



Opera Performance:

2022-04-22/2022-04-24 – H.M.S. Pinafore (Friday performance)



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THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
OPERA THEATRE PROGRAM PRESENTS

Gilbert & Sullivan's

**H.M.S.
PINAFORE**

IOWA

School of Music

H.M.S. PINAFORE

Book and Lyrics by W.S. Gilbert
Music by Arthur Sullivan

April 22-24, 2022 at the Coralville Center for the Performing Arts

PLACE

The Quarethead of the H.M.S. Pinafore, off Portsmouth

TIME

ACT I: Noon
ACT II: Night

ARTISTIC TEAM

Director, ChoreographerBill Theisen
Conductor, Musical Preparation.....Wayne Wyman
Scenery Design Adapter.....Margaret Wenk-Kuchlbauer
Lighting Designer.....Bryon Winn
Rehearsal Pianist.....Minji Kwon
Stage Manager.....Briana Maxwell
Dance Captains.....Brandon Burkhardt, Karissa Burkhardt
Supertitles Creator & Operator.....Andrew Rene'
Assistant Conductor.....Alex Arellano
Assistant Lighting Designer.....Nicole Blodig
Assistant Stage Manager.....Mady Davis
Fight Choreographer.....Paul Kalina
Costumes Supplied by Halequin Costume Co. Winnipeg Canada

The Sunday, April 24 performance will be conducted by Alex Arellano.

CAST

Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B - *First Lord of the Admiralty*.....Mitchell Widmer
Captain Corcoran - *Commander of the H.M.S. Pinafore*.....Brandon Burkhardt
Josephine - *The Captain's Daughter*.....Siyeon Kim
Ralph Rackstraw - *An Able Seaman*.....Taylor Mayne
Little Buttercup - *A Portsmouth Bumboat Woman*.....Brennan Martinez
Dick Deadeye - *A Questionably Able Seaman*.....Andrew Bryant
Bill Bobstay - *Boatswain's Mate*.....Zach Brecht
Cousin Hebe - *Sir Joseph's First Cousin*.....Yaxin Sun
Bob Becket - *The Carpenter's Mate*.....Sam Hoying

CAST / DIRECTOR'S NOTES

CAST (continued)

The Sailors of the H.M.S. Pinfore

Ethan Elsbernd
Foo Chen Gui
Caleb Haselhuhn
Kelby Yoder

Sir Joseph's Sisters, Cousins and Aunts

Brie Bevans
Karissa Burkhardt
Sarah Kingsbury
Samantha Martin
Kristina Vesta
Allison Wright

UNDERSTUDIES

Sir Joseph Porter, KCB - *First Lord of the Admiralty*.....Caleb Haselhuhn
Captain Corcoran - *Commander of the H.M.S. Pinafore*.....Ethan Elsbernd
Josephine - *The Captain's Daughter*.....Karissa Burkhardt
Ralph Rackstraw - *An Able Seaman*.....Foo Chen Gui
Little Buttercup - *A Portsmouth Bumboat Woman*.....Brie Bevans
Dick Deadeye - *A Questionably Able Seaman*.....Sam Hoying

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

H.M.S. Pinafore premiered 144 years ago on May 25, 1878. Being a true lover and devotee of the works of Gilbert and Sullivan, I, along with the design team, have strived to honor the tradition of this work but, at the same time, add a wonderful theatricality to the production. This enables us to heighten both comedy and drama, yet be true to Gilbert and Sullivan's original collaboration.

Our goal is to make this production a valentine- a celebration of love for everyone. But also a look back at the class system and a gentle reminder of how little some things have changed in the past 144 years.

As this is my final production as the Director of Opera I would like to thank everyone who has made my time here at the University of Iowa such a rich and rewarding experience. I am proud of the work we have done and feel extremely confident in the future of the opera program under the newly announced leadership of the Interim Director of Opera, Wayne Wyman.

Bill Theisen, *director*



SYNOPSIS

Before Act I opens, Ralph has lost his heart to Josephine, the daughter of his commanding officer, Captain Corcoran. Josephine secretly loves Ralph, but class propriety and the Captain's hopes for her marriage to the First Lord of the Admiralty, Sir Joseph Porter, have silenced any proclamations of love.

ACT I - Quarterdeck of the H.M.S. Pinafore

As Act I opens, the Pinafore sailors are readying their ship for Sir Joseph's inspection. Little Buttercup, a peddler woman, hints of dark secrets from the past. Sir Joseph arrives with his female relatives, explains his rise to high rank, and encourages the sailors to believe they are the equal of any man- except himself. Sir Joseph stresses strict observation of all amenities of speech

Josephine finds Sir Joseph insufferable and when Ralph proposes, threatening suicide if she refuses, she agrees to elope. The act ends with the sailors rejoicing at Ralph's success and Dick Deadeye warning that celebration is premature since he will see that their plans fail.

ACT II - Same Scene, that night

Act II finds the Captain despairing at the conduct of his crew and Josephine's coldness towards Sir Joseph. Little Buttercup attempts to console the man she loves with prophecies of impending change. Sir Joseph tells the Captain that he has been thoroughly discouraged by Josephine and wants to call off the marriage. The Captain suggests that his daughter may feel herself socially inferior to Sir Joseph, urging him to assure her that social rank should not be a barrier to marriage. Sir Joseph does, unaware that his words are just as applicable to Josephine in relation to Ralph. Thinking she accepts him, he joins her and the Captain in "The Bell Trio."

Dick Deadey informs the Captain of the planned elopement. When the Captain intercepts the couple he is in such a rage that he cries, "Damme!" He is overheard by Sir Joseph who, horrified by the uncouth language, sends him to his quarters in disgrace. But upon hearing that Josephine was eloping, he angrily orders Ralph put in irons.

Little Buttercup now confesses her secret, which, amazingly, brings all involved to a happy finale.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Production Director.....Richard Loula
Production Stage Manager.....Briana Maxwell
Assistant Production Director.....Jenny Hall

SCENERY AND PROPS STAFF

Technical Director.....Don Schneider
Scene Shop Supervisor.....Mike Nolte
Scenic Change Artist.....Joan Newhouse
Carpenters.....Abigail Ballaur, Illy Hoekstra, Ella Rupe
Painters.....Bethany Kasperek, Tamara-Jo Shaapherder,
Nick Vogt, Emma Runestad, Blake LaVanchy

COSTUME STAFF

Costume Shop Supervisor.....Cindy Kubu
Costume Tailor.....Joyce McKinley
Wardrobe Staff.....Andrea Wright,
Fiona Zachel, Karle Jeanne Meyers

ELECTRICS STAFF

Electrics Supervisor.....Josh Nathanson
Electrics AssistantJared Kiebel
Light Board Operator.....Julia Corbett
Electrics Crew.....Emily Bargamian, Nicole Blodig,
La Della Gallagher, Caleb Weber,
Morgan Wiebelhaus, Sydney Williams
Spotlight Operators.....CCPA Staff

AUDIO/VIDEO STAFF

Audio/Video Supervisor.....Rachel Duncan
Sound Mixer.....Bri Atwood
Audio/Video Technicians.....Nashali Cruz, Colten Langfitt

RECORDING STUDIOS

Recording Engineers.....Chris Jensen, James Edel

STAGE CREW.....Mike Spielbauer, Tyler Salow

ARTISTIC TEAM BIOS

BILL THEISEN (director) made his professional theatre debut at the Skylight Opera Theatre in his hometown of Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1981. His longtime affiliation with the company came full circle when he returned to serve as artistic director from 2004 through 2013. Bill has directed over 100 productions for theatre and opera companies from coast to coast. Recent directing credits include *The Pirates of Penzance* for Santa Fe Opera, *Showboat* with Gateway Playhouse, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *The Barber of Seville*, and *The Mikado* at Lyric Opera of Kansas City, *Sweeney Todd* with Cleveland Opera, and *The Magic Flute* for Virginia Opera. Mr. Theisen works frequently on the university level as a guest director and lecturer. He served as the interim director of opera at the University of Iowa in 1998 and has continued that relationship for the past 15 years culminating in his returning to the university as the full time director of opera beginning in the fall 2013. Bill was the artistic director of the Capitol Center for the Performing Arts in Upstate New York and is an adjudicator for arts programming on PBS.

WAYNE WYMAN (conductor, musical preparation) is an accomplished coach, stage director, and conductor whose career has included numerous guest appearances as well as serving as artistic director of Capital Opera (Raleigh, NC) and Lyric Opera of San Antonio. His work has been consistently well-received by audiences and critics: "Most impressive was the confidence in the pit. Wayne Wyman led his orchestra through the moods and colors of this gorgeous score with knowledgeable Gallic style...Wyman repeatedly seduced the listener with sensuous nuance." (*Carmen*, Roy Dicks, *Raleigh News & Observer*) While at the artistic helm of the San Antonio company, Wyman founded and directed the Lyric Studio young artist program, whose alumni now perform at leading opera houses, including the Vienna State Opera, La Scala, and the Metropolitan Opera. Since 2005, his summers are spent in Graz, Austria on the faculty of the American Institute for Musical Studies (AIMS). Wyman earned an Artist Diploma in Opera from the Cincinnati Conservatory and studied privately with the director of opera at the Hochschule für Musik und darstellende Kunst in Vienna. Since 2012 Wyman has been the opera coach at the University of Iowa and has enjoyed many years of collaboration with the Director of Opera, Bill Theisen. As Prof. Theisen concludes his successful tenure here, Wyman wishes him well and looks forward to new adventures as the Interim Director of Opera beginning Fall 2022.

MARGARET WENK-KUCHLBAUER, is the Scenery and Costume Designer for UI Division of Performing Arts Production Unit, collaborating with many UI faculty and guests. In this extraordinary year and a half, challenging all our norms, latest opera designs include scenery for *The Light in the Piazza*, co-production with

ARTISTIC TEAM BIOS

Theatre Arts sadly postponed then cancelled, *The Tragedy of Carmen* and *Little Women*. Designs for in-person dance and virtual dance include Dance Gala 2021, UIDC 2021, and Dance Gala 2020 IN MOTION.

BRYON WINN (lighting designer) Bryon is delighted to have the opportunity to collaborate with Bill, Margaret, and Briana on *H.M.S. Pinafore*. He is a professor of design and Director of Theatre for the Department of Theatre Arts at the University of Iowa. He has designed over 250 productions for theatre, opera, dance, and corporate events throughout the country. This includes the recent SOM Opera productions of *Three Decembers*, *Grand Night for Singing*, *Così Fan Tutte*, *The Medium*, and *The Pirates of Penzance*. Bryon is a member of United Scenic Artists 829.

MINJI KWON (rehearsal pianist) Korean-born pianist Minji Kwon is an insightful collaborator, educator and musician. Ms. Kwon was granted the Ambassadorial Scholarship from the Rotary Foundation to study in the US. She was the recipient of the Iowa Performance Fellowship while working on her DMA with Dr. Uriel Tsachor at the University of Iowa. Ms. Kwon taught as Adjunct Professor at New York University, where she earned her Master's degree in Collaborative Piano. Ms. Kwon internationally appeared in cities like Seoul, Prague, Mexico City, Chicago, and New York City in such major venues as Stern Auditorium and Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall. Also, she gave concerts at Columbia University, Western Michigan University, and University of Michigan. Recently she has collaborated with oboist Courtney Miller for a CD, *Portuguese Perspectives*. Ms. Kwon is a co-founder of Ensemble Yeon, a member of Apas Piano Duo, and currently serves as a staff pianist for the University of Iowa.

BRIANA MAXWELL (stage manager) is a proud member of the Actors' Equity Association. She is the Production Stage Manager for the Department of Dance and the Martha-Ellen Tye Opera at the University of Iowa. Her recent stage management credits include *Dance Gala In Motion*, UI Dance Company 2021, and *The Light in the Piazza* at the University of Iowa. Additional stage management credits include *Madama Butterfly* at Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre, *Ubu the King* at Williamstown Theatre Festival, and *Heartbreak House* at Montana Shakespeare in the Parks.

ANDREW RENÉ (supertitle creator and operator) is a student at the University of Iowa. Recently, he performed as a member of the Virginia Opera Herndon Foundation Emerging Artist Program, the Tulsa Opera Filene Resident Artist Program, and, most recently, the Gerdine Young Artist Program at Opera Theatre

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of Saint Louis. In September, he played the role of Andrew Young in Opera Carolina's production of *I Dream*, a musical drama about the life and work of Martin Luther King Jr.

ALEX ARELLANO (assistant conductor) Martín Alexander Arellano (b. 1997, California) is an active conductor and composer from the United States currently studying as a first year Masters candidate in Orchestral Conducting at the University of Iowa. Alex is the founder and current Artistic Director of the Central California Youth Wind Ensemble based in Turlock, CA that premiered its first season in 2015.

As a conductor, Alex began studying with Stuart Sims at the California State University: Stanislaus, and Robert M. Carnochan and J. Stephen Moore at the University of Miami. In 2021, Alex received a COP diploma (Cycle d'Orientation Professional) in Orchestral Direction under Miguel Etchegoncelay and Theodor Guschlbauer at the Strasbourg Conservatoire in Strasbourg, France. Alex is currently a student of Mélisse Brunet's at the University of Iowa, where he is pursuing a Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting. He has attended workshops with Neil Thomson (Philharmonic Orchestra of Goiás), David Reiland (Orchestre National de Metz), and Diane Wittry (Allentown Symphony Orchestra). Alex was also a Conducting Fellow with the Miami Symphony Orchestra with Maestro Eduardo Marturet in the 2016 - 2017 season.

MADY DAVIS (assistant stage manager) is a third-year Stage Manager MFA and GCCT student from the Twin Cities. Her past University of Iowa credits include: *Smile Medicine* (SM), *Essential Workers: A Portrait* (SM), *Breath Behind the Mask* (SM), and *Light in the Piazza* (ASM). She would like to thank her friends and family for all the love, support, and laughs.

CAST BIOS

MITCHELL WIDMER has performed roles including Gugliemo in *Così fan tutte*, Orpheus in Telemann's *Orpheus*, Papageno in *Die Zauberflöte*, Il Notario in *Gianni Schicchi*, and Colonel Calvary in *Patience*. Widmer is a recipient of the Baden-Württemberg Stipendium and the US Teaching Assistant Grant with Fulbright Austria. Mitchell received his Masters of Music degree from the Manhattan School of Music. Widmer is a first year D.M.A candidate at UI and a recipient of the Walker Fellowship.

BRANDON BURKHARDT is thrilled to perform with UI Opera! Area productions include *Cinderella* (Prince Topher), *Bright Star* (Billy Cane), *Newsies* (Race), and *Sound of Music* (Rolf) with TCR, *Camelot* (Lancelot) and *Beauty and the Beast* (Beast) with City Circle, *Side Show* (Terry) with Nolte Productions, and *Sunday in the Park with George* (Soldier) and *Light in the Piazza* (Giuseppe) at UI. He was a soloist in *An Evening of Rodgers and Hammerstein* with Brucemorchestra/Revival Theatre and has performed in Chicago, Wisconsin, NYC, Canada, and the UK.

SIYEON KIM, soprano, is a first-year Doctor of Musical Arts candidate at University of Iowa. Previous credits include *Zauberflöte* (Pamina, Queen), *Hippolyte et Aricie* (Aricie), *Le Rossignol* (Rossignol), *La Cenerentola* (Clorinda), *The Juniper Tree* (Wife) and *Il trovatore* (Inez). Scene work includes "La Traviatta" (Voiletta) and "Die Fledermaus" (Adele). Ms. Kim is a winner of Mirabell competition, NATS student audition, won a Richard Miller Most Promising Singer Award, and The Boris Goldovsky Prize in Opera.

TAYLOR MAYNE, a native of Afton, Iowa, is a tenor in his 2nd year of the Doctoral program in voice performance at the University of Iowa. Mayne received a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Iowa and a Master of Music degree from Ohio University both in voice performance. Playing the role of Ralph Rackstraw, he will be making his second appearance with the University of Iowa Opera, previously as Matthew Scott in the Universities production of *Sondheim on Sondheim*. Other notable roles include Laurie in *Little Women*, Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*, Vincent in *Mireielle* performed in Périgueux, France, Lt. Buzz Adams in *South Pacific*, Giuseppe in *La Traviata*, and Lucano in *L'incoronazione di Poppea*. While being active in opera he has also been sought after for his concert work, performing the tenor roles in Bach's BWV 62 with Ohio University, BWV 131 with Grinnell University, Tyler's *Suite* with the Des Moines Gay Men's Chorus, Charpentier's *Te Deum* with the University of Iowa. He currently resides in Iowa City where he is a teaching assistant at the university as well as teaching part time at Marion Music Academy in Marion, Iowa.

CAST BIOS

BRENNAN MARTINEZ is a mezzo-soprano pursuing a D.M.A. at the University of Iowa. She holds a Master in Music from the A.J. Fletcher Opera Institute at UNCSA, and a Bachelor of Music from Oklahoma City University. She has performed with Cedar Rapids Opera, Piedmont Opera, Bay View Music Festival, Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, and the Glimmerglass Festival. Upcoming: Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theatre. www.brennanmartinez.com

ANDREW BRYANT is a 5th year student studying Music Education and Voice. This is his first production at the University of Iowa. He plans to student teach next fall.

YAXIN SUN is a first year DMA student studying vocal performance at the University of Iowa. She currently studies with Dr. Rachel Joselson. Previous credits include *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *Speed dating tonight*, and *My big Operatic wedding*. This is her first production with UI Opera.

SAM HOYING is a 1st year at the University of Iowa. Apart from doing musical theatre in high, Sam is extremely excited for his first opera. Sam is an oboe performance and Music Education Major. He also enjoys playing in the Hawkeye Marching Band. Sam would like to thank his friends and family for their overwhelming support through this production.

ETHAN ELSBERND is in his first year of studies at the University of Iowa. After leading a fruitful high school performing arts experience, "Elsbernd has been a part of an incredible amount of extracurricular activities pertaining to the performing arts" (WCSD). He is driven to see it bloom into an impassioned and prolific performance career, continuously seeking perfection in his craft.

FOO CHEN GUI is a Malaysian tenor, currently a second year Bachelor Degree student majoring in Vocal Performance under the tutelage of Dr. Élise DesChamps. Gui's recent achievements include winning the National Operatic Singing Competition 2021 held by the Kuala Lumpur City Opera, finalist of the University of Iowa's Concerto/Aria Competition 2021, as well as 2nd runner-up in the 43rd Malaysia National Vocal Competition in 2019.

CALEB HASELHUHN is excited to be a part of this company in his first production at The University of Iowa. Haselhuhn is currently pursuing the MA in Voice at Iowa, studying with Dr. Royce Blackburn. Haselhuhn's past musical studies occurred at Truman State University (Kirksville, MO), where he earned the BA and MAE in music. Recent productions include Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella* (Theatre Cedar Rapids) and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (Giving Tree Theater).

CAST BIOS

KELBY YODER tenor, is a 4th year Undergraduate pursuing a B.M. in Vocal Performance. He's very excited for his first official debut at the University of Iowa. Before College, Kelby took part in shows with the CR Opera as an Ensemble member and with the CR Follies as a featured soloist. He looks forward to the opportunities he will have before he graduates in the Fall and heads to Graduate School for his Master's degree.

BRIE BEVANS, mezzo-soprano, is a third-year undergraduate studying vocal performance and music education. Some of her prior theater experiences include ensemble in *Footloose*, Mrs. Paroo in *Music Man*, Mrs. Potts in *Beauty and the Beast*, and Ellie in *Freaky Friday*. This is her first opera with the University of Iowa, and she is excited for the audience to have fun and see the hard work the cast and production team have put into this show!

KARISSA BURKHARDT is a sophomore majoring in vocal performance, theatre, and dance and is very excited to be in her first UI Opera production! She previously performed in *Sound of Music* (Maria), *Sweeney Todd* (Johanna), and *She Kills Monsters* (Agnes) with Theatre West, *Camelot*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Newsies* with City Circle, *Cinderella* with TCR, and *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (Amahl) and *Persuasion* (Cassandra) with Chamber Opera Chicago, which toured to NYC, Canada, England, Scotland, and Wales.

SARAH KINGSBURY is a Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) student at the University of Iowa. She has taken voice lessons and the opera workshop course during her time in Iowa. When not in the clinic or singing, Sarah teaches therapeutic horseback riding lessons as a PATH Intl. Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor. She will be a clinical extern at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, Arizona starting this coming summer.

SAMANTHA MARTIN is determined to do her best in her first opera performance in *H.M.S Pinafore*. She's on her second year of reaching for a BM in Vocal Performance and on the pre-med track. When she's not studying, Samantha enjoys rollerskating in her free time. She wants to thank her Mom and Dad for supporting her passions.

KRISTINA VESTA, soprano, is a third-year undergraduate pursuing a B.M. in Vocal Performance. She is delighted to be performing in her first opera production at the University of Iowa! Before studying at Iowa, Kristina played the flute in her high school pit orchestra for the production of *Peter Pan*, *She Loves Me*, *Cinderella*, *Annie*, and *Footloose*.

ALLISON WRIGHT, mezzo, is thrilled to be in her first University of Iowa production!

ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN I	Ramel Price, concertmaster
VIOLIN II	Ollie Bostian
VIOLA	Allie Schumacher
CELLO	Natalie Krezcki
BASS	Xiaowen Tang
FLUTE	Katie Woody
OBOE	Kate Caldwell
CLARINET	Joseph Lobb
BASSOON	Keegan Hockett
HORN	Renee Thomas
TRUMPET	Emma Cryer
TROMBONE	Amy Kenneson
PERCUSSION	Jilly Cooke

Orchestral arrangement supplied by PJ Music Works – for more information
please visit www.pjmusicworks.co.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

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