

TRIPLE BILL

Il segreto di Susanna

music by Ermanno Wolf-Ferrari text by Enrico Golisciani

Suor Angelica

Gianni Schicci

music by Giacomo Puccini text by Giovacchino Forzano

CREATIVE TEAM

Stage Director and Producer **Ben Smith**

Music Director and Conductor

Stephen Karr

Stage Director for *Il segreto di Susanna*

Shannon Jongema

Conductor for *Il segreto di Susanna*

Fabian Schneider

Lighting Designer and Technical Director

Jeremy Fisher

Scenic Designer

Amy Healey

Costume Designer

Becky Donahue

Assistant/Backstage Conductor

Fabian Schneider

Assistant Stage Director for Suor Angelica

Carrie Moscoe

Assistant Stage Director for Gianni Schicchi

Ana Cristina Soto

Stage Manager

Amanda Sheller-Larson

Assistant Stage Manager

Sulan Roachell

Property Master

Maya Holmes

Scenic Charge Artist

Benjamin Chapman

Production Electrician

Brandon Kitson

Assistant Lighting Designer

Micki McCormick

Costume Assistant & Wardrobe

Anna Hefner

Electricians, Carpenters, & Board Operator

IATSE Local 69

Stage Crew

Jeremiah Asaiah Cook Laura Anne Olive

Rehearsal Pianists

Sui Lin

(II segreto di Susanna)

JingYi Bai

(Suor Angelica)

Yantong Chen

(Gianni Schicci)

ORCHESTRA

Flute

Nicole Rodriguez Ellie Poppas

Piccolo

Catie Balsamo

Oboe

Jesus Salazar Simon Dickerson

English Horn

Tara West

Clarinet

Shihao (Hugh) Zhu Evgenii Mikheev

Bass Clarinet

Joseph Burgos

Bassoon

Mollie Coates Lora Yopp

Horn

Brittany Cooper John Yopp Kelsey Pegues Rhys Roberts

Trumpet

Christian Chiasson Fausto Mejia Tyler Scott

Trombone

Dylan Mashburn Evan Green Caleb Elrod (Bass)

Tuba

Ryan Winans

Violin I

Cecelia Erbe*
John Jesuyemi
Langston Suggs
Sarah Enoch
Lina Lumumba

Violin II

Sebastian Gaviria* Gabby Gregory Khalid Lopez Hailey Smith Autumn Colley

Viola

Mario Henrique Rasoto Batista• Jonathan Bagoyado Andrew McGuire Dario Oliveira Santos Rex Brown

Violoncello

Miriam Henderson• Ella Bondar Matthew Greiner Asamoah Oppong Elijah Yancey Julian Severs

Double Bass

Gesiye Okoya• Egypt Burton Ebony Gipson Jonathan Hodges

Celesta

Sui Lin (Il segreto di Susanna) JingYi Bai (Suor Angelica) Yantong Chen (Gianni Schicci)

ORCHESTRA

Harp

Alisa Bekebrede

Timpani

Colton Renfrow

Percussion

Allison Kiefer Daniel Padron Christopher Palmer

- BANDA -

Trumpet

Tyler Scott Benjamin VanderBijl Leonard Waldman-Karr

Piano

Sui Lin Yantong Chen

Percussion

Erin Duke

^{*}denotes co-concertmaster

^{**}denotes co-principal

denotes principal

Il segreto di Susanna

Susanna

Amanda McIlravy

Gil

Anthony Valle

Sante

Brady Ballard

Suor Angelica

Sister Angelica

Shannon Kathleen Burr

Princess

Haena Jeong

Abbess

Xinwei Wang

Monitor

Jackie Tawil

Mistress of the Novices

MJ Britton

Genovieffa

Nicole Huff

Osmina

Yifang Zhang

Dolcina

Ana Cristina Soto

Nursing Sister

Erin Smith

Alm Sister 1

Hanna Warta

Alm Sister 2

la Traci White

Novice

El Pike

Lay Sister 1

Brio'Na Jackson

Lay Sister 2

Yuhan Qin

Ensemble

Insemble

Cami Moses Amanda McIlravy

Gianni Schicci

Gianni Schicchi

Darius Taylor

Lauretta

Cami Moses

Zita

Ina Torres O'Ryan

Buoso

Rene Bustamante

Rinuccio

Richie Lisenby

Gherardo

David Schnell

Nella

Erin Smith

Gherardino

El Pike

Betto

John W. Faulconbridge, II

Simone

Zhihao Chen

Marco

Anthony Valle

La Ciesca

Carrie Moscoe

Spinelloccio

Ana Cristina Soto

Notary

Benjamin Nguyen

Pinellino

West McElhany

Guccio

David Johnson

in alphabetical order by first name



Amanda McIlravy Susanna/Ensemble Philip, SD DMA in Vocal Performance



Brio'Na Jackson Lay Sister 1/Ensemble Southaven, MS BM in Vocal Performance



Ana Cristina Soto Spinelloccio/Dolcina Trujillo Alto, PR MM in Vocal Performance



Cami Moses
Lauretta/Ensemble
Houston, TX
MM in Vocal
Performance



Anthony Valle
Gil/Ensemble/Marco
Miami, FL
BM in Vocal
Performance



Carrie Moscoe La Ciesca Lexington, KY MM in Vocal Performance



Benjamin Nguyen Notary Memphis, TN BM in Music Education



Darius Taylor Gianni Schicchi/Ensemble Jackson, TN DMA in Vocal Performance



Brady Ballard Sante Lebanon, TN BFA in Musical Theatre



David Johnson Guccio/Ensemble Memphis, TN BM in Vocal Performance

in alphabetical order by first name



David Schnell Gherardo Adjunct Professor of Voice Durham, NC



la Traci White Alm Sister 2 Memphis, TN BM in Vocal Performance



El Pike Novice/Gherardino Lincoln, NE MM in Vocal Performance



Ina Torres O'Ryan Zita Columbia, MD DMA in Vocal Performance



Erin Smith
Nursing Sister/Nella
Collierville, TN
MM in Vocal
Performance



Jackie Tawil Monitor Tampa, FL DMA in Vocal Performance



Haena Jeong Princess Seoul, South Korea DMA Vocal Performance



John W.
Faulconbridge, II
Betto
Memphis, TN
Alumnus, MM
Performance '10, BM
Performance '07



Hannah Warta Alm Sister 1 Tullahoma, TN BM in Vocal Performance



MJ Britton
Mistress of the
Novices
Olive Branch, MS
DMA in Vocal
Performance

in alphabetical order by first name



Nicole Huff Genovieffa Keller, TX MM in Vocal Performance



Xinwei Wang Abbess Weifang, China DMA in Vocal Performance



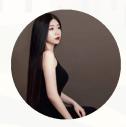
Rene Bustamante
Buoso Donati
CFO
University of Memphis



Yifang ZhangOsmina
Changsha, China
DMA in Vocal
Performance



Richie Lisenby Rinuccio Dothan, AL DMA in Vocal Performance



Yuhan QinLay Sister 2
Hubei, China
DMA in Vocal
Performance



Shannon Kathleen Burr Sister Angelica Harrisburg, PA DMA Vocal Performance



Zhihao ChenSimone
Shenzhen,
Guangdong, China
DMA Vocal
Performance



West McElhany Pinellino Kansas City, MO BM in Choral Music Education

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS



Stephen Karr, Music Director and Conductor

American conductor Stephen Karr is a compelling and dramatic interpreter of a wide variety of music. He is especially noted for his musically adventurous taste and keen sense of pacing in the field of opera, where his repertoire spans nearly the entire history of the art from early Baroque to notable premieres.

He has led such groups as Anchorage Opera, the Glimmerglass Festival, Long Beach Opera, Memphis Symphony Orchestra, Opera Memphis, the Parnassus Chamber Orchestra and the Sacramento Philharmonic and Opera. He holds degrees in conducting from the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music, where he studied with Neal Stulberg.

A passionate educator, he has taught at Azusa Pacific University; the California State University campuses in Los Angeles, Long Beach and Northridge; Chapman University; Michigan State University; UCLA; and the University of Memphis, where he holds the position of Opera Music Director.



Ben Smith, Stage Director and Producer

Ben has directed for Opera Memphis, Indianapolis Opera, Seattle Opera's Young Artist Program, Intermountain Opera Bozeman, Mobile Opera, Tacoma Opera, Asheville Lyric Opera, Opera Theatre of Pittsburgh, the Young Artist Program at Pittsburgh Opera, the University of Cincinnati/CCM, Baldwin Wallace University and The Opera Theater of Lucca, Italy.

Since 2013, Ben has served as Artistic Director and acting faculty for the Accademia Vocale Lorenzo Malfatti, a summer training program for young singers in Lucca, Italy.

Ben joined the faculty at Baldwin Wallace University in 2010 as their first full-time Director of Opera. Since 2015, he has been the Opera Stage Director at the University of Memphis. He has taught master classes for singing actors in the U.S. and China.

He began his career as a singer in opera, performing twenty-one leading roles in opera, operetta, and musical theater. He has logged over 250 performances in the U.S. and Italy.

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS



Fabian Schneider, conductor

Fabian Schneider grew up in Möhlin (Switzerland). Before starting his undergraduate studies in trumpet and conducting, he served in the Swiss Military Bands. Afterward, he studied with Professor Christoph Rehli at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts (Switzerland), earning his master's degree in conducting. In 2022, Fabian moved to Memphis, TN, where he's currently

working on his doctoral degree in orchestral conducting with Professor Harvey Felder, and since entering his last year this fall with Professor Daniel Brier. Fabian has served as assistant conductor in productions of "Le Docteur Miracle," "Trouble of Tahiti," "La Bohème," and "The Cousin from Nowhere" at the University of Memphis. Fabian debuted in opera conducting with Menotti's "The Medium." He has also served as cover conductor for the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and Opera Memphis, and has appeared as guest conductor with Sinfonietta Memphis on numerous occasions, and participated in the International Conductors Guild Workshop 2025 with the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra.



Shannon Jongeman, Stage Director

Soprano Shannon Jongema is passionate about storytelling through music, and she shares that passion by stage directing as well as singing. Shannon's directing credits include Menotti's The Medium and scenes from Verdi's La Traviata at the University of Memphis. Recent singing credits include Mimì (La bohème) and Rosabella (The Most Happy Fella) at the University of Memphis.

She has also assistant directed Don Giovanni at the University of Memphis, as well as La Calisto and The Rake's Progress with Opera Memphis. She is currently pursuing her Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in vocal performance with a cognate in stage directing at the University of Memphis Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music serving as a graduate teaching assistant in voice and opera and studying under Dr. Megan Grey. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts in music and secondary education from Rollins College where she studied under Dr. Caitlin Mohr.

THE CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM



Amanda Sheller-Larson Stage Manager



Amy Healey Set Designer



Ana Cristina Soto Assistant Director, Gianni Schicci



Becky Donahue Costume Designer



Carrie Moscoe Assistant Director, Suor Angelica



Jeremy Fisher Lighting Designer Technical Director



Sulan Roachell Assitant Stage Manager

THE CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM



JingYi Bai Rehearsal Pianist Qiqihar, China DMA in Piano Performance



Sui Lin Rehearsal Pianist LiShui, China DMA in Piano Performance



Yantong Chen Rehearsal Pianist Nanjing, China DMA in Piano Performance

SPECIAL THANKS

Dr. Debra Burns, Dean

College of Communication and Fine Arts

Dr. Jacob Allen, Interim Director

Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music

Matthew Burns

Assistant Professor of Voice

Josaphat Contreras

Visiting Assistant Professor of Voice

Dr. Megan Grey

Visiting Assistant Professor of Voice

Mary Wilson

Professor of Voice

Opera Memphis

Department of Theatre and Dance

Brian Ruggaber

Kathleen Kovaric