

CU ★ PRESENTS

2021-22 Season



College of Music  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

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## CU Presents

### Digital Program

*Spring 2022*

#### Editors

Sabine Kortals Stein

Becca Vaclavik

#### Designer

Sabrina Green

#### Photography

CU Boulder Photography

## AT THE PERFORMANCE

- Please refrain from using electronic devices during the performance. Feel free to view this program on your device at any time prior to the performance, during intermission or after the performance ends.
- Photography and video recordings of any type are strictly prohibited during the performance.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere. CU Boulder is a smoke-free campus.

**CU ★ PRESENTS** is the home of performing arts at the University of Colorado Boulder.



The mission of the **University of Colorado Boulder College of Music** is to inspire artistry and discovery, together.



*The College of Music acknowledges that the university sits upon land within the territories of the Ute, Cheyenne and Arapaho peoples. Further, we acknowledge that 48 contemporary tribal nations are historically tied to Colorado lands.*

# CU NOW

CU New Opera Workshop

With Kamala Sankaram and the student Composer Fellows' Initiative

3 p.m., Monday, June 19, 2022

Music Theatre

**Runtime:** 110 minutes including one 10-minute intermission

**Content advisory:** Language for a mature audience

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Artistic/General Director, CU NOW

**Leigh Holman**

Music Director, CU NOW

**Nathália Kato**

CFI Stage Director and Dramaturg

**Bud Coleman**

CFI Student Composer Consultant and Coordinator

**Jeremy Reger**

CFI Music Director

**Keith Teepen**

CFI Guest Student Librettist Mentor

**Gene Scheer**

CFI Guest Student Composition Mentor

**Tom Cipullo**

OPERA America Professional Development

**Laura Lee Everett**

*CU NOW talkback facilitator and guest student professional development mentor*

CFI Lighting Designer

**Ron Mueller**

CFI Costume, Wig and Makeup Designer

**Ann Louise Piano**

CFI Makeup Consultant

**Jenny Hager**

Production Director

**Ron Mueller**

Production Assistant

**Christie Conover**

# RuPaul's Drag Race Allstars— Season 2: Phi Phi vs. Alyssa

*Music by Jessie Lausé*

*Libretto adapted from RuPaul's Drag Race Season 2: Episodes 4 and 5*

## **ROLE**

Alyssa Edwards

Phi Phi O'Hara

Alaska

Katya

## **NAME**

**Savannah Scott**

**Gabrielle Razafinjavtovo**

**Paul Wolf**

**Adam Ewing**

# The Spare Room With the Shag Rug

*Ilan Blanck*

## **ROLE**

Tutor

Student

Grandmother

## **NAME**

**Adam Ewing**

**Savannah Scott**

**Gabrielle Razafinjatovo**

# Fragments

*Libretto by Nnamdi Nwankwo*

*Music by James Morris*

## **ROLE**

Damien

Erica

Julia

Jackson

## **NAME**

**Paul Wolf**

**Gabrielle Razafinjatovo**

**Savannah Scott**

**Adam Ewing**



## —Intermission—

# Joan of the City

*Music by Kamala Sankaram*

## ROLE

Joan of the Real

Joan of the Hustle

Joan of the Light

Joan of the Voice

Joan of the Ground

## NAME

**Eli English**

**Alice Del Simone**

**Anna McMahon**

**Shannon Christie**

**Kyrie Laybourn**

At the **end of the performance**, when prompted click or tap to **[open this link](#)** and select one audio file to play.

# Personnel

*Text that is bold and underlined is a clickable hyperlink.*

**ILAN BLANCK** is a musician currently pursuing a Master of Music in composition at CU Boulder. As a composer, he has written for various projects including orchestras, podcasts, high school choirs and a lot of bands. As a guitarist, he has appeared on over a dozen releases, toured the country and shared the stage with artists ranging from eighth blackbird to Guster. Beyond composing and performing, Blanck has partnered as an educator with organizations such as Carnegie Hall and Minnesota Public Radio, and also works as assistant to hip-hop producer Lazerbeak (Lizzo, Doja Cat and Dessa).

**SHANNON PAIGE CHRISTIE** (Joan of the Voice), soprano, recently graduated from the University of Colorado Boulder with her Master of Music in vocal performance, where she studied under the mentorship of Professor Jennifer Bird-Arvidsson. Originally from Indiana, she holds a Bachelor of Music in vocal performance from University of Indianapolis, where she studied with Kathleen Hacker. In her time at CU she has performed two roles with Eklund Opera, Violetta (*La Traviata*) and Poppea (*Agrippina*). In 2017, she was a resident artist with Indianapolis Opera, where she made her professional debut as Annina (*La Traviata*). Other credits include Papagena (*Die Zauberflöte*) and Laurette (*Le Docteur Miracle*). She has studied in England twice, where she had the opportunity to perform as the soprano soloist in Mozart's *Requiem* and Vaughan Williams' *Serenade to Music*. Follow her journey on Instagram: [@shannannigans](#)

**ALICE DEL SIMONE** (Joan of the Hustle) received her BA in voice performance from the University of California, Davis. She is currently pursuing an MM in voice pedagogy and performance at the University of Colorado Boulder, studying under Andrew Garland. Del Simone enjoys performing varied repertoire including an upcoming appearance as Gilda in *Three Feathers* (Laitman) with Opera Steamboat. Recent appearances include La Princesse, Le Rosignol, and Le Feu in *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* (Ravel) with Boulder Opera, La Feé in *Cendrillon* (Viardot) with Loveland Opera's Educational Outreach, and Poppea in *Agrippina* (Handel) with Eklund Opera. Del Simone taught music theory and vocal pedagogy for the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir and she currently maintains a small private voice studio.

**ELIJAH ENGLISH** (Joan of the Real), countertenor, is entering the final year of his MM in voice performance and pedagogy at CU Boulder where he studies with Professor Abigail Nims and John Seesholtz. During the 2021-2022 school year, English received awards in the Ekstrand Graduate Competition and the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition. English most recently performed with Eklund Opera in the role of Ottone in Handel's *Agrippina*. He is thrilled to help workshop Kamala Sankaram's *Joan of the City*, a timely, exciting and invigorating work.

**JESSIE LAUSÉ** is a composer and educator with a passion for creating inclusive musical experiences. Their work often utilizes experimental electronic and acoustic sound practices and alternative notations to encourage diversified sensory engagement. Lausé is originally from central Kentucky and holds a bachelor's degree in arts administration from Butler University in Indianapolis. Lausé is currently pursuing a master's in music composition at the University of Colorado Boulder where they teach music technology and have studied with Annika Socolofsky and Michael Theodore. When not composing, Lausé spends their free time playing board games and watching trashy TV with their cats, Gubaidulina and Mr. Bear.

**KYRIE LAYBOURN** (Joan of the Ground), soprano, graduated this spring with her Master of Music in vocal performance. She spent her time at CU Boulder under the mentorship of John Seesholtz. Previous Eklund Opera roles include: Lady with Cake Box (*Postcard from Morocco*), Annina (*La Traviata*), Gertrude (*Hänsel und Gretel*), Beatrice (*Three Decembers*), and the title role in Barber's *Vanessa*. Next up, she will be seen as Joanne in Opera Steamboat's production of *Company* and as artist-in-residence with Tri-Cities Opera, where she will perform the roles of Mrs. Gobineau (*The Medium*) and Countess Almaviva (*Le Nozze di Figaro*). Follow her on [Instagram](#) and [TikTok](#) @kyrielaybourn.

**ANNA MCMAHON** (Joan of the Light), soprano, is a second year Artist Diploma student at the University of Colorado, where she sang Violetta in *La Traviata* last fall and will return as Musetta in *La Bohème* this fall. This summer, McMahon joins Opera North to sing Despina (*Così fan tutte*) and cover Violetta. Last summer, she appeared as Cendrillon with Opera in the Ozarks. Other performances include Giulia (*La Scala di Seta*) and Adele (*Die Fledermaus*) at

Michigan State University, Rose Maurant (*Street Scene*) at the Brevard Music Festival, Abigail Williams (*The Crucible*), Laretta (*Gianni Schicchi*) and Despina (*Così fan tutte*) at the University of Houston, and Belinda (*Dido and Aeneas*) with Opera Steamboat. She has also covered the role of Nannetta (*Falstaff*) with Martina Arroyo Prelude to Performance. Equally passionate about concert work, she has been soprano soloist for Verdi's *Requiem*, Handel's *Messiah*, *Elijah*, Brahms's *Requiem* and Ricky Ian Gordon's *Orpheus and Euridice*. She is a 2021 winner of the Denver Lyric Opera Guild Competition and an Encouragement Award winner from the 2020 Colorado/Wyoming District of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. McMahon is a student of Julie Simson and Jennifer Bird-Arvidsson.

**JAMES H. MORRIS** is a pianist and composer pursuing his DMA in piano performance at the University of Colorado Boulder. He studies with Jennifer Hayghe. He earned his MM in piano performance at the University of Colorado Boulder and his BM in both piano and theory/composition at Westminster Choir College of Rider University. Morris was named the alternate for the New Jersey MTNA Competition Young Artist division in 2019. As an active composer, he was a participant in the inaugural season of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Mentoring Program for Composers in 2020.

**BRANDON TYLER PADGETT** (Katya/Tutor/Jackson), baritone, recently completed an Artist Diploma program in vocal performance under the tutelage of Andrew Garland and has received a Master of Music from CU Boulder as well. His recent performance credits include Germont in *La Traviata*, Claudio in *Agrippina*, Vater in *Hänsel und Gretel*, Mr. Potter in *It's a Wonderful Life* and the title role in *Eugene Onegin*. Padgett is excited to be a part of the 2022 CFI Program, and is thrilled to perform the works of CU's talented, passionate and dedicated composers.

**ADAM EWING** (Katya/Tutor/Jackson) is an affiliate professor of music at Regis University. Ewing has appeared as Schaunard (*La Bohème*), Major General Stanley (*Pirates of Penzance*), the Celebrant (Bernstein's *Mass*), Sondheim (*Side by Side by Sondheim*), John Brooke (*Little Women*) and Gianni Schicchi. He regularly performs with Central City Opera's Touring Artists, Opera on Tap, the Denver Early Music Consort and the Baroque Chamber Orchestra of



Colorado. In demand as a director and vocal coach, Ewing is chorus master for the Boulder Bach Festival and has conducted several shows for the CU Department of Theatre & Dance. He is thrilled to perform with CFI again.

**GABRIELLE RAZAFINJATOVO** (Phi Phi O'Hara/Grandmother/Erica), mezzo-soprano, graduated with a Master of Music in voice performance and pedagogy at CU Boulder in 2022. Hailed as a versatile singer with strong musicality and a rich tone, Razafinjatovo is an active performer and teacher. A student of Abigail Nims, Razafinjatovo won second place in the CU College of Music Honors Competition and has twice received high awards in the Denver Lyric Opera Guild Competition for Colorado Singers. As a student, Razafinjatovo received numerous awards as a singer in the North Dakota Chapter NATS Competition as well as an Encouragement Award in the North Dakota-Manitoba Met Auditions. Originally from North Dakota, Razafinjatovo earned a BA in voice and piano from Minot State University in 2017 where she studied under DeVera Bowles and Dianna Anderson. Most recently Razafinjatovo was seen as Lady With a Hat Box/A Foreign Singer in Eklund Opera's production of Argento's *Postcard from Morocco*. Other roles include Flora in *La Traviata*, Narciso in *Agrippina*, Rosina in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Mercedes in *Carmen*, and Third Lady in *Die Zauberflöte*. This coming season she can be seen in performances with Art Song Colorado, Boulder Opera and Colorado Bach Ensemble.

**SAVANNAH SCOTT** (Alyssa Edwards/Student/Julia), soprano, is a first year master's student pursuing an MM in vocal performance from the studio of John Seesholtz. Scott holds a BM in vocal performance from Louisiana State University where she graduated summa cum laude and University Medalist. While at LSU, Scott premiered the role of Holocaust Survivor Krystyna Zywułska in the collegiate premiere of Jake Heggie and Gene Scheer's *Out of Darkness: Two Remain* which won The American Prize third place for Opera Production—College/University Division for 2021. Other engagements at LSU include La Ciesca in *Gianni Schicchi*, Yvonne in *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Les Mamelles de Tirésias*, *Eugene Onegin* and *Falstaff*.

While in Baton Rouge, Scott appeared in multiple productions with Opera Louisiane including Manuelita in *Carmen*, Isabel in *Pirates of Penzance*, *Ulysses: An American Mythology*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *Madama Butterfly* and *Die*

*Fledermaus*. Other favorite performances include Catherine in *A View from the Bridge*, Diana in *Lend Me a Tenor*, Leila in *Iolanthe*, Elsa in *The Sound of Music*, Miss Hannigan in *Annie*, Rosie in *Bye, Bye, Birdie*, *The Mikado*, *Trial by Jury* and *Candide*. Locally, Scott recently covered the role of Leonora for *Il Trovatore* with Boulder Opera for which she also sang in the lecture concert, which preceded the mainstage production, and reprised the role of Manuelita in Opera Colorado's most recent production of *Carmen*. In July, Scott will perform the title role in *Suor Angelica* with La Musica Lirica in Novalfeltria, Italy.

**PAUL WOLF** (Alaska/Damien), tenor, is working on his DMA at CU Boulder studying with Matthew Chellis. Wolf's past engagements include Man with the Paintbox/Mr. Owen (*Postcard from Morocco*), Nero in Eklund Opera's *Agrippina*, Spoletta in Opera Birmingham's *Tosca*, and Tamino in Seagle Festival's *Die Zauberflöte*. Wolf is a former Seagle Festival Fall Artist, a young artist apprentice with Charlottesville Opera, and member of Opera Roanoke's Young Artist Apprentice Program. Wolf was the 2019 NFMC Young Artist Man's Voice Winner from their 60th Biennial Competition in Jacksonville, Florida. He also placed second in the 2016 MTNA National Young Artist Vocal Competition in San Antonio, Texas.

**SARAH CAIN** (Assistant Director) is currently pursuing the Doctor of Musical Arts in vocal pedagogy and performance at CU Boulder under the tutelage of Jennifer Bird-Arvidsson. She is an alumna of the University of Central Arkansas, holding a Bachelor of Music in vocal music education and a Master of Music in vocal performance. She has assisted with two former Eklund Opera productions, *Le Nozze di Figaro* (2020) and *Postcard from Morocco* (2022). Cain, soprano, also performs in leading roles at Eklund Opera including the title role in *Agrippina* and in Eklund Opera's upcoming 2022-23 opening season production (to be announced July 5).

**CHRISTIE CONOVER** (Production Assistant) wears many hats, having returned to her alma mater as production assistant for Eklund Opera. In her active solo career she has performed lead roles with Komische Oper Berlin, Minnesota Opera, Opera Colorado and concerts with the Colorado Symphony, Colorado Music Festival and Colorado Springs Philharmonic, among others. Conover fondly remembers her many roles with CU Opera and singing in the inaugural CU NOW.

**TOM CIPULLO** (CU NOW-CFI student composition mentor) has been hailed by the American Academy of Art & Letters for music of “inexhaustible imagination, wit, expressive range and originality,” and is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Arts & Letters Award from the American Academy of Arts & Letters, the Pellicciotti Opera Composition Prize and the 2016 Argento Chamber Opera Award. He has received commissions from dozens of performing ensembles and has received fellowships from Yaddo, the MacDowell Colony, the Liguria Center (Italy) and the Fundacion Valparaíso (Spain). The New York Times has called his music “intriguing and unconventional” and The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette has called him “an expert in writing for the voice.” Cipullo’s music is recorded on the Naxos, Albany, CRI, PGM, MSR, Centaur and Capstone labels, and is published by E.C. Schirmer, Oxford University Press and Classical Vocal Reprints. Cipullo’s critically-acclaimed opera, *Glory Denied*, is one of the most frequently performed 21st-century operas.

**BUD COLEMAN** is honored to work again with Eklund Opera, having directed the CFI student operas for CU NOW since 2015. Other Eklund credits include appearing as Frosch in *Die Fledermaus* and directing *Red Hot and Cole* and *A Grand Night for Singing*. The Roe Green Professor of Theatre at the University of Colorado Boulder and former Chair of the Department of Theatre & Dance, Coleman has also directed *The Soldier’s Tale* and *Ellis Island* for the Boulder Philharmonic. Coleman has directed and choreographed many musicals and operas, including the musical *Company* in Vladivostok, Russia, and the Thai premiere of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

**LAURA LEE EVERETT** has more than three decades of experience producing opera, collaborating with some of the most renowned creators and performers in contemporary opera. At OPERA America, she produced the Opera America Songbook, created the New Works Forum and developed the Opera Grants for Women Composers and IDEA Opera Grants for BIPOC creators. She heads the Women’s Opera Network, managing resources and programs addressing gender parity in the arts and women in leadership roles at U.S. opera companies. Everett facilitates grantmaking and field-wide networks for technical/production, artist training, professional development and new American works across the world of opera.

**MARIE INNISS** (Stage Manager/Assistant Director) is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in theater directing from Swarthmore College. Most recently, she directed a devised piece titled *4Cuts* as well as Sartre's *No Exit* and her original musical, *The Kai's the Limit*. Inniss has been working in stage management for the past year and has been enjoying it immensely. Inniss is so excited to be working with CFI and hopes you enjoy the show!

**NATHÁLIA KATO** (Music Director) received her degree of Doctor of Musical Arts in collaborative piano from the University of Colorado Boulder, and earned degrees in her home country of Brazil. Kato has extensive experience in orchestral, operatic and chamber music activities, having performed nationally and internationally. Alongside her husband, violinist Andrew Giordano, they form the Duo Pragma and often perform rarely-heard repertoire by both well-known and marginalized composers. Kato served as the staff collaborative pianist at the University of Wyoming between 2020-2022, and is moving to Pittsburgh in the fall of 2022 where she will be collaborating with the vocal ensembles and voice studios at Duquesne University.

**JENNIFER MELCHER GALVIN** (Properties Designer/Scenic Artist), MFA, joined Eklund Opera at CU Boulder in 2007, and she has considered it her professional home ever since. She is originally from Lenexa, Kansas, where she visits her family often. Galvin's graduate work was a study of scenic design and painting at Illinois State University, during which time she was blessed to intern with Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago. Locally, Galvin has also worked for BETC, Local Theatre Company, BDT Stage, Chautauqua Auditorium and Macky Auditorium. Her hobbies include fiction, needlecraft and hiking. In 2010, Galvin walked 400 miles of an ancient pilgrimage road across Northern Spain called the Camino de Santiago. She thanks her cat Nutmeg and husband Peter for their love and support.

**LEIGH HOLMAN** (CU NOW Artistic/General Director) balances a teaching and professional stage directing career in the United States and abroad. In recent years, she has made directing debuts at the Pafos Aphrodite Festival in Cyprus, L'Opéra de Montréal and Florida Grand Opera. Recent CU Boulder productions include *West Side Story*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Ariodante*, *La Traviata*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Postcard from Morocco* and COVID-era video productions of *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Béatrice et Bénédict*, *Hänsel und Gretel*, and *Agrippina*. As well-suited

to new operatic works as she is to traditional works, Holman has produced and directed workshops of operas in association with composers and librettists, including Kamala Sankaram, Jake Heggie, Gene Scheer, Tom Cipullo, Mark Campbell, Mark Adamo, Colm Toibin, Kirke Mechem, Libby Larsen, Lori Laitman, Herschel Garfein, Robert Aldridge, Daniel Kellogg, Alberto Caruso and Dave Mason. As the founder and artistic/general director of CU Boulder's New Opera Workshop (CU NOW), she continues to passionately promote the creation, collaboration and production of new American works.

**ANN PIANO** (Costume Designer) As Costume Coordinator for Eklund Opera and the Bachelor of Music in Music Theater program, Piano has recently designed costumes for *Postcard from Morocco* and *Guys and Dolls*. As the Costume Coordinator for Opera Colorado since 2003, she has designed costumes for *Don Giovanni* (2013), *Carmen* (2014) and *The Magic Flute* (2015). She has designed more than 100 shows for Denver area opera, theater and dance companies. In 2012, she won a True West "Best Costume Design" Award for *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity* at Curious Theatre. Most recently, she designed *Tosca* at Bravo! Vail Music Festival and *Agrippina* at Eklund Opera at CU Boulder. Piano has a BFA in Fashion Design from Stephens College, Columbia, Missouri, with a minor in fine art.

**GENE SCHEER's** work is noted for its scope and versatility. With composer Jake Heggie, he has collaborated on many projects, including the critically acclaimed 2010 Dallas Opera world premiere, *Moby-Dick*, starring Ben Heppner as Captain Ahab; *Three Decembers* (Houston Grand Opera), which starred Frederica von Stade; and the lyric drama *To Hell and Back* (Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra), which featured Patti LuPone. Other works by Scheer and Heggie include *Camille Claudel: Into the fire*, a song cycle premiered by Joyce di Donato and the Alexander String Quartet. Scheer worked as librettist with Tobias Picker on *An American Tragedy*, which premiered at the Metropolitan Opera in 2005 and on *Therese Raquin* which was produced by the Dallas Opera in 2001. Other collaborations include the lyrics for Wynton Marsalis's *It Never Goes Away*, featured in Marsalis's work *Congo Square*. With the composer Steven Stucky, Scheer wrote the oratorio *August 4, 1964* for the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. The work was nominated for a Grammy in 2012 for best classical composition.



In 2015 Scheer collaborated with Joby Talbot on the opera *Everest*, based on the doomed 1996 Everest expedition. With Jennifer Higdon, Scheer wrote an operatic adaptation of *Cold Mountain*, which premiered in the summer of 2015 at the Santa Fe Opera. This work won the International Opera award, presented in London, for the best World premiere in 2015. Recently, along with Higdon, Scheer was nominated for a Grammy for his work on *Cold Mountain* for best classical composition. In December of 2016 Scheer and Heggie premiered an operatic adaptation of *It's a Wonderful Life* for the Houston Grand Opera. Also a composer in his own right, Scheer has written a number of songs for singers such as Renée Fleming, Sylvia McNair, Stephanie Blythe, Jennifer Larmore, Denyce Graves and Nathan Gunn. The distinguished documentary filmmaker, Ken Burns, prominently featured Mr. Scheer's song *American Anthem* (as sung by Norah Jones) in his Emmy Award-winning World War II documentary for PBS entitled *The War*. Scheer and Heggie have workshopped three operas with CU New Opera Workshop: *It's a Wonderful Life* (Produced at CU Boulder in 2019), *If I Were You* and *Intelligence*.

**KANE WHITE** (Hospitality and Assistant AD) is a first-year master's student in vocal performance. He studies with Andrew Garland. He received his Bachelor of Music in vocal performance from the University of Montevallo in May 2021. He has worked with Leigh Holman, assistant directing 2021's *La Traviata* and 2022's *Guys and Dolls* in collaboration with the BM/MT Program. His current aspirations including performing and directing in the future!

## Production team

### **Assistant Technical Director**

Jeff Rusnak

### **CFI Stage Manager**

Marie Inniss

### ***Joan of the City* Stage Manager/**

### **Assistant to composer**

Sarah Cain

### **Hospitality and Assistant AD**

Kane White

### **Master Carpenter and**

### **Lightboard Operator**

Ben Smith

### **Hand Properties**

Jennifer Melcher Galvin

## Special Thanks

Thank you to Laura Lee Everett from OPERA America for guiding our students in professional development.

# CU ★ PRESENTS



## Upcoming events at the College of Music

*Event details are subject to change, but the CU Presents website will always be up-to-date.*

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College of Music

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

# Personnel

*As of Jan. 10, 2022*

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### Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies and Enrollment Management

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### Interim Assistant Dean for Advancement

Micah Abram

### Assistant Dean for Concerts and Communications

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### Recording Engineer

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