As the Così Crumbles: A Company-Developed Piece
July 28, 2021 - August 03, 2021

Chautauqua Opera Company presents

AS THE COSÌ CRUMBLES: A COMPANY-DEVELOPED PIECE

As the Così Crumbles: A Company-Developed Piece is a one-act production that explores the following questions: “What would happen if singers let us know what they really think about the characters they play? If given free rein, what arias and roles would they choose, and which would they throw off?”

These are the questions that Chautauqua Opera Company’s Young Artists have explored, led by Chauncey Packer (Director), Steven Osgood (Conductor), and the composer team of Frances Pollock (Composer-in-Residence), Sage Bond (Composer Fellow), and Jasmine Barnes (Composer Fellow).

As the Così Crumbles reimagines beloved arias and ensembles from opera’s greatest hits in bold, surprising, and genre-bending adaptations that you will not hear on any other operatic stage.

opera.chq.org

Production Dedication

This production is dedicated to all twenty of Chautauqua Opera Company’s 2020 Young Artists—Samina Aslam, Zachary Barba, Eric Botto, Michael Colman, James Eder, Jared V. Esquerra, Celeste Godin, Yazid Gray, Kelly Guerra, Nicole Heinen, Shafali Jalota, Chasiti Lashay, Daniela Magura, Michael Miller, John David Nevergall, Max Potter, Aaren Rivard, Jake Skipworth, Hilary Grace Taylor and Wan Zhao. Seeing the artistic agency each of these singers took last summer, in the face of extraordinary challenges, was a source of endless inspiration to me. In fact, it was the catalyst for this piece. While we were able to invite only five of these twenty singers to join our company this summer, it is their collective spirit and their voices which live and breathe in As the Così Crumbles.
Chautauqua Institution

Cast, Creative & Production

Cast

Soprano
Chasiti Lashay*

Mezzo-Soprano
Kelly Guerra*

Tenor
Jared V. Esguerra*

Baritone
Yazid Gray*

Lyric Bass
Michael Colman*

Creative

Composer/Arrangers
Frances Pollock, Composer-in-Residence
Jasmine Barnes, Composer Fellow
Sage Bond, Composer Fellow

Conductor
Steven Osgood

Director
Chauncey Packer*

Assistant Director
Diane Machin

Set Designer
Efren Delgadillo, Jr.

Lighting & Video Designer
Michael Baumgarten

Resident Costume Designer & Costume Shop Supervisor
B.G. FitzGerald

Wig and Makeup Designer
Martha Ruskai

Audio Engineer for Performance Pavilion on Pratt & Sound Designer
E. M. Gimenez

Production

Technical Director
John P. Woodey

Production Stage Manager
Chautauqua Institution
Valerie K. Wheeler*

Assistant Stage Manager
Emily Barber*

Properties Master/Scenic Artist
Theresa Granger

Assistant Costume Supervisor
Cristine A. Patrick

Stage Operations

Head Video/Steward
Graham Riggle

Head Electrician
Jeff Emory

Head Audio
Colin Braeger

Credits

Scenery constructed by Local @66 I.A.T.S.E.

Sound and staging supplied by Advanced Production Group

Lighting supplied by 4 Wall

Video supplied by Grise Visual Center

Crew is represented by I.A.T.S.E. 266

*The noted artists are members of the American Guild of Musical Artists

Chautauqua Opera Orchestra

Violin
Diane Bruce

Piano
Emily Jarrell Urbanek

Personnel Manager
Marian Tanau

Principal Librarian
Lara Sipols
Chautauqua Institution

Leadership & Staff

General and Artistic Director
Steven Osgood

Music Administrator/Chorus Master
Carol Rausch

Director of Production and Resident Lighting & Video Designer
Michael Baumgarten

Managing Director
Daniel Grambow

Arts Marketing Specialist
Makayla Santiago-Froebel

Company Manager
Amanda Seal

Coach/Accompanist, Company Scheduler, COVID Safety Supervisor
Rick Hoffenberg

Coach/Accompanist/Diction/Supertitles Operator
Allison Voth

Coach/Accompanist
Emily Jarrell Urbanek

Arts Marketing Associate
Suzanne Olson

Cast Bios

Michael Colman

Bass-Baritone

Lyric bass Michael Colman, recently hailed by Opera News for “fielding a fine, dark bass-baritone,” has performed roles with many premier regional opera companies including Basilio in Il barbiere di Siviglia with Chautauqua Opera and Virginia Opera, The Commentator in Scalia/Ginsburg with Opera Carolina and Opera Grand Rapids, Guglielmo in Così fan Tutte with Opera Grand Rapids, Imperial Commissioner in Madama Butterfly with Lyric Opera of Kansas City and Sergeant of Police in The Pirates of Penzance with Dayton Opera, as well as concert performances as the Bass Soloist in Messiah with the Dayton Philharmonic and the Bass Soloist in Mozart’s Requiem with The Virginia Consort.
Jared V. Esguerra

Filipino-American tenor Jared V. Esguerra is a dedicated performer of vocal works ranging from opera to concert repertoire and musical theater. The Chicago native has been praised for his “pleasing tenor” voice and continues to be in high demand. In addition to his role debut as Fenton in Verdi’s Falstaff at the Crested Butte Music Festival in 2018, he has portrayed Miles in The Turn of the Screw with Chicago Fringe Opera and Ferrando in Così fan tutte with the Floating Opera Company. He has also sung Pirelli in Sweeney Todd with the Janiec Opera Company at Brevard Music Center, the Messenger in Il trovatore at Sarasota Opera, and the Englishman in Angélique, Luiz in The Gondoliers, and Eisenstein in Die Fledermaus, all at DePaul University, his alma mater. On the concert stage, Jared recently appeared as the tenor soloist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in “Now Let’s Sing” and with the Chicago Sinfonietta in its MLK Tribute concert series. After performing A-Rab in a sold-out run of West Side Story at the Edinburgh International Festival in 2019, Jared returned to Chicago Opera Theater in the critically acclaimed world premiere of Freedom Ride in early 2020. He will join the company for their production of La hija de Rappaccini (covering Giovanni) in April 2021.

Yazid Gray

Baritone

Yazid Gray, originally from Gaithersburg, MD, is currently a Resident Artist with Pittsburgh Opera, where he performed in all four main stage productions of their revamped 2020/21 season. These roles included Guglielmo in Così fan tutte, the Soldier in David T. Little’s Soldier Songs, Athamas/Apollo in Semele, and Dizzy Gillespie in Charlie Parker’s Yardbird. He has performed with companies such as Opera Santa Barbara, Chautauqua Opera, and Maryland Lyric Opera. Yazid received his B.M. in Voice from DePauw University and is a graduate of the University of Michigan, where he received his M.M. in Voice.

Kelly Guerra

Mezzo-Soprano

Peruvian-American mezzo-soprano Kelly Guerra was noted as a “standout” in the Wall Street Journal, for her performance with the Tanglewood Music Center as Mrs. Doc in Leonard Bernstein's A Quiet Place. In 2021, Kelly will sing Zweite Dame in Lighthouse Opera's Die Zauberflöte. She has been featured with the Metropolitan Opera Guild, and continues to workshop Iphigenia by Wayne Shorter and Esperanza Spalding. During the 2019-2020 season Guerra was a Chrisman Studio Artist with Opera Santa Barbara, where she covered the roles of Suzuki in Madama Butterfly and Donna Rosa in Il Postino. Guerra has been featured at the Lucerne Festival, Tanglewood Music Center, and the Bard Music Festival. As a first-generation American and native of Southern California, Kelly is passionate about producing projects that raise awareness and monetary aid for detained immigrants in the USA, as well as premiering and championing contemporary vocal works.
Chasiti Lashay

Soprano

Chasiti Lashay hails from Houston, TX. Last summer, Chasiti participated in Chautauqua Opera’s 2020 virtual summer season, and was featured in several performances and three master classes. She was scheduled to be a resident artist at the Lyric Opera of Kansas City for the 2020-2021 season, but the contract was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID-19. Chasiti won second place in the Tri-Cities Opera “TCO Next” virtual competition and was a finalist in the 2020 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. She has performed the role of the Prima Donna in the Prologue of Strauss’s *Ariadne auf Naxos* and the title role in Puccini’s *Suor Angelica*, and covered the role of the Countess in Mozart’s *Le nozze di Figaro*. Chasiti has also performed the following partial roles: Mimì in Puccini’s *La bohème*; Desdemona in Verdi’s *Otello*; Cleopatra in Barber’s *Antony and Cleopatra*; Mère Marie in Poulenc’s *Dialogues of the Carmelites*; Blanche in Previn’s *A Streetcar Named Desire*; and Arabella in Strauss’s *Arabella*. Chasiti is a recent graduate of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music (SFCM). She earned her Postgraduate diploma in May 2020 and Master of Music in Voice at SFCM in May 2019 and completed her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration at Tuskegee University in 2014.

Henry Griffin

Henry Griffin, baritone, is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance at the Manhattan School of Music in the studio of Marlena Malas. Henry has been a singer his entire life, and he was featured in solo appearances as a boy soprano in his hometown with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Lyric Opera of Chicago. More recent roles include Toby in *110 in the Shade*, Snug in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and Dr. Bartolo in *Le nozze di Figaro* with the Chautauqua Voice Program. Henry also covered the role of the Commentator in Derrick Wang’s opera *Scalia/Ginsburg* for the Chautauqua Opera this summer. He has sung in master classes at the summer festival “Si parla, si canta” in Italy, and at the Chautauqua Voice Program for renowned artists including Federico Sacchi, Gianna Rolandi, Steven Blier, and Joan Patenaude-Yarnell. Henry has also played the piano since the age of 6, and he performed a recital of four-hands repertoire in June 2021 with pianist Tian Qin, which aired on Chicago’s WFMT.

Creative Team Bios

Chauncey Packer

Director

Chauncey Packer is an exciting American tenor. He has sung operatic roles with companies across America from Atlanta Opera to San Francisco Opera, and in Europe from Opera Comique to Teatro alla Scala. Chauncey has also performed concert works around the world with symphonies and chamber orchestras and has also honed his craft in the musical theater world in two First National Broadway Tours. His upcoming engagements in the 2021-22 season include a concert with NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra, two productions with the Metropolitan Opera, and his debut with Lyric Opera of Chicago.
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**Frances Pollock**
**Composer-in-Residence**

Known for her “bold and bracing” (*Baltimore Sun*) opera writing, Frances Pollock’s music “pulls no punches and never flinches.” (*City Paper*). This past season, Frances wrote for Opera Omaha, Bel Cantanti Opera, and Chautauqua Opera Company. Frances’ first opera, *Stinney*, won a Johns Hopkins Diversity Grant and a Best of Baltimore award. It was presented at the 2019 PROTOTYPE festival. Frances has since written operas for WNO, Chicago Lyric, and Seattle Opera. Frances is a founding member of the Midnight Oil Collective, where she is developing *Salt* with librettist/wife and best friend Emily Roller. She is finishing her doctorate at Yale.

**Jasmine Barnes**
**Composer Fellow**

Jasmine Arielle Barnes is a Baltimore native and a composer/vocalist who has both performed and had her music performed, all over the world. She is a multifaceted composer who embraces any writing style of music using a variety of instrumentation and specializes in writing for the voice. She is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, as well as Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity Incorporated, and holds her BA (voice) and MA (composition) in Music from Morgan State University.

**Sage Bond**
**Composer Fellow**

Sage Bond is a singer-songwriter, composer, heavy metal frontwoman and a student working towards a Bachelor of Arts in Music. Sage has been performing since the age of 13, joining and collaborating with bands of several genres, and building a fanbase in her community. Throughout her music performance career, Sage has auditioned for American Idol, The Voice, and was nominated for a Native American Music Award (NAMMYs) 2016 in the category of Best Female Vocalist for her self-titled EP. In 2018, Bond released an LP album titled “Prisoner” and during the pandemic, released a single along with her first music video, titled “Truth” and donated proceeds to a local hospital in need of funds for personal protection equipment.

**Steven Osgood**
**General & Artistic Director**

This is Steven Osgood’s sixth season as General and Artistic Director of the Chautauqua Opera Company. During his tenure the company has reconfigured its season schedule to include longer runs of selected productions, chamber operas, and a Festival Week to celebrate the 90th anniversary season in 2019. Contemporary music has become a staple of Chautauqua Opera Company’s repertoire each season. The Composer-in-Residence position which was created in 2016 has been expanded this season to include two Composer Fellows.

Steven has conducted the world premieres of over 20 operas, including in recent seasons *Breaking the Waves* at
Chautauqua Institution

Opera Philadelphia, *JKF* at Fort Worth Opera, *The Scarlet Ibis, Thumbprint, Blood Moon,* and *Sumeida’s Song* for the PROTOTYPE festival, as well as Missy Mazzoli’s *Song from the Uproar* with Beth Morrison Projects. He has been conductor mentor on two occasions for Washington National Opera’s American Opera Initiative, leading the premieres of six new operas.

From 2001 to 2008 Steven was Artistic Director of American Opera Projects, where he conducted numerous developmental workshops. He founded the company’s internationally recognized Composers and the Voice Fellowship and remains the program’s Artistic Director. He conducted the premieres of *As One* in its sold-out run at BAM, and Paula Kimper’s *Patience and Sarah* at the 1998 Lincoln Center Festival.

In March 2020 Steven was in preview performances at Lincoln Center Theatre for the world premiere of *Intimate Apparel* by Ricky Ian Gordon and Lynn Nottage, based on her play of the same name. The production was put on hold when Broadway closed for the pandemic and is slated to return for its official opening and extended run January through March 2022.

**Efren Delgadillo Jr.**

Scenic Designer

Los Angeles, CA • CTC: First Season

New York: *The Three Musketeers* (The Acting Company); *Mycenaeans* (BAM, Brooklyn Academy of Music). Notable Regional Theatre: *American Mariachi* (South Coast Rep., Arizona Theatre Company); *Romeo and Juliet* (Oregon Shakespeare Company); *BLKS* (Woolly Mammoth); *Bordertown Now* (Pasadena Playhouse); *Smart People, Indecent* (Denver Center for the Performing Arts); *Othello* (Hartford Stage); *Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles* (The Getty Villa/Boston Court); *Prometheus Bound* (The Getty Villa/Center for New Performance).

MFA: California Institute of the Arts. BFA in Studio Arts from University of California, Irvine. Efren is an Assistant Professor of Scenic Design at UC Irvine. [www.efrendelgadillojr.com](http://www.efrendelgadillojr.com)

**B.G. FitzGerald**

Resident Costume Designer & Costume Shop Supervisor

Mr. FitzGerald has designed costumes for Sarasota Opera, Baltimore Opera, Manhattan School of Music Opera Theatre, Coastal Theatre Productions, Asolo Theatre, Florida Studio Theatre, Gateway Playhouse (Long Island), Burt Reynolds Theatre, Country Dinner Playhouse, Florida State Opera, Ice Capades, Barter Theatre (VA), Ocala Civic Theatre, and New York City Opera; for Chautauqua Opera Company, he worked as an Assistant Costume Supervisor-2003, Draper-2005, and has been the Costume Shop Supervisor since 2009.

**Michael Baumgarten**

Lighting & Video Designer

Michael Baumgarten has been the Director of Production and Resident Lighting Designer for Chautauqua Opera since 1999, and for Opera Carolina in Charlotte since 2005. Michael has designed lighting for over 450 productions at regional and international opera companies, including New York City Opera, Teatro del Giglio/Lucca, Florida Grand Opera, Opera Lyra Ottawa, Arizona Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Lyric Opera Kansas City, Palm Beach Opera, Toledo Opera, Michigan Opera Theater, and Manitoba Opera during his thirty-plus year design career. A graduate of Yale School of Drama and member of United Artists-Local 829, he assisted on Broadway during the 1980s, working with such designers as Craig Miller, Tom Skelton, Beverly Emmons, Jim Ingalls, and Richard Nelson.

**E. M. Gíménez**

Audio Engineer for Performance Pavilion on Pratt & Sound Designer
Chautauqua Institution


Diane Machin

Assistant Director

Diane Machin is a director/creator who works across the artistic mediums. Favorite credits include a Christmas themed Gianni Schicchi, writing and directing *Young Gods*, and directing, editing, and creating virtual sets for the world premiere of the opera *A Storm We Call Progress*, a new work about environmental sustainability. As of April 2021, the short film she directed and edited in quarantine, “The Product,” is an official selection at the Indie Short Fest, Dumbo Film Festival, Female Filmmaker’s Fuse Festival and jellyFEST 2021. When not creating, Machin can be found flamenco dancing or working with kids with developmental disabilities.

Valerie K. Wheeler

Production Stage Manager

Valerie has served as Production Stage Manager at opera companies across the US, including New York City Opera, Opera Carolina, Portland Opera, Wolf Trap Opera Company, Toledo Opera, Wichita Grand Opera, Opera Cleveland, Opera Grand Rapids, Opera Santa Barbara, and Chautauqua Opera. Among her additional credits she served as Production Manager for the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival from 2010-2017 and is currently the Production Stage Manager for Charlotte Cirque and Dance Center.

John P. Woodey

Technical Director

John P. Woodey, Technical Director of Lighting Design/Charlotte Ballet, Gallery Players, Access Theatre, Longstocking Productions, Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, Shaker Mountain Opera, Cockpit in Court Theatre, Catalyst Theatre Company, African Continuum Theatre Company, Hard Bargain Players, Hartt School at University of Hartford, Johnson C. Smith University, Theatre Charlotte, Fortune Feimster Sweet and Salty on Netflix, Blumenthal Performing Arts Center's Blume Awards; Scene and Lighting Design/North Carolina Dance Theatre, Young Victorian Theatre Company, Catholic University of America, Blue Caboose Theatre Production Company; Assistant Lighting Design/Centerstage, Cleveland Play House, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Geva Theatre; Assistant Professor of Technical Theatre/John C Smith University; Faculty/DeSales University, Catholic University of America; Vice President/IATSE Local 322 Charlotte; Chautauqua Opera/Assistant Lighting Designer 2007, Assistant Electrician 2013-2015, Technical Director since 2016.

Theresa Granger

Properties Master/Scenic Artist

Theresa has a passion for the daily challenges and variety that working in props brings. Every show involves learning new skills and digging into her mental bag of tricks. She has been the Properties Supervisor at Chautauqua Opera Company since the 2017 season. During the rest of the year, she works at Geva Theatre Center in Rochester, NY. Recently she became the properties supervisor there, after two seasons as an artisan. Before returning to upstate New York, she was a freelance properties master and artisan on a wide range of projects in NYC. She has a BFA in theatrical design with a concentration in scenic design from SUNY Fredonia.

Martha Ruskai
Emily Jarrell Urbanek
Coach/Accompanist

Emily Jarrell Urbanek is currently Director of Music Preparation for Opera Carolina in Charlotte, North Carolina. She is also an extra keyboardist with the Charlotte Symphony. In March 2020 she conducted Derrick Wang’s Scalia/Ginsburg for Opera Carolina and Opera Grand Rapids. Emily frequently performs chamber music in the Charlotte area and has participated in premieres of new works by Kevin Krumenauer, David Noon, John Allemeier, Sean Neukom, and Mary Armistead-Jones. Since 2007, Emily has been on the musical staff of Chautauqua Opera, and she has also served as repetiteur for a variety of companies, including New York City Opera, San Diego Opera, Fort Worth Opera Festival, New Orleans Opera, and Kentucky Opera. Emily holds degrees from Furman University, the University of Michigan, and the Cleveland Institute of Music.

Allison Voth
Coach/Accompanist/Diction/Supertitles

Allison Voth is the principal coach and an associate professor at Boston University’s Opera Institute. As répétiteur and diction coach, she has worked with Boston Lyric Opera, Opera Boston, Opera Providence, Opera Aperta, Verismo Opera of New Jersey, Boston Baroque, and Opera North. Festivals at which she has worked include Opera Unlimited, the Florence Vocal Seminar, and the Athens Music Festival. Ms. Voth, also in demand for her authoritative and eloquent supertitles, has developed titles for Boston Lyric Opera, Opera Boston, Washington National Opera, Barbican Festival, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Emmanuel Music, Boston Baroque, Boston Modern Orchestra Project, and Palm Beach Opera. She also holds the post of Music Director for the Cantata Singers Chamber Recital Series. Ms. Voth joined Chautauqua Opera as a coach and pianist in 1996. Since 2001, she has also served as the company’s diction instructor, and supertitle creator/operator since 2010.

Carol Rausch
Music Administrator/Chorus Master

Since 1995 Carol has served as Music Administrator/Chorus Master for the Chautauqua Opera, overseeing the musical components of the summer season and the young artist program. Carol is also the Music Administrator/Chorus Master for the New Orleans Opera Association (NOOA). During this past year she served as music director and pianist for the company’s popular outdoor concerts at various sites in the metro area. She has won awards for both choral direction and for NOOA’s success in arts education throughout Louisiana and the Gulf Coast. Carol has previously worked for Virginia Opera, Greater Miami Opera (now Florida Grand Opera), Ohio Light Opera and Opera Columbus. She has taught at The Ohio State University and has served on the staffs of Kenyon College and the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. Carol is currently head of the opera department at Loyola University New Orleans, where she has musically prepared and conducted numerous performances. In January 2018, the city of New Orleans hosted the National Opera Association conference, for which Loyola produced Tom Cipullo’s award-winning chamber opera After Life. Carol holds degrees from Indiana University and The Ohio State University, and she pursued a year of study at the Conservatoire Royal de Musique in Brussels, Belgium, as a Rotary Foundation Graduate Fellow. Her piano teachers have included Jorge Bolet, Earl Wild, Richard Tetley- Kardos and Sonja Anschütz.
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Rick Hoffenberg

Coach/Accompanist

In 2007, Rick Hoffenberg joined the faculty of Marywood University, where he is currently Associate Professor, Director of Choral Activities, and Co-Chair of the Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance. He has also been Music Director of the Wyoming Seminary Civic Orchestra since 2013. He previously held conducting positions at the University of Northern Iowa and Williams College. Rick has directed a dozen choral tours throughout the United States; he has also conducted high school festival concerts and workshops in the Eastern and Midwestern United States. He has spent the past 22 summers at Chautauqua Opera, where he is a coach and scheduler. He also worked in various capacities for New York City Opera, BMG Classics/RCA Victor Red Seal, Columbia Artists Management, the Milken Archive, and Spoleto Festival USA. As a pianist, he has performed at Orchestra Hall in Chicago, the Music Institute of Chicago, Rockefeller Chapel in New York City, and Richardson Auditorium in Princeton, New Jersey. He was the state winner, division winner, and national finalist in the 1994 MTNA Wurlitzer Piano Competition. He holds degrees from Princeton University, Yale University, and Westminster Choir College, where his conducting teachers included Andrew Megill and the late Joseph Flummerfelt.

Special Thanks

Emily Roller
Zach Stahlsmith
Rachael Fox

Young Artist Program

Chautauqua Opera provides Young Artists with performance tools essential to establishing a professional career in opera. All Young Artists receive extensive musical coaching from nationally recognized coaching staff drawn from the finest universities, conservatories, and opera houses in the US. They are offered classes in movement, combat, makeup, and acting, while appearing in our mainstage productions.

Read more about our program.

Chautauqua Opera Guild

The Chautauqua Opera Guild serves as the advocacy group in support of the Chautauqua Opera Company. Memberships support our Young Artists, the Children’s Opera Education Program, and grant you access to events all summer long.

Join today!

The Chautauqua Opera Guild Board of Directors thanks the following members for their outstanding support of the 2021 Chautauqua Opera season.

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