

CHRISTOPHER WEISS

JOHN DE LOS SANTOS

SERVICE
PROVIDER

HELIOS OPERA MOP 2021

MODULAR OPERA PROJECT 2021

HELIOS OPERA

presents

Service Provider

Music by
Christopher Weiss

Libretto by
John de los Santos

Adrienne Boris, Director
Patricia Au, Music Director, Piano

Friday, November 5, 2021 7:00 EST
& Sunday, November 7, 2021 2:00 EST



CAST

Autumn
Beau
Dallas
Charlene

Christina Pecce
Scott Ballantine
David Rivera Bozón
Carina DiGianfilippo

Actors

Josh Caven
Jenifer Drew
Ary Galstian
Alissa Haddaji

Nina Ijomanta
Oriana Inferrera
Abraham Joyner-Meyers
Craig Juricka

Abigail Kramer
Kristin Lawler
Toni Scibelli
Leonora Shatkin

Patricia Au, Piano
Christopher Lockman, Second piano



CHRISTOPHER WEISS | COMPOSER

Christopher Weiss' music has been praised as "wonderfully fluid [with a] cinematic grasp of mood and lighting" (New York Times) and for having "released a flood of profound emotions" (Huntsville Times). His opera *Service Provider*, written with librettist John de los Santos, was commissioned by Washington National Opera and hailed as a "crowd pleaser" (Washington Post) following its Kennedy Center premiere. It has had subsequent performances by Arizona State University, Fort Worth Opera, Hawaii Opera Theatre, Helios Opera, The Modern Opera Company, Opera Idaho, Opera Memphis, Painted Sky Opera, Seagle Music Colony at the Lake George Music Festival, Small Opera at TEDxCharleston, Texas Christian University, Towson University, UrbanArias, Virginia Opera, and Westminster Opera Theatre.

Christopher's opera *In a Mirror, Darkly*, written with librettist S. O'Duinn Magee, was awarded a Domenic J. Pellicciotti Prize by SUNY Potsdam. Excerpts have been performed by Crane Opera Ensemble and Orchestra, Fort Worth Opera, New York City Opera, University of North Carolina Greensboro at the National Opera Association, and the Virginia Arts Festival.

Christopher's orchestra and chamber music has been commissioned and performed by Alarm Will Sound, Boston Chamber Orchestra, Columbia Orchestra, Curtis Symphony Orchestra, Gainesville Symphony, Huntsville Symphony, Jacksonville Symphony, Lancaster Symphony, Nu Deco Ensemble, and Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic. He has been composer-in-residence at Twickenham Fest, young composer-in residence at Music from Angel Fire, and a resident composer at the Mizzou International Composers Festival.

Christopher has been in residence at the Brush Creek Foundation for the Arts, Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts, and Yaddo. He was a recipient of a Theodore Presser Foundation Career Grant, and in 2006 was the youngest competitor ever to win the Jacksonville Symphony's "Fresh Ink" competition. He holds degrees from the Curtis Institute of Music, Rollins College, and the University of Michigan.



JOHN DE LOS SANTOS | LIBRETTIST

John's first libretto with composer Clint Borzoni, *When Adonis Calls*, was selected for inclusion in Fort Worth Opera's 2015 Frontiers showcase and Opera America's 2017 New Works Forum. It had its world premiere at Asheville Lyric Opera in 2018, in a production directed and choreographed by him. John's second collaboration with Borzoni, *The Copper Queen*, won the top prize Arizona Opera's commission program, Arizona SPARK. *The Copper Queen* is being adapted for a film with a planned release in the late 2021. John and Clint are currently in development with The American Opera Project on a new holiday opera, *The Christmas Spider*. John was commissioned by Washington National Opera's American Opera Initiative to create an original work with composer Christopher Weiss. The resulting piece, *Service Provider*, premiered at The Kennedy Center in 2015, and has since been performed by Urban Arias, Opera Memphis, Hawaii Opera Theater, Virginia

Opera, Opera Idaho, Westminster Opera Theatre, and was selected as the first opera performed by the Lake George Music Festival. In 2020, he wrote and directed *The Roost* for UrbanArias in collaboration with Decameron Opera Coalition. John serves as librettist-in-residence for Opera Lab at The Juilliard School.



ADRIENNE BORIS | DIRECTOR

Adrienne Boris is a NYC-based director with special interest in new work, stories about women, and opera in non-traditional spaces. She is the Chief Strategy Officer at Helios Opera where she directed the Modular Opera Project pilot project, Francis Poulenc's *La voix humaine*. She is also the Executive Producer and Stage Director at Lowell House Opera at Harvard University where she is currently working with composer Benjamin Perry Wenzelberg to develop his debut opera *NIGHTTOWN: An Operatic Reimagining of James Joyce's Ulysses*. She is also an accomplished audition, performance, and presentation coach for singers. Adrienne received her MFA in Directing from Boston University and will receive her Professional Graduate Certificate in Strategic Management from Harvard University (DCE) this

August. www.adrienneboris.com



PATRICIA AU | MUSIC DIRECTOR & PIANO

Known for her vivacious energy, Dr Patricia Au works versatily as a collaborative pianist, music director, vocal coach, and teaching artist. She has held positions at Boston Conservatory at Berklee, New England Conservatory, and Boston University Tanglewood Institute, as well as conducted masterclasses at Bucknell University and New World School of the Arts. As music director, she has led productions at Boston Conservatory at Berklee, OperaHub, and Boston Opera Collaborative. A frequent interpreter of contemporary music, she has workshoped with living composers, including Sofia Gubaidulina and John Harbison. Dr. Au currently serves as Resident Teaching Artist and Education Pianist with The Boston Lyric Opera where she has a passion introducing young people to opera as a storytelling art. She received her DMA in Collaborative Piano from New England Conservatory of

Music in 2017 and her dissertation, "A New Edition of the Piano-Vocal Score of Jake Heggie's *To Hell and Back*" is available through Bent Pen Music, Inc. For more information: www.patriciaau.com/@au_patricia



KRISTIN LAWLER | ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

With an eclectic range of experience Kristin finds herself hired for a variety of engagements throughout the year. As a singer, her talents and training varies from classical styles such as opera, oratorio, and art song, to more contemporary genres such as musical theater, pop, and jazz. Kristin completed her M.M. degree in Voice Performance in May 2020 through the Longy School of Music of Bard College. Since moving to Boston for her degree she's had the opportunity to work with several professional companies such as Emmanuel Music, Opera del West, and Boston Opera Collaborative. She is thrilled that Helios Opera has given her the chance to expand her skills into assistant directing and has found a true love for being both behind and in front of the camera.

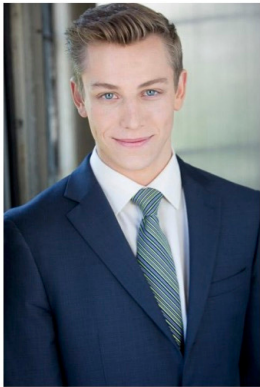


CAST



CHRISTINA PECCE | MEZZO-SOPRANO

Praised for her “astounding vocal expressivity”, Christina Pecce is a singing-actress who crosses over the genres of opera, musical theatre, jazz, and performance art. Her cabaret series *Witches, Bitches, and Divas!* has been featured across the country, most notably at 54 Below, The Green Room 42, and A.R.T.’s OBERON. Additionally, she has performed with Lyric Opera of Chicago (*Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Earth to Kenzie*), Timber Lake Playhouse (*Man Of La Mancha*), Chicago Opera Theater (*L’autre moi*), Chicago Fringe Opera (*The Great God Pan*, Tom Waits’ *Woyzeck*), Out Of The Box Opera (*Diva Cage Match*), Fort Worth Opera (*Carmen*, *Voir Dire*), and Boston Opera Collaborative (*To Hell And Back*, *Rinaldo*) among others. In 2015, she took part in the U.S. premiere of Lee Mingwei’s *Sonic Blossom*, a performance art piece featured at the MFA.



SCOTT BALLANTINE | BARITONE

Baritone, Scott Ballantine, has maintained a busy performing schedule in New England and across the United States. A recent young artist with St. Petersburg Opera Company, Ballantine performed the role of Marullo in Verdi’s *Rigoletto* and performed in various outreach capacities. Equally at home in musical theatre, Ballantine was a festival artist with Utah Festival Opera, singing Oliver Hix in *The Music Man* and covering Captain Phoebus in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Additionally, he has worked with companies such as Dayton Opera, Natchez Festival of Music, Boston Lyric Opera, and Connecticut Lyric Opera. Ballantine has an affinity for contemporary opera - some of his favorite roles performed include Hannah Before in *As One*, Father in *Scarlet Ibis* and the title role in *Fantastic Mr. Fox*. A native of Colorado, he left the mountain west in pursuit of his M.M. at The Boston Conservatory. For more credits, visit

www.scottballantine.com.



DAVID RIVERA BOZÓN | TENOR

David Rivera Bozón is a Colombian tenor based in Boston. The core of his career has been to share with love the joy of singing; whether in big theaters or in flash mobs in bakeries and shopping malls. Some operatic roles include B.F. Pinkerton (*Madama Butterfly*), Rinuccio (*Gianni Schicchi*), Tamino (*Die Zauberflöte*) and Le Marie in Poulenc’s *Les Mamelles de Tiresias*. On the concert platform, he has sung tenor solos in Beethoven’s 9th Symphony, Stravinsky’s *Les Noces* and Einhorn’s *Voices of Light*, and many others. He has a special interest in repertoire in Spanish and has performed chamber works such as Ramirez’ *La Misa Criolla*, Falla’s *Siete Canciones Populares Españolas*, Ginastera’s *Cantos del Tucumán* and *Cinco Canciones Populares Argentinas*. M.M. New England Conservatory.



CARINA DIGIANFILIPPO | SOPRANO

Soprano Carina DiGianfilippo, praised by The Boston Globe for her “winsome” voice and hailed a “vision” by the Theatre Times, received her M.M. from Manhattan School of Music and her B.M. from Syracuse University. Ms. DiGianfilippo recently placed First in the Concorso Internazionale Rolando Nicolosi Competition in Italy. She was a young artist with the iSING! International Young Artists Festival, and has since returned to China twice, once as a guest artist with the Xi’an Symphony Orchestra, and the other to perform for the Committee of 100 Gala in Shanghai. Ms. DiGianfilippo’s Boston credits include Musetta in Puccini’s *La Boheme* and Susanna in Mozart’s *Le Nozze di Figaro* with Boston Opera Collaborative, Zerlina in Mozart’s *Don Giovanni* with Nempac, and Adele in Strauss’ *Die Fledermaus* with MassOpera. She will

perform with MassOpera again this fall as Violetta in Verdi’s *La Traviata*. For more credits, see www.carinadigianfilippo.com.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Adrienne Boris Co-Producer
Theodora Cottarel Co-Producer
Julien Rohel Co-Producer

Theodora Cottarel Co-director of Production
Julien Rohel Co-director of Production

Kristin Lawler Assistant Director
Jessica Scout Malone Fight Director
Lauren A. Cook Intimacy Director & Fight Captain

Ken Silber, Silken Audio Sound Engineer
Julien Rohel Lead Editor

Adrienne Boris Chief Strategic Officer
Theodora Cottarel Chief Creative Officer
Rebecca Miller-Kratzer Chief Engagement Officer
Julien Rohel Chief Innovation Officer

Oriana Inferrera Audience Engagement
Amelia Johnson Jones Social Media & Marketing
Mollie Lawler Audience Development

Mollie Lawler Program

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