

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA **UNK** KEARNEY

LOPER OPERA

PRESENTS

**I'M
A
STRANGER
HERE
MYSELF:**

KURT WEILL IN AMERICA

SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2021
BROADCAST AVAILABLE FROM 2-10 PM

VISIT UNK.EDU/OPERA TO VIEW THE
PERFORMANCE AND PRODUCTION PROGRAM



I'm a Stranger Here Myself: Kurt Weill in America

Street Scene (1947) [Libretto by Langston Hughes]

“Wouldn't you like to be on Broadway?”

Max Wohler (Harry Easter)
Hannah Petersen (Rose Maurant)

“What good would the moon be?”

“When a woman has a baby”

Cole Perkins (Danny Buchanan)
Kylee Esquivel (Mrs. Fiorentino)
Hannah Petersen (Mrs. Maurant)
Terran Homburg (Mrs. Jones)

“Lullaby”

Hannah Petersen (Nursemaid 1)
Terran Homburg (Nursemaid 2)
Steven Boldt (Officer Murphy)

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“The river is so blue” [Ann Ronell] (film: *The River is so Blue*, 1937)

Cole Perkins

“It could have happened to anyone” [Ira Gershwin] (film: *Where do we go from here?*, 1944)

Kylee Esquivel

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Love Life (1948) [Libretto by Alan Jay Lerner]

“I remember it well”

Terran Homburg (Susan Cooper)
Steven Boldt (Samuel Cooper)

Performed by permission from the Kurt Weill Foundation

“Is it him or is it me?”

Terran Homburg (Susan Cooper)

“This is the life”

Steven Boldt (Samuel Cooper)

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“Buddy on the night shift” [Oscar Hammerstein II] (from *Lunchtime Follies*, 1942)

Hannah Petersen

“Who am I?” [Ogden Nash] (cut from *One Touch of Venus*, 1943)

Maximus Wohler

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One Touch of Venus (1943) [Libretto by Ogden Nash]

“Love in a Mist” (cut from original production)

Kamara Graves (Venus)

“Wooden Wedding”

Cole Perkins (Rodney Hatch)

“Speak Low”

Kylee Esquivel (Venus)

“I'm a Stranger Here Myself”

Hannah Petersen (Venus)

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“The little tin god” [Maxwell Anderson] (cut from *Lost in the Stars*, 1949)

Steven Boldt

“That's him” [Ogden Nash] (*One Touch of Venus*, 1943)

Kamara Graves

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Faculty & Staff

Janice Fronczak, *Director*

Anne Foradori, *Musical Director/Narration*

Marilyn Musick, *Pianist*

David Greenberg, *Sound Supervisor/Mixing Engineer*

Noelle Bohaty, *Cinematographer*

Emma Newman, *Stage Manager, Lighting Designer, Costume and Props Coordinator*

Kamara Graves, *Narrator*

Jazz Combo

- Todd Thalken, *director and pianist*
- Greg Tesdall, *saxophone*
- Alison Gaines, *double bass*
- Mick Johnson, *drums*

Special Thanks

UNK Music, Theatre, and Dance Faculty and Staff for their generosity and flexibility to make this production during the time of COVID a rewarding experience for everyone. Special thanks also to Crane River Theater, Amy Jacobson, and Thane Webb

Performers

STEVEN BOLDT is a Musical Theatre and Theatre major from Amherst, Nebraska. In high school, he appeared in productions of *Good Good Trouble on Bad Bad Island* and as The Idol and Jason in *Medea*. Favorite roles at UNK include the Photographer in the collegiate premiere of *Orphan Train: the Musical*, as well as appearances in *Ghost Sonata*, *I Love You Because*, and *Life is a Dream*. He has appeared in several one-acts as well. At Kearney Community Theatre Steven has appeared as Laurie in the musical, *Little Women* and Billy in *On Golden Pond*. Steve is an optimistic realist who dreams big of one day acting in and directing movies. Steven has appeared with Crane River Theater in their production of *Annie* and looks forward to appearing in their production of *Cinderella* this summer.



KYLEE ESQUIVEL is a Freshman music performance major who hails from Lexington, Nebraska. A Buffet Scholarship and Music Scholarship recipient. Kylee would like to pursue a career as a professional singer. At Lexington High School, Kylee appeared in *The Wizard of Oz*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Rock of Ages*. She participated in Show Choir and Concert Choir. At UNK she is a member of Women's Chorus and Opera Workshop. Kylee is fully bilingual in English and Spanish. She planned to pursue an Art degree but was bitten by the performance bug. She is a singer who likes to paint!

KAMARA GRAVES is thrilled to be a Visiting Artist with the *Loper Opera* at UNK this semester. A 2003 Graduate of The University of Nebraska at Kearney, she holds a BFA in Musical Theatre Performance with a minor in Dance Composition. Since then, she has lived, worked and performed in New York City for 17 years. Highlights include performing in the world premiere of The Mile Long Opera, presented on New York City's High Line, created by Pulitzer Prize winning composer David Lang, and as Featured Soloist for *Sounds of the Season* on Christmas Eve at Fresco by Scottot restaurant in New York. Kami has performed in multiple cabaret settings with Grammy nominated Jason Buell and can be found on the original cast album of *Who am I? A Tribute to Petula Clark*. She spent five years singing and playing violin in the NYC based cosmopolitan folk band *Kathy Zimmer and the Sugar Bowls*. Favorite roles include Sally Bowles in *Cabaret*, Julie Jordan in *Carousel* and Cinderella in *Into the Woods*. Currently Kami sings with and sits on The Astoria Choir Board of Directors in Astoria, Queens where she lives.



TERRAN HOMBURG is a Senior Voice Performance major from Marion, Kansas. At the University of Nebraska at Kearney, she studies voice under Dr. Sharon O'Connell Campbell and composition under Dr. Anthony Donofrio. She's been a member of the Women's Choir, Choraleers, New Music Ensemble, and Wind Ensemble. She serves on the Music Student Advisory Committee and is the treasurer of Delta Omicron. On the UNK stage, she's portrayed Rachel Pierce in *Orphan Train: The Musical*, Miss Todd in Gian Carlo Menotti's *The Old Maid and the Thief*, and Kirsten the Matchmaker in John Duke's *Captain Lovelock*, a production which received second place in the NOA Division I Collegiate Opera Competition in 2019. This fall, the UNK Wind Ensemble Gold premiered her piece *Apricity*, and her song cycle *The Goddess Isis in Song* will be premiered in April. Upon graduation from UNK, Terran will be pursuing a Master's degree in Voice Performance.

COLE PERKINS is a Sophomore History major with minors in Public History and Music. Las Vegas born Cole Perkins has called the Omaha area home for the last 10 + years. In high school he appeared on stage in *Crazy for You*, *Shrek the Musical*, and *Beauty and the Beast*. At UNK, Cole is a member of Choraleers, Collegium, and the student-led a cappella group, Harmonix. This semester, Cole was delighted to appear on the UNK mainstage as "King Basilio" in *Life is a Dream* and mark his UNK musical theatre debut in this program of music by Kurt Weill. As a public history student, Cole is excited to participate on a team led by Dr. Will Stoutamire, who is developing a plan for Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to restore Ft. Kearny.



HANNAH PETERSEN is beyond excited to be performing in her first revue at UNK, and even more thrilled about getting the opportunity to be a part of the creativity going into presenting this show. She has been seen in several One Acts, such as *No Exit* (Inez) and *Deadman's Cell Phone* (Jean) and has just appeared in her first mainstage play this April, *Life is a Dream* (dancer/various roles). Hannah has also been seen as a dancer and choreographer in this year's Spring Dance Concert *RESET*, and was co-choreographer in the Fall 2020 musical *I Love You... Because*. After college, Hannah plans on pursuing her dream of traveling and performing around the world.

MAXIMUS WOHLER returns for his second performance with UNK's *Loper Opera*. His debut operatic performance being UNK's very own production of *The Old Maid and the Thief*, Maximus seeks to bring even more musical entertainment directly to you today! Some other career highlights include UNK's *Marat/Sade* (Marquis de Sade) and *I Love You Because* (Jeff Bennett), and Mid-Plains Community College's *Tuck Everlasting* (Jesse Tuck). A Senior Music Theatre Major at UNK, Maximus competed and placed first in 3rd/4th Year Classical Singing at both State and Regional NATS Competitions in 2020 and has already submitted his entry for Nationals.



Faculty & Staff

JANICE FRONCZAK (*Director*) is a tenured Professor of Theatre at the University of Nebraska at Kearney (20 years) where she teaches performance, playwriting and drama therapy courses as well as directs for the mainstage season. Janice has been invited as a guest director for summer stock theatres in Alaska, Michigan, Nebraska, Texas and South Dakota (Black Hills Playhouse). She has been awarded several meritorious awards from the Region V Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival for her directing and playwriting as well as won a national Kennedy Center Fellowship for Directing. Also, a published playwright, Janice's book of original monologues and original formless scenes, *Blue Food*, and her ten-minute play collection, published by Heuer Publishing (Iowa), continue to be a resource for acting teachers at the high school and university level. Janice has recently completed her second monologue book, *Fairy Tale Villain (and other Nefarious Characters) Monologues*. Janice is a working professional Drama Therapist (RDT/BCT - Nationally Registered Drama Therapist and Board-Certified Trainer) and is an LIMHP (Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner) in the state of Nebraska.

ANNE FORADORI (*Musical Director*) is in her 27th year at UNK, where she has served as stage or musical director for over 40 productions and scene programs. As a member of the music faculty at UNK, she also teaches studio voice, opera workshop, musical theatre coaching, music theatre history, and graduate courses. She has presented as a singer and scholar in international, national, and regional venues for National Association of Teachers of Singing, Music Teachers National Association, College Music Society, the American College Theatre Festival, and National Opera Association. As a singer, she has performed in the Midwest, New York, and Latin America in stage, concert, and recital. Her première performances include works by Lori Laitman, Darleen Mitchell, and Deanna Walker. She made her New York recital debut in 2007. Foradori has received numerous teaching awards, including the Pratt-Heins Award at UNK in 2008. Her current scholarship involves creating a performance translation of Jacques Offenbach's opera, *Un mari a la porte*. In January and March 2021, she presented virtually at two national conferences. This is her twenty-first collaboration with Janice Fronczak. She is thrilled by the enthusiasm for opera and musical theatre at UNK and in Kearney.



EMMA D. NEWMAN (*Stage Manager, Lighting Designer, Costume/Properties Coordinator*) is elated to get an opportunity to work on this production in a multitude of areas. Emma is a Senior at UNK majoring in Theatre and minoring in dance and music. Her technical theatre credits include *Reset* (Production Manager), *Student Dance Workshop* (Production Manager), *The Old Maid and the Thief* (Stage Manager), *She Kills Monsters* (Stage Manager), and Lighting Designer for *Divine*, *Losing Eden; or Wherever you are...*, and various pieces in the Spring Dance Concerts: *Reset*, *Plucked*, and *places spaces*. This Summer, Emma will be serving as the Properties Administrative Assistant at the Santa Fe Opera.

NOELLE BOHATY (*Cinematographer*) is an Assistant Professor and the Director of Dance at University of Nebraska-Kearney. She holds a Master of Fine Arts from The Ohio State University with an emphasis in choreography and performance. Her research interests include dance, theatre, text and site-specific performance. Originally from Nebraska, Noelle has taught dance for more than 2 decades, including a year-long residency with 80+ middle and high school students from across the state at the Lied Center for Performing Arts in Lincoln. She was a guest instructor at American College Dance Association and Lecturer of Dance at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She has taught at various pre-professional studios across the Midwest, most recently at BalletMet Academy in Columbus, OH. Bohaty graduated magna cum laude from Washington University in St. Louis, earning her Bachelor of Arts in Dance and Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology, with additional degrees in Acting and Children's Studies (2008).

DAVID GREENBERG (*Sound Supervisor/Mixing Engineer*) David M. Greenberg serves as the Audio Director for the College of Arts and Sciences, Sound Production Coordinator for the Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance, and Director of the Sound Recording Technology Minor at UNK. He is from Plantation, Florida by way of Knoxville, Tennessee. David received his BA in Theatre from the University of Tennessee Knoxville and his MFA in Theatre: Sound Design and Technology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is a regional sound designer and composer whose recent works include *Macbeth*, *Comedy of Errors*, and *Guys & Dolls* (Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre), *Comedy of Errors*, *King Lear* (Optimist Theatre), *Hit the Wall* (Illinois Theatre), *La Bohème* (Lyric Theatre @ Illinois), UNK's production of *She Kills Monsters*, and *The Velveteen Rabbit* (Children's Theatre of Charlotte).

MARILYN MUSICK (*Pianist*) A native Nebraskan, Marilyn Musick completed her undergraduate degree in music at Dana College in Blair. She subsequently earned her MM and DMA degrees in organ performance from the University of Nebraska Lincoln. Later, as a participant on two European organ study tours, Dr. Musick enjoyed learning about and playing historic organs (from the 17th to 19th centuries) in both France and Germany. Currently, Marilyn is organist at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Kearney, and a collaborative pianist at UNK where she works with opera, choirs, solo singers and instrumentalists.

TODD THALKEN (*Pianist/director of combo*) is owner of Kearney Floral Co. He earned a bachelor's degree in piano performance from Kearney State College. He was accompanist for many KSC musical productions and later served as music director, conductor, and accompanist for Kearney Community Theatre productions. Since 2000, he has also been an accompanist for vocal and instrumental students at UNK. Todd is director of contemporary music at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, and is keyboardist for Thalken, Tesdall & Thalken.

GREG TESDALL (*saxophone/combo*) is a multi-instrumentalist while mainly focusing on saxophones and flute. Genres include jazz, pop, rock, rhythm & blues and Celtic styles. At the age of 16 he started performing professionally and spent many years on the road. Greg studied music at the University of South Dakota and received a music business degree from UNK. He has shared the stage with many professional touring groups as diverse as Kenny G to Charlie Daniels, did a short tour backing B J Thomas and has performed as a guest on numerous studio recordings. Greg is a member of both the Iowa and South Dakota Rock & Roll Hall of Fames. You can find him performing at local venues around the Tri City area with bands: Thalken, Tesdall & Thalken, Blackberry Winter, Blue Plate Special, Miles from Dublin and Code Blue among others.

ALISON GAINES (*double bass/combo*) Music Director and Conductor of the Kearney Symphony Orchestra, Dr. Alison Gaines holds the DMA degree in orchestral conducting from the University of Kansas, and an MM degree in bass performance from USC. Her professional conducting experiences include Breckenridge Music Festival, Iowa State University, College of DuPage, and conducting fellowships through the League of American Orchestras, Chorus America, and The Conductor's Institute of New York. As a professional bassist, she served as Principal Bass for the Tulsa Philharmonic Orchestra, Breckenridge Festival Orchestra, and Rockford Symphony (IL). She has won competitive fellowships with the Tanglewood Festival, Festival dei Due Mondi (Spoleto, Italy), and the Aspen Music Festival and served as a clinician for the Chicago Bass Festival for 4 years. She has served as a clinician and guest conductor for music festivals throughout the Midwest, has held music director positions in Kansas and Missouri and has guest conducted various Midwestern orchestras from Arkansas to Nebraska including the Omaha Area Youth Symphony, Fox Valley Symphony in Illinois and the Philharmonia Orchestra of Kansas City. She studied with British conductor, keyboardist, and recording artist Brian Priestman, and jazz educator and composer Dan Gailey. A seasoned performer of orchestral and chamber music across the US and Europe, Dr. Gaines holds the Ronald J. Crocker Chair in Orchestra at UNK.

MICK JOHNSON (*drums/combo*) received his Bachelor of Science degree in Music Business from the University of Nebraska Kearney in 1991. After touring and recording for several years, Mick returned to Kearney in 1995 and co-founded the band Fear of Flying, who performed with national acts such as Journey, Loverboy, the Doobie Brothers, and Big and Rich, among others. He became a Registered Piano Technician in 1997 and has been the staff technician at UNK since 2007. He is currently the guitarist/vocalist in the area bands Blackberry Winter, Blue Plate Special and the newly formed Tri-City Trio.