Bios (in program order)



Yana White is a native of St. Petersburg, Russia where she began studying voice and attended the prestigious Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia, graduating in 2000 with a BA in Humanities. Yana developed her passion for opera in her late teens. After graduating college in Russia, she started pursuing her music education. Yana graduated cum laude with a BA in Music from the University of North Texas, where she has performed the roles of Stepmother in Sondheim's Into the Woods and Mrs. Peachum in Weill's The Threepenny Opera. She has enjoyed performing roles of Mrs. Herring in Britten's Albert Herring, Fiordiligi in Cosi fan tutte, and Countess in Le Nozze di Figaro as a part of educational summer programs with Spotlight on Opera and New York Lyric Opera.



Brian D. Bentley, a native of Dallas, has a Bachelor of Music in piano performance from Oklahoma Baptist University and Master of Music degrees in choral conducting and piano accompanying from Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University. Bentley completed additional coursework in sacred music at SMU Perkins School of Theology. He joined the faculty of Meadows School of the Arts as an adjunct lecturer in fall 2015. Upon completion of his graduate studies, Bentley served for three years as a staff accompanist for the divisions of music and dance at Meadows School of the Arts. Though serving the next 15 years within the Diocese of Dallas—for five years as director of music at Holy Trinity Catholic Church and for 10 years as director of music and liturgy at the Cathedral Shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Guadalupe—Bentley remained active as an accompanist and voice coach in the Dallas area. Bentley is an adjunct professor of music at University of Dallas, where he conducts the UDChorale, the UDSchola, and teaches a course on the history and theory of Gregorian chant. In addition, he serves as music consultant for Cistercian Abbey—Our Lady of Dallas, and is the founding director of the Schola Cantorum Stellæ Solæ, an ensemble dedicated to the study and singing of Gregorian chant.

Pauline Leung, Soprano, has always been passionate in music throughout her life. Pauline spent her teenage years learning piano and singing in choirs, and later on, received private singing lessons. After working for a few years in her adulthood, Pauline still hasn't lost her passion and started taking singing lessons again. Now, she joins the New Artist Development Program from the Diversità Opera Arts Company and studies under Christina Dragoo. Her favorite piece is Vissi d'arte from Tosca.

Erin McGrew is a Dallas native who graduated from the College of William and Mary in Virginia with a BA in Music (Voice and Harpsichord) and the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University with a Master of Sacred Music (Keyboards). She started piano lessons at age 7 and voice lessons at age 17. Erin taught piano and voice lessons for 25 years, has worked as a theatre musician for 30 years, and as a church musician for 35 years. Thanks to Walteria Caldwell for this opportunity to work with such talented vocalists



Lily Issac is a talented vocalist known for her powerful and emotive performances. With a robust background in classical music, she honed her skills at the prestigious University of North Texas College of Music. Lily has been a standout performer with the Amarillo Opera, participating in 6 seasons under the leadership of Mila Gibson. Her dedication to her craft and passion for opera drives her to continue studying and sharpening her voice.



Hayeong Jessica Park, a Mezzo-soprano from Flower Mound, Texas, is based in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. She is currently attending the University of North Texas for her Master of Music in Voice Performance, studying with Dr. Jeffrey Snider. She is the representative of UNT Opera International students, a board member for Opera Fans, serves as a Division of Vocal Studies Student Council, and a member of Opera on Tap. Hayeong will be performing as Witch (Hansel and Gretel) with Diversitá Opera and performed her most recent role as the Sorceress (Dido and Aeneas) with Chicago Summer Opera. Previous roles include La Zelatrice (Suor Angelica), Gherardino (Gianni Schicchi) conducted by Gregory Buchalter, The Metropolitan Opera at The Grand Stand Music Festival MUZIKA! in South Carolina, Suzy & Lolette (La Rondine), Dorothée cover (Cendrillon), Flower girl (Le Nozze di Fiagro), scenes as Meg (Falstaff), and Paquette (Candide) with UNT Opera. She also has participated for the World Premiere workshop, the Hell-Bound Train with UNT Opera, and recorded the album for Shara Nova's Infinite Movement. Hayeong performs as a scholar singer in Dallas, and she was a soloist for Fanny Mendelssohn's Hiob Cantata choir concert while she was studying voice and fashion merchandising at the University of North Texas.



Chandler Watkins is voice student and a recent graduate obtaining a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. She has performed as Margot in Legally Blonde and sings with the Praise Team. Chandler enjoys writing in her home studio and is excited about exploring her spirited soprano voice.



Gavin Fountain is in the fourth grade at Sunnyvale Intermediate School. He started playing the piano with Ms. Caldwell over two years ago. He also enjoys playing the guitar, building Legos, baseball, reading, and anything related to history. Piano has become a fun and creative outlet for him. Gavin loves to keep progressing by learning and playing new songs.



Hannah Abraham is in 3rd grade. Hannah is a music student and an animal lover! Especially dogs and cats! Hannah wants to be a member of PETA to avoid animal cruelty.



Isabella Miller has taken voice and piano lessons, and also have sung a part in a production called We Will Rock You. Isabella says, "I like music because it allows you to express your feelings in a cool way and because it's fun to listen to. This is why I love music and all things related to it."



Olivia Abraham is in 3rd grade. She loves music and dance. Olivia joined ballet/jazz dance class this year. In her free time she enjoys drawing.



Gia Caldwell is a straight A student who is in the 4th grade this year. She enjoys playing piano, singing, drawing, swimming, and playing basketball. She participates as an acolyte and is part of the Praise Kids choir at Trinity. Some of her past performances include Amahl and the Night Visitors, Annie, and I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes by Hailstork. Gia greatly admires her big brother and sister.

Gia says she wants to go to college like them when she grows up!

Joshua Cherian is an eighth grade student and an inspiring musician who enjoys playing the piano. His favorite subjects in school are math and science. He enjoys art, and during his free time, he likes to play video games with his siblings and friends.

Adrienne Phipps is inspired to continue her journey through music and expand her vocal experience. She is the cofounder of Ageless Inspiration, has been a Scholarship recipient of Diversita Opera Company, and was a chorus member from the Fort Worth Opera production of Porgy and Bess.