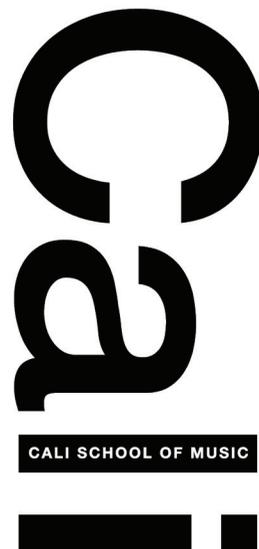


**FALL 2023
MSU OPERA PRESENTS**

THE GHOSTS OF GATSBY

**Music by: Evan Mack
Libretto by: Joshua McGuire**



MSU Chamber Opera Workshop of the John J. Cali School of Music
Karen Driscoll, *director*
William Hobbs, *conductor*

ALEXANDER KASSER THEATER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023
6:00 PM and 8:00 PM



The Cali School of Music is launching the “Invest in Cali” fundraising campaign, aiming to raise \$75k for the Cali Pathways Project and student scholarships. Every contribution, big or small, makes a difference. Spread the word and join us in creating a ripple effect of support!

Designate your donation towards scholarships or the Pathways Project, providing opportunities like tuition coverage, private instruction, and instrument provision. Plus, consider creating a lasting impact by naming a seat in the Leshowitz Recital Hall.

Let's come together to support our musical community and ensure a legacy of enrichment for future generations!



John J. Cali
School of Music

MONTCLAIR
STATE UNIVERSITY

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CASTS

ROLE

F. Scott Fitzgerald
Zelda in 1924
Teenage Zelda
Older Zelda
Ensemble, Dancers

6:00 PM

Deiniol McGovern
Victoria Mango
Hannah Bogard
Gabrielle Cintrón
Emma Mason
Sean Johnson
Natasha McFarland Rhoads

8:00 PM

Jairo Santana
Sydney Swearingin
Caitlin Caulfield
Heesoo Shin
Emma Mason
Sean Johnson
Natasha McFarland Rhoads

Chamber Orchestra

Ginny Stephens, piano
Anthony Kalanick, clarinet
Aly Maglaqui, vibraphone

Carlie Senatore, double bass
Zach Doberentz, drum set

SYNOPSIS

In 1924, on the French Riviera, we find the tumultuous relationship of Zelda and F. Scott Fitzgerald. Scott is not only obsessed with finishing his novel *The Great Gatsby* but is also incessantly distracted by Zelda's unsatiated need for attention by not only him but by other men.

In a fit of jealous rage, Scott locks Zelda in a bedroom, where she finds herself visited by visions of her younger and older selves. These visions force Zelda to contemplate her life choices and ultimately challenge her mental state while we are left wondering which one of the Zeldas is actually real.

BIOGRAPHIES

CREATIVE TEAM

Evan Mack (Composer) and **Joshua McGuire** (Librettist) have created a style that sets them apart in the world of contemporary opera since joining forces in 2011. By writing words and music in tandem, they produce larger-than-life stories with music that harnesses the full athletic thrill of singing. Their first collaboration, *The Secret of Luca*, premiered in 2014 in Fresno, CA. In August 2016, their American grand opera *Roscoe*, based on the novel by Pulitzer-Prize winning author William Kennedy, premiered at the Seagle Music Colony to rave reviews. It later received a concert performance with the Albany Symphony and Met Opera superstar Deborah Voigt. Their multi-cultural Christmas opera for children, *Lucinda y las Flores de la Nochebuena* (2017), has played for over 30,000 children in underserved school districts and has been translated into Spanish, having become an annual holiday staple for many opera companies and schools. *The Ghosts of Gatsby*, commissioned by Samford University and premiered by Kristin Kenning in 2018, went on to an Opera America New Works Forum fellowship and won the coveted Dominick Argento Prize for contemporary opera from the National Opera Association in 2019. Their comic opera *Yeltsin in Texas!* (2019) is currently in development as a Broadway musical. In 2022, the duo were finalists for the Domenic J. Pellicciotti Prize for their opera-in-development *A Nearer Mother*, based on the life of AIDS activist Ruth Coker Burks. Individually and together, their work has appeared at the Baryshnikov Arts Center, the Seagle Music Colony, Project Blueprint, Winspear Opera House, Washington National Opera, Atlanta Opera, Opera Las Vegas, Opera in the Heights, San Francisco Opera, Glimmerglass, and numerous colleges and universities.

Karen Driscoll (Director) is John J. Cali School of Music's Head of Artistic Operations/Opera as well as a Clinical Specialist of Voice. Karen has previously directed *The Beautiful Bridegroom* and led multiple scenes programs for MSU's Opera Workshop classes, as well as role preparation productions including *Sweeney Todd* and *La Bohème* to name a few. She has also enjoyed collaborating on many occasions as not only a soprano soloist with MSU Singers and Chorale choirs but also as director of *Considering Matthew Shepard*. As a soprano, Ms. Driscoll has sung leading roles with Seattle Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Florentine Opera, L'Opéra de Montréal, Vancouver Opera, Virginia Opera, Baltimore Opera, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, National Lyric Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, Opera Columbus, Toledo Opera, Opera Carolina, Hawaii Opera Theater, New Jersey State Opera, Palm Beach Opera, Long Beach Opera, Worcester Chorus and Masterwork Chorus to name a few. She is a native of Ohio where she began her music studies at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and also where she holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education and Master of Music Degree in Vocal Performance.

William Hobbs (Conductor) received his Bachelor's in Piano Performance summa cum laude from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and a Master of Music in Piano Performance, Research and Literature from the Eastman School of Music. He has been heard worldwide in solo and song recitals, chamber music and orchestra appearances in over a dozen countries, including the United States, England, Korea, France, Greece, Italy, Spain, Malta and Poland. He has collaborated with many of today's top performers, including Yo-Yo Ma, James Galway, Renee Fleming, Joyce DiDonato, and many others. Mr. Hobbs began his Academic career at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey in 2010, followed by appointments at the Juilliard School and the City University of New York. He currently serves on the faculties of the John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University, and the Peabody Institute (Baltimore, Maryland). Mr. Hobbs works at many of the world's major opera houses as pianist and conductor, including the Opéra National de Paris, the Salzburg Festival, San Francisco Opera, Chicago Lyric Opera, Seattle Opera, Washington Opera and the Opéra de Monte-Carlo. He can be heard in recordings of music by Lowell Liebermann, Xavier Montsalvage, Dave Soldier, Christos Hatzis, and Kaikhosru Sorabji.

Ginny Stephens (Musical Preparation, pianist) is a native of West Chester, Pennsylvania. Her education includes a Bachelor of Music Degree in Piano Performance from Bob Jones University and a Master of Music Degree in Piano Performance from Colorado State University. She has had the privilege of accompanying a wide variety of high school, college and professional musicians. She has previously served as accompanist at Colorado State University for choirs, musical theater productions, Opera Workshop and faculty recitals, and as the rehearsal accompanist for the Virginia Opera Chorus. She is on the accompanying staff of Montclair State University and she enjoys teaching private piano at her home studio.

Deborah Caney (Costume Designer & Coordinator) has been designing costumes for over 25 years. She is delighted to return to Montclair State University's John J. Cali School of Music, where she last designed costumes for *The Beautiful Bridegroom* directed by Karen Driscoll. She has designed costumes at regional theaters around the country and has worked at Broadway and off-Broadway theaters. She has been designing costumes at The Luna Stage Theatre Co. in West Orange, NJ since 2008. Recently at Luna Stage, she designed *Torn Asunder*, written by Obie Award & Outer Critics Circle Award winning playwright Nikkole Salter and directed by Kennedy Center Award winning director Lisa Strum. Other recent credits include: *Ain't Misbehavin'* directed by 2019 TONY Award Winner André DeShields at NJPAC and The Crossroads Theatre Co; *Look What A Wonder*, written and directed by Walter Robinson at Martha's Vineyard Performing Arts Center.

Harrison Asher Smith (Choreographer) is thrilled to return to MSU to help bring life to this wonderful production! He recently graduated from Montclair State University with a BFA in Musical Theatre and a BA in Linguistics with a concentration in American Sign Language/English Interpreting. Selected choreographer credits include *Considering Matthew Shepard* and *Circlesong* at the Alexander Kasser Theater; performance credits include Tuacahn Center for the Arts, the Mac-Haydn Theatre, and Montclair State University. Much love to his friends, family, and mentors!

CAST

Hannah Bogard, originally from Birmingham, Alabama, is a first-year master's student studying with Dr. Lori McCann. A light soprano, she graduated with her B.M. in Voice Performance and a minor in French from Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. She spent this past summer as a member of the Opera Studio with the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. She is thrilled to be in her first production with the Cali School of Music.

Caitlin Sharkey Caulfield is in her first year of the Master of Music program at the John J. Cali School of Music. She previously attended the University of Delaware School of Music. Caitlin is so excited to make her Red Hawk debut in *The Ghosts of Gatsby!*

Gabrielle Cintrón is a senior Music Education major with a primary in voice and choral conducting. Gabrielle studies with Professor Anastasia Swope at the Cali School of Music and is set to graduate this spring. Gabrielle's future goals are to attend graduate school for Vocal Performance and to pursue a career as an opera singer. She owes her success to the Cali School of Music voice faculty who have guided her for the past four years. This is Gabrielle's first time in an opera, but she is so excited and honored to bring *Zelda '48* to life in this production.

Sean Johnson is in the fourth year of his Music Education BA. This is Sean's first ever experience in an opera, as well as his first time dancing onstage. He hopes you enjoy the show!

Victoria Mango, a dedicated transfer junior in pursuit of her vocal performance degree, studies with Beth Roberts at the Cali School of Music. This marks Victoria's first ever opera performance, and she is honored to embody the character *Zelda '24*. She warmly anticipates that you'll enjoy the performance!

Emma Mason is a coloratura soprano completing her undergraduate degree with a Bachelor's in Vocal Performance. Emma studies with Dr. Lori McCann. Last year, she performed as *Laurentia* in the chamber opera, *The Beautiful Bridegroom*.

Natasha McFarland Rhoads, soprano, is in the second year of her Vocal Performance MM degree. She studies at the Cali School of Music where she is a student of Barbara Dever. Her recent roles include *Sister Valentine* in *Dialogues des Carmélites* and *Madame Kirsten* in *The Beautiful Bridegroom*.

Deiniol McGovern is in the first year of his MM in Vocal Performance, studying with Professor Beth Roberts at the Cali School of Music. In the past, he has performed roles such as *Nardo* in *La Finta Giardiniera*, *The Monkey King* in *Monkey and Francine in the City of Tigers* and the *Sprecher* in *Die Zauberflöte*. He is very excited to be performing a contemporary American opera and he hopes you enjoy the show.

Jairo Santana, a baritone from Bayamón, Puerto Rico, received his B.A. in Music and Foreign Languages from The University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus. Last year, he sang the role of *Marco* in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* and *Michael Ching's Buoso's Ghost* with Montclair State University Opera. This year he is also singing the role of the *Marquis* in *Poulenc's Dialogues des Carmélites*. Jairo is currently pursuing an M.M. in Vocal Performance at Montclair State University, studying under Mark Schnaible.

Heesoo Shin, soprano, is in the second year of her Artist Diploma. Heesoo studies with Professor Karen Driscoll at the Cali School of Music and will graduate this upcoming spring. Her most recent operatic role was *Terentia* in *The Beautiful Bridegroom*. She hopes that you enjoy today's performances!

Sydney Swearengin, soprano, is in the first year of her Vocal Performance MM degree and is studying with Professor Beth Roberts. A native of California, she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Pepperdine University and studied voice with soprano *Kate Bass*. At Montclair, Sydney is very involved in Choral Activities, serving as the Teaching Assistant and performing in all three curricular choirs. Upon graduation, Sydney aspires to sing professionally in national and international venues, embracing all forms of the vocal art.

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Zachary Doberentz, percussionist, is a senior Music Education Major. Zach currently studies with Professor Smallcomb and Professor Ju at the Cali School of Music and will soon be starting the process of getting his Teaching Certification. He has recently performed in the MSU Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, and Percussion Ensemble. He hopes you enjoy the show!

Anthony Kalanick is a clarinetist in the sixth year of his Music Performance BM degree. Anthony studies with Keriann DiBari at Montclair State University and will be graduating this spring. Other ensembles he participates in are the Montclair State Wind Symphony and Orchestra.

Aly Maglaqui, vibraphonist, is a freshman at Rutgers University-Newark. They major in Neuroscience with a Pre-Health concentration. Aly has been a percussionist for eight years, specializing in mallet percussion for six years. They have previously been Center Marimba for the Nutley Front Ensemble and performed with the TCNJ Honor Band. Aly is very excited to be a part of such a talent-filled production.

Carlie Senatore, double bassist, is a sophomore enrolled in the music education program. Carlie studies with Lou Kosma and will graduate in the spring of 2026. She has recently performed in *Spring Awakening* the musical and in the Montclair Symphony Orchestra.

Additional Production Personnel

LeAnn Overton (Titles Caller)

Natasha McFarland Rhoads (Assistant to the Director)

Sean Johnson (Ghost Lighting)

Izzy Ortiz (Hair & Make-up Assistant)

Olivia Gasper (Opera Program Graduate Assistant)

Musical Preparation

LeAnn Overton

Michael S. Caldwell

Peiwen Chen

William Hobbs

Mory Ortman

LeAnn Overton

Mary Pinto

Vica Schwartzman

Grant Wenaus

Please join us after today's performances for a Post-Show Talkback, led by members of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Society

Located on the Upper Level of the Kasser Theater Lobby at 7:15pm and 9:15pm

Jackson R. Bryer is Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Maryland, where he taught undergraduate and graduate courses for 41 years. He is the co-founder and president of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Society among the books he has authored, edited, or co-edited on Fitzgerald are *Approaches to Teaching Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby* (2009), *Dear Scott, Dearest Zelda: The Love Letters of F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald* (2002), *New Essays on F. Scott Fitzgerald's Neglected Stories* (1996), *The Critical Reputation of F. Scott Fitzgerald: A Bibliographical Study* (1967; 1984), *The Short Stories of F. Scott Fitzgerald: New Approaches in Criticism* (1982), *F. Scott Fitzgerald: The Critical Reception* (1978), *Dear Scott/Dear Max: The Fitzgerald-Perkins Correspondence* (1971), and *F. Scott Fitzgerald in His Own Time: A Miscellany* (1971).

Kirk Curnutt is professor and chair of English at Troy University. He serves as managing editor of the *F. Scott Fitzgerald Review*, and is the editor most recently of *All of the Belles: The Montgomery Stories of F. Scott Fitzgerald*, which collects Fitzgerald Tarleton trilogy ("The Ice Palace," "The Jelly-Bean," and "The Last of the Belles"). He also wrote the introduction to Oxford World's Classics centenary edition of *Flappers and Philosophers* (2020) and will do so for the forthcoming *All the Sad Young Men* as well. In addition to writing The Cambridge Introduction to F. Scott Fitzgerald (2007) and editing *The Oxford Historical Guide to F. Scott Fitzgerald* (2004), he has published several volumes on Ernest Hemingway, Gertrude Stein, the 1970s, and popular music. He also co-hosts the Society's podcast, Master the 40: The Stories of F. Scott Fitzgerald, with Robert Trogon.



These performances were generously sponsored by The F. Scott Fitzgerald Society and Martin Jevien

Supertitles created by Susan Shiplett Ashbaker for Westminster Opera Theatre, Westminster Choir College at Rider University

Special thanks to Prof. Tony Mazzocchi, Director of the John J. Cali School of Music, Dr. Lori McCann and Beth Roberts, Co-Coordinator of the MSU Vocal Performance Program, Jeffrey Gall, Advisor of MSU Opera and all of the Applied Voice teachers and coaches at MSU who aided in their students' preparation to make this such a successful program.

UP NEXT....JOIN MSU OPERA and the MSU SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
for Poulenc's DIALOGUES DES CARMÉLITES
in ALEXANDER KASSER THEATER!
Saturday, January 27, 2024 at 8:00 pm
Sunday, January 28, 2024 at 3:00 pm
Sung in French with English supertitles

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY
CALI OPERA PROGRAM + SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

PRESENTS
F. POULENC'S

MALENA DAYEN DIRECTOR
KYLE RITENAUER CONDUCTOR

DIALOGUES DES CARMELITES

Saturday, January 27 8pm and Sunday, January 28 3pm



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