



The School of Music at
Texas State University
Presents

Texas State Opera Theatre

Gianni Schicchi

By Giacomo Puccini

-A comedy on one act

AND

Buoso's Ghost

By Michael Ching

-A comic sequel in one act

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, March 26, 27 and 28, 2015, at 7:30 pm

Sunday, March 29, 2015 at 2:00 pm

Patti Strickel Harrison Theater

Performing Arts Center

There will be a 15 minute intermission

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Buoso Donati.....Francis Nieves
Zita, *cousin of Donati*.....Jenna Crowell*, Haley Steinberger+
Simone, *cousin of Donati*.....Roger Stevens
Rinuccio, *Zita's nephew*.....Kevin Park*, Thomas Soto+
Marco, *Simone's son*.....Maxwell Carney
La Ciesca, *Marco's wife*.....Madison Christ*, Jennifer Garza+
Gherardo, *Donati's nephew*.....Johnathan Salinas*, Beau Vandertulip+
Nella, *Gherardo's wife*.....Kathryn Whitbeck*, Sarah Jacob+
BettoConner Scallan
Gherardino, *Gherardo's child*.....Callie Iliff
Gianni SchicchiSpencer Reichman*, Jordan Van De Vere+
Loretta, *Schicchi's daughter*.....Mallorie Gabbert*, Jennifer Dryer+
Dr. Spinelloccio/FriarPaul Nix
Guccio/Friar.....Shawn Wilson
Ser Amantio, *Notary*.....Kurt Kaiser

* Thursday and Saturday + Friday and Sunday

Production Staff

Producer and Director.....Dr. Samuel Mungo
Conductor.....Kristin Roach
Production Designer.....Ila Enstera
Lighting Designer.....Scott Vandenberg
Assistant Director.....Ashley Carrington
Costume CoordinatorBianca Johnson
Production Stage Manager.....Corbin Paulino
Associate Stage Manager.....Marvin Henderson
Lighting ProgrammerJoel Britt
Rehearsal Accompanists.....Dr. Eric Thompson, Sally Booker, Hyun Jung Im
Audio EngineerNathan Walker
Electricians.....Justin Beets, Elena Cauthen, Ryan Fugate, Devin McFair

Texas State Orchestra

Violin 1.....Ryan Coppin - Concertmaster, Adam Colunga,
Shijun Chen, Joseph Waukechon, Aaron Wells
Violin 2.....*Kailey Johnson, Heather Willoughby, Idalia Espino
Jordan LePage, Oliver Richards
Viola.....*Xavier Garcia, James Ximenez, Rebecca DeLuna
Isabel Garcia, Jisung Lee, Caitlyn Clark, Sean Schutze
Cello.....*Rachel Garner, Austin Covey, Belinsol Martinez, George McQuade
Regan Henrick, Jacob Reynolds, Gabriel Vazquez, Andreis Hernandez
Bass*Josue Martinez, Adam Koch, Luke Salas, Graciella Sills

*Principal

SCHICCHI

Mari Cho
Carly Burkhardt
Brianna Maceda
Thomas Metzger
Julia Donnel
Allyn Hartman
Evan Fowler
Shawn Henderson
Camden Scarborough
Daniel Keller
Jill Rodriguez
Daniel Burow
Sigifredo Santana

Flute I
Flute II
Oboe
Bassoon
Clarinet I
Clarinet II
Trumpet I
Trumpet II
Trombone
Horn I
Horn II
Timpani
Percussion

BUOSO

Carly Burkhardt
Stephanie Fisher
Dawn Inglesias
Kyle Lehnick
Joseph Espinoza
Jacqueline Castillo
Evan Fowler
Alex Szabo
Steven Vogel
Daniel Keller
Jill Rodriguez
Sigifredo Santana
Daniel Burow

Harp - Natalie Teodori
Celeste, piano - Hyun Jung Im

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Synopsis

Gianni Schicchi

Place: Florence
Time: 1299.

Buoso Donati's relatives gather 'round to mourn his passing, but are really more interested in learning the contents of his will. Among those present are his cousins Zita and Simone, his poor-relation brother-in-law Betto, and Zita's nephew Rinuccio. Betto mentions a rumour he has heard that Buoso has left everything to a monastery; this disturbs the others and precipitates a frantic search for the will. The document is found by Rinuccio, who withholds the will until Zita allows him to marry Lauretta, daughter of Gianni Schicchi, a peasant in Florence. Zita replies that if Buoso has left them rich, he can marry whom he pleases; she and the other relatives are anxious to begin reading the will. A happy Rinuccio sends for Schicchi and Lauretta.

As they read, the relatives' worst fears are realized; Buoso has indeed left his fortune to the monastery. Rinuccio suggests that Gianni Schicchi can help them, but this is scorned by Zita and the rest, and say that marriage to the daughter of such a peasant is now out of the question. Schicchi and Lauretta arrive. Schicchi quickly grasps the situation, but Schicchi is rudely dismissed by Zita. Lauretta makes a final plea to him (O Mio Babbino Caro), and he agrees to look at the will, and an idea occurs to him.

A knock announces the arrival of the doctor, Spinelloccio. Schicchi conceals himself behind the bed curtains, fools the doctor, then unveils his plan: he will disguise himself as Buoso and dictate a new will. All are delighted with the scheme. After fighting over who will get the biggest pieces of the estate- the mule, the house and the sawmills- the relatives agree to leave the disposition to Schicchi, though each in turn offers him a bribe. Before taking his place in the bed, Schicchi warns the company of the grave punishment for those found to have falsified a will: The loss of a hand, and permanent exile from Florence.

The Notary arrives, and Schicchi starts to dictate the new will, declaring any prior will null and void. To general satisfaction he allocates the minor bequests, but when it comes to the mule, the house and the mills, he orders that these be left to "my devoted friend Gianni Schicchi". Incredulous, the family can do nothing, especially when Schicchi slyly reminds them of the penalties that discovery will bring. Their outburst of rage when the notary leaves is countered by a love duet from Lauretta and Rinuccio. There is now no bar to their marriage, since Schicchi can provide a full dowry. Schicchi chases the relatives out of what is now his house.

Buoso's Ghost

Starting exactly where *Gianni Schicchi* ends, the new opera even opens with *Schicchi*'s final chords. Rinuccio and Lauretta are gazing lovingly at each other on the balcony of Gianni Schicchi's new house. The young couple leaves to go to Porta Rosa to purchase a ring, and Schicchi straightens the room up and puts Buoso back in his bed. While he's cleaning, he discovers gifts of food to Buoso from the relatives with false notes of hope for recovery. Schicchi takes one sip of the wine and spits it out. Schicchi comes to the realization that the relatives killed Buoso by poisoning. Two monks come for the money Buoso left them. Schicchi gives them their five lire and shoves them out of the door, then pictures the relatives poisoning Buoso. He thinks he hears the relatives coming for revenge and he writes something on a piece of parchment and stuffs it in the dead Buoso's shirt. The family enters, and threatens Schicchi. who begs for mercy. They are about to attack him when the Magistrate arrives. The relatives all accuse Schicchi of killing Buoso for the inheritance he gained. Schicchi claims he is innocent. One by one he discreetly tells the relatives that he

knows about the poisoned food that they each brought to Buoso, and they immediately grovel at Schicchi's feet, promising rewards if he helps them.

Simone withdraws his accusation, but the Magistrate accuses Schicchi of the crime. Schicchi claims his innocence and says he will tell all about the poisoning. All of the relatives offer Gianni Schicchi the inheritances they have recently gained if he will save them. Schicchi seemingly ignores the family, and spins a tale of coming to the house to find Buoso about to die of poisoning. Just when the family loses hope, Schicchi "discovers" the note he himself placed on the body earlier. On it is written, "I, Buoso Donati, have chosen to take my own life by poison. May God forgive me!"

The satisfied Magistrate leaves. The relatives realize that they've been tricked again by Schicchi. Now they all have to give up their inheritances. Then they remember that Lauretta and Rinuccio are getting married, and since Lauretta is Schicchi's only child, they would get everything- if Schicchi were dead.

Schicchi has one more ruse up his sleeve. A lightning bolt flashes. A voice is heard: "I am the ghost of Buoso Donati. Curse upon you all! All of the relatives but Zita run from the house screaming. In a final love twist, Zita and Schicchi find they have much in common, and are together as the curtain falls.

Personnel

Dr. Samuel Mungo (Director) 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 relationship.

In recent years at Texas State Dr. Mungo has directed productions of *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, *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 of The Actor's Studio Drama School, New York University, University of Colorado at Boulder and the New School University.

Kristin Roach (Conductor) A native of San Antonio, Kristin Roach 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 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, Opera Theatre of Rochester, Eastman Opera Theater,

Buffalo Opera Unlimited, Texas Tech University, and Texas Lutheran University. Conducting credits include *La Boheme*, *Così fan tutte*, *Don Pasquale*, Liszt's *Christus*, and the Artpace choral world premiere of *Gold Space City of God*. She is currently the Music Director of Opera Piccola of San Antonio and a member of the opera faculty of 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), the Performer's Certificate in Piano, and a Master of Music in Piano Performance/Literature and Piano Accompanying/Chamber Music.

Dr. Eric Thompson (Rehearsal Accompanist) 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 pianist for Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Selma, TX. In his fifth year as Staff Accompanist at Texas State University, Dr. Thompson accompanies three of the University Choirs, the Opera Theater and various student recitalists.

Sally Booker (Rehearsal Accompanist) is currently a lecturer for Texas State University. Sally is also a Voice Coach and accompanist working with students in Ms. Brigitte Bellini's studio. Recently, Mrs. Booker has been a Voice Coach and Lecturer at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. While in Minnesota, she performed in concert with faculty, and accompanied master's level voice recitals. She received her Master in Vocal Performance and Bachelor in Piano Performance degrees from Texas State. She has performed on and off the stage as a soloist, chorister, rehearsal and performance pianist, and as part of the directing staff. Some highlights include; Gretchen in *Hansel and Gretel*, Chorus in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, Chorus in *Wizard of Oz*, soloist for University Chorale, Co-Music Director and conductor of *Grease*, Assistant Music Director and orchestra pianist of *Annie Get your Gun*, and pianist for the following ensembles of Texas State: University Singers, Hill Country Youth Chorus, PASIC, Orchestra, and Wind Ensemble. Sally was also a soloist and chorus member of both Chorale and University Singers during her studies. She is thrilled to be a part of the coaching staff for Texas State Opera!

Hyun Jung Im (Rehearsal Accompanist) 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.

Cast

Maxwell Carney (Marco Donati) is very excited to be included in the production of *Gianni Schicchi* and *Buoso's Ghost*. Maxwell is a Senior at Texas State University finishing up a Bachelor Degree in Sound Recording Technology. Maxwell began with the Texas State Opera Theater program his freshman year, playing the role of Masetto in the Film Noir adaptation of *Don Giovanni*. Maxwell is currently a dedicated recording engineer, but still enjoys challenging himself by performing. Maxwell would like to thank his family for all of their support, his mentors Dr. Samuel Mungo, Kristen Roach, and Ron Ulen, and WikiHow for teaching him how to write this bio."

Ashley Carrington (Assistant Director) is a Senior BFA Theatre (Performance and Production) Major with an Emphasis in Performance and a Minor in Music with an emphasis in Opera Performance. She is the Fundraising Committee Chair for Alpha Psi Omega and will be involved in our spring production of 10 Minute student written shows produced by Alpha Psi Omega in April. This is Ashley's directing debut and she is so excited to be involved in this wonderful production. Ashley would like to say thank you to this amazing cast for working so hard and teaching her something new every day. She would also like to thank Dr. Mungo for the opportunity to learn and grow as a director and opera student. Break a Leg and remember to have fun!

Madison Christ (La Ciesca) is a senior vocal performance major at Texas State University. She studies with Ron Ulen and would like to thank him for not only being a great teacher but an amazing mentor. Madison is very excited and honored to be performing the role of La Ciesca in *Gianni Schicchi* and *Buoso's Ghost* with this amazing cast. She would like to thank all of her friends and family for their constant support.

Jenna Crowell (Zita) is making her ON-STAGE debut with Texas State University Opera Theatre, but she has been working as Dr. Mungo's Stage Manager since her sophomore year. Now a senior, Jenna is close to finishing her Music Education degree and will be having a Senior recital later this semester. She would like to thank Dr. Mungo, Maestra Roach, and Ms. Parrish for helping her stretch her wings and embrace this wonderful new opportunity!

Soprano **Jennifer Dyer (Lauretta)** hails from Georgetown, Texas. Operatic performances include the Sorceress (*Dido and Aeneas*), Tatyana (*Eugene Onegin*) with the Russian Opera Workshop, and Madame Lidoine (*Dialogues of the Carmelites*), Lauretta in both *Gianni Schicchi* and *Buoso's Ghost* (Ching). Upcoming performances include Brigitta (*Iolanta*) with the Russian Opera Workshop.

Although new to Texas State, **Mallorie Gabbert (Lauretta)** is a veteran of the stage, having performed the roles of Second Lady in *The Magic Flute* and Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro*. She feels fortunate to have attended Butler Opera Center's Young Artist Program in Austin and Christopher Newport University's Vocal Institute in Virginia. Mallorie is extremely happy to be debuting as Lauretta at Texas State.

Jennifer Renee Garza (La Ciesca) is a graduate student at Texas State University in San Marcos, working toward a Master of Music Degree in Performance. She has performed with the Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi Opera Workshop as Lauretta in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*, Gasparina in Haydn's *La Canterina*, and Gianetta in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers*. With Texas State Opera, she premiered the role of La Virgin de Guadalupe in Henry Mollicone's *Children of the Sun* and performed the role

of Sister Mathilde in Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites*. She has appeared in the chorus with Sparkling City Light Opera and Opera Piccola of San Antonio. Jennifer is a student of Cheryl Parrish.

Jonathan Gutierrez (Gherardo cover) is a junior pursuing a BA in Music with a minor in Spanish, who studied voice under Brigitte Bellini. Jonathan is beyond excited to have an opportunity to work with the Texas State opera theatre program alongside this wonderful cast.

Marvin Henderson (Stage Manager) is pursuing a degree in Vocal Opera and Theater Directing with a minor in 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 casted as *Terry* in "Dialogue of the Carmelites" and as the Waiter in *Speed Dating Tonight!* This is Marvin first time as a Stage Manager for Texas State Opera Theatre program; he is so grateful to work under the direction of Dr. Samuel Mungo. He would like to thank his family and friends for their support.

Callie Iliff (Gherardino) is a 14 year-old 8th grader at Danforth Junior High in Wimberley, TX. Past Texas State Opera credits include *Carmina Burana* and *Hansel and Gretel* with the Hill Country Youth Chorus, and the 2011 and 2012 productions of *Amahl and The Night Visitors*, as Amahl. She is active in community theatre, performing in several Emily Ann Theatre productions, including *Shakespeare under the Stars*, *Annie* in the role of Annie, and the upcoming summer musical, *Wizard of Oz*, as Glenda. Callie recently achieved 1st Chair Soprano 1 All-Region Choir 2015, as well as 2nd Chair Flute All-Region Symphonic Band 2015. She is a voice student under the instruction of Brigitte Bellini.

Sarah Jacob (Nella) is a sophomore at Texas State pursuing a Bachelor of Music-Vocal Performance degree with a Minor in Business and studies voice with Dr. Oliver Worthington. This production is Ms. Jacob's debut with the Texas State Opera Theatre and she is excited and honored to have been a part of this production. She would like to thank her friends and family for their love and support thus far!

Kurt Kaiser (Notary/Magistrate) is a senior music student at Texas State, and is excited to appear in his third major performance with Texas State Opera. He has previously been seen in the productions of *Dialogues of the Carmelites* and *Speed Dating Tonight!* He is a student of Dr. Mungo and has loved working with him and the rest of the amazing faculty in preparation for this show. He would like to thank his family and fellow cast mates, and wants the audience to know that: "I'm THE Combat Photographer!"

Paul Nix (Spinelloccio/Friar) is a tenor in Brigitte Bellini's studio at Texas State in his second semester of music education studies. He is very excited to be in his first opera and hopes to continue them throughout his college career.

Corbin Paulino (Production Stage Manager) is a BFA Performance and Production major who is currently pursuing a minor in business. His past stage management productions include: *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Monogamy Cult*, *A Midsummer's Nights Dream*, *Over the Rainbow*, The New Works Play Festival, *Circle Mirror Transformation*, and where it all started, *Murder in the Knife Room*. He would like to thank the following: his advisor and mentor, Shannon Richey, for approaching him with this opportunity and believing in him to be an ambassador; his family and friends for all their genuine love and support; and his girlfriend, Taylor Pasche, for instilling in

him the importance of one's passion and always pushing him to be his best. Enjoy the show!

Tenor, **Keun Won Park (Rinuccio)**, received his Bachelor's Degree in Vocal Performance from Anyang University in South Korea and is currently pursuing a Master's in Vocal Performance at Texas State University as a voice student of Ron Ulen. Mr. Park placed 1st 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 is also the 2013 recipient of the Gregory- Grimes Scholarship at Texas State University, and a 2012 Texas State University Aria Competition Winner, Keun Won is a past winner of the South Korean Artists Competition in Art Song and the Grand South Korean-Russian Cultural Relations Exchange Competition.

Baritone **Spencer Reichman (Gianni Schicchi)** has thrilled audiences in the central Texas region through his performances as Gianni Schicchi in *Gianni Schicchi*, Leporello in *Don Giovanni*, and creating the role of Juan Diego in the premier of Henry Mollicone's *Children of the Sun* (Texas State Opera Theatre). 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. More recently Spencer was an Apprentice Artist at the Inspiration Point Fine Arts Colony where he performed as Guglielmo in *Così fan Tutte* (Opera in the Ozarks). A born entertainer who loves to sing and be on stage, Mr. Reichman has presented concerts to full houses with much acclaim. 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.

Johnathan Salinas (Gherardo) 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 fourth production with Texas State Opera Theater. In the past he has been seen in Texas State Opera's *Speed Dating Tonight*, *Don Giovanni* as Don Ottavio, *The Dialogues of the Carmelites*, 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".

Conner Scallan (Betto) is a sophomore BFA Theatre major from North Texas. He is SO excited to perform in this beautiful theater once again! Previous credits: *Speed Dating Tonight! Dialogues of the Carmelites, Legally Blonde* and *Crazy For You*. Conner hopes to continue a career in musical theatre after his time at Texas State. Much love and thanks to Mom and Dad!!"

Tenor **Thomas Clifford Soto (Rinuccio)**, from San Antonio, Texas, is a senior Vocal Performance student in the studio of Ron Ulen. He is a member of the Texas State Chorale. Thomas was also the most recent winner of the Concerto/Aria competition. Thomas has performed roles in the Texas State Opera productions of *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, *Speed Dating Tonight!* Thomas has also been selected to sing with the Texas State Symphonic Choir in their upcoming performance tour of Mozart's *Requiem* in China this May. Thomas would like to thank his family for their continued help and support.

Haley Steinberger (Zita) is a graduate student in Vocal Performance in the studio of Dr. Soon Cho. A native of Eugene, Oregon, she received her Bachelor's 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 Texas State's production of *Speed Dating Tonight!* and in the University of Oregon production of *Commedia dell'Arte*. She is thrilled to be a part of this exciting production with Texas State Opera Theatre and would like to thank her family for all of their help and support!

Roger Stevens (Simone) is currently a senior at Texas State University. He has sung with the Texas State Chorale since the fall of 2014, and has performed in various bands including the Texas State Wind Symphony in 2013. His primary instrument is the euphonium, but he has doubled as a baritone since his senior recital. This is his first time performing in an opera.

Beau Vandertulip (Gherardo) 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*. He was also in the 2014 Texas State Production of *Speed Dating Tonight!*

Jordan Van de Vere (Gianni Schicchi) is a senior Vocal Performance major at Texas State University studying with Dr. Soon Cho. Jordan is very excited about making his first performance in a principal role as the title character in *Gianni Schicchi*. Jordan would like to thank his wonderful family and friends for being so supportive, and he hopes you enjoy one of his favorite operas as much as he will.

Kathryn Whitbeck (Nella) is a senior vocal performance major and student of Cheryl Parrish. Kathryn has been involved in Texas State Opera Theater and other Texas State music ensembles since high school (*Amahl and the Night Visitors*, Texas State Early Music Ensemble) as she attended San Marcos High School. Other productions with Texas State Opera Theater include *Trouble in Tahiti*, *Don Giovanni*, *Dialogues of the Carmelites*.

Shawn Wilson (Guccio/Friar) is a Music Education major at Texas State University and studies voice with Brigitte Bellini. This is his first time performing in a Texas State opera production and he is very excited about being on stage with his peers. Shawn is grateful for everything he has learned from participating and preparing for the opera and would like to thank his friends, family, and mentors for their support.