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Opera Columbus and Capital University Announce Artists for Resident Artist Program

Three singers, one pianist/vocal coach chosen

(Columbus, OH) – The Opera Columbus Capital University Resident Artist Program, a one-of-a-kind partnership between Opera Columbus and Capital University, has selected the artists who will serve as teachers and performers for the launch of the newly created alliance between these two central Ohio institutions. The first season of this residency program will span from the fall of 2019 through spring 2020.

During the course of the school year, these artists will join Opera Columbus to perform roles in mainstage productions, educational tours, and be part of unique community engagement programs. They will also teach with the vocal performance faculty, perform recitals, and expand their repertoire at Capital University by teaching private voice as a part of Capital’s voice faculty, teaching select courses, performing public recitals, and serving as mentors to students in the Conservatory of Music. They will also participate in the preparation for mainstage performances and be involved in various Conservatory events.

With Opera Columbus, these artists will perform for more than 13,000 students throughout central Ohio as part of its “Opera Goes to School” program, and perform and cover mainstage roles. In addition to serving as voice teachers at Capital University, artists will stand as mentors to the undergraduate students in the music program and perform a recital and scenes from opera/musical theater as needed to expand repertoire and student mentorship. The program is made possible at Capital through the support of The Ferne Distinguished Visiting Artist Fund in the Conservatory of Music and the estate of Laura Stellhorn.

“This innovative partnership between Opera Columbus and Capital University will enrich the student experience, create critical mentorship opportunities and add to the vibrancy of Columbus’ already rich artistic community,” Capital President Beth Paul said. The Resident Artists Program creates new pathways to community-engaged learning for our students, who will go on to brighten our community and our world through the power of music.”

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Artists chosen for this residency are:

Anthony Benz: Benz, a Chicago-based pianist and vocal coach, has spent two years with Des Moines Metro Opera, serving both as apprentice coach during their summer festival season and as music director for their three-month OPERA Iowa outreach tour. At DMMO, he has played and coached productions of *La bohème*, *The Tender Land*, and *Die Fledermaus*. He spent the summer of 2017 as an apprentice coach at the Miami Music Festival, where he coached *The Cunning Little Vixen* and *Dead Man Walking*. Benz holds a Master of Music in Vocal Coaching from Oklahoma City University, where he studied with Jan McDaniel.

Scott Clark: Clark was a young baritone this season with Houston Grand Opera's "Opera to Go" program, singing the role of Belcore. Already becoming known as an interpreter of new work, he recently added two new roles to his repertoire, creating the role of F. Scott Fitzgerald in the new opera *The Ghosts of Gatsby* by Evan Mack and Joshua McGuire, which was performed for Opera Birmingham at the Opera America New Works Forum. He also starred as Homecoming Soldier in Seagle's production of *The Falling and the Rising* by Zach Redler and Jerre Dye. Scott was an emerging artist at Seagle Music Colony for two summers, where he performed the roles of Belcore in *L'elisir d'amore* and Papageno in *Die Zauberflöte*.

Catherine Goode: Praised for her "sparkling" voice, coloratura soprano Catherine Goode appeared with Opera in the Heights, as an Apprentice Artist with Des Moines Metro Opera (2018, 2019), and as an Emerging Artist with Virginia Opera (2018-2019) and Seagle Music Colony (2016, 2017). Favorite previous roles include Königin der Nacht, Adina, Susanna, Cunegonde, and Controller (*Flight*). Notable solo performances include *Carmina Burana*, *Messiah*, and Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*. A native of Friendswood, Texas, Catherine holds degrees from the University of Houston and Michigan State University.

Raphaella Medina: Noted for her unique timbre and engaging performances, mezzo-soprano Medina last season made her debut with BARN Opera as Rosina in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, originated the roles of Shop Woman and Mrs. Leak in the world premiere of *Lolly Willowes* (MATCH, Houston), debuted as a soloist with the Simpson University Symphony and the Paradise Symphony, co-wrote and premiered a devised theater work, *SMALL UMBRELLAS*, and made her television debut as Isabella in Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* with Spiritus Productions/KIXE Channel 9, in collaboration with the PBS documentary series, *Shakespeare Uncovered*. Additionally, Medina was named a San Francisco District Winner and a Western Region Finalist in the 2018/19 Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions.

"We did a search of the best singers, artists and mentors throughout the country, and we've found four outstanding musicians," said Peggy Kriha Dye, Opera Columbus' General and Artistic Director. "We are so delighted that this partnership has been generously underwritten by one of Opera Columbus' Trustees, James Bicknell and his wife Luanna."

"All four of these finalists have outstanding resumes, and will have a strong impact on our program," said Dr. Tom Zuger, Capital's Acting Dean of the Conservatory. "We are really looking forward to the new ideas and energy that they will bring to the Opera and Music Theater Program at Capital University, and to a mutually beneficial creative, and artistic partnership -- both with these fine artists and the beginning of our new alliance with Opera Columbus."

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Scott Clark and Anthony Benz will perform a recital at 6 pm on Tuesday, Nov. 5, and Catherine Goode and Anthony Benz will perform at 6 pm on Tuesday, Nov. 12. Both performances are free and open to the public and will take place in Huntington Recital Hall, located on Capital's Bexley campus, 1 College and Main.

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About Opera Columbus

Under the vision of General and Artistic Director Peggy Kriha Dye, Opera Columbus is redefining the concept of regional opera with world-class, original productions that celebrate extraordinary young talent and artistic collaboration, engaging a new, diverse audience for this most magnificent of art forms. Opera Columbus' Opera Goes to School program reaches more than 13,000 students each year, and its community engagement programs serve the community each season with multiple productions infusing local artists. In addition, Opera Columbus' annual Cooper-Bing Competition draws top vocalists from around the world to Columbus to compete for a grand prize of \$10,000. For more information, visit www.OperaColumbus.org, Facebook: www.facebook.com/OperaColumbus, Instagram: Opera.Columbus or Twitter: @OperaColumbus.

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About Capital University

Located in Columbus, Ohio, Capital University is a comprehensive, private university centered in contemporary Lutheran values offering undergraduate, graduate and continuing education programs in the liberal arts, sciences and professions. Its expansive Conservatory of Music offers a range of bachelor's and master's studies including composition, jazz, music education, music technology, performance, and more. Since its founding in 1830 and charter as a university in 1850, Capital has been an agent in shaping engaged citizens and purposeful leaders who improve their industries, communities and society. For more information, visit www.capital.edu.