

Loyola Opera Theatre

Presents

L'enfant prodigue (The Prodigal Son)

Music by Claude Debussy/Libretto by Edouard Guinand, based on the Bible
Premiered at the Paris Conservatory, 1884
Revised and reorchestrated with the help of André Caplet
for performance at the Sheffield Music Festival, 1908

L'enfant et les sortilèges (The Child and the Spells)

Music by Maurice Ravel/Libretto by Colette
Premiered at the Opéra de Monte-Carlo, Monaco, 1925

There will be one 15-minute intermission between these one-act operas.

Cast

<u>Roles – Debussy</u>	<u>Fri Jan 26, 7:30pm</u>	<u>Sun Jan 28, 3pm</u>
Lia	Julia Tuneberg	Julia Ernst
Siméon	Jacob Huffty	B Schaubhut
Azaël	Justin Eifert	Justin Eifert

<u>Roles – Ravel</u>	<u>Fri Jan 26, 7:30pm</u>	<u>Sun Jan 28, 3pm</u>
L'enfant, the child	Mia DiGiovanni	Eva Daltoso
Maman, the mother	Cami Moses	Anna Kate Yeager
Le fauteuil, the armchair	B Schaubhut	Jacob Huffty
La bergère, a Louis XV chair	Julia Ernst	Julia Tuneberg
L'horloge comtoise, a clock	Jacob Huffty	Nathaniel Richard
La théière, a Wedgwood teapot	David Michel	Connor Galle
La tasse, a teacup	Emma St. Cyr	Taylor Tumulty
Le feu, the hearth fire	Nicole Bittner	Nicole Bittner
Un pâtre, a shepherd	Veronica Weisensee	Teresa Fasone
Une pastourelle, a shepherdess	Tamia Poret	Georgia Conrad
La princesse, the princess	Sophia Lucurto	Layah Brown-Givens
Arithmétique, Arithmetic	Justin Eifert	Grayson Stephens
Le chat, the male cat	Nathaniel Richard	Jacob Huffty
La chatte, the female cat	Taylor Tumulty	Emma St. Cyr
L'arbre, the tree	Kolbe Peters	Brennan Shelby
La libellule, the dragonfly	Katie Abraham	Cami Moses
Le rossignol, the nightingale	Elizabeth Peters	Charlotte Wheeler
La chauve-souris, the bat	Taylor Tumulty	Taylor Tumulty
L'écureuil, the squirrel	Layah Brown-Givens	Taylor Tumulty
La rainette, the frog	Grayson Stephens	David Michel
La chouette, the owl	Tamia Poret	Veronica Weisensee

Synopses

L'enfant prodigue

At sunrise Lia laments the absence of Azaël, her prodigal son – an outcast after leaving his home to pursue worldly pleasures. Siméon, her husband, is weary of her constant obsession with Azaël. After the appearance and dance of the young villagers, Azaël enters, and laments his unhappy life, no longer part of his community or family. Then he is joyfully reunited with his mother. She urges Siméon to forgive and welcome him home, which he does, calling for a feast of celebration. The three join their voices in praise of God.

L'enfant et les sortilèges

Part 1

After being scolded and confined to his room by his mother for failing to do his homework and talking back to her, an impudent child throws a tantrum, destroying the room and everything in it, and harming the animals nearby. He is then surprised to find that the unhappy objects come to life – upholstered chairs, a clock, a tea service, the fire in the hearth, painted figures on the wallpaper, and the beloved princess in his favorite fairy tale. Even his homework takes grotesque shape as it becomes an old man and a chorus of numbers taunting him. They all sing of the pain and misery that the child has inflicted on them and their wishes to punish him for his misdeeds. The meowing of two cats concludes this section.

Part 2

The bedroom suddenly becomes a garden filled with singing animals and plants, which have been tortured by the child. The child attempts to make friends with them, but all living things seem to shun him because of the injuries he did to them earlier, before they could talk. They leave him aside, and in his loneliness, he eventually cries out “Maman.” At this, the animals turn on him and attack him in an act of vengeance, but they wind up jostling among each other as the child is tossed aside. At the culmination, a squirrel is hurt, which causes the other animals to stop fighting. The child bandages the squirrel's wound and collapses exhausted. Seeing this act of kindness, the animals have a change of heart toward the child, and decide to try to help him home. They mimic the cry of “Maman” and sing in praise of the child. With the lesson of harmony among all creatures now learned, the opera ends with the child calling out “Maman.”

Bios

Katie Abraham, soprano, is a sophomore from Chicago, IL, majoring in Music Therapy with a focus in classical voice. Her teacher is Dr. Tyler Smith. Katie has loved performing ever since she was old enough to sing “Super Trouper” from *Mamma Mia*. She has appeared in a variety of works from different genres, ranging from classical to musical theater to jazz. She is thrilled to debut in her first Loyola opera as La libellule (the dragonfly) in Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges* and as a member of the ensemble in Debussy's *L'enfant prodigue*. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Diane K. Baas is an Associate Professor of Design in the Department of Film and Theatre at the University of New Orleans and a frequent collaborator with many companies regionally and nationally. She studied Lighting Design at the School of Drama at the University of Washington in Seattle, and Lighting and Scenic Design, Art History, and Painting at Tulane University in New Orleans. Recent Greater New Orleans projects include *The Color Purple* and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* at Le Petit, *Spring Storm*, *Clothes for a Summer Hotel*, *Summer and Smoke*, and *Night of the Iguana* with the Tennessee Williams Theatre Company, and *The Road to Damascus* with ArtSpot Productions.

Nicole Bittner, soprano, is a junior Vocal Performance major from Haubstadt, IN, in the studio of Dr. Tyler Smith. Nicole placed first in the National Association of Teachers of Singing (N.A.T.S.)

Competitions at the Southern Region level in 2022 and at the State level in both 2022 and 2023. Her roles with Loyola Opera Theatre include Nella in *Gianni Schicchi* (2022) and Papagena in *The Magic Flute* (2023). This past summer Nicole studied with the esteemed faculty of Chicago Summer Opera and performed the role of Miss Jessel in *The Turn of the Screw*. She has performed as a supernumerary in New Orleans Opera productions of *The Barber of Seville* and *Madame Butterfly*. Nicole looks forward to future opportunities as she continues her vocal development at Loyola.

Layah Brown-Givens, soprano, is a sophomore Vocal Performance major from Houston, TX, under the guidance of Dr. Tyler Smith. Her achievements include: competing and performing in the TMEA All-State Mixed Choir in 2022; being selected as a Choral Scholar for the program at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Houston; receiving 1st place in the Bay Area Chorus Scholarship Competition; receiving 1st place in the Fall 2022 N.A.T.S. Southern Region Competition; and receiving 2nd place in the Spring 2023 Louisiana State N.A.T.S. Competition. Layah is a member of Loyola's University Chorale and Chamber Singers. She also sings in the choir at Trinity Episcopal Church. She is very excited to see where the journey of singing opera takes her!

Georgia Conrad, soprano, is a sophomore Theatre Arts major, with a minor in Classical Voice, from Jackson, MS. She is in the studio of Claire Shackleton. No stranger to the theatre, she has performed in close to 50 different productions; most notably as Lina Lamont in *Singin' in the Rain*, and Marcy Park in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. She is very excited to make her operatic debut this year in *L'enfant et les sortilèges*! She extends deepest thanks to her family and her professors, and she looks forward to continuing her theatrical and operatic studies at Loyola!

Eva Daltoso, mezzo-soprano, is a freshman Vocal Performance major from Vancouver, WA. She is a voice student of Irini Kyriakidou-Hymel. Eva is thrilled to make her operatic debut in the title role of Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges*. While she is new to opera, she was active in local and school musical theater and choral productions throughout her high school years. Eva was heard in scenes from Rossini's *La Cenerentola* and Bock and Harnick's *Fiddler on the Roof* in the Opera Workshop scenes program "A Family Affair" this past October. She was also in the chorus of Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors* with December performances in Holy Name of Jesus Church. Eva is honored to be a part of this program and is so excited for this weekend's performances!

Mia DiGiovanni, mezzo-soprano, is a sophomore pursuing a Vocal Performance degree in the studio of Irini Kyriakidou-Hymel. Born and raised in Metairie, LA, Mia studied music through high school with her teacher Megan Dearie, and she found success competing at the local, regional, and national levels. She has performed with the Frazier Singers and the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO) and even had the opportunity in 2023 to back acclaimed tenor Andrea Bocelli. She frequently cantors at St. Ann Church and National Shrine. Mia is excited to be making her operatic debut singing the title role in Ravel's wonderful opera.

Justin Eifert, tenor, is a junior Vocal Performance major from Houston, TX, in the studio of Dr. Tyler Smith. Justin has been an avid performer and singer since high school and has participated in a wide variety of choral and theatrical events. In previous Loyola Opera Theatre productions, he has sung the roles of Tamino in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* (2023) and Gherardo in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* (2022). He has also been hired for a variety of choral performances in the New Orleans area, appearing in choruses with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO) and participating in groups such as Krewe de Voix and the Sacred Nine Project. In March 2024 he will join the New Orleans Opera Chorus in the company's production of Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Justin is excited to share the stories brought to life by Debussy and Ravel and cannot wait for what the future holds!

Julia Ernst, soprano, is a senior majoring in Vocal Performance in the studio of internationally renowned soprano Irini Kyriakidou-Hymel. Julia is thrilled to be singing the roles of Lia in Debussy's *L'enfant prodigue* and La bergère in Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges*. Last year she sang the role of Pamina in Loyola Opera Theatre's production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. She also won first place in Loyola's Concerto Competition as well as other national and international competitions. In March 2023 Julia made her professional debut with the New Orleans Opera, singing the role of Kate Pinkerton

in *Madame Butterfly*, and in the summer of 2023, she portrayed the Countess Almaviva in *Le nozze di Figaro* with Saluzzo Opera Academy in Italy. She was thrilled to compete in the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition earlier this month and is also auditioning for her post-graduate studies. In March of 2024, Julia will be the featured soprano soloist in the Brahms *Requiem* with the Loyola and NOVA Chorales under the direction of Dr. Meg Frazier, joined by a full orchestra, including members of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO). Julia will spend her summer covering the role of Micäela in a fully staged production of Bizet's *Carmen* in beautiful Santa Barbara, CA, as a Lehrer Vocal Fellow at the prestigious Music Academy of the West. Julia extends her deepest thanks to Carol Rausch and Irini Kyriakidou-Hymel for always serving as guiding mentors in her time at Loyola, and for awarding her with this amazing opportunity.

Teresa Fasone, soprano, is a first-year Bachelor of Music Elective Studies major at Loyola, with a concentration in Classical Voice, in the studio of Dreux Montegut. Thrilled to be working alongside such talented artists, Teresa is making her operatic debut in Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges* as Un pâtre. In October Teresa performed in Loyola's Opera Workshop fall scenes program, "A Family Affair," as Tisbe in Rossini's *La Cenerentola*. Additionally, Teresa placed third in High School Treble Voice at her first N.A.T.S. Southern Region competition last spring. She has previously performed in numerous theatrical productions, including The Willow School's *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, as Rona Lisa Peretti, and Slidell Little Theatre's *Matilda the Musical*, as Matilda Wormwood. Teresa is beyond thankful for this opportunity to participate in such an astounding program and looks forward to continuing to pursue her passion for performing!

Connor Galle, tenor, is a freshman Vocal Performance major in the studio of Irini Kyriakidou-Hymel. Connor was born and raised on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, where he studied classical voice for four years under JT Anglin. He was the first two-time winner of the Glenn Draper Youth Classical Voice Award from the Mississippi Gulf Coast Messiah Chorus. Connor is excited to perform as the Teapot in *L'enfant et les sortilèges*. Connor looks forward to future opportunities that await him as he continues to study at Loyola.

Jacob Huffty, baritone, is a Baton Rouge native and a third-year student of Dr. Tyler Smith. He is an active singer in the New Orleans area, performing in a variety of genres, including choral music, concert works, musical theater, and opera. In October 2023 he made his professional debut at Mobile Opera as Antonio in *Le nozze di Figaro*. Last spring, he appeared with Loyola Opera Theatre as the Speaker in *The Magic Flute*, and with Loyola's musical theater department as Mr. Cladwell in their production of *Urinetown*. In December 2023 Jacob performed Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* with the Symphony Of New Orleans (SONO), and as the winner of Loyola's Aria/Concerto competition will sing Ravel's cycle *Don Quichotte à Dulcinée* with the Loyola Symphony Orchestra this spring. Jacob will also be a soloist in Loyola's March 2024 performance of Brahms' *Ein deutsches Requiem*, under the direction of Dr. Meg Frazier.

Sophia Lucurto, soprano, is a second-year Music with Electives major, with a minor in Biology, at Loyola. She is currently studying under Irini Kyriakidou-Hymel. She was the 1st place winner of the Donald W. Wood, Sr. Vocal Competition and has participated in the National Association of Teachers of Singing (N.A.T.S.) statewide and tri-state competitions, finishing 1st and 2nd in her categories. She has sung in ensembles with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO), Loyola's University Chorale and New Orleans Symphony Chorus, while also singing under Dr. Meg Frazier in various choirs. In January 2023 as a freshman Sophia sang the role of First Spirit in *The Magic Flute* and she has also appeared in several Opera Workshop scenes programs. In addition, she has been featured in many lead and ensemble roles in musical theater productions by the Jefferson Performing Arts Society (JPAS) and the Performing Arts Academy, led by Arianna Cassar-Cruice and Annelise Cassar-Tedesco. Notably with the Performing Arts Academy, she played Mother Abbess in *The Sound of Music* and Princess Winnifred in *Once Upon a Mattress*.

Irini Kyriakidou-Hymel continues to showcase her "sweet and virtuosic vocal talents" (*The Observer*) with opera companies and symphony orchestras throughout the United States and Europe. A native of Athens, Greece, Ms. Kyriakidou studied at the Maria Callas Conservatory of Athens under Marina Krilovici and is the winner of the second prize in the "Maria Callas Grand Prix", in Athens, first prize in

the European Competition “Debut 2004” and the “Pro Europa” prize of the European Culture Foundation. Her musical studies include degrees in Harmony, Counterpoint and Fugue from the National Conservatory of Greece. Ms. Kyriakidou was seen as Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi*, Musetta in *La bohème* and Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* with the Greek National Opera. She went on to reprise the role of Zerlina in her debut at Venice's Teatro La Fenice in 2010, and returned there for additional performances in the 2011/12 season. The role of Zerlina also brought her debut at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in 2012. Under the baton of Riccardo Muti, she performed as Cherinto in *Demfoonte* in her debuts with the Opéra national de Paris and the Ravenna Festival. A graduate of the International Opera Studio at Opernhaus Zürich, she performed Pamina for the IOS production of *Die Zauberflöte*. Other roles include Sophie in *Der Rosenkavalier* with the Tel Aviv Opera, Xenia in *Boris Godunov* with Théâtre du Capitole in Toulouse, and Micaela in *Carmen* with New Orleans Opera and Opera Las Palmas. She has also sung at the Royal Opera House Muscat in Oman, Smetana Hall in Prague and at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris. Since 2017, she has been the Artistic Director of Opus Opera (www.opusopera.org) a nonprofit organization she founded with her husband, Bryan Hymel. She programs and performs in their various concerts throughout the season. Since January 2019 she has been teaching voice at Loyola and serves as a stage director for the Opera department.

David Michel, tenor, is a sophomore Music Therapy major from Lansdale, PA, in the studio of Dreux Montegut. Last May he received the award for Outstanding Freshman, Music Therapy. David was involved in many choral and theatrical events during high school and made his collegiate debut in January 2023 as The First Armored Man in Loyola's production of *The Magic Flute*. David has been involved in a number of choral collaborations with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO), as well as other choral performances with Loyola ensembles under the direction of Dr. Meg Frazier. David has also participated in two National Association of Teachers of Singing (N.A.T.S.) competitions during his time at Loyola, placing 3rd in his first competition and 2nd in his second. He also sings in the choir at Trinity Episcopal Church under the direction of Dr. Paul Weber. David is excited to perform the roles of The Teapot and The Frog in *L'enfant et les sortilèges*.

Dreux Montegut has been on the voice faculty of Loyola University since 1994. At Loyola Mr. Montegut teaches private voice lessons, Topics in Solo Vocal Literature and Graduate Vocal Coaching. He also maintains an active private voice studio and has previously served on the faculties of Tulane University and Notre Dame Graduate School of Theology. Mr. Montegut is a graduate of the Loyola College of Music and the Eastman School of Music. Mr. Montegut's students have been frequent winners in the National Association of Teachers of Singing Southern Region student auditions, and have gone on to several prestigious graduate programs, including the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University, Indiana University, Manhattan School of Music, Northwestern University, Cincinnati Conservatory and Florida State University. Many have won or placed highly in music competitions, both regionally and nationally, including the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions and the Orpheus National Vocal Competition, and have apprenticed with the Ryan Opera Center, Merola Opera Program, Santa Fe Opera, Central City Opera, and Chautauqua Opera. Mr. Montegut was Director of Music at St. Louis Cathedral for 25 years. During his tenure he regularly conducted oratorio performances with professional orchestra, choir and guest soloists as part of the Cathedral Concert Series. Mr. Montegut also spent many years working with young singers in the St. Louis Cathedral Boychoir and the New Orleans Children's Chorus. In the past year Mr. Montegut has conducted Loyola's productions of Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and Mozart's *The Magic Flute*.

Cami Moses, soprano, is from Houston, TX, and is a senior in the studio of Dr. Tyler Smith. In the summer of 2023, she had the opportunity to spend an entire month in Kiefersfelden, Germany, as a young artist at the International Performing Arts Institute (IPAI), performing in several selections from operettas and musical theater. While in Germany, she placed in the Aria Competition held in Kiefersfelden. Cami sang the role of a Priestess in last year's Loyola Opera Theatre production of *The Magic Flute*. In March she will get the opportunity to record “Ihr habt nun Traurigkeit,” the soprano solo from the Brahms *Requiem*, with members of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO). Cami plans to further her musical education through graduate studies starting in fall 2024.

Elizabeth Peters, soprano, is from Metairie, LA. She just received her bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance in December 2023 under the guidance of Dreux Montegut. This weekend's performances mark her fourth full production with Loyola Opera Theatre. Elizabeth was featured as Miss Silverpeal in the Dixon Court performance of Mozart's *The Impresario*, as a Lay Sister in Puccini's *Suor Angelica*, and as the First Spirit in *The Magic Flute* (she also covered the role of Queen of the Night). Elizabeth was seen in the November 2023 scenes program in excerpts from *La Cenerentola* and *Street Scene*. She is currently a soprano section leader at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Kenner, LA, and is auditioning for graduate schools, with the intent of earning a Masters of Music degree. This summer she will also attend the International Performing Arts Institute (IPAI) program in Germany. She is very grateful for the opportunity to sing Le rossignol in her final Loyola production, and is extremely excited for what is to come in the future.

Kolbe Peters, bass, is a freshman Vocal Performance major in the studio of Dreux Montegut. This will be his first full production with Loyola Opera Theatre. This past October he was Fred in "Wunderbar" by Cole Porter and Mr. Gobineau in a scene from *The Medium* on Opera Workshop's scenes program.

Tamia Dayanari Poret, soprano, is on a mission to champion the music of her Black and Latinx heritages through vocal performance, outreach, and mentorship. Tamia graduated from Dr. Phillips High School Magnet Program for Visual and Performing Arts in Orlando, FL, in 2019. Her high school years included vocal study with Karen Evans and Kenneithia M. Mitchell. She earned her Bachelor of Music degree from Xavier University of Louisiana in the studio of Dr. Sakinah Davis, and received the Sister Elise Sisson Award for the highest standard of excellence in music performance. She is currently pursuing her Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance at Loyola under the guidance of Irini Kyriakidou-Hymel. Tamia appeared in Loyola's Fall 2023 opera scenes program in duets from Jules Massenet's *Manon* and Ned Rorem's *Our Town*. She also gives private voice and piano lessons with Beyond the Studio LLC. Tamia is grateful and honored to be a part of Loyola's wonderful music program.

Carol Rausch is the Chorus Master/Music Administrator for the New Orleans Opera Association. She also serves as Chorus Master/Music Administrator for Chautauqua Opera's summer festival season, where she heads the music staff and oversees the nationally recognized young artist program. Ms. Rausch has previously worked for Greater Miami Opera (now Florida Grand Opera), Virginia Opera, Ohio Light Opera and Opera Columbus. Her educational background includes degrees from Indiana University and The Ohio State University, plus a year of study at the Conservatoire Royal de Musique in Brussels, Belgium, as a Rotary Foundation Graduate Fellow. She has studied with pianists Jorge Bolet, Earl Wild, Richard Tetley-Kardos and Sonja Anschütz. Ms. Rausch has worked at Ohio State, Kenyon College (Ohio) and the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University (Houston). In the fall of 2002, she joined the faculty of Loyola University New Orleans, and in 2010 she became Director of Loyola Opera Theatre after the retirement of David Morelock. Several main stage University productions, as well as scenes programs, have won *Gambit* magazine's "Tribute to the Classical Arts" awards. In March 2018 Ms. Rausch received the *Gambit* Lifetime Achievement Award. She has remained active as a freelance vocal coach and recital accompanist, and has been a frequent judge for the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions throughout the country.

Nathaniel Richard, baritone, from Napoleonville, LA, is a singer and actor working in the New Orleans area. This past fall he appeared as John Hinckley Jr. in Rivertown Theater's production of Sondheim's *Assassins*. He is currently studying opera and musical theater at Loyola, where he performed the roles of the Speaker in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* and Bobby Strong in *Urinetown*, both in 2023. He also spends much of his time performing with area ensembles, such as Loyola's Chamber Singers, directed by Dr. Meg Frazier, and the Krewe de Voix, created by Dr. Paul Weber. In February 2023 he sang in the chorus for Andrea Bocelli's concert at the Smoothie King Center during his North American tour and has sung for other concerts with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra. Nathaniel has also been a member of the New Orleans Opera Chorus for two years and has performed in the February 2022 gala concert and the October 2022 staged production of *Il barbiere di Siviglia*. He will be joining them once again for their March 2024 performances of Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Nathaniel recently

accepted a contract from the Ohio Light Opera, where he will be performing this summer as part of their 2024 festival season.

Emma St. Cyr, soprano, is a Music Therapy major in the studio of Dreux Montegut. She was born and raised in Slidell, LA. Recently she performed in Cincinnati, OH, in the 2023 ACDA National High School SSAA Honor Choir under the direction of Pearl Shangkuan. Last month she was a chorister and featured dancer in the performances of Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors* at Holy Name of Jesus Church. This spring she will be performing in *The Prom* at Rivertown Theaters. Emma would like to thank Carol, Irini, B, and the entire creative team for a lovely experience.

B Schaubhut, baritone, is from New Orleans, and is a senior Vocal Performance major in the studio of the extraordinary Dreux Montegut. Mentored by Irini Kyriakidou-Hymel and Carol Rausch, B co-directed and choreographed the 2022 and 2023 Opera Workshop scenes programs, in addition to singing repertoire from *The Gondoliers*, *Fidelio*, *Un ballo in maschera*, *Doctor Atomic*, and *Hamlet*. Last January he sang the role of Sarastro in Loyola Opera Theatre's production of *The Magic Flute*, and choreographed the dance segment for the capture of Pamina. He is incredibly honored to sing the roles of Siméon in *L'enfant prodigue* and Le fauteuil in *L'enfant et les sortilèges*, while once again creating and teaching all of the dances for the French double bill. In fall 2023 B performed on New Orleans Opera's popular free concert series "Opera on Tap." He is also an avid harpist, studying at Loyola under Cathy Anderson.

Brennan Shelby, baritone, is a Vocal Performance major in the studio of Dr. Tyler Smith. He was born and raised in Houston, TX, and since high school has performed in a wide variety of choral events. This will be his operatic debut, playing the role of The Tree. He currently sings in the choir at Trinity Episcopal Church. Brennan is looking forward to participating in many more of Loyola's fantastic programs!

Grayson Stephens is a tenor in the studio of Dreux Montegut. Grayson has always loved the stage, and he is so excited to round out his senior year in Loyola's production of *L'enfant et les sortilèges*! His previous roles for Loyola Opera Theatre include Monostatos in *The Magic Flute*, and Gherardo in *Gianni Schicchi*, and he has also sung annually for Opera Workshop scenes programs. Grayson joined the New Orleans Opera Chorus for productions of *The Barber of Seville* (2022) and *The Marriage of Figaro* (2023), and will be with the ensemble in March for *Lucia di Lammermoor*. He would like to thank Carol and Irini for all of their support and belief in him, not only for this production, but for all his time at Loyola!

Taylor Tumulty, soprano, is a junior Vocal Performance major from Ponchatoula, LA, in the studio of Dreux Montegut. Taylor has previously been seen in Loyola Opera Theatre productions of Puccini's *Suor Angelica*, as Suor Dolcina, and Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, as the Second Lady. She has also been featured annually in Opera Workshop scenes programs. In addition, she has had many opportunities with the Loyola Chorale and has performed multiple works singing in choirs for concerts with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO). In the summers Taylor returns to her hometown, working with the incredible members of Swampflight Theatre. There she is able to create, direct, choreograph, and teach a musical theater summer camp - it's her favorite part of the year! Taylor would like to thank her family and friends for their everlasting support, and all of her teachers who have helped her become who she is today. She is honored and excited to be a part of this production and grateful for all of the opportunities Loyola has given her. She hopes you enjoy the performances!

Julia Tuneberg, soprano, is a current Master of Music in Vocal Performance candidate, studying under Dr. Tyler Smith. She earned her Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance degree from Loyola as well, during which time she studied under Ellen Frohnmayer. Throughout her years of study at Loyola, she has had the joy of singing the complete roles of Dido in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, Madame Lidoine in Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, the title role in Puccini's *Suor Angelica*, Mrs. Hildebrand in Weill's *Street Scene*, and now Lia in Debussy's *L'enfant prodigue*. Julia has also performed in many opera scenes programs, singing excerpts from roles such as Minnie in Puccini's *La fanciulla del West*, Fiordiligi in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Leonore in Beethoven's *Fidelio*, and most recently Amelia in Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera*. Outside of her studies, Julia has been performing professionally as a member of the New Orleans Opera Chorus since 2016. She made her solo debut with New Orleans Opera in 2018 as The Angel

in Tchaikovsky's *Joan of Arc*. She has a love for musical theater, with performance experience spanning over 15 years, some of her favorite roles being Fruma-Sarah in Bock and Harnick's *Fiddler on the Roof* and Reuben's Wife in Rice and Webber's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. During her studies at Loyola, she has had the privilege of singing in master classes for professionals such as Jane Eaglen, Greer Grimsley, Luretta Bybee, Alfred Walker, Jay Hunter Morris, Amy Johnson, and Burak Bilgili. In addition to completing her studies, Julia is also a private voice teacher and is currently teaching lessons at Holy Name of Jesus School.

Veronica Weisensee, mezzo-soprano, is a junior Vocal Performance major from Oregon. She participated in Oregon's SATB All State Choir and The Oregon Ambassadors of Music European tour. She has also competed and placed in several vocal competitions. Having initially been accepted into Loyola's Music Industry program in pursuit of a BS degree, Veronica transferred to Vocal Performance in the studio of Dr. Marcus St. Julien near the end of her freshman year. As a sophomore, Veronica made her opera debut performing the Third Spirit in Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, which will be followed by her roles as a Shepherd and the Owl in this year's production of Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges*.

Anna Kate Yeager, mezzo-soprano, is a junior Vocal Performance major from Birmingham, AL, in the studio of Claire Shackleton. Anna Kate serves as section leader and soprano soloist for the choir at St. Anna's Episcopal Church. She placed third in the Musical Theater for Lower College Musical Theater Treble in March 2022 at the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (N.A.T.S.) competition. This will be Anna Kate's second full opera with Loyola, having previously sung the Third Lady in last year's production of *The Magic Flute*. This past summer, she studied at the Opera Lucca program, where she sang in their scenes concert. She has also participated in Loyola Opera Workshop scenes programs, performances with the University's choral department, and the "Classical Christmas" concert with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO). She is so excited to perform the role of Maman and has loved the opportunity to make music in a group once again. She hopes you enjoy the production just as much as she has enjoyed learning and working with its cast and crew!

Production Team

Carol Rausch – Head of Loyola Opera Theatre, Musical Preparation, Orchestra Contractor

Irini Kyriakidou-Hymel – Stage Director, Projections Designer, Costume Coordinator

Dreux Montegut – Conductor

B Schaubhut – Choreographer

Diane K. Baas – Lighting Designer/Lighting Board Operator

Emily Jones – Stage Manager

Emma Kay Staunton – Assistant Stage Manager

Brianna C. Harris – Lead Facilities Technician

Diego North-Rios, Riley Jennings, Dannni Caminita – Roussel Hall crew

Priscilla Dardar – Facilities and Contracts Coordinator

J. Calloway Cieslak – Events Coordinator

Martha Alguera – Communications Coordinator

Christine Harvey - Media and Public Relations Manager, College of Music and Media

Kyle Encar and Katherine Hewlett – Photography

George Morton/Steel City Music Publishing – Reduction/Orchestral Materials – Debussy

Lee Reynolds – Reduction/Orchestral Materials – Ravel

Chadwick Creative Arts, LLC - Supertitles

Meg Frazier – Supertitles Operator

Albert Dupont – Recording Engineer

Eva and Anna Hymel – Books and Toys Contribution

Nathan Arthur, Alyx Jeffries, and McKensie McNeely – Sets, Costumes, and Props from the New Orleans Opera Scenic Studio

Orchestra

Violin I

Amy Thiaville, concertmaster - F

Rachel Jordan - G

Yaroslav Rudnytsky – G/LPO

Brian White - G

Violin II

Elizabeth Overweg – G/LPO

Judith Armistead Fitzpatrick – G/LPO

Hayoung Cho – G/LPO

Viola

Bruce Owen – F/LPO

Sixto Franco – G/LPO

Cello

David Rosen – G/LPO

Kyle Anderson – G/LPO

Bass

Paul Macres – F/LPO

Flute/Piccolo

Patti Adams – F/LPO

Oboe/English Horn

Jane Gabka – F/LPO

Clarinet/Bass Clarinet

John Reeks – F/LPO

Taylor Mennenga – S

Bassoon/Contrabassoon

Bryan Ingrassia – S

Horn

Arisia Gilmore – G

Trumpet

Alex Mayon – G/LPO

Trombone

Matthew Wright – F/LPO

Timpani

James Atwood – F/LPO

Percussion

Demetrio “Dane” Castillo – S

Harp

Cathy Anderson – G

Keyboard

Yui Asano

F = Faculty

S = Student

LPO = Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra

G = Guest

Frohnmayer Legacy Fund

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This endowment honors the career of Dreux Montegut (Extraordinary Professor of Voice) and enhances the annual Loyola Opera production. Potential donors interested in contributing to the Dreux Montegut Endowment for Opera Performance should please contact Michael Battistone, Development Officer for the College of Music and Media at mjbattis@loyno.edu or 504-314-6311.

Special Thanks

This production would like to thank to everyone who made this performance possible: Dr. Sheryl Kennedy Haydel, Dean of the College of Music and Media; Kate Duncan, Director of the School of Music and Theatre Professions; J. Calloway Cieslak and Lori Atkinson in the Office of the School of Music and Theatre Professions; Christine Harvey for assistance with publicity; Jack Clark and Clinton Keene on the LPO staff; Dr. Tyler Smith; Ellen Frohnmayer; Colleen Maher Bond; and Dreux Montegut.