

Biographies

Creative Team

Geoffrey McDonald

Conductor

Geoffrey McDonald is a busy conductor at the forefront of an evolving American opera scene. He has recently conducted productions at Opera Philadelphia, Atlanta Opera, Wolf Trap Opera, Curtis Opera Theatre, Opera Omaha, Chicago Opera Theater, Toledo Opera, and the Caramoor Festival. As music director of New York City's On Site Opera, he marshals performances of the highest musical standard while adapting to immersive and logistically challenging settings.

Highlights from recent seasons include appearances as guest conductor with the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, and collaborations with the International Contemporary Ensemble and the period-instrument ensemble Grand Harmonie. Mr. McDonald is a regular workshop and assistant conductor with Opera Philadelphia, having participated in the development of new operas by Nico Muhly, Missy Mazzoli, Daniel Schnyder, and Kevin Puts; and has also conducted for American Opera Projects. In past seasons, he conducted Gotham Chamber Opera, the American Symphony Orchestra, and the Bard Festival Players. He has served as music director of the Longy Conservatory Orchestra, the Bard College Orchestra, the Philadelphia Young Artists Orchestra, and the Columbia University Bach Society.

Mr. McDonald earned his master's degree in orchestral conducting at Mannes College of Music, where he studied with David Hayes; and received his bachelor's degree in musicology from Princeton University. He studied piano, cello, and voice, and is a sought-after vocal coach, working with accomplished singers who appear on the world's top stages.

Emma Griffin

Stage Director

Emma Griffin is a theater and opera director based in New York City. With a diverse background in theater, musical theater, and opera, she is a frequent collaborator on new music/theater pieces. Her opera credits include: *La Fanciulla del West* at Opera Colorado, the world premiere of Charpentier's *La Feste de Ruel* with Catacoustic Consort, *La bohème* at Crested Butte Music Festival, Jake Hegge's *Three Decembers* at Atlanta Opera, *Don Giovanni* at Boston Lyric Opera, and *The Cunning Little Vixen* and *Les mamelles de Tirésias* at the Juilliard School. For the Curtis Opera Theatre she has directed *Mahagonny/The Medium*; *Wozzeck*, *I Capuleti e i Montecchi*, *The Rake's Progress*, *Postcard from Morocco*, *The Cunning Little Vixen*, and *Die Zauberflöte*.

Ms. Griffin was the artistic director of the OBIE-award winning Salt Theater in New York, where she directed *Stage Door*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Scenes from a Marriage*, and *Conquest of the Universe*, among other productions. Her regional theater credits include Perseverance Theater, Geva Theater Center, Syracuse Stage, Southern Rep, Actor's Express, Virginia Stage, and Williamstown Theater Festival.

In 2018, Ms. Griffin was appointed the managing artistic director of the Mannes Opera at the New School in New York. She previously served as professor of opera stage direction at the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati.