

# PIRATES OF PENZANCE

SIR W.S. GILBERT & SIR ARTHUR SULLIVAN



# THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

NASHVILLE

The Nashville Opera produces a variety of works containing diverse dramatic and musical styles that often delve deeply into the human condition. But sometimes, just sometimes, we feel it's time to pull out a no holds barred comedy. And that time is now.

We are proud to present a family-friendly evening of comedy and mayhem with this rollicking production of Gilbert and Sullivan's The Pirates of Penzance.

The Pirates of Penzance has been called the "most popular" of all of Gilbert and Sullivan's operas. From the delightful music to the clever libretto, the opera has proved an audience pleaser from the very first opening night in 1879.

The inspiration for The Pirates of Penzance came from a variety of sources.

The first inspiration was probably from Stevenson's Treasure Island, which had made the subject of pirates enormously popular in fiction and dramas. Secondly, there was an incident in Gilbert's childhood where he was kidnapped by Neapolitan bandits. Perhaps because of this childhood trauma, many of Gilbert's plots concern abduction or displaced people who are not what they seem to be. And finally, after Gilbert and Sullivan saw the royalties of performance of their earlier operas stolen away by copyright thieves, the idea of pillaging pirates was a subject not too far from their thoughts.

> Sullivan's music satirizes such sources as Italian romantic opera with Frederic's bel canto lament "Oh, is there not one maiden here?" He also lampoons the serious sounds of Victorian oratorio with the delightfully High Church sounding choral number "Hail, Poetry!" And finally, there is a rich parody of the coloratura soprano aria in Mabel's famous waltz "Poor Wandering One."

A large part of the genius of Gilbert and Sullivan is that, even if an audience lacks full knowledge of the satire and intricate parodies presented, the opera still works brilliantly on many levels. That is just one of the reasons for nearly 150 years, The Pirates of Penzance is still referred to as the most popular Gilbert and Sullivan opera of all.

Of course, it would be impossible for us to produce anything without the help of our patrons and donors and their generous support of the Nashville Opera. Your support of the Nashville Opera keeps us singing and enables the Pirates to sail on to new comic adventures. We hope you enjoy this season's staging of Gilbert and Sullivan's masterpiece, The Pirates of Penzance.

JOHN HOOMES CEO & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



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# SING BRAVELY.

# THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

THE ANN FRANK BUMSTEAD SEASON

Music by Sir Arthur Gilbert; Libretto by Sir W.S. Gilbert Premiere at Bijou Theatre, Paignton, UK  $\,-$  30 December 1879

APRIL 21 - 23, 2023 Tennessee Performing Arts Center — Polk Theater

Directed by John Hoomes Conducted by Dean Williamson Featuring the Nashville Opera Orchestra

# CAST

THE PIRATE KING Leroy Davis \* MAJOR GENERAL STANLEY Curt Olds SERGEANT OF POLICE Matt Burns RUTH Emily Pulley MABLE Evelyn Saavedra \* FREDERIC Gregory Sliskovich \*^ EDITH Naomi Brigell \*^ SAMUEL Brandan Sanchez \*^ KATE Alysha Nesbitt \*^

#### CREATIVE

Scenic Design Barry Steele Lighting and Video Design Barry Steele Costume Design Glenn Avery Breed Wig and Makeup Design Sondra Nottingham Costume Coordinator Pam Lisenby Choreographer Tosha Marie Chorusmistress Amy Tate Williams

#### PRODUCTION

Technical Director **Robert Helvey** Production Stage Manager **Joe Gladstone** Assistant Stage Manager **Alexandra Bowden** Assistant Stage Manager **Sara Johnson** Master Carpenter **Josh Bennett** Stage Running Crew **Kelly Scheuman** 

Costume Crew **Autumn Dudney** Costume Crew **Jayme Locke** Wig Design Assistant **Michealle Vanderpool** Wig and Makeup Crew **Taylor Martin** Wig and Makeup Crew **Julia Gallimore** Wig and Makeup Crew **Robin Hamrick** Supertitles Operator **Hannah Marcoe** 

> \* Nashville Opera Debut ^ Mary Ragland Emerging Artist



**R**FOCUS

# A SYNOPSIS OF THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

Gilbert and Sullivan's The Pirates of Penzance tells the story of a young apprentice pirate named Frederic, who has just come to the end of his indentured period with the notorious Pirates of Penzance. As it turns out, Frederic was apprenticed to the pirates by mistake. His half-deaf nurse, Ruth, had been instructed to apprentice him to a "pilot," but got it a little wrong. At any rate, as he is now of legal age, Frederic decides to leave the pirate life forever. Although he loves his pirate comrades dearly, he tells them that he must now devote his life to the extermination of their kind. However, since he is still one of the pirates until the stroke of midnight, he feels obliged to offer them some constructive criticism: for savage pirates, he says, they are too softhearted. Apparently, all a captive must do is plead to being an orphan and he is immediately released! It seems the pirates were all orphans themselves and hold a tender spot for persons with a similar background. Unfortunately, since word of this has gotten around, everyone the pirates capture confesses to being an orphan. This has not really helped the pirates make a living at pillage and plunder, and they are very saddened at not being able to turn a profit.

Once upon the shore, Frederic, who has never seen any woman other than his old nurse Ruth, stumbles upon a bevy of beautiful maidens. He immediately falls in love with the most beautiful of the bunch, Mabel. She graciously offers to reclaim this "Poor Wandering One" from his life of villainy. All seems close to ending happily, but, unfortunately, Frederic has forgotten that there are pirates about! In a flash, his old comrades descend, capturing the beautiful girls! The lonely pirates are delighted by the beauty of their captives. They recognize the situation as a "first rate opportunity of getting married with impunity." But, just in the nick of time, the girls' father, Major-General Stanley, appears. He, of course, claims (untruthfully) to be an orphan, much to the consternation of the pirates. The pirates release the Major General, and his daughters. Though happy at winning a brief reprieve for his daughters, the Major General is terrified that the pirates will uncover his lie. Frederic eases his fears, promising to apprehend the band of pirates and put an end to their plundering ways forever. However, when Frederic learns that, due to a slight technicality concerning the conjunctions of dates and time, he is still indentured to the pirates, the complications abound. Then the police show up.

And then... well... just watch the show, would'ya?







Stage Director

JOHN HOOMES

Nashville Opera CEO & Artistic Director 1995-Present

#### Nashville Opera

The Lighthouse, Samson and Delilah, Elmer Gantry, Aïda, Don Giovanni, Andrea Chénier, The Fall of the House of Usher, The Girl of the Golden West, The Difficulty of Crossing a Field, The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat, Romulus Hunt, Florencia en el Amazonas, Hydrogen Jukebox, Così fan tutte, Glory Denied, Three Way, Maria de Buenos Aires, Tales of Hoffmann, The Cradle Will Rock, Beach Party Cinderella, Favorite Son, Rigoletto Noir, Das Rheingold, La Bohème, The Medium, Stuck Elevator

#### Recent

Florencia en el Amazonas – New York City Opera and Pensacola Opera Elmer Gantry, Don Giovanni – Florentine Opera Three Way – American Opera Projects, Brooklyn Academy of Music Turandot – Knoxville Opera Glory Denied – Opera Birmingham

Hometown Mobile, Alabama

**Residence** Nashville, Tennessee



#### Conductor

#### DEAN WILLIAMSON

#### Nashville Opera Music Director 2015-Present

#### Nashville Opera

Romeo and Juliet, Samson and Delilah, The Girl of the Golden West, The Difficulty of Crossing a Field, Cinderella, The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat, The Barber of Seville, Romulus Hunt, Florencia en el Amazonas, Hydrogen Jukebox, Three Way, Maria de Buenos Aires, Madame Butterfly, Beach Party Cinderella, Rigoletto Noir, Das Rheingold, La Bohème, The Medium, Stuck Elevator

#### Recent

Florencia en al Amazonas – New York City Opera La Cenerentola – Arizona Opera Three Way – American Opera Projects, Brooklyn Academy of Music Merola Grand Finales Concert – San Francisco Opera Madama Butterfly – Opera Idaho Le Nozze di Figaro – Arizona Opera Hydrogen Jukebox – University of Washington School of Music II barbiere di Siviglia - Opera Saratoga

Hometown Taipei, Taiwan (birthplace); Bellevue, Washington Residence Bellevue, Washington



**Pirate King** 

#### LEROY DAVIS\*

#### Nashville Opera Debut

#### Recent

Guglielmo in *Cosi fan tutte* - Cedar Rapids Opera Prince Yamadori in Madama Butterfly - Atlanta Opera Marcello in La Bohème - Kentucky Öpera

#### Upcoming

Figaro in *II Barbiere di Siviglia* - Florentine Opera John O'Mara in February - Opera on the Avalon (World Premiere)

Hometown Bronx, NY

Residence Chicago, IL

#### Major General Stanley

# CURT OLDS

Baritone

Baritone

Nashville Opera The Pirates of Penzance (2015)

#### Recent

Emcee in *Cabaret* - Atlanta Opera Pirate King in The Pirates of Penzance - Anchorage Opera Gad Beck in Two Remain - Central City Opera

Upcoming Baker in Into the Woods - Tulsa Opera

Hometown Butte, MT

**Residence** New York City

Bass-baritone



Sergeant of Police

# MATT BURNS

Nashville Opera Das Rheingold (2022)

#### Recent

Sulpice in La fille du regiment - Utah Opera Richard (cover) in The Hours - The Metropolitan Opera Don Pasquale in Don Pasquale - Inland Northwest Opera Dr. Bartolo in *II barbiere di Siviglia* - Pensacola Opera

#### Upcoming

Mable

Bass Soloist in Beethoven 9th - Delaware Symphony Orchestra

Hometown Vienna, VA

**Residence** Bartlett, TN



# EVELYN SAAVEDRA

Soprano

Nashville Opera Debut\*

Upcoming Rosalba in Florencia en el Amazonas — Nashville Opera

Hometown Miami, FL

New York City Residence



Ruth

# EMILY PULLEY

#### Nashville Opera

Three Decembers (2018) Così fan tutte (2016)

#### Recent

Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd* - Opera Omaha Marjorie in *The Secret River* - Opera Orlando Witch in *Hansel and Gretel* - Lyric Opera of Chicago

#### Upcoming

Ježibaba in *Rusalka* - Opera Orlando

Hometown Jackson, MS

**Residence** New York City

#### Frederic

#### GREGORY SLISKOVICH

Tenor

Mezzo-Soprano

GREGORY Nashville Opera Mainstage Debut\*

#### Recent

Forest Ranger Dudley in *Little Red's Most Unusual Day* - Nashville Opera On Tour Njegus in *The Merry Widow* - Knoxville Opera Max Detwiler in *The Sound of Music* - Charlottesville Opera Monostatos in *Die Zauberflöte* - New England Conservatory Little Bat in *Susannah* - Brevard Music Center

#### Upcoming

Nicely-Nicely Johnson in Guys and Dolls - Charlottesville Opera

Hometown Los Angeles, CA

Residence Nashville, TN

# Edith

# NAOMI BRIGELL

#### Mezzo-Soprano

Nashville Opera Mainstage Debut\*

#### Recent

Mrs. Hood / Granny in *Little Red's Most Unusual Day* - Nashville Opera On Tour Nica in *Charlie Parker's Yardbird* - Dayton Opera Olga in *Eugene Onegin* - Opera in the Heights Mustardseed in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* - Des Moines Metro Opera Pedrillo in *Don Quichotte at Camacho's Wedding* - Opera Saratoga

#### Upcoming

Mezzo-Soprano Soloist in Art song concerts - Salt Creek Song Festival (Ashland, NE)

Hometown Belmont, MA

Residence Chicago, IL

#### Kate

# ALYSHA NESBITT

Soprano

Nashville Opera Mainstage Debut\* HBCU Fellowship Cohort 2012

Recent Little Red in *Little Red's Most Unusual Day* - Nashville Opera On Tour

Hometown Detroit, MI





Samuel



BRANDON SANCHEZ

Baritone

#### Nashville Opera

Mainstage Debut\*

#### Recent

Mr. BigBad in *Little Red's Most Unusual Day* - Nashville Opera On Tour Sergeant of Police in *The Pirates of Penzance* - Cedar Rapids Opera Belcore in *L'elisir d'amore* - Bloomington Chamber Opera Schaunard in *La Bohème* - Indiana University Gianni Schicchi in *Gianni Schicchi* - Indiana University

#### Upcoming

Schaunard (cover) in *La Bohème* - Florentine Opera Belcore (cover) in *L'elisir d'amore* - Florentine Opera

Hometown Gilroy, CA

Residence Chicago, IL



#### Set/Video/Lighting Designer

#### BARRY STEELE

#### Nashville Opera

Der Rosenkavalier, Salome, The Lighthouse, La Voix Humaine, Lucia di Lammermoor, Faust, Surrender Road, Turandot (2006, 2015), Romeo and Juliet, Madame Butterfly, Samson and Delilah, The Fall of the House of Usher, Andrea Chénier, The Girl of the Golden West, The Difficulty of Crossing a Field, The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat, Otello, La Bohème (2014), Romulus Hunt, Florencia en el Amazonas, Hydrogen Jukebox, Don Giovanni, Glory Denied, Three Way, Carmen, Maria de Buenos Aires, Susannah, Tales of Hoffmann, The Cradle Will Rock, La Bohème, The Medium, Stuck Elevator

#### Recent

*Don Giovanni* — Edmonton Opera *Die Fledermaus, Flight* — Des Moines Metro Opera *Ring of Fire* — Capital Repertory Theatre

Hometown/Residence St. Petersburg, Florida



Wigs & Makeup Designer

# SONDRA NOTTINGHAM

#### Nashville Opera

La Bohème, Beach Party Cinderella, Florencia en el Amazonas, Salome, Elmer Gantry, Il Trovatore, The Student Prince, The Fall of the House of Usher, Rigoletto, The Girl of the Golden West, Madame Butterfly, The Difficulty of Crossing a Field, The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat, Romulus Hunt, Glory Denied, Tales of Holfmann

#### Recent

Abduction from the Seraglio, Ariadne auf Naxos — St. Petersburg Opera Das Rheingold, La Traviata — North Carolina Opera, Turandot, Dead Man Walking — Shreveport Opera Witches of Venice, Il Postino, Figaro, The Long Walk — Opera Saratoga Carmen, Un Ballo in Maschera — Opera Tampa, Three Way — American Opera Projects, Brooklyn Academy of Music

Hometown Hardinsburg, Kentucky

urg, Kentucky **Residence** 

nce Nashville, Tennessee



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#### VIOLA

Elizabeth Lamb Carl Larson Simona Rusu Andrew Braddock

# CELLO

Meghan Berindean Sarah Berry Kaitlyn Vest Kaitlyn Raitz BASS Craig E. Nelson Quentin Flowers

FLUTE Deanna Little, piccolo Kristen Holritz, piccolo

OBOE Jared Hauser

CLARINET Todd Waldecker Emily Bowland

# BASSOON

James Lotz FRENCH HORN Jennifer Kummer Harry F. Ditzel

TRUMPET Joel Treybig

Jeff Bailey

TROMBONE David L. Loucky Evan Clifton PERCUSSION Scot Corey W. Lee Vinson

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Ron Sorbo