

SPEED DATING TONIGHT!

Conceived by Dean Anthony
Words and Music by Michael Ching

TEXAS  STATE
UNIVERSITY
The rising STAR of Texas



TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

in the

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
AND COMMUNICATION

presents

TEXAS STATE OPERA THEATRE

Speed Dating Tonight!

Words and Music by Michael Ching
Conceived by Dean Anthony

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, October 23-26, 2014, at 7:30 pm
Sunday, October 26th, 2014 at 2:00 pm
Patti Strickel Harrison Theater

Cast and Show Order

Bartender.....Jordan Van De Vere
Busboy.....Marvin Henderson
Waitress.....Haley Steinberger
Kylie, Speed Dating hostess.....Madison Christ
Nervous.....Lisa Decker
OCD.....Joseph Gilbert

Daters

RealtorElizabeth DiFronzo
Lives at HomeKevin Park
Origamist.....Poornima Ravi
Pat the Bassoonist.....Cambrey Willhelm
Triathlon Ann.....Veronica Kokas
Combat PhotographerKurt Kaiser
TalkativeCiara Gallagher
Famous FamilyMorghan Parker
Lurking.....Susan Anderson
DancerConner Scallan
Steampunk.....Brooke Whelan
Campaign ConsultantJennifer Dryer
AwkwardCristina Caballero
My LoverThomas Soto
Hanging Out.....Bridget Perez
Like this Bar.....Beau Vandertulip
Can ManSpencer Reichman
Ex-Duet.....Reichman, Gallagher
Liar ExposedKaiser, Jaelyn Lyles
Panic Attack.....Chairein Jackson
LeavingKathryn Whitbeck
Coordinator.....Christ
Order Up!Steinberger, Van De Vere
Love My CatsJasmine Haghigatian
Checklist.....Kimberley Sandoval
Fragile Heart.....Johnathan Salinas
Waiting for Too Long.....Phillip Ramon
The Dilemma of Daters.....Tutti
Nervous/OCD Duet.....Decker, Gilbert
FinaleTutti
EpilogueHenderson, Whitbeck

Production Staff

Producer and Director..... Dr. Samuel Mungo
Conductor..... Kristin Roach
Technical Directorla Enstera
Set Design.....la Enstera
Choreographer.....Andrea Heaberlin
Assistant Director.....Joshua Miller
Lighting Design Scott Vandenberg
Musical PreparationDr. Eric Thompson, Hyun Jung Im
Lighting Board Operator Devin McFarlane
Sound Board Operator Keenan Brooks
Electricians Joel Britt, Andrew Leslie
Stage Manager Jenna Crowell

Texas State Orchestra

Clarinet.....Luis Corpus
Flute..... Stephanie Fisher
Percussion..... Luis Pereira
Bass Josue Martinez
Piano..... Kristin Roach

Director’s Notes

In the spring of 2012, opera director and producer Dean Anthony was searching for an idea for an opera. He wanted one that would feature many singers, was contemporary, and would allow for lots of freedom of staging and production. A cold beer in hand, he came up with the idea for Speed Dating Tonight! He called composer Michael Ching and they set about building the show. It premiered in the summer of 2013 at the Janeic Opera Company, and has proved to be one of the most sought after operas. By the end of this year, it will have been produced over 20 times, unheard of in the realm of opera.

Part of the appeal of the show is its transmutability. Each Dater has their own separate moment, and as such they can be moved anywhere in the show. Dater 1 can become Dater 12, or be omitted entirely, without a problem. In addition, most of the Daters have names like Chris, or Drew, allowing either gender to sing the role. Add to this the fact that Mr. Ching has written three different keys for each Dater, and the truth becomes you can see numerous productions of Speed Dating Tonight, and never see the same one twice!

This transmutability tells only part of the story for the piece’s success, however. Mr. Ching has infused this tale of contemporary young adults looking for love at an event at Anthony’s Bar with a thoughtful, beautiful score. At times hilarious, and other times poignant, he brings a strong sense of character to music for each of the stories. Through the book and music, we easily understand and follow each dater as they traverse the dating scene at Anthony’s. References to texting, the Middle East, and cell phone manners appeal directly to the issues of our daily lives. And of course, the reason for the evening, the eternal search for love, is universal in us all.

Thank you for coming, sit back, and enjoy and you are introduced to people from all walks of life, points of view and levels of sanity! May their search for love cause you to fall in love as well!

Acknowledgements

Texas State Opera Theatre would like to offer a special thanks to the following, which have lent their financial, resource, and personal support for this production. Without these angels, today’s performance would not have been possible:

Friends of Fine Arts
The Rock-Jensen Foundation
Dr. and Mrs. Savario Mungo
Dr. Anthony Billings
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Dr. Tom Clark
Dr. John Fleming
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Kristin Vandenberg
The Faculty of Texas State School of Music
Texas State Department of Theatre and Dance
Nancy Harris
Joanne Engel
Cindy Dean
Krystyn Jensen
Gaila Raymer

In Memory of Lynn Cobb

Personnel

Dr. Samuel Mungo (Director) is the Director of Opera Studies and Coordinator of the Voice Area at Texas State University. He has been involved in opera as a director, singer and teacher for more than 20 years, 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 relationship.

In recent years at Texas State Dr. Mungo has directed productions of *Die Fledermaus*, *The Magic Flute*, *The Turn of the Screw* and *Angelique* (National Opera Association Opera Production of the Year, 2012). 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, *Rigoletto* (Best of San Antonio 2010) and *Il Trovatore* for San Antonio Opera.

As a singer, he has performed with opera companies and orchestras throughout North America and around the world. Performing credits include *Don Giovanni* for Minnesota Opera and Chicago Opera Theater, Vancouver Opera as Falke in *Die Fledermaus*, Opera Theater of St. Louis as Junius in *The Rape of Lucretia*, and Danilo in *Merry Widow* for Sacramento Opera, Opera Grand Rapids and Knoxville Opera. Making his Carnegie Hall debut with Milos Bok's *Missa Solemnis*, he has sung with the St. Louis Symphony, Colorado Symphony, Utah Symphony and Orquestra Filarmonica di Lima, among others.

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.

In addition to Texas State and his private studio, Dr. Mungo has been on the faculty of The Actor's Studio Drama School, New York University, University of Colorado at Boulder and the New School University.

A native of San Antonio, **Kristin Roach (Conductor)** is in demand across the nation as a pianist, organist, vocal coach, and conductor. She is Music Director of Opera Piccola of San Antonio and Music Director of the Texas State University Opera. 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 Renee Fleming, Denyce Graves, Ferruccio Furlanetto, 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, Taos Opera Institute, Opera Theatre of Rochester, Eastman Opera Theater, Buffalo Opera Unlimited, Spotlight on Opera, Texas Tech University, and Texas Lutheran University. Conducting credits include *La Boheme*, *Così fan tutte*, *Don Pasquale*, *The Medium*, *Bastien und Bastienne/La Curandera*, the world premier of Mollicone's *Children of the Sun*, Liszt's *Christus*, and *Golden Space City of God*. Upcoming engagements include *The Italian Lesson/Trouble in Tahiti* and *Dido and Aeneas* with Opera Piccola and *Gianni Schicchi* at Texas State.

Reviews of Kristin's piano performances with South Texas musicians include phrases like "revelatory" and "infectious high-spirits". She has appeared as 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, was 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), the Performer's Certificate in Piano, and a Master of Music in Piano Performance/Literature and Piano Accompanying/Chamber Music.

Joshua Miller (Assistant Director) has served as an assistant director for *Carousel* (Glimmerglass Festival), *La traviata* (Wolf Trap Opera Company), *Les Misérables* (ZACH Theatre), *Le nozze di Figaro & Turandot* (Austin Lyric Opera). Miller's most recent directing credits include *Trouble in Tahiti / The Italian Lesson* (Opera Piccola San Antonio), *Sweeney Todd* (Butler Opera Center), *The Rape of Lucretia* (Spotlight on Opera), Cesti's *Orontea* (UT Early Music Ensemble), *Little Women* (Spotlight on Opera) and *The Magic Flute* (Concord University). Miller is honored to be the 2014 recipient of the National Opera Association Stage

Director Internship which has allowed him the privilege to assist Dr. Mungo on this production of *Speed Dating Tonight!* with the Texas State University Opera Theatre. Miller is currently in his last year of doctoral opera studies at the University of Texas at Austin where he is concurrently enrolled in the Graduate Portfolio Program in Arts and Cultural Management through the President Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs.

Eric Thompson (Musical Preparation), a native of San Antonio, earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in May 2008 from the University of Texas. He has been a collaborative pianist in San Antonio and surrounding areas for more than twenty years and has appeared as soloist with a number of orchestras in south Texas, including the San Antonio Symphony, the Mid-Texas Symphony and the Austin Civic Orchestra. He currently serves as choir director/pianist for Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Selma, TX. In his eighth year as Staff Accompanist at Texas State University, Dr. Thompson accompanies three of the university choirs, the Opera Theater and various student recitalists.

Hyunjung Im (Music Preparation) is a graduate Piano Performance student in the studio of Dr. Jason Kwak. She is one of the opera accompanists at Texas State University. Aside from her own solo recitals, Hyunjung has many experiences of collaboration with voice, instruments, and modern compositions.

IA Ensterä (Technical Director, Set Design) has been designing sets and costumes for theatre and film since the mid-1990s, and has been a part of some estimated 90 productions thus far. You may have seen some of her previous set designs with St. Edwards University, Breaking String Theatre, Hyde Park Theatre, Hidden Room, Austin Shakespeare, Texas State Opera, Capital T Productions, Soubrette, Zach Scott, and Sky Candy.

She has been nominated for numerous design awards by the B. Iden Payne Committee, and has been the recipient of five of them. She was also awarded the Austin Critics' Table Award for Scenic Design for eight of the shows in 2011-2012.

la would like to thank Stacy, Elias, and their four furry family members for keeping her grounded and (somewhat) sane.

Speed Dating Tonight! marks musical production #47 for **Choreographer Andrea Heaberlin** with at least 150 additional dance

concerts and productions to her credit. 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 choreographed for many years at South Bay Musical Theatre in California and worked in numerous equity theatre productions. Andrea has also choreographed for Pan Canal Playhouse, Sunnyvale Community Theatre, Saratoga Musical Theatre, American Musical Theatre San Jose, Cameo Theatre San Antonio, Austin Musical Theatre including their tour of THE WIZARD OF OZ, and THE WINTER'S TALE for the Hampton Shakespeare Festival in New York. This is her sixth show with the Opera Theatre. Andrea says choreographing for opera singers has caused her to rethink her approach since the voices and the music, not the dance, are the most important components. But she particularly enjoys working with Director Mungo because his main focus is always on the total theatre experience. Ms. Heaberlin has enjoyed "dancing in" at Texas State University for nearly 20 years, and she offers a huge debt of thanks and love to Director LeAnne Smith and her exceptional faculty in the Dance Department for making her welcome. She is particularly interested in fund-raising for the arts at Texas State University, and she is a member of the Peer Review Committee for the San Marcos Arts Council.

Scott Vandenberg (Lighting Designer) Scott has recently joined the staff of Texas State University as the Lighting Supervisor for the Performing Arts Center and is thrilled to be working with Texas State Opera Theatre. 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 is currently working on his MFA in Technical Production at FSU. Scott's recent lighting design credits include several pieces for Merge Ahead and Opening Door Welcome Home for Texas State University Division of Dance. 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.

Jenna Crowell (Stage Manager) is a Senior Music Studies major and Theatre Minor studying under Cheryl Parrish. She is a member of Texas State Chorale and Vocalibre, and is alto section leader for First Presbyterian Church in San Marcos. She would like to thank Dr. Mungo,

Ms. Roach, and her wonderful cast and crew for their hard work, patience, and passion!

Cast

Jordan Van de Vere (Bartender) is a senior Vocal Performance major at Texas State University. He currently studies with Dr. Soon Cho. Jordan is a member of the Texas State Chorale and is the bass section leader at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in San Marcos, Texas. Jordan played the Jailer in Texas State's production of *Dialogues of the Carmelites* in Spring 2014. He would like to thank his friends and family for their continuing support of his education.

Marvin Henderson (Busboy) is a Junior pursuing a Vocal Opera Bachelor's Degree with a minor in Theater and Psychology at Texas State University. He has participated in the Fall 2012 production of Black and Latino Playwrights Conference at Texas State, the 2013 spring production *Don Giovanni*, and was also cast in "Night at the Opera" as Toby in *The Medium*. Also he was cast as Terriy in *Dialogues of the Carmelites*. He is also involved with the American Choral Director's Association chapter at Texas State.

Haley Steinberger (Waitress) is a graduate student in Vocal Performance in the studio of Dr. Soon Cho. A native of Eugene, Oregon, she received her bachelors 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 and taught voice privately for several years. Ms. Steinberger has performed professionally at the Konzerthaus Berlin and was most recently seen on the opera stage in University of Oregon's production of *Commedia dell'Arte*. She is thrilled to be making her Texas State Opera debut and would like to thank her family for all of their help and support.

Madison Christ (Kaylee the Coordinator) is a senior at Texas State University majoring in Vocal Performance. She is excited to be playing the role of Kaylee the Coordinator in *Speed Dating Tonight!*. She would like to thank her family and friends for all of their love and support.

Lisa Decker (Nervous) is a soprano from Killeen, Texas. She is a senior Music Education major with a minor in Theatre, and studies voice in the studio of Brigitte Bellini. She has most recently been seen as First Alm Sister in Miami Summer Music Festival's production of *Suor Angelica*. Lisa also performed in the institute's "Evening of Zarzuela" as Duchess

Carolina from *Luisa Fernanda*. With Texas State Opera Theatre, she has appeared as Sister Claire in *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, in the chorus of *Don Giovanni*, and as Frasquita from *Carmen* in the 2013 Fall Opera Scenes. Lisa would like to thank all her directors, teachers, family, and friends for their continued support in her study and performance of music.

Joseph Gilbert (OSD) is a 3rd year Music Education student in Dr. Soon Cho's studio, and is a member of the Texas State University Singers. Joseph has enjoyed performing both on and offstage since High School, where he was the improv team captain for two years, and stage manager/light designer for three. He's delighted to sing in his first opera with all of his colleagues, and would like to thank his family and friends for all their support.

Mezzo-soprano Elizabeth DiFronzo (Realtor) is a senior Music Education major. She was most recently seen in Miami Summer Music Festival's production of *Suor Angelica* as Infermiera, as well as in the festival's Evening of Opera Scenes and Zarzuela as Mercedes in the *Carmen* Quintet scene. Ms. DiFronzo appeared in Texas State University's production of *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, singing the role of Sister Catherine and covering Mother Jeanne, and in the 2013 Fall Opera Scenes as Mercedes in the *Carmen* Card scene. A student of Mr. Cary Michaels, she also holds a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science from Texas A&M University.

South Korean tenor, **Keun Won Park(Living at Home)** received his Bachelor's Degree in Vocal Performance from Anyang University in South Korea and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Vocal Performance in the studio of Ron Ulen at Texas State University. Mr. Park placed 1st place in the Graduate Division of the 2013 South Region NATS Competition, and placed 3rd in the Graduate Division of the 2012 NATS Competition for the Texoma region. He also is the 2013 recipient of the Gregory- Grimes Scholarship at Texas State University and a 2012 Texas State University Aria Competition Winner. He is a past winner of the South Korean Artists Competition in Art Song and also winner of the Grand South Koran-Russian Cultural Relations Exchange Competition.

Poornima Ravi (Origamist) is a graduate Vocal Performance student under the tutelage of Cheryl Parrish. Her past engagements include performing as a soprano soloist at the Land of Enchantment Opera Institute, where she also studied the roles of Gilda, *Rigoletto*, and Zerbinetta, *Ariadne auf Naxos*. She is excited to collaborate with the

creative cast and crew of *Speed Dating Tonight!*. Ms. Ravi would like to thank her incredibly supportive parents.

Cambrey Willhelm (Pat the Bassoonist) is a sophomore Vocal Performance student in the studio of Oliver Worthington. She is a member of the Texas State Choral. Last year, she was in the Carmelite Chorus of *Dialogues of the Carmelites*. She would like to thank her family and friends for all of their help and support.

Veronica Kokas (Triathlon Ann) is a senior Vocal Performance and Political Science major at Texas State. A student of Dr. Oliver Worthington, she was previously seen as "Sister Felicity" in *Dialogues of the Carmelites*. She currently also serves as President of the Alpha Pi chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon, and is a soprano in University Singers.

Kurt Kaiser (Combat Photographer) is a Senior student in the Music department in the studio of Brigitte Bellini. He is a member of the Texas State University Singers choir, and is happy to be performing in his second performance with the Texas State Opera program. His last role was the Doctor, and 2nd Commissioner in *Dialogues of the Carmelites*. He would like to thank all of his friends and family for their support and hopes you enjoy the show!

Ciara Gallagher (Talkative Girl) is a senior at Texas State studying with Dr. Soon Cho. She is also a member of the Texas State Chorale. This is her third full opera with Texas State. She has also been in *Don Giovanni* as a chorus member and played Mother Gerard in *Dialogues of the Carmelites*. She is very excited to be a part of *Speed Dating Tonight!*

Morghan Parker (Famous Family) is a sophomore Music Education and Voice Performance student in the studio of Cheryl Parrish. She is a member of the Texas State University Singers, and is honored to be cast in her first production with the Texas State Opera Theatre. She would like to thank her family and friends for all their help and support, and her professors and mentors for their guidance.

After enjoying many years in NYC, acting and singing, **Susan Anderson (Lurking)** has returned to Texas State University to fulfill her passion for Music Education. She is a student of Cheryl Parrish and a member of University Singers. This past summer, she performed with San Antonio Chamber Choir and adores singing with her choir at St. Alban's Episcopal Church. Susan would like to thank her family and friends for their generous love and support.

Conner Scallan (Dancer) is a BFA Theatre P&P studying voice under Brigitte Bellini. He is very excited to be a part of his second opera here at Texas State! Previous credits include *Legally Blonde*, *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, and *Crazy For You*. He would like to thank his parents for their unconditional love and support!

Brooke Whelan (Steampunk) is a senior mezzo-soprano earning her Bachelor's degree here at Texas State University in Music Education. Under the study of Ron Ulen, her most recent roles have been Mother Jeanne in *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, Jennifer in *Street Life*, an *American Art Song Symposium* under the direction of Ms. Cheryl Parrish, Madame Flora in Menotti's *The Medium*, and chorus in Texas State University's 2013 production of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. Brooke would like to thank Dr. Samuel Mungo and Ms. Kristin Roach for giving her the opportunity to broaden her operatic career.

Jennifer Dryer (Campaign Consultant) is pursuing her master's in Vocal Performance at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas and is studying with Ron Ulen. She received her bachelor's degree from Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas, where she studied with Heather Hawk. Ms. Dryer has recently spent time at the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. She has sung in multiple master classes with world-renowned singers such as: Linda Watson, Gabriele Lechner and others. Operatic performances include the Sorceress in *Dido and Aeneas* by Purcell and Tatyana in the Russian Opera Workshop's production of *Eugene Onegin*. Upcoming engagements include: OperaWorks Winter Intensive Program in Los Angeles, CA.

Cristina Caballero (Awkward) is a Senior Vocal Performance Major at Texas State University. She was last seen in Texas State Opera Theatre's production of *The Dialogues of the Carmelites* as Sister Antoine. A student of Dr. Oliver Worthington, Cristina was a finalist at South Texas NATS in 2014 and 2012. Cristina has been a part of many productions at Texas State such as *Street Life*, an improvised production under the supervision of Ms. Cheryl Parrish and Texas State Opera Theatre's production of *Don Giovanni*. She is very excited to now be a part of Texas State Opera Theatre's *Speed Dating Tonight!* and would like to thank her friends and family for their continued support.

Thomas Clifford Soto (My Lover), a tenor, is a junior Vocal Performance student in the studio of Ron Ulen. He is a member of the Texas State Chorale. He also played the role of 1st Commissioner in in the Texas State Opera production of *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, an opera by French composer Francis Poulenc. Thomas has also been

selected to sing with the Texas State Symphonic Choir in their upcoming tour to China in the Fall of 2015. Thomas would like to thank his family for their continued help and support.

Bridget Perez (Hanging Out) is a senior Music Education student in the studio of Oliver Worthington. She is a member of the Texas State Chorale and is the soprano sectional leader. She has also been involved in other ensembles such as ODR Salsa band and Vocalibre. This is her first time in an opera and is very excited to work with her peers and opera directors involved in *Speed Dating Tonight!*. She would like to thank her family for all of their help and support.

Beau Vandertulip (Like this bar) is a Junior Vocal Performance Major at Texas State University. He is currently studying with Dr. Soon Cho. This past March, Beau performed at the Young Artist Program at Carnegie Hall where he sang the duet from Georges Bizet's *Les Pêcheurs de Perles*. Beau played "Boy" in Texas State Opera's 2012 performance of Leonard Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti*.

Spencer Reichman (Car Man) has thrilled audiences in the central Texas region through his performances as Leporello in *Don Giovanni*, the Sheik in *Angelique*, and creating the role of Juan Diego in the premier of Henry Mollicone's *Children of the Sun*. In 2010, Spencer was invited to portray the title character of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado* at the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. A born entertainer who loves to sing and be on stage, Mr. Reichman has presented concerts to full houses with much acclaim. A first place winner of the Junior and Senior divisions of the NATS Texoma region competition, Spencer attends Texas State University as a vocal performance major studying with Cheryl Parrish. Outside of singing, Mr. Reichman enjoys a nice dinner with friends, a game of cards, or a day out flying his kite.

Jaelyn Lyles (Skeptical) is currently a Mass Communication Major at Texas State University, with a minor in music, and hopes to pursue a Masters in Communication in the future. This is her second production with the Texas State Opera Program, and she is excited to be able to continue her love of performing, even after leaving the voice program. She is a former student of Cheryl Parrish.

Chairein Jackson (Panic Attack) is a Junior Music Education student in the studio of Cheryl Parrish. She is a soprano and a member of the Texas State Chorale, She played the role of Sister Alice in Texas State's most recent performance of *Dialogues of the Carmelites*. She is very

blessed to have the support of her family and friends along the way and is thankful to have this wonderful opportunity, to be a part of the show.

Kathryn Whitbeck (Leaving) is senior seeking a BA in Vocal Performance. She made her opera debut as Zerlina in Texas State Opera Theater's production of *Don Giovanni*. Miss Whitbeck was awarded First Place at the National Association of Teacher's of Singing (NATS) Texoma region competitions consecutively in her division from 2011-2013. She is also the recipient of the Gregory-Grimes scholarship for singers (2013) and the Wood-Kones scholarship for musicians (2014) through the Texas State School of Music.

Jasmine Haghghatian (Love my Cats) is in her final semester of graduate school at Texas State University. She has recently been seen as Sister Constance in Texas State Opera Theater's production of *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, and as Blonde in *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* for the grand opening of the Texas State University Performing Arts Center. Jasmine will be featured in Opera Piccola's production of *Trouble in Tahiti* as the female trio member. Ms. Haghghatian is a student of Ms. Cheryl Parrish.

Kimberly Sandoval (Checklist) is a mezzo-soprano from McAllen, Texas and is currently a senior majoring in Music Education with a vocal concentration. Kimberly is currently studying with professor Ron Ulen. She has had the privilege to perform the role of Augusta in *The Ballad of Baby Doe* by Douglas Moore, for the Opera Scenes program. Her most recent operatic role was Mother Marie in Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites* for the Texas State Opera in the spring of 2014.

Johnathan Salinas (Fragile Heart) is a Senior Vocal Performance Major at Texas State currently studying with Ms. Cheryl Parrish. He has recently returned from singing the role of Rinuccio in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* with the Amalfi Music Festival located in Amalfi, Italy. This is Johnathan's third production with Texas State Opera Theater. In the past he has been seen in Texas State Opera's *Don Giovanni* as Don Ottavio, *The Dialogues of the Carmelites* as Father Confessor, and Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti*. He has also been a Regional NATS finalist, and Performed with the Sparkling City light Opera production of *The Magic Flute*.

Philip Ramon (Waiting for too Long- Billie) is a senior at Texas State University and is a student of Ron Ulen. He is a member of the Texas State University Singers and will be graduating this May with his degree in Music Studies. He is extremely thrilled and honored to be bringing this

character and story to the stage. Philip would like to thank everyone who has supported him in every aspect of his life.