



FEBRUARY 25 – 28, 2016
EVELYN SMITH MUSIC THEATRE

LYRIC OPERA THEATRE
PRESENTS

L'ELISIR D'AMORE

Composed by
GAETANO DONIZETTI

Libretto by
FELICE ROMANI

Conductor BRIAN DEMARIS	Director DALE DREYFOOS	Choreographer LYNETTE KIDMAN
Scenic/Prop Designer ALFREDO ESCARCEGA	Costume Designer SHARON JONES	Lighting Designer JEFF ROLLINS
Chorus Master JULIE NEISH	Stage Manager KATE WEIR	Hair and Makeup SHARON JONES
Technical Director ALFREDO ESCARCEGA	Master Electrician GERALD WILLOW	Assistant Stage Manager ESSAI CALLES

CAST

Adina	ASLEIF WILLMER*
	KYLA MCCARREL+
Nemorino	BRIAN JEFFERS*
	CAREY BRANT+
Belcore	LANE NORTHCUTT*
	CODYRAY CAHO+
Dr. Dulcamara	DAVID SCHILDKRET**
Giannetta	CHELSEA JANZEN*
	CHARITY JOHANSEN+
Belcore's Soldiers	ADAM SOWARDS
	TED ZIMNICKI
Dulcamara's Assistants	KIMBERLY MUMFORD
	BRYNN LEWALLEN
Mamma Lucia	ANASOFIA GALLEGOS
Mamma Rosa	ANGELICA MCGREW
Uncle Alberto, The Notary	MICHAEL DEVERY
Dr. Dulcamara Understudy	PAUL GAMBLE

*Performing February 25 and 27

+Performing February 26 and 28

ENSEMBLE

SOPRANO

NICOLE BLUMENSTEIN
DAEUN CHUNG
JULIA LAIRD
BRYNN LEWALLEN
ALYSSA LUCERO
DANIELLE MENDELSON

ALTO

SARA BRUTON
ANASOFIA GALLEGOS
ANISSA GRIEGO
ANGELICA MCGREW
KIMBERLY MUMFORD
ANALISE ROSARIO

TENOR

ENRIQUE GUEVARA
DRAKE SHERMAN
ADAM SOWARDS
SHAWN WONG
TED ZIMNICKI

BASS

MICHAEL DEVERY
PHILIP GODFREY
ISIDRO MELCHOR
MILES PLANT
CHRIS REAH

**ASU Faculty, Guest Appearance

SYNOPSIS

ACT I: The poor peasant Nemorino is in love with the landowner Adina. The gathered peasants listen as Adina reads them the story of the magic elixir that makes Tristan and Isolde fall in love. A regiment of soldiers enters and is welcomed by Adina. The boastful sergeant Belcore flirts with Adina as Nemorino looks on in despair. Left alone with her, Nemorino declares his love, but she encourages him to forget about her.

Dr. Dulcamara tries to convince the crowd to buy his magic elixir, which he guarantees is a cure for any ailment. Nemorino asks the doctor if he knows about the love potion of Tristan and Isolde. Dulcamara claims to have it, but in an aside reveals that it is a bottle of Bordeaux. He sells it to Nemorino, with the warning that it will take an entire day to take effect.

Left alone, Nemorino drinks the liquid, which makes him tipsy. Belcore arrives and proposes to Adina. In order to test Nemorino, she agrees to marry the sergeant in six days. Nemorino, thinking that by then the elixir will have taken effect, remains unconcerned. When word arrives that Belcore's regiment must leave the following day, Adina agrees to marry him immediately. This turns Nemorino to despair as the gathered crowd looks forward to the impending wedding.

ACT II: Dr. Dulcamara joins in Adina and Belcore's wedding celebration. When everyone goes off with the notary for the ceremony, Nemorino enters and begs for Dr. Dulcamara's help. The doctor offers to sell him more of the elixir to speed the effect, but Nemorino doesn't have any more money. Adina has postponed the wedding ceremony. When Belcore discovers that Nemorino needs money, Belcore convinces him to join the army. Nemorino runs off to find Dr. Dulcamara with his recently acquired army pay.

The peasant girls, having learned that Nemorino's rich uncle has just died, gather to discuss Nemorino's recent inheritance. When he arrives, they all begin to flirt with him, which he ascribes to the elixir. When Adina sees this she is amazed. Dr. Dulcamara tells her about his elixir and offers to sell her some, but she has other ideas.

Nemorino has seen Adina's reaction and hopes that she might be in love with him. Adina enters and tells him about his inheritance and that she has repaid Belcore in order to release Nemorino from the army. Seeing no other sign of affection from her, Nemorino insists that he would rather die a soldier since he is not loved, whereupon she finally admits that she loves him. Belcore discovers them and is astonished at the turn of events which Dr. Dulcamara claims is the result of his magic elixir.

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

Please silence all electronic devices and refrain from texting during the performances. Photography and audio/video recording of any kind is strictly prohibited

ORCHESTRA

Violin I

SPENCER EKENES
AYISHA MOSS
ALEXANDRA BIRCH
MEGYN NEFF

Violin II

BRITTANY DAVIDSON
CLARICE COLLINS
BRYNN SEEGMILLER
KOON YU WONG

Viola

SARAH KNIGHT
DANIEL LORENZO
KATHRYN HOLSTE

Cello

YEIL PARK
ANGELESE PEPPER

Bass

KELSEY MINES

Harp

EMMA QUINN

Harpsichord

MICHAEL LEWIS

Flute

NAYOUNG HAM

Oboe

RACHEL MESSING

Clarinet

SEULA LEE
BRITTANY JOHNSON

Bassoon

TOAN TRAN

Trumpet

JULIAN IRALU

Horn

JACQUELINE FAZEKAS
ALEXANDRA PALLAD

Trombone

TIM HUTCHENS

Percussion

BRYAN HUMMEL
JOSH STOVAL

PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Stage Manager ESAI CALLES
Musical Preparation ROBERT MILLS, BRIAN DEMARIS
Rehearsal Pianists MICHAEL LEWIS, JUHYUN LEE,
PO HSUN (NEILSON) CHEN
Sound Board Operator DEREK STEVENSON
Deck Manager KATE LEONARD
Supertitles Operators PO HSUN (NEILSON) CHEN, JUHYUN LEE

STAGE CREW

MEGAN BURNS
CHRISTOPHER FELLOWS
MIRANDA HAUT
PHOENIX HUBER
BETH HERMOSILLO
KUNAL MEHTA
DANIEL NISHIMURA
DEREK STEVENSON
MICHAELA WOOLDRIDGE

COSTUME CREW

STUDENT WORKERS
KARLA BENETIZ
SARAH DJAHEDI
TYLER GASPER
STEPHANY SOTO
SAVANNAH TREVINO
KELSIE URIAS

INTERNS/VOLUNTEERS
BRIDGETTE BAUMLER
MAGGIE GODINEZ
IMAN MUFAREH
GABRIELA NAVA
CYNTHIA PEREDA
TANISHA ULIBARRI

CAST AND CREW BIOS

Asleif Willmer (*Adina*) is a doctoral student in vocal performance at Arizona State University studying under Carole FitzPatrick. As a concert performer, Willmer has been a featured soloist with the Mount Desert Summer Chorale, Tucson Philharmonia Youth Orchestra, the International Vocal Arts Institute in Montreal, Brevard Music Festival, the Vianden Music Festival in Luxembourg, and True Concord Voices and Orchestra. As an opera performer, Willmer has sung many roles such as: "Adele" in *Die Fledermaus*, the title role in *La Périchole*, "Serpina" in *La Serva Padrona*, and "Despina" in *Così fan tutte*, for which she was nominated and won an AriZoni award for Best Supporting Actress. This past summer, Willmer attended the prestigious Brevard Music Festival, and performed the title role of "Baby Doe" in *The Ballad of Baby Doe* with the Janiec Opera Company at Brevard Music Festival, as well as covered "Gilda" in *Rigoletto* with Asheville Lyric Opera. Willmer would like to thank her parents and her teachers for their undying support and guidance. She would also like to thank Buddy the dog for being the perfect "Nemorino" outside of rehearsal to practice with.

Kyla McCarrel (*Adina*) is a Master of Music candidate in Opera performance and studies with Carole FitzPatrick. She received her Bachelor of Music degree from Chapman University in Vocal Performance and Music Education. This is Kyla's second production with LOT, the first of which was *Guadalupe* this past fall. Kyla has also performed the roles of "Giannetta" in *L'elisir d'Amore* (2015) and "Cherubino" in *Le nozze di Figaro* (2014) with Opera Chapman and was a featured soloist in Mahler's Symphony No. 4 (2016). Kyla is grateful to be a part of such an exciting production, and would like to thank her parents for their continued love and support.

Brian Jeffers (*Nemorino*) is a second year M.M. Music Theatre/Opera Performance Candidate studying voice with Gordon Hawkins. He has recently been seen on the LOT stage as "Lord Evelyn Oakleigh" (*Anything Goes*), "Lechmere" (*Owen Wingrave*), "a Storyteller" (*Children of Eden*), the choruses of *Dido and Aeneas* and the World Premiere of *Guadalupe*, as well as cover studying the roles of "Lensky/Triquet" (*Eugene Onegin*) at Arizona Opera. He holds a B.M. in Voice Performance and minor in Musical Theatre from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Glenn Korff School of Music. He performed extensively with UNL Opera including the roles of "Don Curzio" (*Le nozze di Figaro*), "Mayor Upfold" (*Albert Herring*), "King Kaspar" (*Amahl and the Night Visitors*), "Governor of Buenos Aires" (*Candide*) and "Raoul Marcel" (*O Pioneers!*). Brian has also performed a number of oratorios including "Uriel" (*The Creation*) at ASU Gammage, Tenor Soloist in *Messiah*, *To Be Certain of a Dawn*, and Mozart's *Requiem*. He is excited to be graduating in May and has been accepted into the Aspen Summer Music Festival and School in the Aspen Opera Theater. He is thrilled to be performing his dream role and would like to thank Dale and Brian DeMaris for the amazing opportunity, as well as Sharon, Alfredo and the whole cast and crew! He would like to thank his family, and dear friends for their unending support!!

brian-jeffers@spaces.com

Carey Brant (*Nemorino*) is a second year Master's student in Opera Performance, studying under Carole FitzPatrick. He was recently seen in the ensemble of the World Premiere of *Guadalupe: The Opera*, as "Lechmere" in ASU Lyric Opera Theatre's production of Benjamin Britten's *Owen Wingrave*, and in the ensemble of *Children of Eden*. Carey plans to finish his degree in December of 2016, after which he will actively pursue a career in musical theatre and opera. Carey feels so blessed to have the opportunity to make art with this amazingly talented cast and crew. Carey would like to thank his parents for their constant love and support. Also, a very special thanks goes to his sister, Casey, for always being there for him as well as being an ever-flowing fountain of love and laughter.

Lane Northcutt (*Belcore*) is a Master of Music candidate in Musical Theatre/Opera Performance and a student of Gordon Hawkins. He holds a Bachelor of Music Performance degree from Murray State University where he graduated Cum Laude. This will be his fourth production with ASU's Lyric Opera Theatre. Other productions with LOT include *Grease*, *Company* and *Guadalupe*. Favorite roles include "Papageno/Sarastro" in Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, "Moonface Martin" in *Anything Goes*, and "Luther Billis" in *South Pacific*. He would like to thank his previous teachers and friends that helped him get to where he is now.

CodyRay Caho (*Belcore*) is pursuing a career in opera with the help of the ASU Lyric Opera Theater. He holds an undergraduate degree in vocal performance from SUNY Fredonia. His most recent performance venues include Arizona Opera, Tri-Cities Opera, Greensboro Light Opera and Song among others. Mr. Caho's roles include "Marullo" in Verdi's *Rigoletto*, "Giuseppe" in Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Gondoliers*, "Frank" in Johann Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*, "Alidoro" in Rossini's *La Cenerentola*, "Pish-tush" in Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Mikado*, and "The Secret Police Agent" in Menotti's *The Consul* to name a few. He is honored to receive a Lyric Opera Theater Guild Grant to further his studies in this amazing art form. Many thanks to the LOT Guild for such an enriching experience.

David Schildkret (*Dr. Dulcamara*) is Director of Choral Activities at ASU, where he conducts the Barrett Choir, Choral Union, and Chamber Singers. His previous work with LOT includes Music Director of the AriZoni Award-winning production of *Don Pasquale* and performing the roles of "Ben Weatherstaff" in *The Secret Garden*, "Mayor Shinn" in *The Music Man*, and "The Viceroy" in *La Périchole*. He is dazzled by the talent and dedication of LOT students and thanks them for letting him play along. Thanks also to the ever hilarious Dale Dreyfoos (mind your dancing!) and the supremely patient Brian DeMaris for the opportunity.

Chelsea Janzen (Giannetta) is thrilled to be singing with the Lyric Opera Theatre! She is an M.M. Opera Performance candidate studying with Anne Kopta. She graduated with a B.A. in Vocal Performance from Linfield College in Oregon, and has performed in the McMinnville and Portland communities with Gallery Theater, Tapestry Theater, Cascadia Opera Company, and with the Oregon Symphony as a soloist in the MetroArts Young Artists Debut concerto competition. She recently appeared at Hale Centre Theatre as “Doralee Rhoads” in *9-5 The Musical*. Favorite roles include “Carrie Pipperidge” in *Carousel*, “Rapunzel” in *Into the Woods*, “Adele” in *Die Fledermaus*, and “Susanna” in scenes from *The Marriage of Figaro*. She thanks Dale Dreyfoos for his unending creativity, Brian DeMaris for his wonderful musical leadership, and the entire Elixir cast and crew for making this a hilarious and fantastic journey. None of this would be possible without the incredible support and love of family and friends...Much love to you!

Charity Johansen (Giannetta) is making her debut with ASU’s Lyric Opera Theater with this production of *L’elisir d’amore*. Ms. Johansen is a Master’s student studying with Carole FitzPatrick. Her previous role credits include “La Ciesca” in *Gianni Schicchi*, “2nd Lady” in *Die Zauberflöte*, “Gabriel” in *Too Many Sopranos*, and “Hansel” in *Hansel and Gretel*. She would like to thank her family for their constant love and support, and offer her congratulations to the *L’elisir d’amore* cast and crew.

Paul James Gamble, Jr (Dr. Dulcamara Understudy) is a Master of Music candidate in Opera Performance at Arizona State University and is a student of Gordon Hawkins. He holds a Bachelor of Music Education Degree from the University of Mississippi. His previous roles include “Bishop Zumárraga/Tlatoani” from *Guadalupe*, “Zúñiga” from *Carmen*, “Simone” from *Gianni Schicchi*, “The Unnamed Bass” from *Too Many Sopranos* and various opera scenes including “Bella Figlia dell’amore” from *Rigoletto* as the title role. He extends his deepest appreciation to the ASU Music Faculty, Friends, and Supporters for the opportunity to be a part of this production and to share the gift of music.

Nicole Blumenstein (Ensemble: Nicola) is an undergraduate student in the voice performance degree program and a student of Professor Carole FitzPatrick. Nicole is very excited to be part of her first Lyric Opera Theatre production and would like to thank the cast and crew of *Elixir* for a wonderful experience!

Nicola – She is a cousin of Giannetta, Julia, and Danielle, age 18. She is Philip’s girlfriend, and after Adina, is the smartest girl in town. She has secret ambitions of going to a bigger town, where she hopes to become the first woman doctor in all of Tuscany.

DaEun Chung (Ensemble: Mirella) is a senior, pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance and a Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy. This is her first production with LOT, and she is thrilled to be a part of a wonderful production. Her first role was a “novice” in *Suor Angelica*. She also sang as a member of the chorus in *Der Vogelhändler* with Middle Saxony Opera in Freiberg, Germany through *German Opera Experience Summer Program*. She would like to thank her amazing professor Anne Kopta and her inspiring teachers, Dale and Toby. Lastly, many thanks to her loving family, friends and HandS for their never-ending support and prayers.

Mirella – Younger sister of Danielle, cousin to Giannetta, age 15. She works as a part-time dishwasher in Mamma Lucia’s restaurant, and has been chastised on several occasions for neglecting her duties to sample the day’s flavors of gelato.

Julia Laird (Ensemble: Giulia) is a third year Voice Performance student at ASU studying with Judy May. She was last seen as a featured soloist of the Accademia della Lirica Italiana in Bari, Italy. Favorite roles include “Glinda” in *The Wizard of Oz*, “Buttercup” in *HMS Pinafore*, and “Chava” in *Fiddler on the Roof*. She would like to thank her parents for their unwavering support and for never missing a performance!

Giulia – Cousin of Giannetta, age 18. She has a beautiful voice and sings in the church choir, mostly so that she can be around Miles. She often helps out Giannetta in serving at village festivities.

Brynn Lewallen (Ensemble: Dora) is a first year Master of Music candidate in Musical Theatre, studying with Amanda DeMaris. Brynn holds a B.A. in Voice Performance from Denison University. She was last seen as “Patty Simcox” in Lyric Opera Theatre’s production of *Grease*. Favorite musical theatre roles include “Jo March” in *Little Women*, “Miss Adelaide” in *Guys and Dolls*, and “Baker’s Wife” in *Into the Woods*. Brynn is an LOT Guild grant recipient (2015), and placed 3rd in the Arizona Musical Theatre NATS competition in November 2015. She recently created and performed her own short cabaret show with visiting artist JoAnn Yeoman. Special thanks to Julie. Love, turtles and angel wings to Kyla!

Dora – Early 20’s, sexy but dumb assistant to Dr. Dulcamara. She is Flora’s cousin, and has only worked for Dulcamara for four months. She makes up in cheerfulness for what she lacks in brains. She would like to follow in Flora’s footsteps and become a Dance Hall girl with enough money to buy her own cow.

Alyssa Lucero (Ensemble: Nella) is a Musical Theatre Performance Major in her sophomore year of study. She was recently a part of *Heathers* at Stray Cat Theater as the “Young Republicanette,” and some of her favorite roles have included “Laurey Williams” in *Oklahoma!*, “Princess Jasmine” in *Aladdin*, and “Marian Paroo” in *The Music Man*. She is incredibly excited and thankful to be a part of *L’elisir d’amor* because it will be the first opera she’s ever done. She would like to thank the cast and crew for their incredible work and she hopes you’ll enjoy the show!

Nella – Sister of Sara (granddaughter of Mamma Lucia), age 11. She is not quite as clever as her older sister, but is equally mischievous, and does everything that Stella tells her. She is afraid of goats, and loves her grandmother’s lasagna.

Danielle Mendelson (Ensemble: *Giulietta*) is a senior majoring in Vocal Performance under the direction of David Britton. She has been doing Musical Theatre since the age of 5, but is very excited to be performing in her first opera! Some of her favorite roles include "Gertrude McFuzz" in *Seussical the Musical*, "Rose Alvarez" in *Bye Bye Birdie*, "Marian" in *The Music Man*, and "Sandy" in *Grease*. She would like to thank all her friends and family who continue to always support her.

Giulietta – Also a cousin of *Giannetta*, age 19. She was the recent winner of the “Miss Chianti” *Beauty and Wine Drinking Contest* – and is engaged to *Drake*.

Angelica McGrew (Ensemble: *Mamma Rosa*) is currently a Music Theatre major and is elated to be in her first opera. Previous shows she's been in include MCC's production of *Edges* as "Woman," ASU's honor thesis project of *Once On This Island* as "Mama Euralie," and Mesa Encore Theatre's *Big River*. She would like to thank the cast and crew for all of their hard work to make the show possible. She would also like to thank her friends and family for all of their love and support.

Mamma Rosa – 63 year old widow, sister of *Mamma Lucia*. Her husband accidentally died after the local Chianti festival, where he got drunk and accidentally drove his ox cart over a cliff after his oxen were frightened by a mysterious loud noise. *Mamma Rosa* also cooks for the restaurant, and for 40 years has lost to her elder sister in the Annual Lasagna Cook-Off contest (where *Mamma Lucia* is also the Head Judge). She is beloved by all in the village, as she makes all the gelato in the restaurant from her own herd of cows. Unfortunately, she is lactose intolerant – and after her frequent gelato binges, she has terrible indigestion – which everyone knows about as she has gained the reputation for being the loudest belcher in all of Tuscany – most particularly in church or at funerals, much to the delight of the children and teenagers in the town who burst into uncontrolled fits of laughter. Rumor has it that the loud noise that caused her husband's oxen to run off the cliff had something to do with *Mamma Rosa* going on a gelato binge just before her husband's fatal accident.

Kimberly Mumford (Ensemble: *Flora*) is a Master of Music Candidate from the studio of Anne Elgar Kopta. Favorite roles include: “Malinche” in *Guadalupe*, “Medea” in *Medea*, “Desiree” in *A Little Night Music*, “Regan” in *King Lear*, “Elizabeth Woodville” in *Richard III*, “Olive Madison” in *Female Odd Couple*, “Lucy Mack Smith” in *Joseph, Joseph!*, “The Queen of the Night” in *The Magic Flute*, “Countess” in *The Marriage of Figaro*, “Octavian” in *Der Rosenkavalier*, and “Principessa” in *Suor Angelica*. She has directed for the Idaho Falls Opera Theatre, Utah State University and Westside Players, all while teaching band, choir and drama in the public school sector. She is a twice winner of the Eastern Washington, Idaho and Montana Metropolitan Opera National Council District auditions. She loves reading, British television, walking, her son Ian and the chance to sing again with such a supportive and talented family at ASU!

Flora – 40 year old sexy assistant and cousin to Dr. *Dulcamara*'s wife. She has traveled with him for 20 years, and has a weakness for younger men. She knows “all the dirt” on *Dulcamara*, and frequently blackmails him for 40% of his profits, threatening to reveal all to his wife, if he doesn't give her what she wants. She is a former Dance Hall girl and hopes to retire to a seaside village where she can open a combination Fish Market and Bordello.

Analise Rosario (Ensemble: *Anna Elisa*) is a second year student pursuing a Bachelor's of Music in Music Theater Performance and is a voice student of David Britton. *L'elisir d'amore* is her fifth LOT show, and she was last seen as an ensemble member in LOT's production of *Grease*. Her favorite roles have been "Marta" in *Company* and “The Sour Kangaroo” in *Seussical*. She would like to thank the cast and crew of *L'elisir d'amore* and her family and friends for all of their love and support!

Anna Elisa – Sister of *Anissa* (Granddaughter of *Mamma Lucia*) – age 16. She is *Shawn*'s girlfriend – and loves to cook. She is *Mamma Lucia*'s favorite, and hopes to learn all of her grandmother's recipes – especially the secret ingredient in her famous spaghetti sauce (that perhaps did in her grandfather). She works as a part-time waitress in *Mamma Lucia*'s restaurant.

Enrique Guevara (Ensemble: *Enrico*) is excited to venture into opera once again with *L'Elisir d'amore*. He is currently pursuing a BM in Performance (Music Theatre) studying voice under Amanda DeMaris. He was last seen on the opera stage as part of the ensemble in *Guadalupe* earlier this season. Musical theatre credits include *Grease*, *Children of Eden* and *Once on this Island* at ASU. He is grateful for his family, friends, and faculty/staff here at Lyric Opera Theatre for their support and for being part of his artistic journey.

Enrico – Distant cousin of *Mamma Lucia*'s deceased husband – age 17, and boyfriend of *Anissa*. He also loves to dance and hopes to run away to join the circus where he wants to be a tight rope walker.

Adam Sowards (Ensemble: *Beppo*) is a Master's in Musical Theatre candidate at ASU and studies with Carole FitzPatrick. He received his bachelors degree in Music Performance from Fort Lewis College in Durango CO. This will be Adam's fourth production with LOT, his most recent was "Danny Zuko" in *Grease*. Some favorite roles have been "Leopold Bloom" in *The Producers*, "Pippin" in *Pippin*, "Princeton" in *Avenue Q*, and "The Baker" in *Into the Woods*. This is Adam's second opera and he is incredibly grateful to work with this amazing production team and cast. Adam would like to thank his teachers, mother, friends, D&D and all those who support him. Enjoy the Show!!

Beppo – Early 20's even dumber soldier and younger brother of *Marco*. He worships *Belcore* and tries to do anything to please him – but is a complete klutz who is constantly doing things wrong. He, too, has a very cheerful personality, who hopes after serving in the military he can become a shepherd because his favorite thing for dinner is “shepherd's pie.” The thought of running around with sheepdogs and chasing sheep is his idea of heaven.

Shawn Wong (Ensemble: Gherardo) is excited to be in his first opera. He is a music theatre performance major and studies voice under Amanda DeMaris. Shawn was last seen in LOT's production of *Grease* as "Johnny Casino". He would like to Thank Dale Dreyfoos and Brian DeMaris for giving him this exciting opportunity and hopes everyone enjoys the show!

Gherardo – Enrique's younger brother – age 16 and boyfriend of Analise. He can't wait until he is 17, as he wants to run off and join the army, so that he can be as popular with the girls as Belcore is.

Isidro Melchor (Ensemble: Ippolito) is a Freshman at Arizona State University, studying Vocal Performance under the instruction of Dr. Amanda DeMaris. He is originally from El Paso, Texas but moved to Arizona in order to pursue his love of music and the performing arts. His other performances include the El Paso Opera's productions of *Tosca* as a chorus member, and *How Green Was My Valley* as "Mervyn Phillips." Isidro would like to thank the faculty of the Lyric Opera Theater (LOT) for giving him the opportunity to be in his first LOT production, and he would like to thank his friends and family for their overwhelming support.

Ippolito – He is also a Grandson of Mamma Rosa, and cousin of Miles and Drake, age 17. He is Daeun's boyfriend, who is often found sneaking in the backroom of Mamma Lucia's restaurant to help Daeun sample all the gelato.

Miles Plant (Ensemble: Gaetano) This is Miles Plant's third production here at ASU where he is a Master's student in Music Direction for Musical Theatre/Opera. He hails from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, or as the Algonquin call it, Mill-e-wah-que, meaning the good land. When not working on productions you can find him in his darkened office listening to a Sondheim record by candlelight. He would like to thank the cast, crew, and production team for their tireless work and Brian, Toby, Dale, Linda, Alfredo, GW, Sharon and Elyssa for their never ending support.

Gaetano – Grandson of Mamma Rosa, age 23. He has been the town Church organist since he was 12, after his great Uncle Alberto, the former Church organist, fell off the organ bench after drinking too much communion wine, thus bringing on the onset of Uncle Alberto's senility. He is the boyfriend of Julia, but secretly has a crush on her cousin, Giannetta.

Chris Reah (Ensemble: Lucca) is in his sophomore year in the B.M. Music Theatre program at LOT. He has enjoyed playing the role of "Sailor/Photographer" in *Anything Goes* at LOT and was recently cast as "Ensemble" in the upcoming production of *The Drowsy Chaperone*. He has also enjoyed playing the roles of "Shepard Boy/Ensemble" in *Tosca* and "Ensemble" in *La Bohème* with Arizona Opera. He would like to thank his family and friends for all of their support!

Lucca – Younger brother of Sara and Alyssa, age 9. He is a nice boy who is constantly being teased by his older sisters who like to play jokes on him. He wants to grow up to be a goat, so his older sister would be nicer to him.

Brian DeMaris (Music Director) leads his first opera as faculty at Arizona State University and newly appointed Artistic Director of the Lyric Opera Theatre Program. He also currently serves as Music Director of Mill City Summer Opera and Artist-Faculty at the Aspen Music Festival. He has worked with New York City Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, Opera Theater of Saint Louis, Syracuse Opera, Tri-Cities Opera, American Opera Projects, American Lyric Theater, Ash Lawn Opera Festival, Music Saint Croix and the Israel Chamber Orchestra. He has appeared at the United Nations, the Aspen Music Festival, Boston's Jordan Hall, New York's Studio 54, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Symphony Space, Alice Tully Hall, and in recitals, competitions, and master classes throughout the United States and abroad. He is the 2nd place winner of the 2013 American Prize in Opera and Musical Theater Conducting.

Dale Dreyfoos (Stage Director) is an ASU Professor of Opera/Music Theater and Resident Stage Director for Lyric Opera Theatre. He has had a multi-faceted career as a Stage Director, Character Tenor, Actor, Educator, and Arts Administrator. Mr. Dreyfoos began his performing career at the age of 10 as the Boy Soprano soloist with the Atlanta Boy Choir, during which time he appeared as a soloist in Mozart's *Vesperae Solennes de Confessore* with Robert Shaw & the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, as well as appearing in the French, Spanish, and Moroccan premieres of Benjamin Britten's chamber opera *The Golden Vanity*. Since that time, Mr. Dreyfoos has made a specialty of appearing in a wide variety of character roles including "Vespone" in *La Serva Padrona*, "Ambrogio" in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, "Goro" in *Madam Butterfly*, "Frosch" & "Dr. Blind" in *Die Fledermaus*, "Senex" in *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*, "Henry" in *The Fantasticks*, "Herr Schultz" in *Cabaret*, "Frisellino" in *Le Pescatrice*, "Njegus" in *The Merry Widow*, "Mozart" in *A Visit With Amadeus*, "Ben" in *The Telephone*, "Voltaire/Pangloss/The Governor" in *Candide*, "the Duchess of Krackenthorp" in *La Fille du Regiment*, "Edna" in *Bye, Bye, Birdie*, "Queen Elizabeth II" in *HMS Pinafore*, and most recently "Eulalie McKechnie Shinn" in *The Music Man* with such companies as the Piccolo Spoleto Festival, Arizona Opera, Opera Carolina, Haydn Festival in Eisenstadt, Austria, Birmingham Civic Opera, Mississippi Opera, Newberry Opera, Charleston Opera Company, Shakespeare Sedona and ASU's Lyric Opera Theatre. He has also appeared as the "Bargain Countertenor soloist" in P.D.Q. Bach's *The Seasonings* with the Alabama Symphony under the direction of Peter Schickele, as well as serving as the Narrator for *Peter and the Wolf*, *Carnival of the Animals*, and *A Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*.

LYRIC OPERA THEATRE FACULTY

Brian DeMaris Associate Professor, Artistic Director
Dale Dreyfoos Professor, Associate Artistic Director
Robert Mills Clinical Assistant Professor, Vocal Coach
Toby Yatso Lecturer, Musical Theatre Coordinator

FACULTY ASSOCIATES

Michael Barnard Musical Theatre, Repertoire
Robert Kolby Harper Musical Theatre, Acting
Molly Lajoie Musical Theatre, Dance

STAFF

Linda Bennett Program Coordinator Senior
Alfredo Escarega Technical Director
Sharon Jones Costume Shop Manager
Gerald Willow Master Electrician

STUDENT WORKERS

Brent Mauldin Graduate Assistant
Miles Plant Graduate Assistant
Kate Leonard Production Stage Manager
Miriam Schildkret Office Assistant, LOOP Coordinator

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE ASU VOICE FACULTY

David Britton
Amanda DeMaris
Carole FitzPatrick

Gordon Hawkins
Anne Elgar Kopta
Judy May

LYRIC OPERA THEATRE MISSION STATEMENT

The Lyric Opera Theatre program in the School of Music at Arizona State University's Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts is committed to preparing outstanding operatic and musical theatre artists for professional careers in the 21st century. Through expert individual and classroom instruction, the production of traditional and contemporary operas and musicals, student-led workshop and research opportunities, dynamic community engagement, and multiple professional collaborations, our program and faculty foster a creative, student-centered environment that enables students to discover themselves, their craft, and their artistry at their own pace, in their own unique way, at the highest level.

LYRIC OPERA OUTREACH PERFORMANCES

The LOOP program is a series of special performances of each of our productions for Arizona students, grades K-12. Students have the opportunity to talk with directors, conductors, choreographers, designers, technicians and cast members following each performance. Study guides are provided to help prepare students and encourage questions. The performances are free of cost to all attendees and transportation to the ASU Tempe campus is reimbursed. LOOP is made possible through a generous donation by Dr. Harold and Mrs. Doreen Saferstein and is a fulfillment of their dream to introduce opera and musical theatre to young people.

LYRIC OPERA THEATRE GUILD

The Lyric Opera Theatre Guild is a community-based organization of opera and musical theatre lovers supporting students in the Lyric Opera Theatre program with emergency grants, previews and post-performance receptions. For membership information please contact Jim Lunseth at 480-893-1792, Barbara Daniel at 480-390-2490, or e-mail azlotguild@yahoo.com.



Company

Sept. 25, 26; Oct. 2, 3 at 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 27 & Oct. 4 at 2 p.m.

Guadalupe

Nov. 19, 20, 21 at 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 22 at 2 p.m.

Grease

Jan. 15 at 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 16 at 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 17 at 2 p.m.

L'elisir d'amore (The Elixir of Love)

Feb. 25, 26, 27 at 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 28 at 2 p.m.

The Drowsy Chaperone

April 15, 16, 21, 23 at 7:30 p.m.
April 17 & 24 at 2 p.m.

Performances are held in the ASU School of Music's Evelyn Smith Music Theatre, located just north of ASU Gammage. Tickets: \$8-\$21.

Buy tickets online: music.asu.edu/events/lot
or by phone at [480.965.6447](tel:480.965.6447). Group rates available.