

FRIENDS UNIVERSITY FINE ARTS PRESENTS

FALL OPERA

DOUBLE BILL

Gallantry



Cendrillon

SEBITS AUDITORIUM

BOTH OPERAS WILL BE PERFORMED IN ENGLISH

Friday, November 22
7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 23
7:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 24
2 p.m.

FRIENDS
UNIVERSITY

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Douglas Moore's *Gallantry*: A 30 minute episode of *General Hospital* where the doctor attempts to seduce his nurse while her fiancée's on the operating table. Complete with commercial breaks...because those cleaning products won't sell themselves!

Pauline Viardot's *Cendrillon*: A charming setting of the familiar Cinderella fairy-tale, with a couple plot twists: Cinderella's step-father worked his way from jailbird grocer to noble baron, and Prince Charming and his chamberlain trade places to discover the damsel with the noblest of hearts. Cinderella meets her charming prince with the help of her Fairy Godmother, and her step-sisters decide she might not be so bad after all!

"No good opera plot can be sensible, for people do not sing when they are feeling sensible."
- W.H. Auden

Hard to argue with Auden when you read those opera plots, right? However, you will find that what their plots lack in sensibility, they make up for in genuine glimpses of humanity. In *Gallantry*, despite Dr. Gregg's unrequited feelings for Lola, she makes efforts to understand why this "poor lonely little boy" might be looking for love in all the wrong places. Cinderella, who has next to nothing, gives the disguised Prince all that she has because she sees it as an act of Godly devotion. Her Fairy Godmother has watched from afar as Cinderella's been mistreated by her step-family, and she wants to do all in her power to give Cinderella the life she deserves.

In both operas, there are thoughtful moments of empathy, and that is what elevates them from nonsense to charmingly familiar tales on the human condition. Opera has the possibility of seeming detached from reality, elitist, or irrelevant, but we hope these works will show you that opera can be approachable, sincere, and even a little silly while reminding us what it is to be human.

The performers balanced hours of rehearsals on top of so many other commitments, and I am so proud of the final product. We hope that whether this is your first or fortieth trip to the opera, you'll enjoy these delightfully insensible works!

Enjoy the opera!

Dr. Lydia Bechtel
Director

PROGRAM

Gallantry

A Soap Opera in One Act

*Composed by Douglas Moore. Libretto by Arnold Sundgaard
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- Intermission -

Cendrillon

Act One: Home of the Baron de Pictordu

Act Two: The Ballroom in the Prince's Castle

Act Three: Home of the Baron de Pictordu

*Composed and Libretto by Pauline Viardot. Translation by Rachel M. Harris
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SPECIAL THANKS

Dr. Amy Carey

Friends University President

Dr. Nathanael May

Fine Arts Division Chair

Dr. Kenneth Stoltzfus

*Vice President of Academic Affairs
& Dean of the Faculty*

Leigh Barton-Green

Fine Arts Events Coordinator

Robyn Mabe

Fine Arts Administrative Assistant

Fine Arts Faculty

Physical Plant and Security

Joshua and Greta Edmonson

John Hetherington

PRODUCTION

Stage Director.....	Dr. Lydia Bechtel
Music Director.....	Rolaine Hetherington
Pianist.....	Tony Harshbarger
Set Design & Construction.....	Karen Smith
Costume Design & Construction.....	Daniel Gonzalez-Meyers
Lighting Design.....	Dan Harmon
Sound Design.....	Bob Hett
Assistant Stage Director.....	Lucy Enns
Stage Manager/Props Master.....	Rebecca Grosselin
Light Board Operator.....	Alayna Duffield
Technical Crew.....	Michael Taylor; Niomi Ndirangu; Phoenix West
Poster & Artwork/Program Design & Publicity.....	Leigh Barton-Green

CAST LIST

Gallantry by Douglas Moore

Announcer.....	Lucy Enns
Lola Markham.....	Isabelle Loucks
Donald Hopewell.....	David Orozco
Doctor Gregg.....	Ryan Smith

Cendrillon by Pauline Viardot

Cendrillon.....	Naomi Terrell
Prince Charmant.....	Davis Green
La Fée.....	Abigail Kreis
Baron de Pictordu.....	Blake Zollinger
Comte Barigoule.....	Anthony Febus
Armeline.....	Ciera Bowens
Maguelonne.....	Arabella Turner

Ensemble

Kyra Cornejo, Melayna Huff, Callan Longacre, Erick Perales, Lorelai Strausberg,
Michelle Young, Alexander Hudson, Lucy Enns, Ryan Smith

BIOGRAPHIES



Lucy Enns, mezzo-soprano, is completing her final year as a Voice Performance major at Friends. You may have previously seen Lucy as Mrs. Jenks in Friends University's production of *The Tender Land* or as Inez in *The Gondoliers*. Lucy is excited to share the absolute joy of playing The Announcer and showing what she has learned on her journey at Friends. Lucy would like to thank her "village" for their never-ending support of her hopes and dreams!



Isabelle Loucks is a junior studying Music Education. She has been involved in several productions here, including *Gondoliers*, *The Tender Land*, *Footloose*, and now *Gallantry*. She says, "I feel incredibly blessed to be surrounded by so many incredible, and dedicated peers and mentors that help me grow and experience sharing my gifts in so many forms."



David Orozco is a transfer student completing his junior year at Friends University, after moving from Colorado Springs to complete a Vocal Performance degree. This is his first opera performance, but he started participating in music and music theater in high school, and fell in love instantly! He has performed in several choirs and musicals at the high school and college level.



Ryan Smith kicked off his Senior year as a Music Theatre major with the fun and engaging role of Linus Van Pelt. You may also recognize Ryan from his roles as Reverend Shaw Moore in *Footloose*, or as Grandpa Moss in *The Tender Land*. Ryan would like to thank his parents, Tate and Karen, for supporting him, his girlfriend Lauren, for believing in him, and God, for loving him. Without further ado, enjoy the show, and God bless!



Naomi Terrell is a sophomore majoring in Music Theatre. She has been performing in theatre since she was 7 years old! Naomi took a detour into competitive soccer and gymnastics for a while, but came back to her love of performing. Her favorite roles include Sally in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, Flora in *Sleeping Beauty*, a Muse in *Hercules*, and Marty in *Grease*. Naomi is so thankful her car accident led her to Friends University.



Davis Green is in his final year pursuing dual degrees in Music Education and Vocal Performance. He has performed in several Friends University productions, including *The Tender Land*, and with Opera Kansas. In 2023, he won the Miller Aria Concerto Competition and performed the Midwest premiere of Gwyneth Walker's *The Dying of the Light* with the Friends University String Orchestra. Davis is getting married in May 2025 and is excited for his future!

BIOGRAPHIES



Abigail Kreis is a Junior, pursuing her degree in vocal performance at Friends University. She is studying voice under Stephanie Sheldon and is a member of the Singing Quakers. Her past roles at Friends include Giulia in *The Gondoliers* and Beth Moss in *The Tender Land*. She has also placed 1st at the NATS regional competition for the last three years. As always, Abigail is thankful for her supporters, and to her God for the gift of music.



Ciera Nykohl Bowens is a transfer student from Colorado Springs, Colorado. She is well versed in the fine arts world. She has been a part of the Colorado Springs Chorale and is now a member of Singing Quakers. Her favorite memory is when she traveled to NYC to sing at The Lincoln Center with Eric Whitacre. Ciera would like to thank her supportive mother for never giving up on her dreams of becoming a musical theater performer.



Arabella Turner is a Freshman Music Theatre major and is absolutely thrilled to be a part of *Cendrillon*. Arabella has spent her life on the stage whether it was dancing, singing, acting, or all three but has just recently explored the world of opera. Few things can top music theatre, but she has loved being a part of this production. Arabella would like to thank her mom for showing her that she can do hard things.



Blake Zollinger is a brand-new freshman at Friends University, majoring in Music Theatre. He plans to pursue a career involving many branches of entertainment after college including acting, music, writing, and more. Blake was recently seen as Snoopy in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, The Cat in the Hat in *Seussical*, and Donkey in *Shrek*. He welcomes you all to Friends University's opera production and hopes you enjoy the show!



Anthony Febus feels very blessed and excited to be a part of *Cendrillon*! He is currently a freshman, and attended Goddard High School where he was seen in *Freaky Friday* as Officer Kowalski, and *Alice In Wonderland* as the King of Hearts. He thanks his parents Meryann and Victor Febus for always supporting him no matter what, and thanks Dr. Moore, Dr. Bechtel, and Georgeanne Yehling for pushing him to do his utmost best every day.



Kyra Cornejo is a Music Theatre major here at Friends. She is a member of concert choir, and is excited to try something new in her first opera. She's been seen as Jo in *Little Women* as a student at Wellington High School.

BIOGRAPHIES



Alexander Hudson is a freshman at Friends University, and is pursuing a psychology major. He is a Navajo from the New Mexico Reservation. Alexander is a member of the concert choir, and has always loved opera, so he holds it close to his heart.



Melayna Huff, soprano, is a psychology major from Valley Center, where she performed in the musical *Working* and in the choir variety show every year. She is thrilled to be an ensemble member in *Cendrillon*, and thankful for the opportunity. Melayna thanks her family for their never-ending support of her dreams for the future.



Callan Longacre is a transfer from Butler Community College, pursuing an English major here at Friends. She is a member of Singing Quakers, and is enjoying being a part of the ensemble in *Cendrillon*.



Erick Perales is a Vocal Music Education major at Friends University. He is a member of concert choir and plays trumpet in Friends bands. He's been involved in a number of musical theatre and opera productions during his time at Friends.



Lorelai Strausberg, mezzo-soprano, is a freshman music major at Friends University, originally from Dexter, Kansas. She has always loved singing, and her favorite type of singing is worship music. Lorelai is currently on the Friends worship team, as well as her church's worship team back home.



Michelle Young is a transfer from Butler and a junior at Friends University. She is currently a psychology major and music theatre minor. Some of her past rolls were Molly in *Annie* and the ensemble of *Shrek* and *Les Misérables*. She would like to thank her mom and boyfriend, and hopes you enjoy the show.

THANKS
FOR COMING!

JOIN US AT ANOTHER EVENT!

NOVEMBER

Wind Ensemble Concert | *Monday 25, 7:30 p.m. | Sebitts Auditorium*

DECEMBER

Christmas Candlelight | *Dec. 6-8 | Sebitts Auditorium*

Visual Arts Showcase | *Monday, 9, 5-7 p.m. | Riney Atrium**

JANUARY

Dr. Knight & Dr. Moore Faculty Recital | *Thursday, 23, 7:30 p.m. | Chapel*, Riney Fine Arts Center*

FEBRUARY

Conjunto Meets Mariachi | *Wednesday, 5, 7:30 p.m. | Sebitts Auditorium*

Sing it! Vocal Festival | *Thursday, 6, 7:30 p.m. | Sebitts Auditorium*

First Friday: Analog & Alt Photo Invitational, Opening Reception | *Friday, 9, 5-7 p.m. | Riney Gallery*

Guys & Dolls (Spring Musical) | *14-16 | Sebitts Auditorium*

Wind Ensemble Concert | *Monday, 17, 7:30 p.m. | Sebitts Auditorium*

**new performance space in the Riney Fine Arts Center*

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friends.edu/fineartstickets



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