



Bellissima Opera
Black Voices in Cabaret
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FUTURE PERFECT — World Premiere

A tale for the curious co-created with 1300 Chicago and Oak Park youths

The Magic Flute meets The Wizard of Oz in this fantastical work perfect for all ages!

Future Perfect tells the story of young Miranette who ventures away from her forbidding society. Beyond "the fence", she encounters a magical world and a host of characters with whom she exchanges powerful lessons about the interconnectedness of humanity.

This production is supported by a cast of 31 performers ages 4-79, orchestra, costumes and sets. The latest and most ambitious opera in [Bellissima Opera's Transcendence Series](#) by the award winning composer/librettist team of [David Shenton](#) and [Christine Steyer](#), *Future Perfect* is directed by [Nick Sandys](#), multi-awarded producer, director, actor and educator. (Cast names below).

The characters, costumes and lyrics of this modern tale by librettist Christine Steyer are based on writings and drawings gathered from five years of workshops with more than 1,300 Chicago area school children. Facilitated by musicians, poets and artists, the young people explored themes of separateness, labels, interconnectedness and transcendence. The *Future Perfect* workshops involved students from Chicago's Nicholas Senn, Lane Tech and Al Raby High Schools and John Kinzie Elementary School, as well as Lincoln Elementary School and young members of the Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Oak Park.

The world premiere of *Future Perfect* will be performed at the [Kehrein Center for the Arts](#)

A poster for the opera 'Future Perfect' with a pink background. It features a silhouette of a person pointing upwards. The text on the poster includes the title 'FUTURE PERFECT' with a butterfly icon, the subtitle '—a modern tale of curiosity', the creative team (Christine Steyer librettist, David Shenton composer, Nick Sandys director), a synopsis about Miranette and quantum entanglement, the premiere dates (June 23-26, 2022) and location (The Kehrein Center for the Arts, Chicago), and the website WorkingInConcert.org/futureperfect.

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 opera for all ages, co-created with 1,300 Oak Park & Chicago youths.

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

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in Chicago's Austin neighborhood. There will be four performances only:

- Thursday, June 23: 7:30PM
- Friday, June 24: 7:30PM
- Saturday, June 25: 7:00PM
- Sunday, June 26: 4PM

Future Perfect is performed in English with supertitles (closed captioning displayed for all performances), with a running time of 1 hour and 50 minutes. There is no intermission. Following the show, audiences are invited for a talk-back with the creative team, and for a photo op with performers, puppets, butterflies and dragon. Suitable for ages 5+. Masks are required.

Ticket prices range from \$5-\$50 to make the show affordable for all. Tickets:

workinginconcert.org/futureperfect

The Kehrein Center for the Arts is located at 5628 W. Washington Blvd. Chicago, IL. KCA is easily accessible by the Green Line and CTA buses and has three free parking lots. Fully accessible for wheelchair-enabled people. (When booking tickets, please provide detailed information on special needs.) A QR code will be provided to offer larger viewing of the playbill.

Read more about *Future Perfect*: workinginconcert.org/futureperfect

Founded in 2010, [Bellissima Opera](#) (Oak Park) presents innovative classical concert experiences in intimate environments. It is an initiative of [Working In Concert](#) (Chicago), a performing arts alliance that educates, advocates for, and mobilizes a global community of singers, from opera to cabaret, who use the art of song to empower lives and build community.

Adult Cast: Carl Ratner, Wydetta Carter, Susan Lewis Friedman, Rose Guccione, Christine Steyer, Brian Allen Pember Jr, Sarah Kropski, Jeffrey Goldberg, Dennis M. Kalup, Dominique Frigo, Katie Rub, Hailey Cohen, Kaleb Nuesse, Suzanne Walsh.

Ensemble: Paul Geiger, Peter Stigdon, Christina Ray, Xandra Daigle, Marcela Ossa, Barbara Smith

Youth Cast: Isabella Airato, Sam Combs, Benjamin Govertsen, Henry James Hansen, Amelia Holly, Caleb Reed-Jennings, Shiloh Jennings, Henry Lombardo, Norah Lougachi, Ruby O'Shaughnessey, Tekla Schreiner-Witte

Tim Pahel, conductor; David Shenton, pianist.

The production team of Bellissima Opera, an initiative of Working In Concert, is especially eager to bring this work back to young people, especially those who live in and around the Austin neighborhood.

A third of the cast is under the age of 18, with special support being provided by an Illinois Arts Council Summer Youth Employment grant and major donors serving as Community Builder Sponsors: Robert L Beach and Paul D Dykstra, Ock-Ju Noh, Doug Cotsamire, Jethra Kapp, Rich Pokorny, the Unity Temple Universal Universalist Congregation and many more.

PRESS KIT:

[Personnel profiles](#)





Director Nick Sandys describes *Future Perfect's* four Ls: Listening, Laughing, Learning and Love and why it is exactly the work that needs to be done at this time,



Senn High School student Imani Brunson reads her poem "Labels" from a *Future Perfect* workshop in 2014. Three sections of her powerful poem appear in the opera's libretto.



"200 Million Cells" *Future Perfect's* finale with composer David Shenton, piano and Tim Pahal, conductor. 200 million is the average amount of cellular regeneration in the human body per minute.

#meetopera #bellissimaopera #futureperfect



Top Row (left to right): Rose Guccione, Brian Allen Pember Jr, Katie Rub, Sarah Kropski, Dominique Frigo
Second Row (left to right): Susan Lewis Friedman, Peter Stigdon, Wydetta Carter, Paul Geiger, Marcela Ossa
Third Row (left to right): Hailey Cohen, Barbara Smith, Christina Ray, Jeffrey Goldberg, Christine Steyer
Bottom Row (left to right): Kaleb Nuesse, Suzanne Walsh, Xandra Daigle, Dennis M. Kalup, Carl Ratner



Top Row (left to right): Norah Lougachi, Caleb Reed-Jennings, Isabella Airato, Tekla Schreiner-Witte, Ruby O'Shaughnessey, Henry Lombardo
Bottom Row (left to right): Shiloh Jennings, Benjamin Govertsen, Sam Combs, Henry James Hansen, Amelia Holly

Working in Concert is a not-for-profit performing arts collaborative for cabaret, opera and classical vocal arts. Working In Concert educates, advocates for, and mobilizes a global community of singers who use the art of song to empower lives and build community.