

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

in the

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
AND COMMUNICATION

presents

TX STATE OPERA THEATRE

Directed by
DR. SAMUEL MUNGO



OCTOBER 22-25, 2015
THU, FRI & SAT AT 7:30 P.M.
SUN AT 2:00 P.M.

PATTI STRICKEL HARRISON THEATRE
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

HMS Pinafore

William Schwenck Gilbert, Librettist
Sir Arthur Sullivan, Composer
Steven Dziekonski, Orchestrator

Cast

The Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph Porter, KCB, *First Lord of the Admiralty*..... Conner Scallan
Captain Corcoran, *Commander of HMS Pinafore*.....Micah Parker
Ralph Rackstraw, *Able Seaman*.....Marvin Henderson†, Bailey Turner‡
Dick Deadeye, *Able Seaman*.....Jordan Van de Vere
Bill Bobstay, *Boatswain's Mate*.....Sean Francovich
Bob Becket, *Carpenter's Mate*..... Roger Stevens
Josephine, *The Captain's Daughter*.....Jennifer Dryer†, Christina Ortiz‡
Cousin Hebe, *Sir Joseph's First Cousin*.....Haley Steinberger
Little Buttercup, *A Portsmouth Bumboat Woman*.... Cambrey Willhelm†, Abigail Diltz‡

Ensemble: Mackenzie Bitz, Ashley Carrington, Mallorie Gabbert, Jay Gonzalez, Kaitlin Heeren, Sarah Jacob, De'Evin J Johnson, Veronica Kokas, Karen Lara, Andrew McNair, Mackenzie Miller, Francis Nieves, Paul Nix, Bridget Perez, Josh Pérez, Elizabeth Shultz, Shawn Wilson

†Thursday and Saturday, ‡Friday and Sunday

Production Staff

Producer and Director Dr. Samuel Mungo
Orchestra Conductor Dr. Carolyn Watson
Principal Coach and Chorusmaster Kristin Roach
Choreographer..... Andrea Heaberlin
Rehearsal Pianists..... Dr. Eric Thompson, Karen Yong Kai Yuan
Dramaturg..... Susan Anderson
Stage Manager Jenna Crowell
Production/Scenic Design Anne McMeeking
Master Carpenter.....Bryan Stinnett
Costume Design Glenn Breed
Lighting Design.....Scott Vandenberg
Lighting Programmer.....Lexy Cannon, Evelyn A Thomas

Orchestra

Violin I Ryan Coppin*, Oliver Richards
Violin IIShijun Chen, Luis Gonzales-Aponte§
Viola Xavier Garcia, Christina Tello§
Cello Belinsol Martinez Munoz, Xandria Quichocho§
Bass Corderro Salazar§
Flute..... Deanna Harrison§
Clarinet..... Courtney Biller§
Oboe..... Brian Vanderschaaf§
Bassoon.....Kathleen Beavers
Trumpet..... Shawn Lewis§
Percussion.....Daniel Senties, Jr. §

*Concertmaster §SMART Orchestra Collaborator

Program Notes

W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore* opened at the Opera Comique in London on May 25, 1878 and ran for 571 performances, which was the second-longest run of any musical theatre piece up to that time. *HMS Pinafore* was Gilbert and Sullivan's fourth collaboration, and their first international sensation.

Drawing on several of Gilbert's earlier *Bab Ballad* poems, the prototypes for several of the characters in *Pinafore* can be found in the ballads. The Bab poems established Gilbert's penchant for skewering authority (a reason often cited for why he was never knighted, while Sullivan was), and this is abundantly apparent here. Critics at the time, even the Prime Minister, identified Sir Joseph Porter with W. H. Smith, a politician who had recently been appointed First Lord of the Admiralty despite having neither military nor nautical experience. Gilbert of course denied this. According to theatre historian John Kenrick, *Pinafore* "became an international sensation, reshaping the commercial theater in both England and the United States." Historian John Bush Jones claimed "Its unprecedented ... popularity fostered an American audience for musical theatre, while the show itself became a model for form, content, and even intention of ... musicals ever since, especially socially relevant musicals."

Texas State Opera Theatre is thrilled to present this campy, well-loved classic. Today's performance continues a time-honored tradition of adding a 21th century, contemporary example of satirizing those in power. Watch for it in the first act. . .

The Story

Having arrived in port off Portsmouth, the sailors aboard HMS Pinafore begin their day preparing for the arrival of Sir Joseph Porter for inspection. Little Buttercup arrives and entices the men with her wares. One sailor, Ralph Rackstraw, has his mind on Josephine, Captain Corcoran's daughter. He is in love with her even though she is socially unattainable. Unaware of his affection for her, Josephine is in love with Ralph, but pride prevents her from revealing this because of his low station. Josephine, meanwhile, is sought in marriage by Sir Joseph Porter, whose advances she refuses to acknowledge.

Sir Joseph arrives, with his sisters, cousins, and aunts, and espouses his strong views that a British sailor is any man's equal (excepting his own), and should always be treated with politeness without recourse to bad language or abuse. This inspires Ralph to declare his love to Josephine who soon forgets her place and confesses her true feelings to him. The crew quickly makes plans to smuggle the couple ashore that night to be married. The only crewmember who is not happy at the news is Dick Deadeye. He betrays their intentions to the Captain, and they are caught before they can leave the ship. Furious at Ralph's actions, the Captain swears at him, which is unfortunately overheard by Sir Joseph. He is appalled at such an outburst and turns to Ralph for an explanation. Unfortunately, Ralph only makes matters worse by revealing that he is in love with Josephine.

The situation is saved by Buttercup who intervenes to confess how, in her youth, she had fostered two babies from opposite ends of the social ladder. In the course of caring for them she had mixed them up; the baby from the poor background was Captain Corcoran and the other was Ralph. Upon hearing this, Sir Joseph immediately loses all interest in Josephine and hands her off to Ralph, now the Captain of the Pinafore. Porter resigns himself to his cousin Hebe, Buttercup chooses Corcoran (now a common sailor), and all ends well.

Personnel



Samuel Mungo (Director and Producer) is the Director of Opera Studies at Texas State University. He has been involved in opera as a director, singer, and teacher for more than 30 years, and comes to Texas State with the dedication to foster the growth of a true Music Theatre – combining the great music of beautifully sung opera together with complete dedication to character and truthfully created relationships.

In recent years at Texas State, Dr. Mungo has directed productions of *Gianni Schicchi*, *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, *Die Fledermaus*, *The Magic Flute*, *The Turn of the Screw* and *Candide*. Professionally directing credits include *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* for Florida Grand Opera, *Pirates of Penzance* for Colorado Light Opera, *Trouble in Tahiti* for the Boulder Opera Project, and *Rigoletto* (Best of San Antonio 2010) and *Il Trovatore* for San Antonio Opera. His production of *Angelique* with TSOT won the National Opera Association Best Opera Production award for 2012.

As a singer, he has performed with opera companies and orchestras throughout North America and around the world. Recently he has sung Jesus in Bach's *St. John's Passion* with Craig Hella Johnson and the Texas State Chorale, Sam in *Trouble in Tahiti* with Opera Piccola of San Antonio, and in recital with Faith Debow in *Enoch Arden* by Richard Strauss.

He received his Doctorate in Voice and Vocal Pedagogy from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and his Masters in Vocal Performance with honors from the New England Conservatory. He also holds an Artist's Diploma from The Boston Conservatory, and a Bachelor of Science in Communication from Illinois State University. Dr. Mungo has been on the faculty at The Actor's Studio Drama School, New York University, University of Colorado at Boulder, and the New School University in New York.



An established conductor of international stature, Australian **Carolyn Watson** (Conductor) took the podium as the new Director of the Texas State Symphony Orchestra in the fall of 2015. Her career has already taken her from Sydney to Scotland, Germany, Israel, and the Czech Republic; and in the U.S. to Aspen, Interlochen, and Detroit.

In 2008 she conducted the Scottish Chamber Orchestra during the Orkney Conducting Course before returning home to conduct the World Youth Day Orchestra on the occasion of the Pope's arrival in Australia. In 2010 she successfully debuted with the North Czech Philharmonic Orchestra and was one of four conductors selected for Interaktion with musicians of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, also working with Sir Charles Mackerras on his final two productions in this year. In 2009, Watson spent a period at the Israeli National Opera, where she assisted on a production of *Carmen*. Featured in a national conductor preview with the Sydney Symphony, Watson was Assistant Conductor for the inaugural Australian World Orchestra concert season in Sydney working with Simone Young in 2011, and Associate Conductor of the Tasmania Discovery Orchestra and Assistant Chorus Master of Sydney Philharmonia Choirs.

A Fellow of the American Academy of Conducting at the Aspen Music Festival and School where she studied with David Zinman, Watson was a major prizewinner at the 2012 Emmerich Kálmán International Operetta Conducting Competition in Budapest. She was Musical Assistant at the Staatsoper Berlin for *Infektion!*, a festival of modern theatre celebrating the works of John Cage.

Following a successful tenure as the inaugural Conductor-in-Residence at Sydney's Conservatorium High School from 2011-2013, she moved to the US in 2013 to serve as Orchestra Director at the renowned Interlochen Arts Academy. She has been engaged as a conductor by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and conducted the World Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Dr. Watson is the recipient of a number of prestigious national and international awards for young conductors, including the 2013 Brian Stacey Award for emerging Australian conductors, the coveted Sir Charles Mackerras Conducting Prize via the Australian Music Foundation in London, the Opera Foundation Australia's Bayreuth Opera Award and Berlin New Music Opera Award, and the Nelly Apt Conducting Scholarship. She is the beneficiary of support from the American Australian Association's Dame Joan Sutherland Fund and a Sheila Pryor Study Grant from the Australian Opera Auditions Committee. In 2013-14 she held a Dome Centenary Fellowship from the State Library of Victoria and was a 2012 Churchill Fellow. She holds a PhD in Performance (Conducting) from the University of Sydney.



A native of San Antonio, **Kristin Roach** (Principal Coach and Chorusmaster) is in demand across the nation as a pianist, organist, vocal coach, and conductor. In performances that encompass twenty states, Canada, Japan, and the former Soviet Union, she has collaborated with many of the world's finest artists including Renée Fleming, Denyce Graves, Jerry Hadley, and Rosalind Elias. She has prepared productions for the San Francisco Opera, San Diego Opera, Tulsa Opera, San Antonio Opera, San Antonio Symphony, Brevard Music Institute, Aspen Music Festival, Breckenridge Music Institute, Opera Theatre of Rochester, Eastman Opera Theater, Buffalo Opera Unlimited, Texas Tech University, and Texas Lutheran University. Conducting credits include *La Bohème*, Liszt's *Christus*, and the Artpace choral world premier of *Gold Space City of God*. She is currently the Music Director of Opera Piccola of San Antonio and on the opera faculty at Texas State University.

Reviews of Kristin's performances with South Texas musicians include phrases like "revelatory" and "infectious high-spirits." She has appeared as piano soloist with the San Antonio Symphony, Mid-Texas Symphony, San Antonio Wind Symphony, and Eastman Philharmonia, and as chamber musician with Camerata San Antonio, Chamber Music Amarillo, Olmos Ensemble, Musical Offerings, and Cactus Pear Music Festival. She has toured Europe with the Children's Chorus of San Antonio and St. Mark's Episcopal Church, performing on the historic organs of the Cathedral of Notre Dame, the Church of the Madeleine, Ely Cathedral, Bristol Cathedral and York University. Her recordings include the Trinity Jazz Project, a self-produced collection of her original arrangements of hymn tunes, and classical works with the New World Symphony for Decca Records and with the Eastman Wind Ensemble for Sony Classical Records. Her recording of chamber works by Miguel del Aguila with Camerata San Antonio, *Salon Buenos Aires*, has been nominated for two Latin Grammy® awards.

[Ms. Roach maintains a private coaching studio, whose members include performers with numerous opera companies and apprentice programs, university faculty and students, chamber music groups, and church musicians. She received her education at the Eastman School of Music, earning a Bachelor of Music in Applied Music \(Piano\), a Performer's Certificate in Piano, and a Master of Music in Piano Performance/Literature and Piano Accompanying/Chamber Music.](#)

Andrea Heaberlin (Choreographer) marks this musical production as number 48, including seven with the Texas State University Opera Theatre and at least 150 additional dance concerts and productions. She has a BS in dance from Texas Woman's University, advanced studies in dance and English, dozens of hours in professional dance workshops, and more than twenty years teaching experience in public and private schools. She danced and choreographed for many years at South Bay Musical Theatre in California. Favorite shows include *Sweet Charity*, *The King and I*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *1776*, *Brigadoon*, *Ragtime*, and *Chicago*.

Ms. Heaberlin has worked with student productions in Texas, Washington, Hawaii, California, Panama, Puerto Rico, and Japan. She also choreographed for Pan Canal Playhouse, Sunnyvale Community Theatre, Saratoga Musical Theatre, American Musical Theatre San Jose, Cameo Theatre San Antonio, and the Hampton Shakespeare Festival in New York. Her teachers include Robert Joffrey, Margaret Craske, Peter Gennaro, Carola Goya, Alvin Ailey, Myra Kinch, Donald McKayle, Norman Walker, Jose Limon, Louis DaPrón, and those important first two—Julia Keepers and Ella Ilse.

Choreographing for opera singers has caused her to rethink her approach because the voices and the music, not the dance, are the most important components. She particularly enjoys working with director Samuel Mungo because his main focus is always on education and the total theatre experience. Ms. Heaberlin thanks director LeAnne Smith and her exceptional faculty in the Dance Department for allowing her to “dance in” for many years. She is a member of the Peer Review Committee for the San Marcos Arts Council and enjoys raising funds for the university arts community.



Anne McMeeking (Scenic Designer) Ms. McMeeking's professional highlights include work with the California Shakespeare Theatre, Zach Scott Theatre, The Prague Quadrennial of Design & Space, Ensemble Theatre, Pacific Conservatory of Performing Arts, and Penfold Theatre. Her work as a designer has garnered her several award nominations from the Austin Critics Table and B. Iden Payne Awards. She holds a Bachelor's degree from The University of California at Santa Barbara, and a Master's of Fine Arts

degree from The University of Texas, Austin. Anne is the resident Scenic Artist for the Theatre and Dance department at Texas State University. See more of her work at www.annemcmeeking.com

Susan Anderson (Dramaturg) is an actor, singer, and graduate of The Acting Studio and Ward Studio in NYC where she spent eight years studying and performing. After traveling Europe and living in England, Susan made her home in Texas, near her family, to continue studies at Texas State and to pursue her passion for teaching. Susan studies voice with Cheryl Parrish and teaches acting and voice in Austin.



A native of San Antonio, **Eric Thompson** (Rehearsal Accompanist) began his music studies at the age of 7, taking piano lessons with Thelma Gonzalez for several years. At the age of 14, Eric began taking piano lessons with his future UTSA piano professor, Dr. Janice K. Hodges. He completed his Bachelor of Music degree from The University of Texas at San Antonio with Valeri Grokhovski. While working in the San Antonio area as a collaborative and solo pianist, he earned his Master's and Doctoral degrees from The University of Texas at Austin, where he studied with Gregory Allen. He has participated in master classes with such notable musicians as

Maurice Hinson, William Doppmann, Alexander Toradze, Philippe Entremont, Jeffrey Swann and the renowned critic and author, Harold Schonberg. Dr. Thompson has appeared as a soloist with the San Antonio Symphony, Brazos Valley Symphony, Mid-Texas Symphony, University of Texas Orchestra, and Austin Civic Orchestra. He has worked in the San Antonio area as a freelance pianist for more than 20 years. He spent many years as an accompanist for the San Antonio Boys Choir, San Antonio Choral Society, and St. Brigid's Catholic Church. Dr. Thompson has been employed as the Staff Accompanist at Texas State University since 2006, where his duties include playing for the choirs, opera theater, and various student degree recitals throughout the year. He is also pianist and director of the Traditional Choir at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Selma, Texas, where he has been employed since 2000. Dr. Eric Thompson currently resides in New Braunfels with his wife, Valerie, and their two daughters.

Scott Vandenberg (Lighting Designer) Scott has recently joined the staff of Texas State University as the Lighting Supervisor for the Performing Arts Center. Previously, Scott was on staff at Florida State University as the Lighting Supervisor for the School of Theatre after serving six years at Ruby Diamond Auditorium for the College of Music at FSU. He received his BA in Theatre Arts from SUNY at Stony Brook in 1994 and his MFA in Technical Production at FSU in 2015. Scott's recent lighting design credits include several pieces for the past two productions of Merge Dance Company and Opening Door Dance Theatre for Texas State University's Division of Dance, and with the Texas State Opera Theater's productions of *Speed Dating Tonight!* and *Gianni Schicchi / Buoso's Ghost*. Design credits from Florida include *Man of La Mancha*, *South Pacific*, *Kiss Me, Kate*, *Camelot*, *Carousel*, *If You Give A Mouse A Cookie*, *The Seagull*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Speed The Plow*, *Winnie-The-Pooh*, and *The Love of The Nightingale* for the School of Theatre at FSU; *Beauty and The Beast* for The Tallahassee Ballet; *Hairspray!*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Once Upon A Mattress* (co-designed with his wife, Kristin) for Quincy Music Theatre; *Les Miserables* and *Sweeney Todd* for Leon High Performing Arts, and *The Who's Tommy* for Lincoln High School.

Karen Yong Kai Yuan (Rehearsal Accompanist) was born in Malaysia and began her piano lessons at the age of three with her mother, followed by degree studies with Dr. Kim Bo-Kyung at the University of Malaya. She graduated with first class honors for her Bachelor of Performing Arts (Music). Karen often participates in master classes, competitions, festivals, and performances as piano soloist, accompanist, conductor, and vocalist. Currently, Karen is studying to attain her Master of Music degree in Piano Performance at Texas State University under the tutelage of Professor Jason Kwak and has been accepted as a graduate assistant.

Jenna Crowell (Stage Manager) studies Music Education and Theatre with a plan to graduate in May 2016. She has been stage managing and performing with Texas State Opera since 2012, and she recently made her operatic debut as Zita in *Gianni Schicchi* and *Buoso's Ghost*. She also works as a choir section leader at First Presbyterian Church of San Marcos.

Mackenzie Bitz (Ensemble) is a soprano and vocal performance major at Texas State University with aspirations to perform opera for a living. At the age of 16, she starred as Christine Daae in the Lone Star Cy-Fair Community College's production of *The Phantom of the Opera* and later performed as Cosette in *Les Miserables*. She is currently studying voice with Ron Ulen and is a proud member of the music fraternity Mu Phi Epsilon in her free time.

Ashley Carrington (Ensemble) is a mezzo-soprano, senior BFA Production and Performance Major with an emphasis in Performance, and a Music Minor with an emphasis in Opera. She is the Production and Performance Administrator, the Recruitment Coordinator of Alpha Psi Omega-Iota Epsilon Cast, and a volunteer of SCARE for a CURE. This is Ashley's debut into the opera world as a cast member. Ashley was the Assistant Director of *Gianni Schicchi* and *Buoso's Ghost* here at Texas State University last semester and was cast in the preview of the *Lady Bird* opera. You may have seen her in the Directing Two Festival in the play *Night Mother* as Mama or as Hope in *Hope Leaves the Theatre*.

Abigail Diltz (Little Buttercup), a mezzo-soprano and elementary music teacher, is pursuing her graduate degree in Vocal Performance. Her most recent operatic engagements include chorus in Austin Opera's productions of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* in the 2014-2015 season. Previous roles include Nerine in Charpentier's *Médée* with Opera Nova in Santa Ana, Costa Rica and Miss Benson in Grove City College's production of Gershwin's *Of Thee Sing*.

Soprano, **Jennifer Dryer** (Josephine), is pursuing her Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance at Texas State University and studies with Ron Ulen. She received her bachelor's degree from Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas, where she studied with Dr. Heather Hawk. She has sung in multiple master classes with world-renowned singers such as Linda Watson, Gabriele Lechner, Tom Jaber, William Stone, and Michael Eberhard. Operatic performances include the Sorceress in *Dido and Aeneas*, Tatyana in *Eugene Onegin*, Madame Lidione in *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi* and Ching's *Buoso's Ghost*, and Brigitta in *Iolanta*. A diverse performer, she has also performed principal roles in *My Fair Lady*, *The Sound of Music*, and *The Boyfriend*. Aside from her performances in academia, she also recently spent time at the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria, she attended OperaWorks Winter Intensive Program in Los Angeles, and in 2014 and 2015 she participated in the Russian Opera Workshop.

Sean Francovich (Bill Bobstay) is from San Antonio, Texas, and he's pursuing a vocal performance degree from Texas State University. After graduating from high-school, Sean moved to New York to study voice for a year; he then chose to return to Texas to continue his studies, where he now takes lessons with Ron Ulen. His mind is very analytical and loves to apply this approach to his studies.

Mallorie Gabbert (Ensemble) is a soprano and junior at Texas State University. She made her Texas State Opera debut last semester as Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi* and *Buoso's Ghost*. In addition to her many productions with the Victoria Community

Theatre, she has also performed as the 2nd Lady in *The Magic Flute* and Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro* with TAMUK.

Kaitlin Heeren (Ensemble) is a soprano and is working towards a degree in Music Education. She studies voice with Brigitte Bellini and also plays the flute. She was the principal flutist in the orchestra for productions of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* and *The Sound of Music*. This is her operatic debut.

Marvin Henderson (Ralph Rackstraw) is a tenor from Houston, TX pursuing a BA in Theater Directing with minors in Music and Psychology. Marvin has previously performed as The Waiter in Michael Ching and Dean Anthony's *Speed Dating Tonight!*, Thierry in *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, a chorus member in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, and he served as the stage manager in last semester's production of *Gianni Schicchi* and *Buoso's Ghost*. He has been a member of the Texas State University Singers. This is Marvin's first appearance as a lead role in an opera.

Sarah Jacob (Ensemble), soprano, is a native of San Antonio, Texas. She studies voice with Dr. Oliver Worthington and is a junior at Texas State University pursuing a degree in Vocal Performance. This is Ms. Jacob's second production with Texas State Opera Theatre as she also performed the role of Nella in *Gianni Schicchi* and *Buoso's Ghost* last semester.

De'Evin J Johnson (Ensemble), a baritone from Dallas, TX, is a junior at Texas State University pursuing a Bachelor of Music Studies. As a finalist in the 2014 and 2015 sophomore and junior divisions of the NATS Texoma region competitions, De'Evin proudly studies voice under the direction of Dr. Oliver Worthington. His most recently prepared role was Simone in *Gianni Schicchi*. De'Evin serves as Vice President of the Texas State ACDA Student Chapter, Vice President of the Alpha Pi Chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon, and is a member of the Texas State Chorale. Tonight is De'Evin's Texas State Opera Theater stage debut.

Veronica Kokas (Ensemble), soprano, is a Vocal Performance senior at Texas State University. A student of Dr. Oliver Worthington, she has previously been seen in *Speed Dating Tonight!* and *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, and she participated in the composer preview of *Lady Bird* this fall.

(Joanna) **Karen Lara** (Ensemble) is a senior at Texas State University majoring in Music with a minor in Theatre. She is studying under the tutelage of Brigitte Bellini as a mezzo-soprano. This is her debut with the Texas State Opera.

Andrew McNair (Ensemble) is a senior Music Studies Major at Texas State University where he is a member of VocaLibre and is the bass section leader of the University Singers. He currently studies voice with Dr. Soon Cho. In the summer of 2015, Andrew served as Voice Faculty/Counselor at the Luzerne Music Center in New York. He has served as president of both the Collegiate Texas Music Educators (CTME) and the Texas State University American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) student chapter.

Mackenzie Miller (Ensemble) is a junior at Texas State University, performing in her first operatic production. A transfer student from St. Philip's College in San Antonio, she has had the exciting opportunity to work with The South Texas Lyric Opera in productions such as *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *La bohème* and *Pagliacci*.

This is **Francis Nieves's** (Ensemble) first singing role in the opera program after making his debut as Buoso's dead body in *Gianni Schicchi* last spring. He is a tenor,

studying under Brigitte Bellini and majoring in Music Education. Francis has made appearances playing guitar for the first-place winners of the Homecoming Talent Show of last year, *Equilibrium*, and will be performing again in November.

Paul Nix (Ensemble) is a sophomore Vocal Music education major studying with Brigitte Bellini, hoping to teach privately after college. In the past year he has played Spinelloccio and Pinellino in *Gianni Schicchi* and a Friar in *Buoso's Ghost*, as well as chorus in the composer preview concert of a new opera based on Ladybird Johnson which will premier in the spring.

Soprano, **Christina Ortiz** (Josephine), is a senior Music Education major at Texas State University and is a proud member of the Alpha Pi chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon, ACDA, and Texas State Chorale. This is her debut performance with the Texas State Opera. She studies voice with Cheryl Parrish.

Baritone, **Micah Parker** (Captain Corcoran), from Bremerton, Washington, completed his Bachelor of Music studies in Vocal Performance at Central Washington University. He is now working on his Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance here at Texas State University. During his time in school he performed such roles as Dandini in *La Cenerentola*, Grandpa Moss in *The Tender Land*, Fredrik in *A Little Night Music*, and the title role of *Gianni Schicchi*. He has also played principal roles in Rogers and Hammerstein's *Carousel* and *The King and I*. His solo work includes appearances with the Yakima, Wenatchee, and Bremerton Symphony Orchestras, and he participated as a soloist in the Concert Celebration of Alan Hovhaness's 100th birthday at Seattle's Benaroya Hall. Outside of academia he performed the role of Colline in a joint production of *La bohème* produced by Vespertine Opera and Spielplatz Opera, and worked again with Vespertine Opera for their US premier of Britten's two-piano adaptation of Poulenc's first opera - *Les Mamelles de Tirésias*. His most recent engagements include co-directing Gilbert and Sullivan's *Patience* and performing the role of Escamillo in Kitsap Opera's *Carmen*. He currently studies voice with Oliver Worthington.

Bridget Perez (Ensemble), a soprano from San Antonio, TX, is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music Studies degree. She studies voice with Dr. Oliver Worthington. She has previously performed with the Texas State Opera Theater program as Dater 25 in Michael Ching and Dean Anthony's *Speed Dating Tonight!*, and is the cover of Josephine for this production of *HMS Pinafore*. Outside of her studies, she has had the privilege of conducting at the TCDA Conference this past July. She is also a proud recipient of the Gregory Grimes Opera Scholarship.

From McAllen, Texas, **Joshua Pérez** (Ensemble) is a junior Music Education and Psychology double-major at Texas State University, currently studying voice with Ron Ulen. He is currently serving as the Treasurer of the Texas State ACDA chapter, whose executive board will be participating as members of the Honor Choir at the spring convention. This past summer, he served as the Assistant Entertainment Director of the Texas State Choir camp and will be serving as the Head Entertainment Director this coming summer. Last year, Joshua served as the tenor section leader in the Texas State University Singers and now sings with the Texas State Chorale. This is Joshua's premiere performance with the Texas State Opera program.

Conner Scallan (Sir Joseph Porter) is a baritone in the voice studio of Brigitte Bellini; he is a double major working on a BA in Music and a BFA in Theatre Performance and Production. *HMS Pinafore* is Conner's fourth show in his academic career, and his

most recent appearance was as Betto in *Gianni Schicchi* and *Buoso's Ghost*: Texas State University's spring 2015 operas. His other performances were in shows such as *Speed Dating Tonight!*, *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, *Legally Blonde the Musical*, *Crazy for You*, and *Les Misérables*.

Elizabeth Shults (Ensemble), mezzo-soprano, is a junior at Texas State University. She is currently a Music Education major with choral concentration. She studies voice with Cary Michaels, and she is an active member of the Theta Omega chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota. *HMS Pinafore* is her first appearance with Texas State Opera.

Mezzo-soprano, **Haley Steinberger** (Cousin Hebe) is a graduate student in Vocal Performance in the studio of Dr. Soon Cho. A native of Eugene, Oregon, she received her Bachelor degree in Music Education from the University of Oregon, where she served as Music Director of the nationally-acclaimed women's a cappella group, Divisi. In addition, she has guest directed numerous ensembles, given private lessons, and currently teaches an undergraduate course in vocal technique at Texas State University. Ms. Steinberger has performed professionally at the Konzerthaus Berlin and was most recently seen on the opera stage in Texas State's productions of *Gianni Schicchi*, *Buoso's Ghost*, and *Speed Dating Tonight!* Previous performances also include *Commedia dell'Arte* with University of Oregon Opera Theatre.

Roger Stevens (Bob Beckett) is a fifth year Music Studies major with an emphasis in brass studies, who has recently begun to sing as a bass. In that time, he has performed with every major instrumental and choral ensemble at Texas State University, including the Symphonic Choir during their recent tour of China. His primary instrument is the euphonium, and he has recently begun voice lessons with Dr. Samuel Mungo.

Tenor, **Bailey Turner** (Ralph Rackstraw), is pursuing his Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance at Texas State University and studies with Dr. Soon Cho. Operatic performances include Cupid in *Orpheus in the Underworld*, Le petit vieillard in *L'enfant et les sortilèges*, the Sailor in *Dido and Aeneas*, and Reporter in *Ruffled Flourishes* (World Premier). He has sung as a soloist in multiple concerts including: Beethoven's *Choral Symphony*, Mozart's *Coronation Mass*, John Trails *Phases* (a world premier set in London), and he has sung Katún (world premier – Oratorio) for the President of Mexico. He has been awarded first place in Texoma NATS in his division, and first in collegiate opera scenes from the National Opera Association.

Jordan Van de Vere (Dick Deadeye) is a vocal performance major at Texas State University. A student of Dr. Soon Cho, Jordan's most recent roles include the title character of *Gianni Schicchi* with Texas State Opera Theatre and Peter in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*.

Cambrey Willhelm (Little Buttercup) is a mezzo-soprano pursuing a degree in Vocal Performance. She is a junior studying with Dr. Oliver Worthington and has been in Texas State's previous productions of *Dialogues of the Carmelites* and *Speed Dating Tonight!*

Shawn Wilson (Ensemble) sings tenor and is a Senior Music Education major studying voice with Brigitte Bellini. In last semester's production of *Gianni Schicchi* and *Buoso's Ghost*, he appeared as Guccio and the Friar. He is preparing for his senior voice recital and will be student teaching in the spring.

Acknowledgements

Texas State Opera Theatre would like to offer a special acknowledgement of gratitude to the following, whom have gifted their financial resources, and personal support for this production. Without these angels, today's performance would not have been possible:

Austin Catering
Dry Comal Creek Winery
San Marcos Rent-All
Rebecca Creek Distillery
Texas State Friends of Fine Arts
Texas State Department of Theatre and Dance
The Rock-Jensen Foundation
The Faculty of the Texas State School of Music

Deb Alley
Glenda Barnes
Peggy Brunner
Dr. Anthony Billings
Dr. Tom Clark
Cindy Dean
Arden Dorn
Joanne Engel
Dr. John Fleming
Nancy Harris
Krystyn Jensen
Dewey Markus
Shane Smith
Brigitte Bellini
Dr. and Mrs. Savario Mungo

SMART Orchestra



The San Marcos Artists' Retention and Training Orchestra (SMART Orchestra) is dedicated to the enhanced appreciation and understanding of orchestral music in San Marcos and its surrounding communities. This is accomplished by providing an opportunity for developing musicians to perform and learn in a full symphony orchestra as well as through a free, community concert series, various educational outreach opportunities, and instructor and internship programs. Learn more about their mission and outreach efforts at www.smartorchestra.com