



BUTLER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC presents

BUTLER OPERA THEATRE

Oliver Worthington, *producing director*
James Caraher, *musical director/conductor*
Amanda Hopson, *assistant conductor/pianist*

Friday and Saturday, October 30-31, 2026

7:30 P.M.

Schrott Center for the Arts

SCENES AND ARIAS

The Marriage of Figaro - "Sull'aria...che soave zeffiretto

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Lorenzo Da Ponte (1749-1838), librettist

Countess - *Eliza Howe*

Susanna - *Katie Waller*

Susannah - Act I, Scene 2

Carlisle Floyd (1926-2021)

Susannah - *Ashlyn Boomer*

Little Bat - *Joe Gilbar*

Sam - *Jason Robins*

Carmen - Act III, Card Trio

Georges Bizet (1838-1875)

Henri Meilhac (1831-1897) and Ludovic Halevy (1834-1908), librettists

Carmen - *Kelsey Thomas*

Frasquita - *Bailey Hall*

Mercédès - *Eliza Howe*

The Abduction from the Seraglio - Act II, Quartet

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Gottlieb Stephanie (1741-1800), librettist

Belmonte - *Joe Gilbar*

Pedrillo - *Jason Robins*

Konstanze - *Katie Waller*

Blondchen - *Ash Lupke*

The Rake's Progress - Act I, Scene 1 "Here I Stand"

Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971)

W. H. Auden (1907-1973) and Chester Kallman (1921-1975), librettists

Tom Rakewell - *Joe Gilbar*

The Elixir of Love - Act II, Giannetta Scene

Gaetano Donizetti (1797-1848)

Felice Romani (1788-1865), librettist

Giannetta - *Katie Waller*

Her Neighbors - *Ashlyn Boomer, Bailey Hall, Eliza Howe, Ash Lupke, Kelsey Thomas*

La Bohème - Act I finale

Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)

Luigi Illica (1857-1919) and Giuseppe Giacosa (1847-1906), librettists

Mimì - *Bailey Hall*

Rodolfo - *Jason Robins*

Anne Boleyn - Act II, Scene 3

Gaetano Donizetti

Felice Romani, librettist

Anne Boleyn - *Ashlyn Boomer*

Jane Seymour - *Kelsey Thomas*

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director – Oliver Worthington

Conductor – James Caraher

Assistant Conductor/Pianist – Amanda Hopson

Lighting Designer – Catherine Sipe, JCA Technical Director

Production Stage Manager – Deborah Jo Barrett, JCA Production/Stage Manager

Production Manager, Schrott Center – Joey Wever

Assistant Production Managers, Schrott Center – Chris Cranston, Alexis Brouwer, and Maggie Waite

Costume Coordinator - Guy Clark

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Kelsey Thomas, Oliver Worthington, and James Caraher for
the newly created English singing version of the Anne Boleyn scene.

Dr. Lisa Brooks, Dean, Jordan College of the Arts

David Murray, Director, School of Music

Voice Area Professors – Dana Zenobi, Kirsten Gunlogson, Laura Storm, Steven Rickards,

Danielle Steele, Oliver Worthington, Thaddeus Bourne

Butler University Theatre Department – Megan Wiegand, Costume Shop Manager

OPERA GIFT FUND DONORS

Bruce Harkey and Roger Foreman
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Kevin and Patty McGoff

Brian Reeves
Mike and Alena Mascetta
Paolo Valle and Frank Bertucci
Damir and Grace Junicic
Daniel and Kristin Toner
David Snider
Anothony Allocco and Roger Groves
Covenant Christian School
Doris and Wendell Worthington
Eric Peabody and Oliver Worthington
Thomas and JoAnne Alexander
Charles Goehring
Sheri Stormes, Professor Emerita

THE PERFORMERS



ASHLYN BOOMER

Ashlyn Boomer is currently a junior vocal performance and choral music education major at Butler, studying with Laura Storm. She is thrilled to be playing the roles of Susannah and Anna Bolena in the Fall 2026 opera scene production! She is so excited to show the Butler community the hard work that everyone involved has put into this production. She would like to thank her directors and Dr. Hopson for their support and patience through the rehearsal process.



JOE GILBAR

Joseph Gilbar is a tenor from Casper, Wyoming. He received his BM degree in Music Performance in Spring 2026 and is currently pursuing his MM degree in Music Performance at Butler University. Joseph has performed as a soloist with community orchestras and choirs for works such as Handel's Messiah and Beethoven's Choral Fantasy. He looks forward to working with students and musicians in Indianapolis!



BAILEY HALL

Bailey Hall is a senior vocal performance major studying with Dr. Dana Zenobi. In past productions she starred as Nella in Gianni Schicchi, and while she studied abroad, she performed in Le Nozze di Figaro as Susanna. She is so excited to be back and perform with Butler Opera Theatre again! Tonight she will be performing scenes from La Bohème as Mimí, Carmen as Frasquita, and a village girl in The Elixir of Love.



ELIZA HOWE

Eliza Howe is a current sophomore studying choral music education and vocal performance. She studies with Laura Storm and is playing the roles of The Countess and Mercedes in the Fall 2026 opera scenes production. She wants to thank Dr. Hopson and the directors for helping put on a wonderful performance. She is thrilled to be able to share the work that has been put into the scenes with the audience.



ASH LUPKE

Ash Lupke is a second-year dual vocal performance and music education major from Logansport, IN. She has worked with Butler Theatre in the productions SpongeBob the Musical and The Cunning Little Vixen, and is excited to share these opera scenes with you. Ash would like to thank her family and friends for their support, and hopes you enjoy the performance!



JASON ROBINS

Tenor Jason Robins was introduced to classical singing when he started high school at A.W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts in Florida, and later expanded his skills during his junior and senior year in the Palm Beach Opera studio program. He is thrilled to reach for the stars at Butler University!



KELSEY THOMAS

Kelsey Thomas (she/her) is a junior vocal performance major. She is a student in the voice studio of Dr. Oliver Worthington. She is a member of the Butler University Chorale under Robert Bolyard, Chamber Singers under Patrick Pauloski, Jordan Jazz under Erin Benedict, and is a member of Sigma Alpha Iota. Her previous roles at Butler include Zita in *Gianni Schicchi* and Buoso's Ghost, Pearl in *The SpongeBob Musical*, and Forester's Wife/Woodpecker in *The Cunning Little Vixen*.



KATIE WALLER

Katie Waller is a first-year vocal performance student at the Jordan College of the Arts. She is so excited to share these scenes with an audience and is so glad to share the stage with such talented peers. She would like to thank her family for always supporting her. Her hometown is Athens, GA, and she would like to say Go Dawgs!

OLIVER WORTHINGTON

Dr. Oliver Worthington, baritone, has performed extensively as an opera singer, oratorio soloist, and recitalist. He has appeared with regional opera companies like Indianapolis Opera, South Texas Lyric Opera, San Antonio Opera, San Antonio Symphony, Hill Country Lyric, Austin Opera, and Lone Star Lyric in diverse roles from Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus* to Mamma Agatha in *Viva la Mamma*. Other roles include Count Gil in *Il Segreto di Susanna*, Bruschino in *Il Signor Bruschino*, Dr. Greg in *Gallantry*, the Duke of Plaza Toro in *The Gondoliers*, Le Podestat in *Le Docteur Miracle*, and others in more traditional repertoire. He has performed the roles of Raphael and Adam in Haydn's *The Creation* with the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir and the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra in the Hilbert Circle Theater in downtown Indianapolis, and recently performed the bass solos in Handel's *Messiah* and Bach's *Magnificat* with the West Virginia Symphony. He is also active as a recitalist, his favorite genre, where he champions the works of living composers often premiering new works. At Butler, Dr. Worthington is the Voice Area Coordinator and the Producing Director of Butler Opera Theatre, where he works to help students learn the skills necessary to become convincing singing actors. He performs frequently on campus, often championing newly composed works. You can listen to him singing with the Butler Symphony Orchestra, the Butler Wind Ensemble, the Duckwall Artist Series, and even on programs with Butler Ballet. Dr. Worthington maintains a full schedule as an educator and performer, and serves as the President of The Fritz and Lavinia Jensen Foundation (www.jensenfoundation.org), a non-profit dedicated to supporting the arts with cash prizes to young opera singers.

JAMES CARAHER

Conductor/pianist James Caraher began his career as a rehearsal accompanist for Tri-Cities Opera in Binghamton, New York. Within a few years, he held the position of Music Director for the opera companies of Syracuse, NY; Memphis, TN; and Indianapolis, IN, and was a frequent guest conductor for many other regional opera companies, including Nashville Opera, New Jersey Opera, Opera Saratoga, and The Opera Company of Philadelphia.

Since his departure from Indianapolis Opera after 33 years in April 2014, he has devoted his time to guest conducting, coaching, recital accompanying, and teaching. He is currently Music Director for the Opera Program at Butler University in Indianapolis and Artistic Director-Conductor for the International Opera Performing Experience, a summer opera-language program located in Mercatello sul Metauro, Italy. This January, Mr. Caraher will return to Lakeland to conduct the Imperial Symphony Orchestra's special performance, *Renee Fleming in Concert*.

AMANDA HOPSON

Dr. Amanda Hopson, Coordinator of Collaborative Piano at Butler University in Indianapolis, has worked collaboratively since the age of ten and has performed and recorded with vocalists, instrumentalists, and choral groups for over forty years. She was one of the early pianists for the Grammy-winning choir *Conspirare*, and she has accompanied vocalists in masterclasses given by artists such as Frederica von Stade, Elly Ameling, Thomas Hampson, Nathan Gunn, Jake Heggie, and Jason Robert Brown. She particularly relishes performing works by contemporary composers, and in 2013, she collaborated with tenor Kerry Jennings on a Centaur Records recording entitled *In My Memory: American Songs and Song Cycles*, featuring works by Libby Larsen, Tom Cipullo, Lori Laitman, and Richard Pearson Thomas. It is featured on Libby Larsen's website as the reference recording of her cycle *My Antonia*.

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JCA LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We gather here at Butler University on the traditional homelands of Indigenous peoples who were forcibly removed from this place. These peoples include the Myaamiaki (Miami), Lenape (Delaware), Bodewadmi (Potawatomi), Saawanwa (Shawnee), Kiikaapoi (Kickapoo), and Peouaroua (Peoria) peoples. We honor with gratitude the land itself and the indigenous peoples past and present who have stewarded it throughout the generations. This acknowledgement calls us to commit to hearing and engaging Indigenous voices and perspectives and to being better stewards of the land we inhabit. It also calls us to action. Learn more by scanning the QR code for additional information.



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