

**Eryn Tvete** obtained her music degree and theatre minor from the University of MN Du-luth. Since moving to Minneapolis she has performed with the Minnesota Opera, Minnesota Chorale, Mill City Opera, Bloomington Civic Theatre and the Gilbert and Sullivan Very Light Opera Company. She is also the managing director and MC for Opera on Tap Twin Cities. She continues to have a song in her heart and loves to share it with those around her. By day, **Amanda Versteegen** works as a music therapist around the Twin Cities helping people in various stages of life meet their goals through music. She holds a Masters in Music Therapy and an undergraduate degree in voice performance from the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire. **Ben Winkler** is a regular at Opera on Tap, and sings in the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus. Ben is currently a student at Luther Seminary studying Christianity with an emphasis in the Hebrew Scriptures.

### Librettists

**Heather Meyer** is a comedy writer, playwright and improviser in Minneapolis. Currently, she's a staff writer on an international animation series debuting in early 2019. Her scripts have been produced in 30 states and she's written for the Brave New Workshop, Reductress.com and The Belladonna Comedy. She's also the creator of the annual show, *Women's History Month: The Historical Comedybration (with fabulous prizes)* playing through March 19th, 2018. More info at [www.heathermeyeronline.com](http://www.heathermeyeronline.com).

**Elle Thoni** is a playwright, performance-maker, public artist and arts organizer based in the Upper Mississippi watershed (Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA). Elle believes in performance as a platform for grassroots myth making; her works are visions for collective healing through re-wilding. Catch Elle's upcoming mask play "Lost Lake" at In the Heart of the Beast March 23-25th.

**Special thanks to our extremely talented accompanist Emily Urban!**

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Opera on Tap's mission is to promote opera as a viable, living and progressive art form deserving a place on the American cultural landscape. Our other very important mission is to promote young professional singers and instrumentalists in their artistic development. Opera on Tap gives the artists an opportunity to communicate the joy and exuberance they feel in the music by getting away from the stuffy atmosphere of the concert hall or educational institution. For more information, check us out on Facebook or at [www.operaontap.org/twincities](http://www.operaontap.org/twincities)



presents

# **NEW ARIAS ON TAP**

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SUNDAY MARCH 11, 2018

6:30 PM

HONEY

205 E HENNEPIN AVE  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

# Opera on Tap Twin Cities “New Arias on Tap”

How Lovely\*.....by Mary Beth Huttlin  
Janna Kysilko

All'anima Mia.....by Maxwell Lafontant  
Tara Priolo and Aliese Hoesel

Golpes a la puerta\*.....by Leo Segali  
Alvin Kim

Peace my heart\*.....by Nicholas Mroczek  
Eryn Tvette

What Would I Say to God?.....by Ben Larson  
Corissa Bussian

Voices\*.....by Matthew Horwath  
Lisa Ramos

Just Another Adventure of Sir Winksalot from The Succession Crisis  
Music by Basil Considine, Libretto by Heather Meyer  
Chase Burkhart and Ben Winkler

## — Intermission —

The Things We Do (Kazoo Karoo).....by Ross Crean  
Maggie Loftboom

Flightless Bird.....Music by Daniel Nass, Lyrics by Elle Thoni  
Eryn Tvette

War Wedding, III. The Marriage Bed.....by Tony Solitro  
Chase Burkhart

Margot Alone in the Light  
Music by Clint J Borzoni, lyrics by Emily Conbere  
Tara Priolo

When Matter Touches Antimatter.....by Rodney Rawlings  
Aliese Hoesel

Labrador Love Song.....by Blair Whittington  
Amanda Verstegen

Brindisi from *La Traviata* by Verdi  
Eryn Tvette & John DeCausmaker & EVERYONE!

## Singers

**Chase D. Burkhart** is a music teacher and performer who loves to sing and play guitar. He is currently rehearsing a mix of covers and his own originals with a full band to debut this summer. ([chasedburkhart.com](http://chasedburkhart.com))

Soprano **Aliese Hoesel** is best known for her work with the Motown tribute group, Gladys Knight and the Pibbs, which she founded in 2009. Comprised of Hoesel as Gladys, and three rescued pit bulls, the band had a solid run until 2010, when Rio, the 3 year old Brindle enacted a coup by demoting Hoesel to "pibb" status. She hasn't worked in novelty music since. I currently lives alone and finds comfort in the organization section of all department stores.

**Corissa Bussian**, a native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin is currently on the faculty of K&S Conservatory teaching voice and piano. She and her husband have been Minnesotans for about 6 years. She can be seen singing in the chorus at Minnesota Opera and is the current reigning Twin Cities OOT Diva until April when she will over hand over her crown to the next talented Diva!

**Alvin Kim** graduated from Luther College in 2016 with a Bachelors of Arts in Music where he also studied linguistics. As a language nerd, opera became his passion as it combines the spoken word with the universal languages of music and theatre. He is very excited to have Opera on Tap be a part of the first steps in building his career.

**Janna Kysilko** is a native of Saint Paul, attended Macalester College and later The Eastman School of Music. After living abroad in Vienna, she returned to the Twin Cities, where she has been a regular at Opera on Tap, and performed as a soloist with such groups as The Schubert Club, Thursday Musical, The MN Philharmonic, the G&SVLOC, and Century Theatre. Also a professional trainer of dressage horses, Janna divides her time between that and vocal performance and teaching, and is still waiting for that operatic role on horseback to materialize!

**Maggie Lofbloom** is a mezzo soprano who enjoys collecting antique china and cross-stitching profanities. She is unsurprisingly delighted to perform Mr. Crean's eloquent description of the singer's life.

Colorfully diverse soprano **Tara Priolo** is currently collaborating on and creating a variety of classical and contemporary repertoire. She currently performs with Vox Nova Chorale under the direction of Vicki Peters, Exultate Chamber Choir under the direction of Thomas Rossin, and Gregorian Singers under the direction of Monte Mason, while also frequenting Opera on Tap-Twin Cities. . Tara resides in Minneapolis with her husband, Ross and rescue pup, Millie

**Lisa Ramos**, Contralto/Dramatic Mezzo, experience include performing on stages and in concert halls throughout the Midwest with groups such as Minnesota Opera, Chanhassen Dinner Theater and Plymouth Music Series. She received critical acclaim for her performance in Mahler's Das Lied von die Erde with the Lincoln, Nebraska Symphony. More recently, she has been seen as a soloist with the Mississippi Valley Orchestra, Symphonia, Dakota Valley Symphony, Kenwood Symphony with Sonomento. Her current project is developing a program with Coro!, a St. Paul based solo/ensemble singing group, to provide development and performance opportunities for young developing artists. She enjoys performing with Opera on Tap and is really excited to be a part of the New Arias program.

### **Rodney Rawlings**

Rodney Rawlings, a Torontonian, has had his art songs and concert band pieces performed in Toronto; in Austin, Texas (as a winner of the Fresh Squeezed Ounce of Art Song competition); in Chicago; in Chautauqua, New York; in Geneva, Illinois; in Elgin, Illinois; and in Munster, Indiana. He studied music both privately and at Concordia University in Montreal. He writes the lyrics to almost all his songs, which concern reverence, aspiration, romance, independence, and the future; these themes also occur in those songs for which he has adapted an existing text.

**Song Info:** “When Matter Touches Antimatter” describes a well-known astronomical concept and uses it as a metaphor applicable to a well-known human situation.

### **Leo Segali**

Leo Segali is a Venezuelan/Norwegian contemporary classical music composer, cinematographer, photographer and opera director, avant garde artist and performer.

**Song Info:** knock knock, who is that? just you on the other side, my heart reflecting yours for just a moment, and in that moment... the universe.

### **Tony Solitro**

Tony Solitro composes concert and stage music that is “fraught with tension” and “amusingly intricate.” Endlessly fascinated by vocal timbre and virtuosic singing, Tony’s musical style is inherently theatrical and operatic. “Delightfully executed with sidesplitting hilarity,” his mythology-infused romantic-comedy *Triangle* was hailed “a standout favorite” (Theater Times). Commissioned by Boston Opera Collaborative and premiered in partnership with Boston New Music Initiative, it was praised for its “spiky, smashing, blasting” orchestrations (the Intelligencer). In his 2016 vignette *She’s Fabulous*—a “wonderfully humorous” satire featuring two bitter opera divas—Solitro conjured “spastically dramatic and emotionally volatile music...juxtaposing lush arias with brisk recitatives” (the Intelligencer). He earned his Ph.D. as a recipient of the George Crumb Music Fellowship from the University of Pennsylvania and his M.M. from the Longy School of Music on a Nadia and Lili Boulanger Scholarship. To hear recordings, see videos, and explore his composition catalogue, visit [www.tonysolitro.com](http://www.tonysolitro.com).

**Song Info:** A woman travels to the barracks to visit her wounded lover. They consummate their love, embracing humanity amid senseless destruction. After parting at daybreak, the soldier dies and his bride remains.

### **Blair Whittington**

Blair Whittington is a Los Angeles native composer who studied composition with Byongkon Kim at California State University Los Angeles. He has worked as Music Librarian at Brand Library & Art Center for over 20 years and has directed their chamber music series and other concerts. His music has been performed by the Bateira Trio, The UK Guitar Quartet, Trio Emporte, pianist Mark Robson, cellist Maksim Velichkin and many others.

**Song Info:** This song was written for my 2 Labrador Retrievers Sophie and Harrison who are just crazy about each other and always have fun together. The song is whimsical and lighthearted just like a Labrador!

## **New Arias on Tap— 2018 Composers:**

### **Clint Borzoni**

CLINT JOSEPH BORZONI’s “highly original yet lyrical music...[and] natural gift for melody and harmonic structure” (The Huffington Post) has resulted in international performances and premieres.

Operatic works include *When Adonis Calls*, which was selected for the Fort Worth Opera 2015 Frontiers Festival and Opera America’s New Works Forum in 2017, and will receive its world premiere by Asheville Lyric Opera in May. His new opera, *The Copper Queen*, was the winner of Arizona Opera’s commission program, Arizona Spark, and is currently being developed by Arizona Opera. Other works include *Margot Alone in the Light*, an adaptation of Ray Bradbury’s story *All Summer in a Day* (premiered by operamission (2009) and subsequently produced by Opera On Tap); and *Antinous and Hadrian*, originally conceived of in the American Opera Projects Composer and the Voice Series. Mr. Borzoni is the current Composer-in-Residence for Musica Marin, a nonprofit organization that presents, supports and inspires classical music throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. He studied with Pulitzer Prize-winning composer David Del Tredici at the City University of New York where he received an MA in Music Composition. He lives and works as a composer and teacher in New York City.

**Song Info:** Based on “All Summer in a Day” by Ray Bradbury. The story is set in a classroom of schoolchildren on the planet Venus, where it rains constantly with the exception of one hour every seven years. None of the schoolchildren remember the sun, except Margot, who moved to Venus four years ago from Ohio. In the aria, she is remembering what the sun felt like.

### **Basil Considine**

Basil Considine is an award-winning composer-librettist and director known for a deft dramatic touch and side-splitting comedy. Recent highlights include a national tour of his puppet parody *Game of Thrones: The Musical*, which was the best-selling show of the 2017 Tampa International Fringe Festival and played from Hawaii to Florida. His comic opera *The Frat Party* was also named a semi-finalist for The American Prize in composition in 2017. Basil has been interviewed by *American Theatre* magazine and consulted by the *New York Times*. He was named one of *Musical America* magazine’s Top 30 Music Professionals in December 2017. “Just Another Adventure of Sir Winksalot” was co-written with local playwright and librettist Heather Meyer as part of the 2016 Nautilus Music Theater Composer-Librettist Studio.

**Song Info:** “Just Another Adventure of Sir Winksalot” was co-written with local playwright and librettist Heather Meyer as part of the 2016 Nautilus Music Theater Composer-Librettist Studio.

### **Ross Crean**

Ross Crean jokingly says he “writes strange music that he likes to listen to when he is by himself, eating raw cookie dough in a dark closet,” but in truth, his music has been referred to as being “funny...and virtuosic” (Classic Concert Nova Scotia), having “exceptionally different, outstanding quality” (Download), and music that “stirs you deep, undertones of humanity” (Access Contemporary Music). Composing and creating music with a focus on the evocative and lyrical, he began his professional career as a Bass Baritone, specializing in avant-garde and Contemporary Classical music, many of

which were his own compositions. While pursuing his Masters at Illinois State University in Composition, he has studied with Stephen Taylor, David Feurzeig, and Nancy Van de Vate. Ross is also signed as a composer on the PARMA Recordings/ Navona Records label, and released the recording of The Great God Pan in August 2017. He is currently Resident Composer and Creative Director for Nebula Creatives, a multimedia firm based in Chicago.

**Song info:** I was commissioned by mezzo soprano Shannon Keegan to write something about the common but absurd things we tend to go through as opera singers. Shannon also was known to drive her fellow classmates crazy by playing kazoo as a way to remind them that things did not have to be so incredible intense and serious when working in classical music. I originally had a quote about James Levine in the piece that was supposed to be toward the end, and completely forgot to include it. I'm kinda glad that my memory failed me now!

### **Matthew Horwath**

Matthew is a music major at Macalester College, but has been writing music since he was around 14. He plays in both a jazz band and the Macalester College Pipe Band, his real passion is composing, and I hope to someday make a career out of it.

**Song Info:** Voices is a song about a young woman's onset of schizophrenia. She hears disembodied voices (represented by piano), difficult to make out. She flies into a panic at the voices, believing them at first to be spirits, before coming to the realization that the voices come from inside her own head.

### **Mary Beth Huttlin**

Mary Beth Huttlin is a Minneapolis/St. Paul-based composer whose works have been performed throughout the Midwest. Her recent compositions have been premiered by the Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra, Minnetonka Children's Choir, Lux String Quartet, at the Weisman Art Museum, University Avenue Project and at the Weiji Art Exhibition in Beijing, China. In addition to composing, Ms. Huttlin continues to perform orchestral and chamber music in the Twin Cities, teaches in the Minnetonka Public Schools and presents composition workshops for kids through West Suburban Summer School.

**Song Info:** The text of this aria is an excerpt from The Diary of Anne Frank. On Sunday, March 26, 1944 Anne Frank wrote these words as a call to action to all people of the world to immediately begin attending to the needs of others, giving of themselves and making a stand for justice in order to be a positive change the world.

### **Maxwell R. Lafontant**

Maxwell R. Lafontant is a twin cities based composer. He has written music for soloists, chamber groups, orchestra, electronics, and the stage. His music has been performed from Iowa to Italy, Las Vegas to Abu Dhabi, by performers such as the Nevada Chamber Orchestra, the Mivos Quartet, the New Mexico Contemporary Ensemble, the NEXTET ensemble, Julia Bentley and many others. He has received grants from the Nevada Arts Council and the American Harp Society. He received his MM at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas as the last graduate student of the esteemed Ukrainian composer Virko Baley. He received his BA at Luther College under Dr. Brooke Joyce, where his collaborative piece with Kimberly Osberg, The Page-Turners' Retort, received the honor of performance at the National Conference of Undergraduate Research. Maxwell also

works as an arranger, educator, and engraver. He is a member of ASCAP and SCI, and you can hear all of his newest music on [maxwellrlafontant.com](http://maxwellrlafontant.com).

**Song Info:** All'Anima Mia is a setting of text done by the poet Umberto Saba written just outside of his hometown of Trieste in 2014. The text speaks of the suffering of the artist's soul and how rather than giving him angst, it gives him clarity.

### **Benjamin Emory Larson**

Ben is a composer primarily for opera and theater, including *Maelstrom - The Zombie Opera*, a full length one act that was nominated for three Portland [Oregon] Area Musical Theater Awards in 2010, including Outstanding Original Musical and Outstanding Original Score. He and his wife Erika are new transplants to the Twin Cities, having just relocated from Oregon in September, and they are both excited to call this beautiful place their home.

**Song Info:** "What Would I Say to God" is from an opera I'm currently writing, inspired by the Stonewall Riots of 1969 in New York. In this aria, Julia, a young lesbian activist, is out drinking with some friends when the subject of religion and its relevance comes up. Someone asks Julia what she would say to God if he were sitting with them at the table...the aria is her answer.

### **Nicholas Mroczek**

Originally from southwestern Michigan, Nicholas is a Twin Cities based composer (by way of the University of MN Duluth) primarily focused on writing for the voice. His works have been performed by a wide range of singers from high school and church choirs to the wonderful singers at Opera On Tap Twin Cities! When he is not composing, Nicholas can be found singing with the VocalEssence Chorus or cantoring at St. Paul's United Church of Christ.

**Song Info:** Peace My Heart is the final piece in an incomplete set of songs for high soprano on texts by R. Tagore exploring the unfettered emotions of the protagonist. Here, we witness an intensely personal acceptance of the earthly parting of the singer.

### **Daniel Nass**

The music of Daniel Nass (b. 1975) has been reviewed as "playful," "eerie," and "witty." He has received numerous awards and recognitions, including ASCAP awards, as well as invitations to SEAMUS and SCI national conferences, the Seoul International Computer Music Festival, and the International Computer Music Conference in Singapore. He has been awarded prizes in the ISU Carillon Composition Competition, the UMKC Chamber Music Composition Competition, and was one of three composers awarded a commission to write a new choral work for the Young New Yorkers' Chorus. Other recent commissions include the Spitting Image Collective, Seen/Heard Trio, Zeitgeist, clarinetist Sarah Porwoll-Lee, and the dream songs project. Daniel is a Composer Member of Spitting Image Collective — a composer collective that brings together composers, listeners, and performers to strengthen the Twin Cities new music community.

**Song Info:** "Flightless Bird" examines what it's like to be a penguin... from the penguin's perspective.