



UArkMusic

2022-2023 SEASON

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ABOUT MUSIC

The University of Arkansas is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music and the Department of Music is housed within the Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences.

Home to over 300 music students and fifty faculty members, we offer a variety of degree programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Department faculty and students perform over 400 concerts per year, on and off campus. Large concerts are performed at the 600-seat Faulkner Performing Arts Center that opened in 2015. Chamber and solo recitals are primarily presented at the 200-seat Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall, which is slated for a full renovation starting December 2022.

For more information, find us on social media or contact us at (479) 575-4701, email us at [**music@uark.edu**](mailto:music@uark.edu), or visit [**music.uark.edu**](http://music.uark.edu).



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

Fulbright College
of Arts & Sciences

Gianni Schicchi



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UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS OPERA THEATRE

Dr. Jonathan Stinson, stage director and conductor
Lyndon Meyer, music director

Friday, November 18, 7:30 pm

Sunday, November 20, 2:00 pm

Faulkner Performing Arts Center

Saturday, November 19, 4:00 and 7:30 pm

Arkansas Arts Academy, Rogers, AR

Gianni Schicchi

by Giacomo Puccini

sung in Italian with English supertitles

Supertitles provided by Opera in the Ozarks

Special thanks to:

Amy Kessler and the Arkansas Arts Academy

Michael Riha and the University of Arkansas Department of Theatre

Dr. Thomas Cockrell and Opera in the Ozarks

Dr. Ronda Mains, Dr. Justin Hunter, and Dr. Tomoko Kashiwagi

Britt Graves, Kim Jones, and Kelli Van Pelt

William VanDelinder

Cast

Gianni Schicchi

Juan Garcia (Fri/Sat night)

De'Von L. Smith (Sat/Sun afternoon)

Lauretta

Rachael Foster

Rinuccio

Tristan Lesso

Nella

Henedina Davies

Ciesca

Sonya Faulknor

Zita

Katelynn Jackson

Gherardo

Jeffrey Kerst

Marco

Dominique Butcher

Betto

Dekarius Dawson

Simone

David Gilzene

Amantio di Nicolao

Mickel Gordon

Dr. Spinelloccio

Samantha Stinson

Pinellino

Samantha Stinson

Guccio

Campbell Leiterman

Gherardino

Amalia Stinson

Nelletta

Abigail Stinson

Buoso

Campbell Leiterman

PERSONNEL

in alphabetical order



DOMINIQUE E. BUTCHER is a first-year graduate student in vocal performance at the University of Arkansas. He earned his bachelor's degree in vocal performance from Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee. Dominique currently studies applied voice with Dr. Jonathan Stinson and is active in The Inspirational Chorale, Black Graduate Association, (RISE) Razorgrad Institute for Success and Engagement, and other organizations. This is

Dominique's debut performance with the University of Arkansas Opera Theatre, performing the role of Marco in *Gianni Schicchi*.



DEKARIUS DAWSON is a second year graduate student majoring in vocal performance at the University of Arkansas where he also received his Bachelor of Arts degree in music in 2019. Dekarius currently studies voice with professor Lauren N. Clare and is a member of multiple ensembles in which he sings. This is Dekarius' second year in Opera Theatre having previously performed the role of Signor Deluso in *Signor Deluso* and as a dater in the 2021

production of *Speed Dating Tonight!*



SONYA FAULKNOR is a native of Montego Bay, Jamaica, currently enrolled in the Master of Music program in both Music Education and Vocal Performance at the University of Arkansas. She received a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from the Alcorn State University. Sonya is passionate about singing and teaching and aspires to make an impact on the world using her talents. She is under the tutelage of and Dr. Lenora Green-Turner.

Sonya dedicates this performance to her family and friends who have been a source of unwavering support.



RACHAEL FOSTER, soprano, is a first semester graduate student in counseling at the University of Arkansas, where she also received her bachelor's degree in vocal performance in the spring of 2022. Rachael currently takes secondary applied voice lessons with Professor Lauren N. Clare and is a member of the jazz vocal ensemble, Voices. This is Rachael's fifth semester enrolled in UA Opera Theatre, in which she has performed the role of the Dew

Fairy in the 2019 production of *Hansel and Gretel*, speed dater in *Speed Dating Tonight!* in 2021, as well as numerous roles in scenes from notable operas such as *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *The Merry Widow*, and more.



Baritone **JUAN JOSE GARCIA** is a graduate student finishing his Master of Music in Vocal Performance. Having studied music education at the University of Central Arkansas, Juan has decided to turn to the stage before returning to the classroom. Earlier this month, Juan competed at the Regional National Association for Teachers of Singing competition in Louisiana winning his division. Juan now has the opportunity to compete once again at the NATS national level in 2023.



HENEDINA GARVITO-DAVIES, soprano, is a third year undergraduate vocal performance major at the University of Arkansas. Henedina currently studies applied voice under Dr. Leonora Green-Turner. This will be Henedina's second year in the University of Arkansas Opera Theatre where she has previously performed the role of Celie in the spring 2022 production of *Signor Deluso*. She would like to dedicate this performance to her husband, Cullen, for always supporting and believing in her wildest dreams.



DAVID ASANI STEVEN GILZENE is a junior vocal music education major. Originally from Jamaica, David has found great success at the University of Arkansas being the 2022 recipient of the Janice Yoes Award for vocal excellence. David would like to thank God, his family, the First Presbyterian Church family of Natchez, Mississippi, and his amazing voice teacher, Dr. Jonathan Stinson.



MICKEL GORDON, a native Jamaican, is currently a senior undergraduate student pursuing a double major (BM) in voice (counter-tenor) and piano performance at the University of Arkansas with Professors Lauren N. Clare and Asher Armstrong, respectively. He has studied with Roger Williams, Ann MacNamee, Allison Wallace from The Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, Angela Elliott of the Music House and Teresita Irañeta Ruiz from The Immaculate Conception High School for Girls, Kingston Jamaica. Jeffery Allen Murdock, Tomoko Kashiwagi, Christopher MacRae, Moon-Sook Park, and Hyun Kim at the University of Arkansas. He has obtained numerous awards in NATS first and second prizes, Dean's List award for Academic Excellence, and most recently the Janice Yoes Award for Vocal Excellence. He plans to further his studies in performing arts, leadership and management, forte piano, collaborative piano, vocal coaching, and chamber music with a focus on Baroque pedagogy.



KATE JACKSON is a mezzo-soprano from Bakersfield, CA with a BA in Music from Valdosta State University in Valdosta, GA. She is a first-year graduate student working as Assistant Director of Opera at University of Arkansas. She has been played main roles in *Hansel and Gretel* (Hansel), *Carmen* (Mercedes), and *Die Fledermaus* (Orlafski). She has also performed in Valdosta State University's top choir at Carnegie Hall and is singing the mezzo solo with University of Arkansas' upcoming performance of the Mozart Requiem.



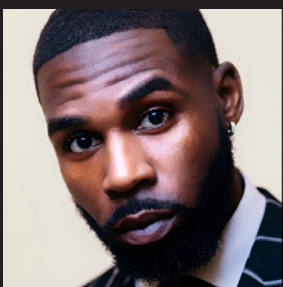
JEFFREY KERST is a tenor from Conway, Arkansas. He is currently in his third year pursuing a degree in Music Education at the University of Arkansas. He studies voice with Dr. Johnathan Stinson and is also a committed member of The Inspirational Chorale, Voices (a vocal jazz ensemble), and other groups on campus. This is his second production with the University of Arkansas Opera Theatre, the first being the role of Léon in *Signor Deluso* in spring 2022. Jeffrey would like to thank God for giving him the ability to use his voice. He would also like to thank his mom, dad, and sister for supporting him through school, and encouraging him to perform and chase his dreams.



CAMPBELL LEITERMAN, soprano, is a freshman at the University of Arkansas. She is currently double major in music and psychology. Campbell currently studies in applied vocal lessons with Dr. Moon-Sook Park and plans to join the percussion studio next semester.



TRISTAN LESSO: AEA: Rinuccio: Film & TV: *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, *The Last Five Years*; NYC Credits include *Gypsy*, *RAGS*, *Closer Than Ever*, and *Anything Goes*. Other credits include *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Next to Normal* (Potsdam Theatre), and *Gianni Schicchi* (Crane Opera Ensemble). NATS Regional Winner, Fall 2017. Tristan expresses thanks to Dr. Stinson for the opportunity and to his beautiful fiancé for all her support!



DE'VON LORENZO SMITH, lyric-baritone, is a second-year vocal performance graduate student from Detroit, MI. Smith received his Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance, from Alcorn State University, where he studied with Charles E. Wesley. De'Von is also a 2014 alumnus of the Druid City Opera Summer Program at the University of Alabama.

Currently De'Von studies voice with Dr. Jonathan Stinson. Smith has been a member of the UA Opera Theater for almost two years, where he has performed the role of The Bartender in the 2021 production of *Speed Dating Tonight!*, the title role of Signor Deluso in the 2022 production of *Signor Deluso* and now the title role of *Gianni Schicchi*. De'Von also recently performed with the Symphony Orchestra of Northwest Arkansas, July 2022. De'Von has long been a lover of performance and religiously expresses that, his passion for making music continues to be one that is more fulfilling with each opportunity he is granted to share his gift with lovers of the arts. De'Von's goal no matter what he is singing, is always to ensure that the listeners understand the story and feel the emotional connection to the piece.

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