

International Women's Day Concert A Tribute Extravaganza to Women in the Arts

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
611 Randolph St., Oak Park, IL
March 8, 2022, 7PM

Michelle Areyzaga *soprano*
Jonita Lattimore *soprano*
Christine Steyer *soprano*
Corinne Wallace-Crane *contralto*
Dana Brown *collaborative pianist*
Jennifer McCabe *collaborative pianist*

with
M.G. Bertulfo *emcee & writer*
Mimei Sakamoto *visual artist*
Halau I Ka Pono

The Hula School of Chicago



Show your support for International Women's Day
#IWD2022 #BreaktheBias

Presented by Bellissima Opera, an initiative of Working In Concert,
& Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Donor and Grant Support: Jethra Kapp, Eleanor Sharpe, Illinois Arts
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International Women's Day Concert —A Tribute Extravaganza to Women in the Arts
March 8, 2022

Michelle Areyzaga, Jonita Lattimore, Christine Steyer and Corinne Wallace-Crane
with Jennifer McCabe, Dana Brown, Mary Grace Bertulfo and Halau I Ka Pono
featuring artwork by Mimei Sakamoto
Bellissima Opera Artistic Director, Christine Steyer

Welcome and Introduction:

On behalf of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
On behalf of Working In Concert & Bellissima Opera
#BreaktheBias and *The Bank*

The Reverend Kathy Nolte
Claudia Hommel
Mary Grace Bertulfo*

Part 1: Music

If I Could Give You All I Have
The Year's at the Spring
Ah, Love But a Day
Last Rose of Summer
The Magic is Gone, from *If the Shoe Fits*

Spencer & Lena J. McLin*
Robert Browning & Lena J. McLin
Robert Browning & Amy Beach
Irish Folk Song, *arr.* Thomas Moore
Susan DiLallo & Lita Grier*

Part 2: Music

Donde lieta, from *La Bohème*
Vissi d'arte, from *Tosca*
Je dis que rien ne m'épouvante, from *Carmen*
Mon coeur s'ouvre à ta voix, from *Samson et Delilah*

Giacomo Puccini
Giacomo Puccini
Georges Bizet
Camille Saint-Saëns

Part 3: Guest Artists

Kukaniloko

Halau I Ka Pono—The Hula School of Chicago
written, sung, choreographed by Kuana Torres Kahele

Dancers: Allison Arinaga, Ruben Hanohano, Henry Hanale West, Elizabeth Powers,
Gwendolyn Baker, Joy Yamasaki, Yukiko Shiraishi, Sarah Evans, Aina Rudzinski,
JoEllyn Hoey Romano & Kumu June Tanoue

Ambergris Pearls, from a novel-in-progress

Mary Grace Bertulfo

Part 4: Music

Memory of the Sunlight
Widmung
Morgen!
Apegado a mi

Anna Ahkmatova & Sergei Prokofiev
Friedrich Rückert & Robert Schumann
John Henry Mackay & Richard Strauss
Gabriela Mistral & Wayland Rogers

Part 5: Music

Always
Epilogue: *The Long View, Questions Answered*
words from a talk by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg
Full Fathom Five, from *The Tempest*

Scott Alan
Patrice Michaels*
William Shakespeare & Elizabeth Rudolph*

Part 6: Music for A Perfect Future

Future Perfect, 1,300 Youths and Six Years Later
The Universe Sings, from *Future Perfect*
Transcendence Quartet, from *Future Perfect*

Christine Steyer
Christina Lee* & David Shenton
Christine Steyer* & David Shenton

**Denotes contemporary local women authors, lyricists and composers*

Michelle Areyzaga's association with the music of Leonard Bernstein runs deep—from her portrayal of Cunegonde in *Candide*, to *Bernstein on Broadway* with Jamie Bernstein (Leonard's daughter). She has appeared internationally as an orchestral and opera soloist, from the first Bach B minor Mass performed in Costa Rica to companies in New York, Paris, Chicago and Mexico. Her numerous roles have included *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Susanna), *Madama Butterfly* (title role), and *La Bohème* (Mimi). A foremost interpreter of vocal art song and chamber music, Areyzaga has been a repeat guest of the New York Festival of Song, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, as well as Chicago's Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series. Named "Artist of the Year" by the *Pioneer Press* and an award recipient from the Julian Autrey Song Foundation, she was also a NATSAA National Finalist chosen by Teresa Stratas. She has recorded song cycles by Gwyneth Walker on *The Sun Is Love*; *Songs from Spoon River* by Lita Grier; and *The Small Hours* by William Ferris. She received her BA in Vocal Performance from Roosevelt University with honors and was a member of Ravinia's Steans Institute for Young Artists.

Soprano **Christine Steyer** has distinguished herself as an artist of great versatility recently receiving the 2020 Honored Artist of The American Prize for outstanding contributions to the arts. Steyer has received acclaim for her portrayals of the title role in *Madama Butterfly* and Violetta in *La Traviata*. Since 2000, she has sung as a chorister and in several small roles in over 40 productions at Lyric Opera of Chicago. A frequent recitalist, Steyer sings innovative concerts, often including diverse repertoire, contemporary compositions, and works specifically by female lyricists and composers. As a music advocate, Steyer has brought classical music to 23,000 youth in underserved areas with her organization, Bellissima Opera Outreach. In 2014, Steyer, as librettist, and David Shenton, as composer, began writing Bellissima Opera's Tales of Transcendence: an award-winning opera series exploring our shared humanity. The first, *On Call: COVID-19*, honoring healthcare workers, premiered in 2021. The second, *Future Perfect*, co-created with 1,300 Oak Park and Chicago youths, premieres at the Kehrein Center for the Arts in Chicago's this June. Steyer co-founded Working In Concert in 2019 and serves as its president and artistic co-director.

As a collaborative pianist, **Jennifer McCabe** has worked with organizations such as The Kennedy Center, DePaul University, Music Institute of Chicago, Wheaton College, The Musical Offering, Opera on Tap, Merit School of Music, NATS, Royal George Theater and ChiArts. She enjoys collaborating with the many wonderful artists of Chicago with a special emphasis on vocal repertoire. An in-demand private piano teacher and music director, Jennifer has also studied voice, clarinet, saxophone, steel pan, non-profit management and composition.

Mary Grace ("M.G.") Bertulfo has written professionally for television and children's education in such venues as CBS, Pearson Education Asia, and Schlessinger and for conservation magazines such as *Sierra* and *Chicago Wilderness*. Her award-winning fiction, essays, and poetry have appeared in *Growing Up Filipino II*, *Assignment Magazine* (online) and others. Mary Grace is a member of the international N.V.M. and Narita Gonzalez Writers Group and founded Banyan: Asian American Writers Collective which promotes the visibility of Asian American Writers in Chicago and uplifts community spirit through the arts. She earned her MFA in fiction at Southern New Hampshire University where she was an Orion scholar and was awarded the Lynn Safford Memorial Prize. Mary Grace paddles rivers and lakes, leads woodland clean-ups, stewards her native prairie garden, and lives in a ramshackle, eco-friendly house with her spouse and two fluffy dogs. For Mary Grace Bertulfo writing is a spiritual practice, grounded in her Filipino heritage and gratitude to Mother Earth. www.mgbertulfo.com Instagram: @mgbertulfo_writer

Jonita Lattimore, soprano, has received critical acclaim for her portrayals of operatic roles, symphonic concerts, and recital appearances. Some of her highlights include Micaela in *Carmen*, Marguerite in *Faust*, and the world premiere of the role of Elizabeth Taylor in *Jackie O*. She has performed extensively throughout Chicago, as well as at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and numerous European venues. Lattimore has been recognized by many distinguished organizations, winning awards from Opera Index, the MacAllister Awards, the George London Foundation, and the Birgit Nilsson and Luciano Pavarotti International Competitions. She was part of Emmy Award-winning ensembles with the Eastman School of Music and the Chicago Sinfonietta. Several years ago, she was highlighted as a figure of Black history by Rhymefest on WVON's "I am Chicago" series. Ms. Lattimore had the honor of collaborating with legendary soprano Kathleen Battle in the production, *Underground Railroad: A Spiritual Journey Concert*. Most recently, she served as Vocal Consultant for the Auditorium Theatre's production of *Get Out*, the award-winning film accompanied with live music. A proud alumna of Kenwood Academy, she received her bachelor's degree from the Eastman School of Music and her master's from the University of Illinois.

Corinne Wallace-Crane has been a regular with the Lyric Opera Chorus since the 2010/11 season and also played roles in *My Fair Lady*, *Cendrillon* and *Dead Man Walking*. Wallace-Crane also has been featured locally with the Grant Park Music Festival as the alto soloist in Rachmaninov's *Vespers* in 2017. Most recently, she appeared as alto soloist in the Grant Park Music Festival's performances of Vivaldi's *Gloria*. Wallace-Crane trained as a young artist at the Natchez Opera Festival, Central City Opera, and Sarasota Opera. She was recently seen as Hansel as part of Lyric Opera's Opera in the Parks program in *Hansel & Gretel*, and as in *The Magic Flute* at the Lyric. Corinne lives in Naperville with her husband, Mike.

Pianist **Dana Brown** is the Associate Professor of Opera and Vocal Coaching at the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. He has performed on 98.7 WFMT Radio, as well as at the Ravinia Festival, the Tanglewood Festival, the Chicago Cultural Center and the Chicago Humanities Festival. He is a staff pianist for the Ryan Opera Center at the Lyric Opera of Chicago where he has played the lessons and masterclasses of Marilyn Horne, Renata Scotto, Renée Fleming and Sir Andrew Davis. He is the Collaborative Pianist Liaison to the Central Regional Board of NATS, the National Association of Teachers of Singing. Brown recently recorded *Were I With Thee*, with soprano Michelle Areyzaga (wereiwiththee.com), and *Human to Human* with The Fourth Coast Ensemble (fourthcoastensemble.hearnow.com) where he also serves as Chair of the Board. His upcoming solo recital in Los Angeles will feature transcriptions of pianist Earl Wild in music of Gershwin and Rachmaninoff. danabrownmusic.com

Japanese artist **Mimei Sakamoto** is known as the "Queen of Lady's Comics" for her prolific work as a manga cartoonist. She expanded her role in the arts to work professionally as a novelist, a TV commentator, a film actress, photographer and painter. Additionally, she has used her platform to raise support for victims of abduction and for orphans of earthquakes. Ms. Sakamoto made her debut as singer in 2009 (Rambling Record) and in 2017 recorded duets with Benjamin Legrand, son of Michel Legrand. Her most recent gallery exhibit of her paintings was at Paris' Salon d'Automne in 2022.

Kumu June Tanoue leads Halau I Ka Pono—The Hula School of Chicago is dedicated to cultivating aloha through the joy of Hula. All are welcome. Beginner classes available at www.halauikapono.org



Paintings: Mimei Sakamoto

Special Thanks to our IWD Staff & Volunteers:

Kimberly Adami-Hasegawa, Diane Deckert,
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Additional Thanks:

Marcia Engel of Marcia the Matchmaker
marciathematchmaker.com

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FUTURE PERFECT—a modern tale of curiosity

Christine Steyer *librettist*

David Shenton *composer*

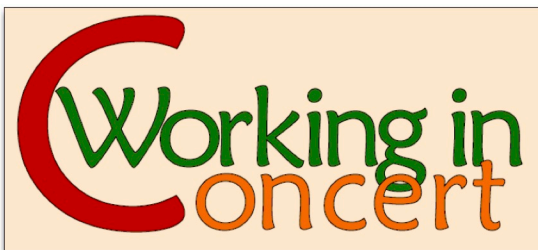
Nick Sandys *director*

Join the adventures of Miranette and friends she meets along her way. All become entwined in a web of quantum entanglement—a state of interconnectedness where anything is possible. A new work for all ages, co-created with 1,300 Oak Park & Chicago youths.

Premieres June 23-26, 2022
The Kehrein Center for the Arts, Chicago

WorkingInConcert.org/futureperfect





*A performing arts collaborative of classical and cabaret artists
— delivering songs and stories up close and personal*

Our shared initiatives:

- Bellissima Opera
- Black Voices in Cabaret
- Chicago Cabaret Week
- Chicago Paris Cabaret Connexion
- SongShop Live
- In the Classroom

BELLISSIMA OPERA, led by Christine Steyer, creates innovative professional concert events and operas. Our Tales of Transcendence opera series began in 2021 with the award-winning online opera, *On Call: COVID-19*, and continues with the live world premiere of *Future Perfect*, June 23-26, 2022. Our annual International Women's Day concert was inaugurated on March 8. It will stream this fall.



BLACK VOICES IN CABARET

A forum for education, entertainment, and mutual support of Black artists. Starting in Chicago where American cabaret had its first roots, we highlight emerging and established African-American cabaret performers, embrace their many genres, and encourage opportunities to perform for new audiences.

CHICAGO CABARET WEEK

Working In Concert joins with Chicago Cabaret Professionals, Acts Of Kindness Cabaret and The Cabaret Project to launch the first annual citywide cabaret festival. The inaugural week in May 2022 applauds the more than 100 years of Chicago cabaret, its diverse arts and artists, and their future.



CHICAGO PARIS CABARET CONNEXION

An international singer exchange which aims to advance together the art of cabaret. Having held multi-day conferences of workshops, round tables and concerts—2017 in Paris, 2018 in Chicago, 2019 in Sète, Montpellier and Paris—we look forward to holding the next international conference in Chicago, May 2022.



SONGSHOP LIVE gathers professional singers and advanced amateurs to hone their performance skills. Led by Claudia Hommel, our ongoing, award-winning song interpretation workshop is held at the DePaul University School of Music and other city locations. SongShop Live brings concerts to a growing audience.



OPERA IN THE CLASSROOM



Our school programs are grounded in the drama of opera and the intimacy of cabaret—infused with language, poetry, social history, and sense of place. We engage students with songs to reach across borders of time, place, and culture.

CABARET IN THE CLASSROOM

