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# Biographies

## Creative Team

### Chas Rader-Shieber

#### Writer and Director

Chas Rader-Shieber has directed over 30 productions for the Curtis Opera Theatre. His recent work outside of Philadelphia includes new productions of *Rusalka* and Rameau's *Platée* for Des Moines Metro Opera; *La finta giardiniera* for Portland Opera; *Artaserse* for Pinchgut Opera in Sydney, Australia; and *Shining Brow* for Arizona Opera. His work has been seen at the opera companies of Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Santa Fe, Houston, Glimmerglass, St. Louis, Boston, Philadelphia, Minnesota, and Vancouver; Staatstheater Darmstadt; the New York City Opera; Washington National Opera; and the Spoleto Festival, among others.

Having made a specialty of 17th- and 18th-century operas, Mr. Rader-Shieber has directed Mozart's *Idomeneo*, *La clemenza di Tito*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, *Il re pastore*, and *Così fan tutte*; Handel's *Giulio Cesare*, *Semele*, *Ariodante*, *Acis and Galatea*, *Imeneo*, *Alcina*, *Xerxes*, *Partenope*, *Rinaldo*, *Tolomeo*, and *Flavio*; and works of Cavalli, Charpentier, Gluck, Monteverdi, and Purcell. In the 2021–22 season he directs a new production of Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Des Moines Metro Opera.

Mr. Rader-Shieber joined the Curtis faculty in 2009.

### Alek Shrader

#### Writer and Director

American tenor Alek Shrader has appeared with many of the world's most prestigious opera companies including those of Bordeaux, Chicago, Dallas, Lille, Los Angeles, Minnesota, Oviedo, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Saint Louis, San Francisco, Santa Fe, Seattle, Toulouse; the Metropolitan Opera; the Canadian Opera Company; the Bavarian and Hamburg state operas; and the Salzburg and Glyndebourne festivals.

As a concert singer, Mr. Shrader has appeared with the San Francisco Symphony; Los Angeles Philharmonic; Cleveland and Philadelphia orchestras; National, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, and Cincinnati symphony orchestras; and the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome. His recitals have been presented by Carnegie Hall, San Francisco Performances, the Broad Stage in Santa Monica, Calif., Oberlin College, and Wigmore Hall.

Mr. Shrader was a winner of the 2007 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and was the recipient of a Sarah Tucker Study Grant from the Richard Tucker Foundation. He is an alumnus of the San Francisco Opera's Adler Fellowship Program and was selected as a member of the Atlanta Opera's Company Players for the 2020–21 season.

Mr. Shrader made his directorial debut with a production of *Dido and Aeneas* as part of the Green-Wood Cemetery's "Concerts in the Catacombs" series.

# Grant Loehnig

## Music Director

Grant Loehnig collaborates with many of today's most renowned musical artists as a pianist, vocal coach, and administrator. He serves as head of music staff at Opera Philadelphia and Wolf Trap Opera, where he is also the music director of the Studio Artist program. He works regularly as music staff for Lyric Opera of Chicago.

In recital, Mr. Loehnig has collaborated with such artists as Morris Robinson, Albina Shagimuratova, Paul Groves, and Marcus DeLoach. Recent recordings include art songs of Karim Al-Zand and a premiere recording of songs of Carlisle Floyd with Susanne Mentzer. He has prepared the chorus and small roles for the Houston Symphony's performances of *Wozzeck*, which was recorded for commercial release and awarded the 2018 Grammy Award for Best Opera Recording.

Mr. Loehnig holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn., and a Master of Music degree in vocal accompanying from the Manhattan School of Music. He is a graduate of the Houston Grand Opera Studio, Music Academy of the West, and San Francisco Opera's Merola Program. Before joining the Curtis faculty in 2015, Mr. Loehnig served on the faculty of the opera studies program at Rice University in Houston.

# Robert Kahn

## Conductor

Robert Kahn, from Laren, the Netherlands, entered the Curtis Institute of Music in 2019. As a conducting fellow, he works closely with Curtis mentor conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin. All students at Curtis receive merit-based, full-tuition scholarships, and Mr. Kahn is the Rita E. Hauser Conducting Fellow.

Mr. Kahn was the assistant conductor for *Don Giovanni* with Juilliard Opera in 2019 and, from 2015 through 2018, was assistant conductor of Mannes Opera, where he worked on productions of *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Così fan tutte*, *L'elisir d'amore*, *The Rake's Progress*, *Vanessa*, and *Little Women*.

Mr. Kahn previously served as a cover conductor for the Fort Worth Symphony and the Buffalo Philharmonic and has conducted the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia and the International Chamber Orchestra of America. He appears on the studio recording of David Hertzberg's *The Rose Elf* and led a new opera by John Musto at the American Museum of Natural History in New York for On Site Opera.

Mr. Kahn holds a dual bachelor's degree in physics and clarinet from Johns Hopkins University and the Peabody Institute, as well as a master's degree and professional studies certificate in orchestra conducting from Mannes School of Music.