

Island of **FLIGHTLESS** *Birds*

Sample Song Workshop

NOVEMBER 22, 2025 @ 7:00PM
BACKSTAGE THEATRE
FIFTHS AND STARTS PRODUCTION

IFBIRDS.COM





ABOUT THE SHOW

Song Set List

1. Seagull in a Tree

Seagull and Ensemble

2. Wings

Rooster and Ladies

3. Whatever Comes First

Pelican, Ostrich

4. Brother Earth

Eagle

5. Birds on a Wire

All cast

6. How Do I Move You?

Grackle and Ensemble

7. Swan Song

Flamingo and Ensemble

8. Finale / Steppin' Up

All cast

Summary

Our story takes place on an island off the coast of Texas, nothing more than a sandbar really, a celebrated refuge for birds who, for one reason or another, cannot fly.

The island faces destruction as a catastrophic hurricane approaches, and all the flightless birds must find a way to safety.



MEET US

The Performers

Trinity Collie

Grackle

Janelle Jorde

Seagull

Tyson Kerr

Flamingo

Lexi Paz

Ostrich

Cory Roberts

Rooster

Franck Armel Talla Konchou

Pelican

Maxwell Vesely

Eagle

The Creatives

Dana Buschmann

Book, Music, and Lyrics

Tyson Kerr

Music Arrangement and Direction

The Team

Jenn Galm

Communications & Marketing Director

Dana Tanner-Kennedy

Dramaturg

Selina Painchaud

Production Manager/Designer

BIOS

Dana Buschmann

Book, Music, and Lyrics

I grew up in Houston, Texas and experienced my first hurricane in 1983, when I slept through Hurricane Alicia (Category 3) even as lightning struck the tree outside my bedroom window. I studied classical ballet from age 3 to 18 before yielding to my dominant left brain to study biochemistry, then patent law. After a stint on the East Coast, I returned as an Islander-By-Choice, residing in Galveston, an island off the coast of Texas, nothing more than a sandbar really. My residency in Galveston was bookended by Hurricane Ike (Category 4, 2008) and Hurricane Harvey (Category 4, 2017) before I flew the coop to Edmonton, Alberta. This isn't my first rodeo, but it is my first original musical. What else can you do when your neglected artistic alter ego becomes an ostrich, grabs you by the shoulders, and snickers in your ear until you finish writing the damn thing?

Tyson Kerr

Book, Music, and Lyrics; *Flamingo*

Tyson Kerr is a stylistically diverse composer, arranger, pianist, organist, singer, and accordionist. Tyson has collaborated with and written commissions for Citie Ballet, Musango, 6 Minute Warning, Pro Coro Canada, and Cosmopolitan Music Society. An award-winning graduate of the University of Toronto, Grant MacEwan, and Banff Centre for the Arts music programs, Tyson has released several albums as leader/co-leader with free improvised classical folk quartet Myrtle's Turtle and jazz collective The Writers' Guild. Tyson teaches through the Sarah McLachlan School of Music and the Winspear Conservatory of Music, using a degree in social work to help build more inclusive environments for artists and youth. Tyson has collaborated with Laura Raboud to present "Vern's Diary", a new musical setting of a WWII vet's prisoner of war diary.

BIOS



Trinity Collie

Grackle

Hailing from Raymond, Alberta, soprano Trinity Collie has cultivated a rich and diverse musical background. Her musical journey began in school bands, where she developed her musicianship on both flute and baritone saxophone. Over time, her passion for vocal performance flourished, leading her to leadership roles as section leader with both The University of British Columbia's University Singers and St. James Anglican Church. Trinity holds a Bachelor of Music in Opera Performance from the University of British Columbia, where she performed extensively with the UBC Opera Ensemble. Her operatic credits include roles in *The Cunning Little Vixen* (2023), *Rusalka* (2024), *H.M.S. Pinafore* (2024), *Street Scene* (2025), and *Manon* (2025). She has also appeared with Opera West in *Tosca* (2022) and *Cavalleria Rusticana* (2023). More recently, Trinity sings with Óran, a choir within the Korora Choirs Association.



Janelle Jorde

Seagull

Janelle is a multidisciplinary artist based in Amiskwaciwâskahikan. A graduate of the MacEwan University Theatre Arts program, Janelle has spent the last few years dabbling in arts administration as the Box Office Manager of Northern Light Theatre, teaching dance, singing with the Korora Choirs Association and producing shows with her mother as NextGen Theatre Company. She would like to thank Seagulls, for being really great birds, and you (yes you!) for coming to the show!

BIOS



Lexi Paz

Ostrich

Edmonton-born with Chilean heritage, Lexi Paz has quickly become one of the city's most recognizable R&B voices. Her rich tone, emotional clarity and effortless control can be attributed to her musical inspirations including D'angelo, Jazmine Sullivan and Frank Ocean. She is a recent graduate of the Bachelor of Music Program at Grant Macewan University. Having performed at The Citadel for one installation of their House Series this past May, "Island of The Flightless Birds" is officially her mini musical debut.



Cory Roberts

Rooster

Cory's musical journey began at age 4 with singing and 5 with piano, leading to lessons at the Royal Conservatory of Music. At 11, he performed in "The Wizard of Oz" at Rainbow Stage for two summers. Guided by Michelle Chzyk, he participated in high school music groups and lead roles in "Godspell" and "Little Shop of Horrors." He toured with "Pride Of Manitoba" (1997,'99) and sang with the Providence Singers, performing in "The Mikado" and touring Great Britain. Cory graduated with a Fine Arts Bachelor Degree in 2000. He's collaborated with international artists like Chantel Kravitzuk, Great Big Sea, and Rajaton. He also sings with Òran and plays the collaborative piano for Shumayela and Vacilando of the Korora Choir Association. He is excited to join his fellow flock and play the role of Rooster in today's performance.

BIOS



Franck Armel Talla Konchou

Pelican

The love story between Franck Armel and music began in 2003, when he joined his parish choir. A passionate autodidact, he taught himself music and, two years later, became the technical director of that same choir. From 2008 to 2009, he also served as the technical director of the university choir at the University of Dschang in Cameroon. His passion led him to Yaoundé, where he directed several choirs for over ten years, deepening both his musical and human experience. In 2023, he immigrated to Canada and began an education program at the University of Alberta, where he completed his practicum in music, continuing his artistic and pedagogical journey.

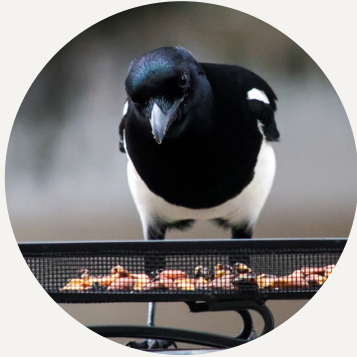


Maxwell Vesely

Eagle

Maxwell Vesely is a professional actor, voiceover actor, and musician based in Edmonton, Alberta. He is a graduate of the University of Alberta's BFA Acting program, graduating with distinction in 2024. Maxwell is very passionate about both theatre and music, having experience as a Music Director and working as a sessional workshop instructor across Alberta. As the youngest of three siblings, Maxwell fosters a love for improvisational theatre, clown, and sketch comedy, and is currently a main cast member of Top Bunk Tonight, an Edmonton sketch comedy troupe. Selected Stage Credits include: Rapunzel (Alberta Musical Theatre Company), The Hand That Feeds (NextFest2024), Indecent (Studio Theatre), A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder (Nuova Vocal Arts).

BIOS



Jenn Galm

Communications & Marketing Director

Jenn Galm (she/they) is a multidisciplinary creator proudly based in amiskwacîwâskahikan, colonially known as Edmonton. They are a 'wearer of many hats,' including as an intimacy director, photographer, theatre-goer, cosplayer, and lifelong student. She primarily works as a freelance communication specialist, with a focus on supporting the arts. They are excited to be on this island (well, more of a sandbar really) with you all.



Dana Tanner-Kennedy

Dramaturg

Dana Tanner-Kennedy is a dramaturg, scholar, and educator who teaches at the University of Alberta and St. Joseph's College. Dana's dramaturgy credits include among men (Theatre Projects Manitoba); The Soldier's Tale (Carnegie Hall, NY); Hamlet (Yale Repertory Theatre, CT); Urge for Going (The Public Theater, NY); Suddenly Last Summer, Loot, Nora, Appropriate, Doubt, and Don Juan (Westport Country Playhouse, CT). Her writing has appeared in Theatre Journal, Theater, Ecumenica, and Religions, and she was a Contributing Editor to PAJ. Formerly, she served as Associate Director of Education at Dallas Theater Center and worked in the literary offices of the Public, Atlantic Theater Company, and Yale Repertory Theatre. Training: MFA and Doctor of Fine Arts, Yale School of Drama.



Selina Painchaud

Production Manager/Designer

PSelina (she/her) is an Edmonton-based theatre technician, technical operator, arts administrator, and designer. She is also a member of MacEwan University's Theatre Operations Department and most days can be found helping facilitate incredible live events, with a cup of coffee in her hand. She is honoured to be supporting this project as it begins to take flight, pun absolutely intended.



WILL THE BIRDS MAKE IT?

We are looking forward to where the journey of where
“Island of Flightless Birds” will go.

If you would like to keep in touch, email info@ifbirds.com
to be included on updates (we promise - not too many
emails!), follow us on Instagram [@ifbirds](https://www.instagram.com/ifbirds), or check out our
website: ifbirds.com

We hope to see you again as this full musical takes shape!

Can't stay for the talkback or need a bit more time to
formulate your thoughts? Scan the QR code below to fill our
out anonymous (unless you choose to identify) feedback form.

