



NASHVILLE  
OPERA

THE  
MAGIC  
FLUTE

WHEN MARIAN SANG  
NEW ENGAGEMENT  
PROGRAM DEBUTS  
APRIL 14

HIGHLIGHTS FROM:  
LA BELLA NOTTE  
THE EDUCATION TOUR

# A look at THE MAGIC FLUTE

FROM JOHN HOOMES

The best fairy tales, as any storyteller knows, must both entertain and enlighten. Most do so with a wealth of concrete detail over a secure (sometimes hidden) ethical and moral structure. *The Magic Flute* is arguably opera's greatest fairy tale. Composed during the final year of Mozart's life, 1791, the opera was written to entertain the Viennese audience at their most childlike - at the Freihaus Theater in Wieden. This venue was very unlike the rigid and sometimes stuffy Vienna opera royal court. People went to this theater to let their hair down, laugh at high-spirited silliness on stage, ooh and ahh at the special effects, delight at characters vanishing in puffs of smoke, and cower and laugh at mythical beasts and creatures.

Freihaus Theater's proprietor and chief comedian, Emanuel Schikaneder (the opera's first Papageno - a part he wrote for himself) proposed a libretto set to a fairy tale by A. J. Liebeskind. Mozart, always in financial hot water, gladly accepted the commission even though he was in the middle of several other projects, including a production of one of his most serious operas, *La Clemenza di Tito*.

So, amidst Mozart's ceaseless activity, which soon proved disastrous to his health, *The Magic Flute* was composed in bits and pieces. Some critics say this stop-and-start writing style actually shows in the finished script. In fact, the opera was about half-finished when Mozart learned that another Viennese theater had recently produced an opera called *Kaspar, the Bassoonist, or The Magic Zither*, which was based on the exact same story as *The Magic Flute*. In order to make their opera appear different, Mozart and his librettist suddenly turned the second act of *The Magic Flute* into an allegory of Freemasonry, a change that has perplexed audiences ever since.

How important is it to our enjoyment of *The Magic Flute* that we understand all the Freemason symbolism of Act II? Not very much, actually. *The Magic Flute* works on so many different levels that an audience can take it as an intellectual feast for the mind, an emotional delight for the heart, or a winning combination of both. Plot-shifting story aside, the truth is, the major factor that holds *The Magic Flute* together is the magnificent music of Mozart. In this, his final opera, Mozart seems to have saved some of his best tunes for last. From the somber chords that begin the overture to the power and exultation of the Trials by Fire and Water to the comic delight of the Papageno-Papagena duet, this is indeed Mozart at his musical peak. Stricken soon after the first performance, Mozart never lived to see *The Magic Flute* become the worldwide favorite it is today, but in it, he has left a timeless musical gift to children and adults alike.

We invite you to take in Mozart's fairy tale feast in Jackson Hall, April 12 and 13. The dazzling technicolor costumes by Marie Ann Chiment were designed and created expressly for Nashville Opera as part of our 1996 participation in the Tennessee Bicentennial. And I can't say enough about this cast of singers who will close our 2023-2024 season in grand style.

See you at the Opera!



THE ANN & FRANK BUMSTEAD SEASON



NASHVILLE

PERA <sup>24</sup>/<sub>25</sub>

SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE MAGIC FLUTE

THE TIES  
THAT BIND



# ENCHANTING!

## MOZART'S MAGIC FLUTE MAKES FOURTH NASHVILLE APPEARANCE

As all journeys do, the 23.24 Season is drawing to a close as we arrive at our destination: Mozart's masterpiece and the ultimate family favorite - *The Magic Flute*!

The cast, whom you'll meet on the next page, brings many new faces to the Nashville Opera family, and introduces our four Mary Ragland Emerging Artists to the mainstage. We're very excited to invite some of our favorites back in this spectacular production that will fill TPAC's Jackson Hall with some of the most beautiful music ever composed.

No one questions Mozart's status as a genius and polymath. But when one considers that Mozart was composing the operas *The Magic Flute* and *La Clemenza di Tito*, as well as his Requiem Mass at the same time, all within months of his death at age 35, you realize the sheer depth of his talent.

*Flute* is rooted in Enlightenment-era philosophy, pitting the higher ideals of Sarastro against the despotism and superstitiousness of The Queen of the Night. In fact, much of the work is a study in contrasts. Consider, if you will, the light, lilting themes of Papageno's flute and the accompanying glockenspiel against the bluster and thunder of the entire orchestra where The Queen is concerned.

This juxtaposition of light versus dark and enlightenment versus old-order religious dogma builds into the themes of learning by experience, accepting love as the highest order of humanity, and the virtue of reasoning over acceptance. At the end, as we all hope, the forces of good come out on top and happiness reigns. That, in itself, is a rare thing for opera!

Of course, *The Magic Flute* hasn't become the *de rigueur* holiday family entertainment at The Met due to themes regarding the exercise of free will. The engaging music, eye-popping costuming, and the basic message of love overcoming all obstacles make the opera the accessible, family-friendly work we know it to be today.

Our production of *Flute* will be sung in German with the spoken text rendered in English. As always, full English translations are shown above the stage on a big, bright LED board, ensuring you don't miss a moment of the story along the way.

We look forward to introducing an entirely new generation of young opera lovers to *The Magic Flute* on April 12 + 13 at TPAC's Jackson Hall and hope you'll join us.

## JOHN'S RECOMMENDED RECORDING



There are dozens of recordings of *The Magic Flute*, but a longtime favorite and the one John recommends is the 1964 Karl Böhm / Berlin Philharmonic set available to stream on all platforms.

Britain's Gramophone Magazine says of Fritz Wunderlich's Tamino that he has an *elegance, ardour, a glorious, free-ringing top register and the finest legato of any tenor in the role*.

The box sets features Karl Böhm conducting the Berlin Philharmonic and the RIAS Kammerchor on Deutsche Grammophon.

Singers: Evelyn Lear (Pamina), Lisa Otto (Papagena), Roberta Peters (Queen of the Night), Franz Crass (Sarastro), Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau (Papageno), Hans Hotter (the Speaker), and Fritz Wunderlich (Tamino).

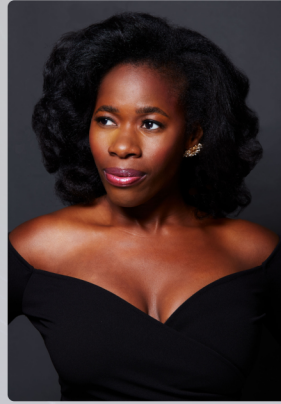
# THE CAST



Joshua  
Sanders



Jesus  
Vincente  
Murillo



Jasmine  
Habersham



Matthew  
Anchel



Rainelle  
Krause



Sabreena  
Cherrington\*



Sara  
Crigger



Maria  
De Conzo\*



Jordan  
Costa\*



Dee  
Donasco



Andrew  
Payne\*



Emily  
Apuzzo  
Hopkins



Mary  
Katherine  
Stewart



Ivy  
Calvert



Brian  
Russell

\* 2024 Mary Ragland Emerging Artist

# WHEN MARIAN SANG

NASHVILLE OPERA'S NEW PROGRAM CELEBRATES LEGENDARY BLACK SINGER

On Easter Sunday in 1939, Marian Anderson stood atop the steps of Washington, D.C.'s Lincoln Memorial, resplendent in a black and orange dress with a thick fur to keep away the chill. Having been denied the use of Constitution Hall by the Daughters of the American Revolution, Anderson's concert - after much string-pulling at the highest levels of American government, was moved to the western end of the National Mall. 75,000 people attended the concert in person and millions more listened at home on the radio.

Whether or not you've ever listened to the entire recital, Anderson's rendition of *America (My Country 'Tis of Thee)* is etched into the collective consciousness of the nation. It also catapulted the contralto into the stratosphere of famous American singers.

In 1955, Anderson broke one of the biggest barriers in opera by becoming the first Black singer to perform a principal role at The Metropolitan Opera House. By the invitation of then Met General Manager Rudolf Bing, Anderson sang Ulrica in Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera (A Masked Ball)*.

She would go on to sing at the inauguration celebrations of both Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1963, by the selection of then President Kennedy. Following his assassination, she was given the award by President Lyndon Johnson.

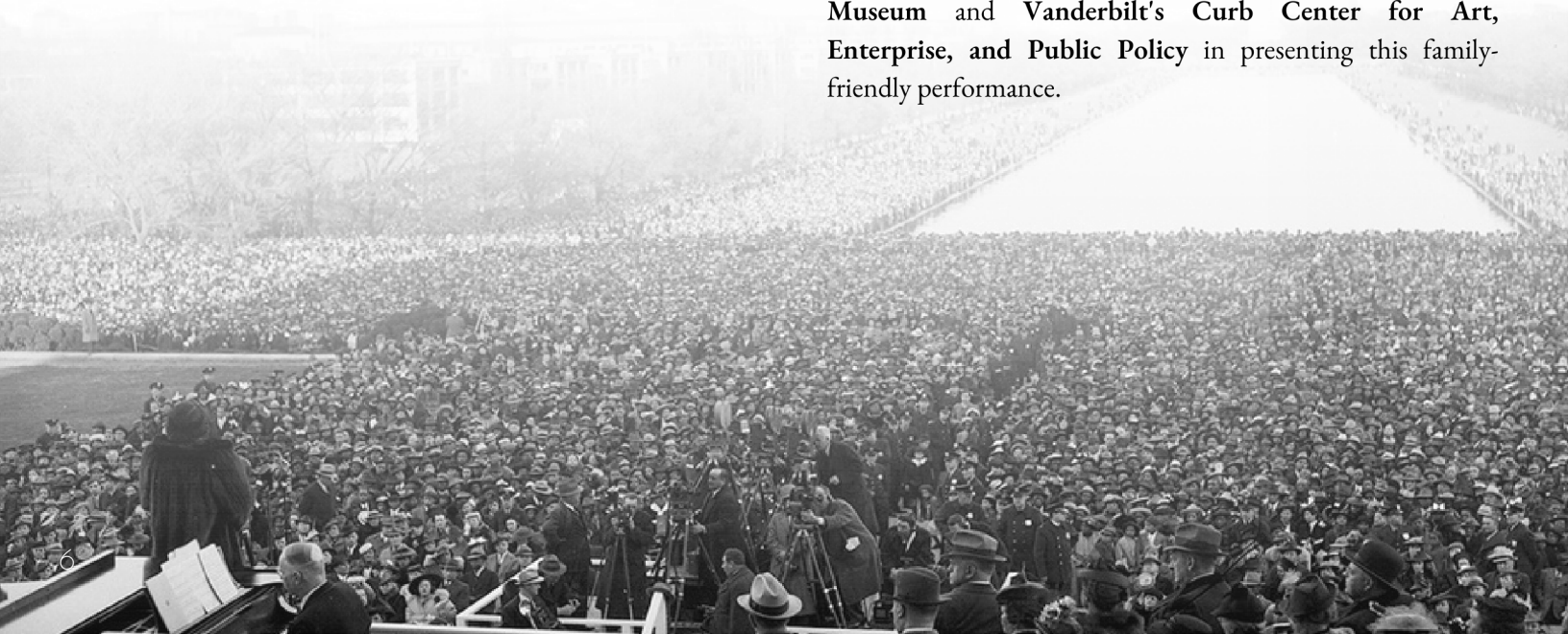
Author Pam Muñoz Ryan documented the singer's life and work in the young adult book *When Marian Sang: The True Recital of Marian Anderson*. In it, Anderson's life before the Lincoln Memorial concert is detailed, covering her fame abroad and how she remained virtually unknown in the United States due to the segregation laws of the time. The book covers both the Easter concert and culminated in Anderson's debut at The Met.

In a new program conceived by Nashville Opera Engagement Director Stephen Carey, **When Marian Sang: A Celebration of the Life of Marian Anderson** combines the text of Muñoz Ryan's text with traditional spirituals, popular songs, and opera arias to bring Anderson's story to life for an entirely new generation.

On April 14th, the program will debut at the Frist Art Museum in two performances at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. The event is free to the public.

The program will be narrated by Vinéecia Buchanan, adjunct faculty member of Vanderbilt's Blair School of Music. Soprano Alysha Nesbitt, alumnus of Tennessee State University and both Nashville Opera's HBCU Fellowship and Mary Ragland Emerging Artist program, sings the role of Marian Anderson.

Nashville Opera is proud to partner with the **Frist Art Museum** and **Vanderbilt's Curb Center for Art, Enterprise, and Public Policy** in presenting this family-friendly performance.



# La Bella Notte 2024 PATRON PARTY



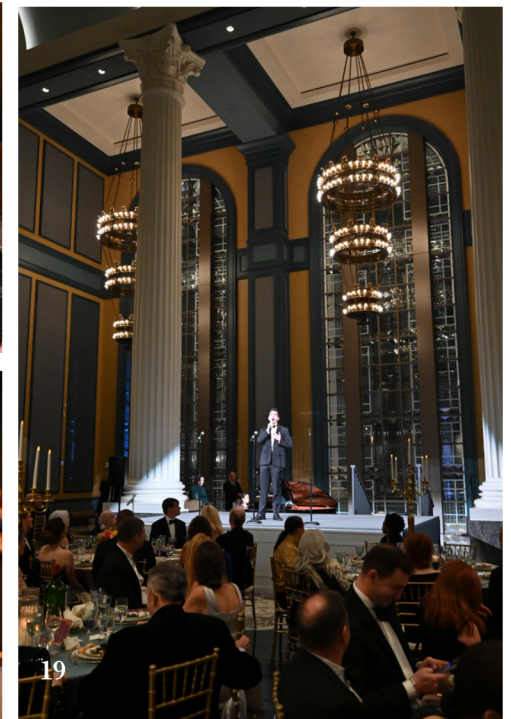
1.) Joe Sliskovich and Jennifer Harris, 2024 La Bella Notte Patron Party Hosts. 2.) Dee Donasco Thompson with one of Chef Keshia Hay's delicious creations. 3.) Anne Whetsell and June Bogle. 4.) The 2024 Mary Ragland Emerging Artists - Jordan Costa, Maria De Conzo, Sabreena Cherrington, Andrew Payne, and Frances Ho with Nashville Opera Education Manager Hannah Marcoe. 5.) Belinda Barry and Thomas Barrett. 6.) Joseph and Ann Gilbert with Dr. Morel Enoch Harvey and Geary Leathers. 7.) Martin and Ann Marie McNamara with Maud and Nicholas McClay. 18.) 2022 La Bella Notte Chairs, Jay Jones and Rob Turner. 9.) Rachel Robinson, Apphia Maxima, and 2023 La Bella Notte Chair Sharon Sandahl.

# LOOKING BACK AT *La Bella Notte 2024*



1.) Jim and Kelly Calvetti with Maud and Nicholas McClay, Nashville Opera Board President. 2.) Tenor Adam Diegel with Soprano Sarah Joy Miller. 3.) André and Dorothea Churchwell. 4.) The Mary Ragland Emerging artists: Andrew Payne, Frances Ho, Maria De Conzo, Sabreena Cherrington, Nashville Opera Education Manager Hannah Marcoe, and Jordan Costa. 5.) The party favors: delicious chocolates from Louis Sherry. 6.) Bill and Tracy Wade, Nan Parrish, and Bob Deal and Jason Bradshaw. 7.) The Calvetti Ferguson table enjoying dinner. 8.) Honorary Chairmen Robert and Judy Fisher with Deborah and Donald Holmes, recipient of the 2024 Robinson-Couch Award. 9.) Sandra and Larry Lipman 10.) Marty Donner with Larry and Mary Wieck.





11.) Julie and John Schneider, 2024 La Bella Notti Chairmen, with their sons William and Jack. 12.) Don Holmes receiving the 2024 Robinson-Couch Award from Nashville Opera CEO and Artistic Director John Hoopes. 13.) Larry and Elizabeth Papel. 14.) Kim Hewell, Emily Weiss, Elena Reinert, and Norm Scarborough. 15.) Doralynn Harris, Natalie Sliskovich, Jennifer Harris, Lana and Franklin Pargh, and Joe Sliskovich. 16.) Rachel Robinson, and Keith and Donna Dame Summar. 17.) Jackson Durham's Henry Uribe styled the sumptuous floral arrangements. 18.) Cathy and Claude Pressnell. 19.) Mary Ragland Emerging Artist Jordan Costa sings for the La Bella Notti audience.

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Check the calendar on  
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Opera on Wheels page on  
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performances tab  
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## OPERA ON THE *Mountain*

SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024  
VANDERBILT DYER OBSERVATORY  
6:00 PM

Pack your picnic basket, choose your favorite bottle of bubbly, and join Nashville Opera at Dyer Observatory for the best party of the year: OPERA ON THE MOUNTAIN!

This audience-favorite event sells out every single year, so be sure to mark your calendar for May 7th at 10 a.m. when tickets will go on sale at [nashvilleopera.org/mountain](http://nashvilleopera.org/mountain).

# WEE, WEE, WEE! THE OPERA EDUCATION TOUR



1.) Children from Cottage Cove Urban Ministries attend a special performance at the Noah Liff Opera Center 2.) Students from Lakeview Elementary get their encounter with the Little Pigs. 3.) The Mary Ragland Emerging artists meet children at the Adventure Science Center. 4.) Posing with students at The Covenant School 5.) Bethpage Elementary students did some construction of their own! 6.) Getting ready to entertain another full school gym. 7.) Haywood Elementary gets in on the big smiles act.

# GOES ALL ACROSS MIDDLE TENNESSEE!

72 performances. 16 Middle Tennessee counties. 24,765 young people introduced to the magic of opera by Nashville Opera ON TOUR in 2024 alone - and *all at no cost* to any school or community venue thanks to our generous donors.

Since 1996, the tour has touched the lives of 800,000 children. The next goal: 1 Million!



8, 9, 10.) One thing is assured: the Mary Ragland Emerging Artists are greeted with smiles wherever they go! It's a long tour and the energy from all of the students keeps the cast going strong for seven full weeks. 11.) Southside Elementary in Lebanon, TN filled the house for their performance. 12.) Sometimes the kiddos have a few questions for the cast, like this student at North Swewart Elementary. 13.) Tenor Jordan Costa sings in an Opera Out Loud performance at Nashville's Parthenon while Athena watches over him. 14.) Another fantastic meet-and-greet at the Hendersonville Public Library.

# Mille Grazie!



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# The Legacy Society

A planned gift lasts long beyond a lifetime. It not only allows you to demonstrate your commitment to opera and arts education, but it can be an important element of you and your family's overall financial, philanthropic, and estate planning. All planned gifts are added to the Opera's Endowment Fund for Artistic Excellence and generate operating revenue in perpetuity (unless otherwise specified by the donor). Please contact Lee Carroll to learn more about planned gift opportunities: 615.832.5242.

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The Impresario Council is Nashville Opera's most influential group of supporters. They shape our future, strengthen our mission, and serve as ambassadors for Nashville Opera around the world. What we produce on stage is, in large part, thanks to them. The work we do both in schools and in communities around Middle Tennessee is made possible through the sustaining support of these donors. Please consider joining at one of the following levels:

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Impresario Council giving levels can be automatically charged or deducted monthly as a sustaining member or in one-time or quarterly installment payments.



# TIME FOR A FRESH START!

The time has arrived to bid Nashville Opera Magazine's printed edition a very fond farewell.

Fear not... We'll still keep you up to date with all of the latest happenings with the company, the Friends of Nashville Opera, the Education Tour, and Opera On Wheels, but we'd like to do it in a more environmentally conscious way than a few thousand glossy paper magazines being put in the mail.

As we settle into new ways of keeping you abreast of all that Nashville Opera has to offer, be sure that you're signed up for and receiving our emails. You can take care of that at <https://www.nashvilleopera.org/get-involved/email-signup>

Another great way of keeping in touch with us is via social media channels. You can find us in the following places:



@NashvilleOpera



If you think art is only for your walls, it's time to **reframe** your perspective!

Whether you're driving to the Noah Liff Opera Center, TPAC, Schermerhorn Symphony Center, or a show at OZ Arts, you have the chance to show your support for Nashville Opera with a beautiful selection of Tennessee Arts Commission (TAC) specialty license plates.

TAC provides funds to Nashville Opera and a great many other arts companies, museums, and institutions across the state. Your purchase of an Arts License Plate ensures that every Tennessean gains access to the performing, visual, and musical arts wherever they live.

For more details, visit [nashvilleopera.org/donate](https://www.nashvilleopera.org/donate)



# DATES OF NOTE

## APRIL

- FRI, APR 12 **THE MAGIC FLUTE**  
7:30 PM, TPAC Jackson Hall
- SAT, APR 13 **THE MAGIC FLUTE**  
7:30 PM, TPAC Jackson Hall
- SUN, APR 14 **WHEN MARIAN SANG**  
1:30 / 3:30 PM, Frist Art Museum
- MON, APR 15 **24.25 SEASON  
SUBSCRIPTIONS  
ON SALE!**  
9:30 AM

## MAY

- SAT, MAY 4 **OPERA ON WHEELS**  
12:00 PM, Church Street Park  
600 Church Street, Nashville
- TUE, MAY 7 **OPERA ON THE MOUNTAIN  
TICKETS ON SALE!**  
9:30 AM
- FRI, MAY 10 **OPERA ON WHEELS**  
6:00 PM, Winchester Community Center  
563 Maury Hill St., Spring Hill
- SAT, MAY 11 **OPERA ON WHEELS**  
9 / 10 / 11 AM, Clarksville Farmer's Market  
1 Public Square, Clarksville
- SUN, MAY 12 **OPERA ON WHEELS**  
11 / 12:30 / 1:30 / 3 PM, Nashville Zoo  
3777 Nolensville Pike, Nashville
- SAT, MAY 18 **OPERA ON WHEELS**  
12:00 PM, Noble Park  
11th Ave S, Nashville
- TUE, MAY 21 **24.25 SEASON  
SINGLE TICKETS  
ON SALE!**  
9:30 AM

## JUNE

- SAT, JUNE 1 **OPERA ON WHEELS @ FRANKLIN PRIDE**  
The Park at Harlinsdale Farm  
239 Franklin Road, Franklin
- SUN, JUNE 2 **FRIENDS OF NASHVILLE OPERA  
SPRING MEETING**  
Time TBD, Noah Liff Opera Center
- THU, JUNE 6 **OPERA ON WHEELS @ THE MOVIES**  
6:45 PM, Elmington Park
- THU, JUNE 13 **OPERA ON WHEELS @ THE MOVIES**  
6:45 PM, Elmington Park
- SAT, JUNE 15 **OPERA ON THE MOUNTAIN**  
6:00 PM, Vanderbilt Dyer Observatory
- THU, JUNE 20 **OPERA ON WHEELS @ THE MOVIES**  
6:45 PM, Elmington Park
- SAT, JUNE 22 **OPERA ON WHEELS**  
2:30-3 / 4:30-5 PM, Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church  
1203 9th Ave. N, Nashville
- THU, JUNE 27 **OPERA ON WHEELS @ THE MOVIES**  
6:45 PM, Elmington Park
- SAT, JUNE 29 **OPERA ON WHEELS**  
4:00-4:30 & 6:30-7:00 PM, Dickson Street Festival  
Main Street, Dickson

## JULY

- SAT, JULY 6 **OPERA ON WHEELS**  
4:30 PM, Plaza Mariachi  
3955 Nolensville Pike, Nashville
- SAT, JULY 27 **OPERA ON WHEELS @  
SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY DAY**  
11:15 AM, Mill Ridge Park  
12924 Old Hickory Blvd, Antioch



## WE ASKED THIS YEAR'S MARY RAGLAND EMERGING ARTISTS TO TELL US WHAT HAS MEANT THE MOST TO THEM DURING THEIR TIME WITH NASHVILLE OPERA

### **ANDREW PAYNE, Baritone**

*The thing that has meant the most to me is seeing kids faces beam when I'm singing and acting silly as Wolfgang Bigbad. It drives me to give the best show possible.*

### **FRANCES HO, Pianist**

*Getting to know and work with this year's emerging artists, on the daily, has been an extreme joy. They are not only excellent musicians, but each lead with such positivity and enthusiasm for sharing opera to the Nashville community while supporting each other in their own unique, musical journeys.*

### **MARIA DE CONZO, Mezzo-Soprano**

*I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with my fellow Mary Ragland Emerging Artists in everything we do at Nashville Opera. There is nothing better than having fun with your colleagues, creating a playful story, and sharing our joy of music with the future opera goers of Middle Tennessee.*

### **SABREENA CHERRINGTON, Soprano**

*I have really enjoyed taking our production of John Davies' Three Little Pigs to elementary schools and public libraries throughout middle Tennessee. Seeing the joy on the children's faces makes me so hopeful for the future of opera.*

### **JORDAN COSTA, Tenor**

*By a mile, bringing opera to kids and young adults all over middle Tennessee has been the most meaningful part of my time here at Nashville Opera. Being a small part of a students' discovery that opera is actually fun, rather than just some snooty imported European luxury good, is something I'll treasure forever.*

**Don't miss the 2024 Mary Ragland Emerging Artists in their Nashville Opera Mainstage Debuts in Mozart's *THE MAGIC FLUTE!***

Photo: Andrew Payne, Frances Ho, Maria De Conzo, Sabreena Cherrington, Hannah Marcoe, and Jordan Costa. Peyton Hoge for Nashville Opera, 2024.

NASHVILLE OPERA MAGAZINE

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Editor / Director of Marketing  
Will Shutes



## **THE HIGH NOTES**

### **THE MAGIC FLUTE**

TPAC Jackson Hall

April 12 + 13

### **OPERA ON WHEELS**

Hitting the Road

May - July 2024

### **OPERA ON THE MOUNTAIN**

Vanderbilt Dyer Observatory

June 15, 2024