiler music school in Berlin.

Gonzalo has been leading the most important youth and professional orchestras in Venezuela for several years, such as the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra, the Caracas Symphony Orchestra, the Teresa Carreño Symphony Orchestra, the Francisco de Miranda Symphony Orchestra, among others.

From the conducting school of the teachers Eduardo Marturet and Teresa Hernández, Alejandro Posada recently completed his master's degree at the EAFIT University of the city of Medellín - Colombia, he has taken on with enthusiasm and security programs that include works by Wagner, Ravel, Debussy, Rimski-Kórsakov, Beethoven, Fauré, Shostakovich, Mahler, Brahms, Mozart, Verdi, Weber, Stravinsky, Sibelius, Márquez, Ginastera, Carreño, Estévez, Villa - Lobos, Moncayo and Tchaikovsky, among other repertoires.

As the principal bassoonist of the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela, directed by maestro Gustavo Dudamel, Gonzalo Hidalgo has also trained as a soloist. constant refinement work on the bassoon with the first bassoonist of the Berliner Philharmoniker, Stefan Schweigert. As a soloist he has been under the baton of Eduardo Marturet, Alfredo Rugeles, Dudamel and the maestro Claudio Abbado with whom he made the Concertante Symphony for Winds, by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

In addition, he participated in the assembly of Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 2, conducted by Simon Rattle, and in Mahler's Symphony No. 5, with Abbado. He has participated in the montages for the recordings with the important record label Deutsche Grammophon directed by maestro Gustavo Dudamel, together with the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra, with whom he has performed in the best theaters in America, Europe and Asia.

He is currently part of the academic committee of the national school of bassoons of the system in Venezuela, principal invited conductor of Simon Bolivar Symphony and attends DMA at Shenandoah University with Master Jan Wagner.



## Julia Derflinger

Assistant Director

Julia Derflinger '23 is native to Virginia and has trained over 10 years in various genres, including specializations in opera and classical music. Since being personally recruited by the now dean of the Liberty University (LU) School of Music and completing her Bachelor of Music in PreK-12 choral music education there in 2020, she is now pursuing a Master of Music in Performance (Voice) at Shenandoah Conservatory in further pursuit of a career in voice performance and opera. Recent credits include her professional operatic debut with Opera on the James and Liberty University Opera's production of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *Pirates of Penzance*

with LU Opera, and *Così fan tutte* Act 1 Finale with the LU Opera Workshop. She is incredibly grateful to God, her mentors, family and friends for their love and steadfastness.



## Vanessa Estaniel

Assistant Director

Vanessa Estaniel (Assistant Director) is a Philippine native, trained vocalist of many genres, and a well-rounded musician. Although Vanessa enjoys singing Mozart's and Donizetti's melismas and considers center stage as her second home, stage directing is a career path that she will be pursuing after completing her Bachelor of Music in Performance (Voice) at Shenandoah Conservatory. Vanessa serves as the events coordinator of the student-led opera organization on campus, is a voice and piano teacher of her own private studio and a regular performer on the Old Town Winchester Walking Mall.

Recent credits include:

- Off-Broadway: *Trial on the Potomac* by George Bugatti, Stage Crew; Write Act Repertory Theatre NYC, Production Intern
- Film: Art Garfunkel 2021 Tour Trailer, Production Assistant
- Educational: *Ach Ich COVID: Opera Reimagined*, Director, Writer, Performer, (ShenCoLAB 2021); *Joy Unbounded* directed by Julian Baldwin, Choreographer (opening in November 2021)

Vanessa will be presenting her half recital on December 3, 2021 at 8:30 p.m. in Goodson Chapel – Recital Hall. Praise and glory to God! Many thanks to her family, professors and friends for their unconditional love and support ♥.



## Eóin Fleming

Eóin Fleming is a 23-year-old Irish pianist who began his studies in piano at age six in the Royal Irish Academy of Music with Colma Brioscú. He then continued studies with Dr. Alexander Bernstein, Réamonn Keary, and is currently studying at Shenandoah University with Dr. John O'Connor.

Most recently Eóin was awarded fifth place in the 66th Maria Canals International Piano Competition (2021), and was a semi-finalist in the 2018 Dublin International Piano Competition where he received the Charles J. Brennan prize, the McCullough Bursary, and prize for the best performance of the Irish commissioned work for the competition.

Eóin debuted at Carnegie Hall's Weill Hall performing Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5 "Emperor" with the New

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York Concerti Sinfonietta (October 2016); he debuted with Shenandoah University's Symphony Orchestra performing the first movement of Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 3 in the same year.

## Cast

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### Elias Aguirre

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Elias Aguirre is a young Mexican tenor. He debuted as a singer at the age of sixteen in one of the most important musical venues in Mexico, La Sala de Musicos y Compositores Roberto Cantoral. In 2019 he participated in the international program "The Voice Mexico" in its largest edition worldwide. With more than 500 participants, Aguirre managed to place himself in the top three of the program. He is currently continuing his training in the operatic field.



### Rachel Balbi

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Rachel Balbi is a soprano from Long Island, New York. She recently graduated from Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, as a student of Ms. Gwynne Geyer. She is in her first year at Shenandoah University pursuing a master's degree in voice performance and studying under Dr. Byron Jones. She has most recently fulfilled the role of Alice Beineke in Andrew Lippa's *The Addams Family*. Rachel is incredibly excited to make her debut on the SU stage!



### Julian Baldwin

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Julian Baldwin is a senior vocal performance major. He has been singing since he was three years old. Julian is from Weehawken, New Jersey, across the river from Manhattan. He loves singing contemporary opera and performs with Shenandoah's Conservatory Choir. He would like to thank his castmates, directors, music directors, and the teachers who have given him so many amazing opportunities to sing for people.



### Carly Baron

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Soprano Carly Baron soprano is *~thrilled~* to be performing the role of Countess Vampirella in this devilishly delightful production of *Gothic Opera*. She is currently pursuing her Doctor of Musical Arts in Performance (Classical Voice) and studies with the wickedly talented Nancy Gustafson. Recent roles include Lauretta (*Gianni Schicchi*), Despina (*Così fan tutte*), Erica (*Salted Crème* - new opera), Julie (*Pacamambo* - U.S. premiere) and Mabel (*Pirates of Penzance*). She thanks her family, friends, mentors and cat for their undying support and wishes all mortals in the audience a happy and spook-filled Halloween!





### **Morgan Brookman**

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Morgan Brookman is a second-year student at Shenandoah University earning her Bachelor of Music in Performance (Voice). She is currently serving as vice president of membership of Sigma Alpha Iota and studying under Michael Forest. She is so grateful to be involved in this opera production and for the opportunity to watch her incredibly talented peers perform in person again!



### **Journee Carter**

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Journee Carter is a vocal performance master's student of Dr. David Meyer at Shenandoah Conservatory. She is a native of St. Louis, Missouri, where she is active in the opera scene. In 2021 she performed the role of La sorella infermiera in Winter Opera St. Louis' production of *Suor Angelica*. In her spare time she enjoys reading young adult novels, listening to j-pop, trying new recipes, sewing, and learning new things.



### **Kevin Alexander Clark**

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Alex Clark of Front Royal, Virginia, is a vocal performance major of the class of 2022. Previous appearances at Shenandoah include ensemble in *Così fan tutte* and Betto in *The Puccini Project*. A graduate of Christendom College, he has appeared in college and church theatre with The Christendom Players, St. John's Drama and the Jordan River Theatre Company.



### **Clint Curfman**

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Clint Curfman is a sophomore vocal performance student from Roaring Spring, Pennsylvania. He is excited to be making his debut with Shenandoah opera as Beaumarchais. Clint would like to give a special thanks to Dr. Jones and director Ella Marchment for their warm welcome to the Shenandoah stage.



### Sophia Dove

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Sophia Dove has enjoyed taking a few years off from school to teach, write music, and perform after graduating in 2016 from University of Colorado, Boulder. Her most recent productions include Puss in Montsalvatge's *Puss in Boots* with Boulder Opera, Mrs. Nolan with Denver Immersive Opera, and a role in a CU New Opera Workshop premiere. Her notable credits with the Eklund Opera Program at CU include the role of Despina in *Così fan tutte*, the Sandman in *Hänsel und Gretel*, La Virtù in *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, and a nun in *Dialogues des Carmélites*.



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### Elena Fierer

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Elena Fierer radiates joy and confidence in her performances. On stage, she exhibits a deep commitment to storytelling and has portrayed characters including Sandman (Humperdinck's *Hänsel und Gretel*) and Monica (Menotti's *The Medium*). As an artist, she continually strives for improvement, always pushing the boundaries of her technical, linguistic, and artistic abilities. Fierer has been a cast member of Shenandoah University's Opera Up Close series, achieved honors for her participation in Virginia's National Association of Teachers of Singing Competition, and won Shenandoah Conservatory's 2020/21 Student Soloist Competition in the undergraduate category.



### Jennifer Gordon

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Jennifer Gordon recently graduated from Shenandoah Conservatory with a Bachelor of Music in Performance (Voice). She will graduate with a Master of Science in Performing Arts Leadership & Management in May 2022. Most recently, Jennifer performed the role of La Sorella Infermiera in Puccini's *Suor Angelica* at Shenandoah Conservatory. She has performed in Shenandoah Conservatory's production of Franz Lehár's *The Merry Widow* and as Frasquita and Nannetta in Shenandoah Conservatory's *Night at the Opera Gala*. Jennifer's career aspirations include working in administration for a professional opera company while having a robust performing career.



### MiKayla Lynn Hatfield

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MiKayla Lynn Hatfield, originally from Van Buren, Arkansas, is currently pursuing her Master of Music in Performance (Voice) at Shenandoah University. Her most recent theatrical roles include Suor Angelica in *Suor Angelica*, Gertrude McFuzz in *Seussical the Musical*, Father in *Children of Eden*, and Ursula in *The Little Mermaid*. She will be attending the American Institute of Musical Studies located in Graz, Austria, in 2022. "A special thanks to those who always support and encourage me. You all help me continue to reach for the stars!"



### Matthew Jones

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Tenor Matthew Jones, originally from Savannah, Georgia, is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts in Performance (Voice) at Shenandoah Conservatory. A frequent orchestral soloist and recitalist, Jones holds a Master of Music in voice performance from Cleveland State School of Music.



### Laterria Jordan

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Laterria S. Jordan is a classically trained voice student from Prince George's County, Maryland. She currently attends Shenandoah Conservatory and plans to receive her Bachelor of Music in Performance this upcoming spring.

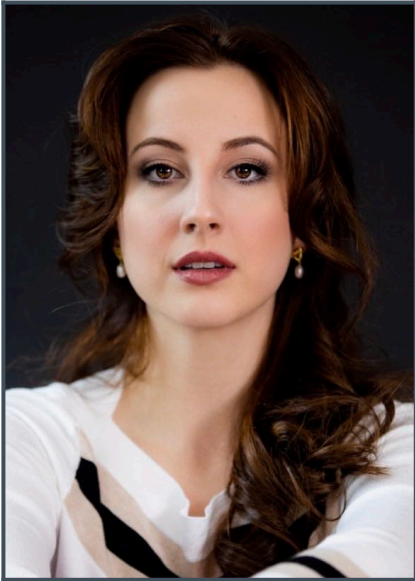




### **Evan Miller**

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Evan Miller is a Maryland classical/opera singer who loves to perform for his audience and his community. He has mainly studied classical music and opera for the majority of his life, but he can also be versatile while singing gospel, contemporary, urban, pop, R&B soul, and other genres.



### **Gabriella Pisacreta**

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Gabriella Pisacreta is a coloratura soprano currently performing and competing in the Northern Virginia/D.C. area. During the month of August, Gabriella performed the role of Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro* with Saluzzo Opera Academy. Ms. Pisacreta has just been accepted into the Laffont Competition, moving forward into the district round. She is very much looking forward to singing the role of Gretel with the SU cast!

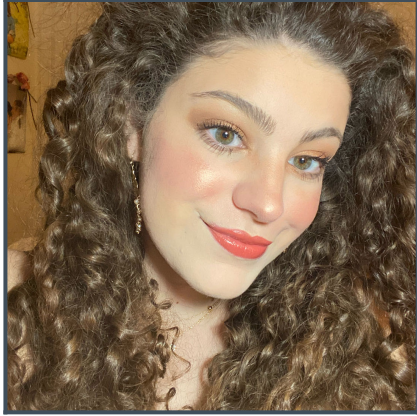


### **Ashmin Ramcharran**

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Ashmin Ramcharran is a seasoned musician and performer from Orlando, Florida. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Performance at Shenandoah University and anticipates graduating in spring 2024. She is certified as a Level I, II and III Somatic Voicework™ Instructor and teaches using the principles learned at the LoVetri Institute for Somatic Voicework™. She has studied with world-renowned instructors all throughout Los Angeles and Orlando for the better part of twelve years, including Dave Stroud, Kimberly Kanitz, Jeanie Lovetri, Rachel Riggs, and Angelica Thompson. Past credits include *Ach Ich COVID: Opera Reimagined*, performer.





### Juliana Rivelli

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Juliana Rivelli is from Smithfield, Rhode Island. She has a Bachelor of Science in Music Education from The College of Saint Rose in Albany, New York, and is pursuing a Master of Music in Voice Pedagogy - Classical at Shenandoah University. Opera credits include Frances Norcross in *Sister's Show Me Eternity* at Skidmore College directed by Sylvia Stoner and The Impresario in *Der Schauspieldirektor* at The College of Saint Rose directed by Suna Gunther.



### Lourdes Rodriguez

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Lourdes Rodriguez is pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Performance at Shenandoah Conservatory (anticipated class of 2023) and is from Hyattsville, Maryland. She is a trained coloratura soprano pursuing a career as a professional opera singer. In 2021, she received third place in both the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Virginia and Mid-Atlantic Regional Competition. Repertoire includes Plaintiff in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Trial by Jury* from Joy Unbounded as directed by Julian Baldwin, Dorinda from Handel's *Orlando* in *Gothic Opera* as directed by Ella Marchment, Susanna from *Le Nozze Di Figaro* in Opera Up Close as directed by Meaghan Deiter, and Mabel from Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates*

of Penzance in *Ach Ich COVID: Opera Reimagined* as directed by Vanessa Estaniel.



### Olivia Rood

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Olivia Rood is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Performance (class of 2024) and is so excited to be making their Shenandoah Conservatory debut. Their most recent credit is the role of Charon in the Ohio premier of *The Lightning Thief* at Hathaway Brown Theatre Institute in their hometown of Cleveland, Ohio. Olivia would like to give a very special thanks to director Ella Marchment and Dr. Fotina Naumenko.



### Kristen Sullivan

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Kristen Sullivan, a Virginia native, is extremely excited to be singing on the stage with her friends at Shenandoah Opera once again. Kristen will be graduating in May with a Bachelor of Music in Performance (Voice), pursuing a career in opera and teaching. Recent credits include *Suor Angelica* by Puccini at Shenandoah Conservatory, *La Boheme* by Puccini at IN Series Opera, *Orfée et Eurydice* by Gluck at IN Series Opera. Concert credits include CORO Vocal Artists at the Des Moines Choral Festival, soloist. Kristen would like to thank her wonderful family, friends, and teachers for their help and support!



### **Myka Ahlemann**

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Lighting Designer

Myka Lynn Ahlemann is a lighting designer and currently serves as a lighting fellow at Shenandoah Conservatory of Shenandoah University. She graduated from The College of Idaho with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre. As a dance designer, she has worked with many choreographers including Gregory Dolbashian and Dante Puleio. Her theatrical work includes working as an assistant for JAX Messenger for *Murder on the Orient Express* and designing *White Guy on the Bus* directed by Malcolm Gets. She is currently pursuing a Master of Fine Arts in lighting design at the University of Florida.



### **Anna Warda Alex**

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Sound Designer

Anna Warda Alex is an award-winning sound designer and composer whose work has been heard all over the country. She received her Master of Fine Arts in Sound Design from Minnesota State University, Mankato, and is a member of the Audio Engineering Society and USITT. Her theatrical sound designs have been produced at New Stage Collective, Gulfshore Playhouse, PSST!, Utah Opera and Musical Theatre Festival, PlayMaker's Rep and Summer Rep Theatre.



### **Tori Baker**

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Stage Manager

Tori Baker is a theatre design and production major with an emphasis in stage management and lighting design. Most recently, she had the pleasure of being the assistant stage manager for *Dracula* in the Ohrstrom-Bryant Theatre. She also worked on *Grease* at Shenandoah Summer Music Theatre this past summer. She has had a great time working on this production and she hopes you enjoy the show.

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## Shenandoah Conservatory

hiring world-class faculty, and fostering experimental and creative student projects.

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Shenandoah Conservatory is grateful to the 2021/22 Dean's Circle members for supporting our creative community of artists, scholars and educators.

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Melanie L. Mathewes  
Shenandoah Conservatory Director of Development  
[mmathewe@su.edu](mailto:mmathewe@su.edu) | (540) 665-4733

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