
Biographies

Creative Team

Daniela Candillari

Conductor

Daniela Candillari's recent debuts include Lyric Opera of Chicago and Minnesota Opera, leading *Fellow Travelers*; Novus NY of Trinity Wall Street, opening their festival celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Leonard Bernstein; and the Prototype Festival, conducting *Acquanetta*. Other recent projects include conducting the Manhattan School of Music Philharmonia, assisting Matthew Aucoin on his opera *Crossing* for BAM's Next Wave Festival, and assisting Vasily Petrenko on *Falstaff* with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic. This summer she leads the West Coast premiere of Jennifer Higdon's *Cold Mountain* at Music Academy of the West.

Ms. Candillari was a répétiteur with Slovenian National Opera, European Opera Centre, and Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. At Slovenian National Opera she also served as chorusmaster and assistant conductor. She founded her own chamber Orchestra, Gravity Shift, in New York City to take more traditional repertoire to new audiences. Also a composer, she has a strong interest in contemporary work in many different genres.

A native of Slovenia, Ms. Candillari holds a doctorate in musicology from the Universität für Musik in Vienna, a master's degree in jazz studies from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, and bachelor's and master's degrees in piano performance from Universität für Musik in Graz.

Mary Birnbaum

Stage Director

Mary Birnbaum is associate director of the post-graduate Artist Diploma in Opera Studies program at the Juilliard School, and is an acting teacher and coach for singers at Juilliard, Bard College, and the Lindemann Young Artists Program at the Metropolitan Opera. She works internationally—including venues in Taiwan, Central America, Australia, and Israel—and across the U.S. for Opera Philadelphia, the Juilliard School, the Ojai Festival, Boston Baroque, Opera Houston, Virginia Arts Festival, Lyric Opera Kansas City, and Opera Columbus. She directed the premiere of *The Classical Style* by Jeremy Denk and Steven Stucky at Carnegie Hall in 2014. Her production of *La bohème* will open the Santa Fe Opera season in 2019. She makes her debut with Curtis Opera Theatre with this production.

Ms. Birnbaum has worked with Michael Tilson Thomas, Stephen Wadsworth, Matthew Aucoin, Susanna Phillips, and Stuart Skelton, among other eminent artists. An honors graduate of Harvard College, she trained professionally in stage movement at L'École Jacques LeCoq in Paris. She was nominated for Best Newcomer of 2015 at the International Opera Awards in London.

Rene Orth

Rene Orth

Rene Orth is composer in residence at Opera Philadelphia. Her work has been performed by a variety of opera companies and orchestras, including the Berkeley Symphony, the Louisville

Orchestra, Festival d'Aix en Provence, Fort Worth Opera, and Washington National Opera. She has collaborated with the Del Sol, Dover and Aizuri quartets; countertenor Anthony Roth Costanzo and mezzo-soprano Daniela Mack Shrader; Seraph Brass; and the Pennsylvania Ballet. Recent commissions and premieres include a violin concerto for soloist Alex Boissonnault and Summerville Orchestra and a chamber piece for Philadelphia's Network for New Music. The current season also features performances by North Carolina Symphony, Tapestry Opera, and ALIAS chamber ensemble. She is a recipient of a 2016 OPERA America Discovery Grant and has held residencies at the artist colonies of Yaddo and Virginia Center for Creative Arts. A recent graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, Ms. Orth also earned a master's degree in composition at the University of Louisville and holds degrees from MediaTech Institute and Rhodes College.

Mark Campbell

Librettist

Mark Campbell's work as a librettist is at the forefront of America's contemporary opera scene. He has produced 29 opera librettos, lyrics for seven musicals, and text for five song cycles and two oratorios; and his works for the stage have been performed at more than 70 venues around the world. He has written librettos for *Silent Night* (which won the Pulitzer Prize in Music), *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* (winner of a Grammy Award), *Elizabeth Cree*, *As One*, *The Shining*, *Later the Same Evening*, *The Manchurian Candidate*, *Volpone*, *Rappahannock County*, *Approaching Ali*, *Bastianello/Lucrezia*, and *The Nefarious, Immoral but Highly Profitable Enterprise of Mr. Burke and*

Mr. Hare. Other awards include two Richard Rodgers Awards, a Larson Foundation Award, and a NYFA Playwriting Fellowship. Upcoming premieres include *Stonewall* for New York City Opera, *Today It Rains* for Opera Parallèle, *Edward Tulane* for Minnesota Opera, and *Les Girls* for Théâtre Du Châtelet.

Grace Laubacher

Scenic Designer

Grace Laubacher's upcoming and recent opera credits include: *La bohème* (Santa Fe Opera); *Glory Denied* and *Enemies, a Love Story* (Kentucky Opera), *Dido and Aeneas* (Versailles); *La finta giardiniera* and *The Magic Flute* (Juilliard School); *Halka* and *Le villi/La Navarraise* (Bard Music Festival); *Giulio Cesare* (Boston Baroque); and *Aida* (Pacific Symphony). She was the associate set designer on Broadway's recent revival of *Oklahoma!*, and has been named a Young Designer to Watch by *Live Design* magazine. She holds an M.A. in performance design from Central Saint Martins—University of the Arts in London and a B.A. in visual and environmental studies from Harvard University.

Amanda Seymour

Costume Designer

Amanda Seymour's recent opera credits include: *Candide* (Tanglewood Music Festival); *Romeo et Juliette*, *Le pauvre Matelot*, *Les Mamelles de Tirésias*, and *Idomeneo* (Wolf Trap Opera); *La finta giardiniera* (Juilliard School); *Giulio Cesare* (Boston Baroque); *Ariadne auf Naxos* and *The Barber of Seville* (Opera Theatre of St. Louis); *Rusalka* (Opera San Antonio); *Paul's Case*