

MEET THE ARTISTS



JAVIER ABREU, tenor

Puerto Rican tenor **JAVIER ABREU** has been described as a commanding force on stage, incorporating a rich, sweet and agile voice, with ample dramatic skills. Recent engagement highlights include Ernesto in *Don Pasquale* with Pittsburgh Opera, his role debut as Ferrando in *Così fan tutte* with Mill City Summer Opera, the world premiere of *Bless Me, Última* with Opera Southwest, Lindoro in *L'italiana in Algeri* with Blackwater Valley Opera in Ireland, and a debut with Chicago Opera Theater as the title role in *Il pigmalione*, and Beppe in *Rita* by Donizetti. A lover of contemporary opera, Abreu has premiered roles in *Before Night Falls* with Fort Worth Opera, *The Long Walk* with Opera Saratoga, *The Inspector* with Wolf Trap Opera, and *La cabeza del bautista* with Gran Teatro del Liceu in Barcelona. He has

garnered critical acclaim for his portrayals of Rossini's leading men with Central City Opera, Nashville Opera, Israeli Opera, Opera de Oviedo, Theater Basel, Teatro Municipal de Chile, Austin Opera, New York City Opera, Atlanta Opera, Florida Grand Opera and the Stuttgart Staatsoper, to name a few. He has also appeared as a featured soloist for Resonance Works, the National Symphony Orchestra, Phoenix Symphony, Lexington Philharmonic Orchestra, Naples Philharmonic Orchestra, Louisville Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, The Britt Music Festival and the Pennsylvania Ballet, among others.



ANDREW GARLAND, baritone

Baritone, **ANDREW GARLAND**, is hailed as a performer whose artistry is a perfect combination between “baritone of strength and vocal opulence” (Opera News) and “cosmic energy and suavity” (Opera News). He is widely recognized as a leader in recital work with dozens of performances around the country including Carnegie Hall with pianist Warren Jones and programs of modern American songs all over the

United States and in Canada. Jones, Marilyn Horne, Steven Blier, many American composers, and several major music publications all endorse him as a highly communicative singer leading the way for the song recital into the 21st Century.

This season Garland sings in Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* (Columbus Symphony) the Bach *St. Matthew Passion* (Colorado Bach Ensemble), Vaughan Williams' *A Sea Symphony* (Brevard Festival with Keith Lockhart), Mozart *Requiem* (Charlottesville Symphony), and in recitals of new American Music in Colorado and around the country.

He brings his highly communicative style to the concert stage with orchestras including the Boston POPS, Atlanta Symphony, Boston Baroque, The Handel and Haydn Society, Emmanuel Music, Boston Youth Symphony, National Philharmonic, Albany Symphony, Houston Symphony, UMS Ann Arbor, Washington Master Chorale at the Kennedy Center and National Chorale at Lincoln Center.

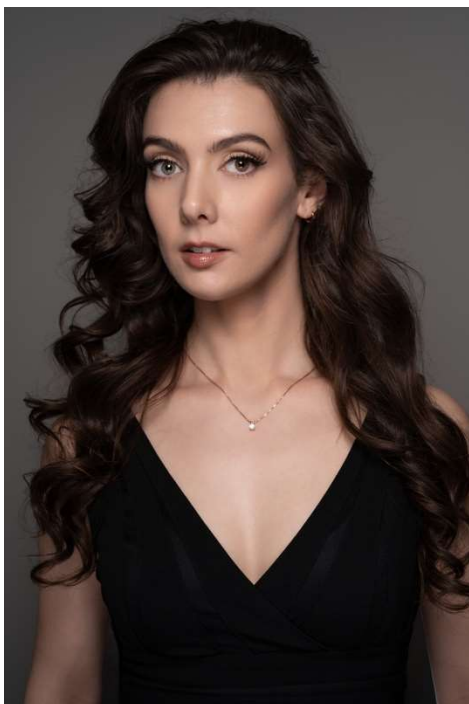
Garland has been a regular with the New York Festival of Song (NYFOS) and has given multiple recitals at Carnegie Hall, the Ravinia festival as well as Vocal Arts DC, Marilyn Horne Foundation, The Bard Festival, Camerata Pacifica, the Moab Music Festival, Andre-Turp Society in Montreal, Voce at Pace, Huntsville Chamber Music Guild, Fort Worth Opera, Seattle Opera, Fanfare in Hammond, LA, Cincinnati Matinee Musicale, Cincinnati Song Initiative, Tuesday Morning Music Club and dozens of college music series around the country. In 2014, he was the featured recitalist for the NATS National convention where that organization's president declared him "the next Thomas Hampson." (Mr. Garland prefers to think of himself as "the first Andrew Garland.")

In addition to numerous song and concert premieres, Garland has created operatic roles in the world premieres of *Dinner at Eight* – William Bolcom/Mark Campbell – Minnesota Opera, *Steal a Pencil For Me* – Gerald Cohen/Deborah Brevoort – Opera Colorado, *The Book Collector* – Stella Sung/Ernest Herbert – Dayton Opera, and *Artemisia* – Laura Schwendinger/Ginger Strand – Prototype Festival. He has also sung with Opera Philadelphia, New York City Opera, Seattle Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Fort Worth Opera, Hawaii Opera Theater, among others.

His last solo CD *El Reblde* (with Jeremy Reger and Javier Abreu) received raves reviews in *Opera News*, *BBC Magazine*, *Voix des Artes*, and a dozen other journals. His previous solo CD, *American Portraits* (with Donna Loewy, piano) went to Number 1 on Amazon classical. Garland has five other recordings on the Telarc, Naxos, Roven Records and Azica Labels. Spring 2022 he is recording the solo songs of Gabriela Frank for the new DASP label with Jeremy Reger, piano, and tenor Javier Abreu.

Chamber music appearances have included the Ravinia Festival, Camerata Pacifica, Maverick Concerts, Huntsville Chamber Music Society, The Windham Chamber Music Festival, and he has sung with the Takács, Dover, Calder, Amernet, and Daedalus string quartets. Garland is the winner of the Lavinia Jensen, NATSAA, Washington International, American Traditions, NATS and Opera Columbus Competition and was a prize winner in the Montreal International, Jose Iturbi, Gerda Lissner, McCammon, and Palm Beach International Competitions. He was an apprentice at the San Francisco Opera Center and the Seattle Opera and Cincinnati Opera Young Artists programs.

An avid cyclist, Andrew raises money for the Pan Massachusetts Challenge (the Jimmy Fund / Dana Farber Cancer Institute). Garland is an Associate Professor of voice at The University of Colorado-Boulder and is a mentor with Bel Canto Boot Camp and tonebase.com



DAWNA RAE WARREN, soprano

"**Luminous**" soprano, **DAWNA RAE WARREN**, is known for her radiant tone, magnetic stage presence, and versatility across Opera, New Music, Baroque, Jazz, and Golden Age Musical Theater. Praised by *The Washington Post* for giving "one of the night's strongest performances" and noted for her "sunny soprano and elegant phrasing" by *Washington Classical Review*, she brings storytelling and vocal sensitivity to every role.

Her recent credits include: Drusilla in *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, Handel's *Alceste*, Musetta in *La Boheme*, Lady with a Hand Mirror in *Postcard from Morocco*, Violetta (cover) in *La Traviata*, Abigail Williams in Robert Ward's *The Crucible*, Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Barbarina in *Figaro in Four Quartets*, Atalanta in *Serse*, and Papagena in *Die Zauberflöte*.

A champion of living composers, Dawna Rae has premiered works including Griffin Candey's *Bernarda Alba*, Dawn Sonntag's *Verlorene Heimat*, and Michael Udow's *A Wall of Two*. On the concert stage she has been seen in Beethoven's 9th Symphony, *Carmina Burana*, Handel's *Messiah*, Fauré's *Requiem*, Tavener's *Eternity's Sunrise*, *St. Matthew's Passion*, *St. John's Passion*, *Mass in B Minor*, and Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem*.

Based in Cleveland, Ohio, Dawna Rae holds an Artist Diploma from CU Boulder, a Master's Degree from the University of Kentucky, and a Bachelor's Degree from Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music.



DR. THERESA BOGARD, piano

THERESA BOGARD is a distinguished American pianist renowned for her dynamic and versatile performances. She has made significant contributions to expanding the traditional piano repertoire, particularly through her focus on music by women composers and other lesser-known composers. Early in her career, she gained recognition for her performances of underrepresented works, and she has continued to integrate diverse and eclectic pieces into her varied concert programs.

A recipient of a Fulbright grant, Dr. Bogard was able to further her study of historical performance practice and fortepiano at the Royal Conservatory of the Hague in the Netherlands.

Her dedication to the study and performance of historical instruments was further solidified when she became a top-prize winner in the International Mozart Fortepiano Competition in Bruges, Belgium.

Throughout her career, Bogard has performed across the globe, with engagements spanning the United States, Europe, Asia, and South America. She has played in 16 countries across five continents, with notable performances at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall and the Ravinia Steans Institute, where she performed with renowned cellist Misha Quint. Her passion for world cultures is evident in her deep connection to Brazilian music. Since her first concert tour in Brazil in 2007, she has returned frequently, giving masterclasses and performances in major cities such as São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Goiania, Florianopolis, Brasília, Porto Alegre and Curitiba, and has developed a profound admiration for Brazilian composers.

In addition to her performance career, Dr. Bogard is a highly respected educator. She has taught at major international music festivals, including the InterHarmony International Music Festival in Italy and the Sulzbach-Rosenberg International Music Festival in Germany. Her students have excelled in competitions and gained acceptance into top conservatories such as The Juilliard School, Eastman School of Music, and Cleveland Institute of Music, among others. She is also a frequent adjudicator at regional, national, and international piano competitions.

Dr. Bogard's extensive discography spans a wide range of musical styles and includes recordings of solo piano works, chamber music, and historical performances on fortepiano. A Steinway Artist, she continues to be an advocate for both contemporary composers and the historical performance tradition, cementing her status as an influential figure in the classical music world.



ALISSON GARCIA, piano and celeste

ALISSON GARCIA, born in Goiânia, Brazil, began his music studies at the age of eight. Three years later, he took up piano, which has since become his lifelong pursuit. He completed his technical-level studies in 2013 at the Basileu França School for the Arts, studying under Katia Carvalho and Elider DiPaula. He then earned a Bachelor's degree in Piano Performance from the Federal University of Goiás (Universidade Federal de Goiás, Brazil), under the guidance of Professor Consuelo Quireze.

Alisson has participated in masterclasses with numerous renowned pianists from Brazil and beyond, including Solungga Liu (China/USA), Diego Caetano (Brazil/USA), Raphael Lutchevsky (Poland), Mauricy Martin (Brazil), Theresa Bogard (USA), Enrique Graf (Uruguay), and others.

In 2019, during the Winter Music Festival at the Federal University of Santa Maria, he was awarded a scholarship to the University of Georgia's Winter program (Athens, GA), where he spent two months studying with Evgeny Rivkin (Russia/USA) and David Fung (Australia/USA).

After earning his Bachelor's degree, Alisson received a scholarship to pursue a Master's degree in Piano Performance at the University of Wyoming, where he currently studies under Dr. Theresa Bogard, and also studies voice with Dr. Magdalena Wór. He has performed with various chamber groups in Goiania and has premiered numerous solo and chamber works by local composers. Alisson has also appeared as a guest pianist with the Goiás Youth Symphony Orchestra (Orquestra Sinfônica Jovem de Goiás) and the Goiânia Symphony Orchestra (Orquestra Sinfônica de Goiânia).

In addition to his extensive piano experience, Alisson has worked with choirs for many years, both as a collaborative pianist and as a singer. He currently serves as a collaborative pianist for the Collegiate Chorale and Singing Statesmen at the University of Wyoming, and has worked with all the ensembles involved in preparation for tonight's performance of *Carmina Burana*.



DR. BRIAN C. MURRAY, conductor

BRIAN C. MURRAY is the Director of Choral Activities and Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Wyoming. At UW, he leads a program of seven choral ensembles as well as graduate studies in choral conducting. In addition to individual concerts and recruiting festivals, the University of Wyoming Choirs frequently perform choral/orchestral masterworks. Recent collaborations include Brahms' *ein Deutsches Requiem* (2022), Mozart's *Requiem in d minor* (2024), and Orff's *Carmina Burana* (2025). Notably, in 2024 the UW Singing Statesmen gave invited performances for the Wyoming Music Educators Association and the Northwestern American Choral Directors Association.

Prior to earning his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in choral conducting at the University of North Texas, Dr. Murray taught high school choir for seven years in Carrollton, Texas. He received a Master of Music Education degree from the Florida State University and a Bachelor of Music degree in choral music education, *summa cum laude*, from the University of North Texas. He remains connected to his alma mater by returning each summer and serving as an associate director of the UNT All-State Choir Camp and a faculty member for the UNT Choral Conducting Symposium.

Dr. Murray has presented interest sessions for state, divisional, and international choral conferences and he has published in ChorTeach and the Choral Journal. He is a frequent clinician, adjudicator, and guest conductor, and has led professional engagements in 15 states as well as Canada, the Czech Republic, and South Korea. Recent guest conducting engagements include the Alabama All-State Tenor/Bass Choir (Birmingham, AL), the AA Choral Festival (Billings, MT), and the Chungdong First Methodist Church (Seoul, South Korea).



DR. MATTHEW SCHLOMER, conductor

MATTHEW SCHLOMER serves as the Director of Bands at the University of Wyoming where he oversees the band program, conducts the Wind Symphony, and teaches undergraduate and graduate conducting. Dr. Schlomer is an international artist whose creativity flourishes across many genres. His diverse background as a saxophonist, composer, arranger, dancer, actor, and an award-winning visual

artist informs his unique approach to performance and concert programming. He avidly pursues collaborations and has created works with writers, chefs, actors, poets, rap artists, singers, filmmakers, choreographers and visual artists. As an advocate of new music, he regularly commissions and premieres works that explore the intersections of different art forms and promotes underrepresented composers.

Before his appointment at the University of Wyoming, Schlomer was a conductor at the renowned Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan. There he founded the Composer's Sandbox, a program for composers that fosters experimentation and creativity; and the Sound Garden Project, a chamber music incubation program that reimagines the performers' and audience's experiences with classical music. Under his leadership, ensembles have performed with luminaries such as Sir James and Lady Jeanne Galway, John Bruce Yeh, Tim McAllister, Otis Murphy, Emil Khudiyev, Linda Strommen, Vincent DiMartino, John Aley, and Gerry Pagano to name a few. Past positions have included conducting residencies with the Traverse City Dance Project and the experimental percussion group Clocks in Motion, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Luther College, Edgewood College, and he has over 12 years experience in public and private schools grades 5-12.

Schlomer is an active guest conductor and passionate educator who presents his innovative pedagogy to national and international audiences. Conducting engagements include the World Youth Wind Ensemble at Interlochen Arts Camp, Singapore American School Music Festival, Rossini Conservatory in Pesaro, Italy, the Baldwin Wallace Festival at Carnegie Hall, and the ECMEA Honor Band in Buffalo, New York. He won the 2018 American Prize for his live performance of Michael Colgrass' "Winds of Nagual," the 2022 Sutton Foster Award for Best Musical Direction with "Pippin," and a major grant from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council to strengthen communities through the arts.

He was also a 2020 finalist for the National Association for Music Education's George N. Parks Award for Music Education. He is a board member of the International Music Project that promotes international musical exchanges between the United States and major European conservatories.

Dr. Schlomer earned master's and doctoral degrees in conducting with a minor concentration in dance from the University of Wisconsin, a bachelor's degree in music education from the University of Colorado at Boulder with an emphasis in Arts Administration, and a gold medal in saxophone from Bordeaux Regional Conservatory in France. While at UW-Madison he studied conducting with Scott Teeple and twice received the Richard Church Memorial Conducting Award. His studies in movement theory and dance with Kate Corby and Mary Brennan inspire his ongoing research into the interaction between the body and mind. He is a member of the College Band Directors National Association, the National Association for Music Education, and the National Band Association.



DR. O'NEIL JONES, chorus master

A Native of Montego Bay, Jamaica, **O'NEIL JONES** serves as the Associate Director of Choral Activities at the University of Wyoming, where he conducts the Laramie Civic Chorus, Bel Canto treble chorus, and teaches choral conducting and music education courses.

Dr. Jones frequently serves as a clinician, adjudicator, and guest conductor, and has presented at various state and regional choral conferences. He is highly interested in Jamaican Choral Theatre and its amalgamation with the recital style of choral production practiced in the Americas. His current research centers on the nationalistic search for a post-colonial identity expressed in Jamaican choral music. He is the founder of the *Jamaican Choral Music Symposium* which seeks to explore and preserve the largely unpublished choral music of Jamaica.

Dr. Jones holds degrees in vocal performance from Alcorn State University, a Master of Music degree with emphases in Choral Conducting and Vocal Performance from the University of Southern Mississippi, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting and Literature from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Off stage, Dr. Jones can be found enjoying a concert, listening to a wide array of musical genres from Mozart to Marley, or simply enjoying a day at the beach.