Music Theatre + Opera

PRESENTS

THE INFINITE ENERGY
OF
Ada Lovelace

Chamber Opera in One Act

By

KAMALA SANKARAM

Director
STEPHANIE SADOWNIK

Music Director
RANDI ELLEN RUDOLPH

Pianist
DAVID GATCHEL

Technical Director, Scenic Designer
ALFREDO ESCARCEGA

Costume, Hair, Makeup Designer
SHARON JONES

Streaming Supervisor
HOLLY WOODSIDE

Lighting/Sound Supervisor
GERALD WILLOW

Assistant Stage Manager
MAX PLATA

Stage Manager
KATE LEONARD

February 13 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
ONLINE STREAMING EVENT

This production adheres to all federal, state, local and university guidelines for safety and physical distancing. University COVID-19 information may be found at https://eoss.asu.edu/health/announcements/coronavirus
ABOUT ADA LOVELACE

Augusta Ada Byron, the only legitimate daughter of famed poet Lord Byron, was born in London on December 10, 1815. Byron separated from Ada’s mother Anne Isabella Milbanke when Ada was a month old, and as a result Ada was encouraged to develop her gift for mathematics. She married William King in 1835, and after he was made Earl of Lovelace Ada became a Countess, and became known as "Ada Lovelace". She formed a lasting friendship with mathematician and famed scholar Charles Babbage, who often turned to Ada for assistance with his work on the Analytical Engine. In 1843 Ada translated an article on the Analytical Engine written by the Italian engineer Luigi Menabrea, followed by her own notes, which greatly exceeded the length of the article itself. Due to the revolutionary concepts that she put forth in her notes about the potential ability of the Engine to carry out an algorithm to compute Bernoulli numbers, Ada is considered the world’s first computer programmer. Ada died on November 27, 1852.

--- New Camerata Opera

KAMALA SANKARAM BIOGRAPHY

Praised as “strikingly original” (NY Times) and “new voice from whom we will surely be hearing more” (LA Times), Kamala Sankaram writes highly theatrical music that defies categorization. Recent commissions include the Glimmerglass Festival, Washington National Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Shakespeare Theatre Company, and Opera on Tap, among others. Awards, grants and residencies include: Jonathan Larson Award, NEA ArtWorks, MAP Fund, Opera America, NY IT Award for Outstanding Production of a Musical, the Civilians, HERE, the MacDowell Colony, and the Watermill Center. Known for her work with emerging technologies, her recent genre-defying hit Looking at You (with collaborators Rob Handel and Kristin Marting) featured live data mining of the audience and a chorus of 25 singing tablet computers. Sankaram, Handel, and Marting also created all decisions will be made by consensus, a short absurdist opera performed live over Zoom and featured on NBC and the BBC3. With librettist Jerre Dye and Opera on Tap, she created The Parksville Murders, the world's first virtual reality opera (Samsung VR, Jaunt VR, Kennedy Center Reach Festival, “Best Virtual Reality Video” NY Independent Film Festival, Future of Storytelling, Salem Horror Festival and the Topanga Film Festival.)

Also a performer (hailed as “an impassioned soprano with blazing high notes” (Wall Street Journal)), Kamala moves freely between the worlds of experimental music, creative music, and
contemporary opera. Kamala recently sang the role of Gwen St. Clair in the revival of Meredith Monk’s ATLAS with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. A frequent collaborator with Anthony Braxton, she has premiered his operas Trillium E and Trillium J, as well as appearing on his 12-hour recording GTM (Syntax) 2017. Other notable collaborations include The Wooster Group’s LA DIDONE (Kaaitheater, Brussels, Edinburgh International Festival, Rotterdam Schouberg, Grand Théâtre de la Ville, Luxembourg, St. Anne’s Warehouse, NY, REDCAT, Los Angeles), the PROTOTYPE Festival’s THUMBPRINT (Baruch Performing Arts, NY, REDCAT, Los Angeles), and appearances with John Zorn, the Philip Glass Ensemble, and Petr Kotik, among others. Kamala is the leader of Bombay Rickey, an operatic Bollywood surf ensemble whose accolades include two awards for Best Eclectic Album from the Independent Music Awards, the 2018 Mid-Atlantic touring grant, and appearances on WFMU and NPR. Bombay Rickey’s opera-cabaret on the life of Yma Sumac premiered in the 2016 PROTOTYPE Festival and was presented in London at Tête-à-Tête Opera’s Cubitt Sessions.

Dr. Sankaram holds a PhD from the New School and is currently a member of the composition faculty at SUNY Purchase.

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**ROB HANDEL BIOGRAPHY**

Rob Handel is a librettist and playwright. His collaborations with composer Kamala Sankaram include *Enchantress* (American Lyric Theatre, Opera Ithaca), *Bombay Rickey (Meets The Psychology of Desire)* (Prototype festival at HERE, Tête à Tête in London), and *Looking At You* (developed at Opera America and BRIC Arts Media). *The Artwork of the Future*, with composer Eric Moe, was developed at New Dramatists, where Rob was a resident playwright from 2008-2015.

Handel’s plays include *Millicent Scowlworthy, Aphrodisiac, A Maze, and I Want to Destroy You*. Productions: New York Stage and Film, Long Wharf, Target Margin, Theatre Vertigo (Portland, OR), Rorschach Theatre (DC), Just Theater/Shotgun Players (Berkeley), Theatre Battery (Kent, WA), City Lights (San Jose), Curious Theatre (Denver), Theater Ninjas (Cleveland), Half Moon (Poughkeepsie), 99 Stock (San Francisco), and many others. Residencies: The Civilians R&D Group, Royal Court, Donmar Warehouse, O’Neill Playwrights Conference, Soho Rep, Portland Center Stage, The MacDowell Colony, Todd Mountain Theater Project, and a ‘pataphysics retreat.

Handel served on the board of the MacDowell Colony and was a founding member of 13P. He studied at Williams College and with Paula Vogel at Brown University. He lives in Pittsburgh with his wife, poet Joy Katz, and their son.
CAST

SAMANTHA DÁVALOS
Harriet Beecher Stowe/Nanny

TERESA MURPHY
August Ada Byron

MICHAEL NANNEY
William King-Noel

ANDREW PATCHIN
Charles Babbage/Butler
SAMANTHA DÁVALOS (Harriet Beecher Stowe/Nanny) is a soprano from El Paso, Texas and current Master of Music candidate in Opera Performance at Arizona State University. Samantha received her bachelor’s degree in Vocal Performance from The University of Texas at El Paso in 2019 where she performed the title role in Puccini’s *Suor Angelica*. While attending ASU Samantha has performed the roles of “Mother” in *Heart of Oksana*, “La Badessa” in *Suor Angelica*, “Linda Morales” in *Hometown to the World*, and “Anna Maurrant” in *Street Scene*. Samantha would like to give special thanks to her family and professors for all their love and support.

TERESA MURPHY (Ada Lovelace) is a mezzo-soprano, choral conductor, composer, and a master’s student in Voice Performance & Pedagogy at ASU (‘21). Last semester she was awarded the Warren Hoffer Art Song Scholarship which allowed her to give a recital of art song written by female Argentinian composers. She is the choral director at Risen Savior Lutheran Church and hopes to continue her studies next year with a Masters in Choral Conducting. She enjoys writing works for solo voice and chorus, and her newest work will be performed at the March concert of the Arizona Women’s Collaborative!

MICHAEL NANNEY (William King-Noel) is thrilled to be cast in Ada Lovelace at ASU. He is currently pursuing his Master’s in Opera and Musical Theatre Performance. His favorite roles include Monostatos in *Die Zauberflöte* and Le Remendado in *Carmen* at Harrower Summer Opera. Special thanks to his voice teacher, Stephanie Weiss, his friends, and family for their continued support.

ANDREW PATCHIN (Charles Babbage/Butler) is a Master of Music candidate in Opera Performance under the tutelage of Gordon Hawkins. He holds a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Arizona State University, having graduated summa cum laude this past year. He would like to extend his most sincere gratitude to Professor Brian DeMaris, Randi Rudolph, Stephanie Sadownik, Kate Leonard, Sharon Jones, and all those involved in this project for creating performance opportunities during these trying times.

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**CREATIVE TEAM**

![Stephanie Sadownik](image1.jpg)  
**Stephanie Sadownik**

![Randi Ellen Rudolph](image2.jpg)  
**Randi Ellen Rudolph**

![David Gatchel](image3.jpg)  
**David Gatchel**
STEPHANIE SADOWNIK (Director) is happy return to MTO to for the 2020-2021 season. Her season credits include Kamala Sankaram and Rob Handel's *The Infinite Energy of Ada Lovelace* and a double bill of *Nora at the Altar-Rail and A Hand of Bridge*. While pursuing a doctorate degree in music at Arizona State University, Ms. Sadownik directed the MTO Student Lab productions of *Trouble in Tahiti*, an original adaptation of Purcell's *The Fairy Queen*, a staged version of Dominick Argento’s Pulitzer Prize winning song cycle *From the Diaries of Virginia Woolf* with the group, Duo au courant and the new work reading of Laura Kaminsky’s new opera *Postville*. She made her professional debut at the beginning of 2020 as an assistant director with Arizona Opera on their production of *La Bohéme*.

RANDI ELLEN RUDOLPH (Music Director) is currently pursuing her DMA in Conducting at Arizona State University. She has served as conductor and music director for productions throughout the country, working with theaters including Red Mountain Theatre Company, Highlands Playhouse, and Moonlight Stage Productions. Randi holds a MM in Opera and Musical Theater Conducting from Ithaca College and a BA in Music from Stanford University. Thank you to the entire cast and production team for being a part of this crazy process, it has been a joy making music in person with you!

DAVID GATCHEL (Pianist) is a second-year master’s student, studying collaborative piano with Russell Ryan. Gatchel has performed in several countries including Austria, Croatia, Germany and throughout the US in collaboration with vocalists and instrumentalists. He graduated with High Distinction from Indiana University Bloomington with a minor in psychology. Gatchel champions the performance of contemporary works and is thrilled to perform Kamala Sankaram’s *The Infinite Energy of Ada Lovelace*. He is grateful for his loving family, expert teachers, supportive friends and wonderful ASU community.

KATE LEONARD (Stage Manager) This is Kate’s 9th season with ASU Music Theatre and Opera! Favorite shows include 35mm, Musical of Musicals (The Musical!), Grey Gardens, Reefer Madness, and A New Brain. She graduated from ASU in 2016 with a BA in Theatre. Thanks to the lovely cast and production team, the oh-so-fabulous MTO faculty and staff, her incredible friends and family, and YOU for supporting local theatre!

MAX PLATA (Assistant Stage Manager) is a student of Barrett, the Honors College studying Theatre Writing & Dramaturgy. His previous experience with Music Theatre & Opera includes Stage Manager for *35mm: A Musical Exhibition* and ASM for *The Light in the Piazza*, among several other productions. Max would like to thank the production team and cast for their hard work and high spirits under challenging circumstances, and for reminding him of how integral art is to our community. It’s been great to be backstage again!
FACULTY

Brian DeMaris ......................................................... Artistic Director
Dale Dreyfoos .......................................................... Associate Artistic Director
Robert Mills ......................................................... Vocal Coach
Toby Yatso* ................................................. Musical Theatre Coordinator
Robert Kolby Harper* ................................................ Musical Theatre, Acting
Molly Lajoie .............................................................. Musical Theatre, Dance

*denotes Phoenix Theatre affiliate

STAFF

Linda Bennett ............................................................. Program Coordinator
Alfredo Escarcega ........................................................ Technical Director
Sharon Jones ......................................................... Costume Coordinator, Hair and Makeup
Kate Leonard .......................................................... Production Stage Manager
Gerald Willow .......................................................... Master Electrician

STUDENT WORKERS

Randi Ellen Rudolph ................................................. Graduate Assistant
Kevin White ............................................................ Graduate Assistant
Max Plata ............................................................... Assistant Stage Manager
Ellie Barrett ............................................................. Office Assistant

VOICE FACULTY

Amanda DeMaris  Nathan De’Shon Myers
Carole FitzPatrick  Andrea Pitman Will
Gordon Hawkins  Stephanie Weiss

If you enjoy our performances, please consider making a financial contribution to the ASU School of Music, Dance and Theatre for Music Theatre and Opera. Information may be found at musicdancetheatre.asu.edu/giving.

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