FILENE ARTIST BIOS – WTO *MERLIN'S ISLAND* 2019

BEN EDQUIST, *baritone*^*^*^
Lake Jackson, TX
TRAINING: Houston Grand Opera, Glimmerglass Festival, Rice University
HIGHLIGHTS: William Dale in *Silent Night* (Austin Opera), Mayo Buckner in *Mayo* (Crane Opera Ensemble), Bernardo in *West Side Story* (Grand Teton Music Festival), Remo in *The Skating Rink* (Garsington Opera), Manfred in *Out of Darkness: Two Remain* (Atlanta Opera), Father in *The Juniper Tree* and William in *The Fall of the House of Usher* (WTO)
Learn more about Ben Edquist

SHANNON JENNINGS, *soprano*^
Orlando, FL
TRAINING: The Santa Fe Opera, Central City Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, Merola Opera Program, Virginia Opera, Ash Lawn Opera
HIGHLIGHTS: Iseut in *Le vin herbé* (WTO and Washington Concert Opera), Micaëla in *Carmen* and Marguerite in *Faust* (Annapolis Opera), Giannetta in *L'elisir d'amore*, Costanza in *Riccardo Primo* (Pittsburgh Opera), The Lady Valerie in *Cabildo* (Central City Opera), Anne Sexton in *Transformations* (Merola Opera Program), Maddalena in *The Journey to Reims* (WTO)
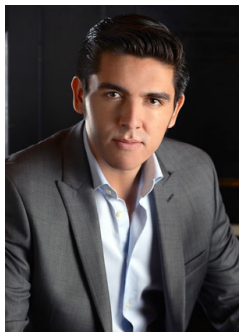Learn more about Shannon Jennings

NIRU LIU, *mezzo-soprano*
Guangdong, China
TRAINING: LA Opera, New England Conservatory, Manhattan School of Music, Pacific Music Festival
HIGHLIGHTS: Mrs. Alexander in *Satyagraha* (LA Opera), Prince Charming in *Cendrillon* (New English Conservatory Opera Theater), Thetis in *Persée et Andromède*, Troisième Sorcière in Bloch's *Macbeth* and 3rd Lady in *The Magic Flute* (Manhattan School of Music Opera Theater), Adalgia in *Norma* in concert (Pacific Music Festival), Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro* (Xinghai Conservatory of Music Opera Theater)
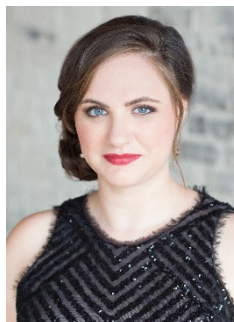
DANIEL NOYOLA, *bass-baritone*
San Luis Potosí, Mexico
TRAINING: Houston Grand Opera, Academy of Vocal Arts, Merola Opera Program, Conservatorio Nacional de Música
HIGHLIGHTS: Colline in *La Bohème* and Masetto in *Don Giovanni* (Houston Grand Opera), Fasolt in *Das Rheingold*, Dr. Grenvil in *La traviata*, Ferrando in *Il trovatore*, Raimondo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Le Bailli in *Werther*, and Don Giovanni in *Don Giovanni* (Academy of Vocal Arts), Uberto in *La serva padrona* and Luka in *The Bear* (Merola Opera Program), Dulcamara in *L'elisir d'amore* (Sociedad Artistica Sinaloense)
Learn more about Daniel Noyola

MEGAN ESTHER GREY, *mezzo-soprano*
Cedar Falls, IA
TRAINING: The Metropolitan Opera, Merola Opera Program, Chautauqua Opera, University of Northern Iowa
HIGHLIGHTS: Proserpina in *L'Orfeo* (Chautauqua Opera), Hansel in *Hänsel und Gretel*, L'enfant in *L'enfant et les sortilèges*, Mrs. Page in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and Mrs. McLean in *Susannah* (University of Northern Iowa Opera), Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions 2018 Grand Finalist
Learn more about Megan Esther Grey

CONOR McDONALD, *baritone*
Minneapolis, MN
TRAINING: Glimmerglass Festival, Nashville Opera, Kentucky Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Tanglewood Music Center, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music
HIGHLIGHTS: Captain Corcoran in *HMS Pinafore* (Anchorage Opera), Ponchel in *Silent Night*, Snowboy in *West Side Story* and Ike Skidmore in *Oklahoma!* (Glimmerglass Festival), Hercules in *Hercules vs. Vampires* (Nashville Opera), Yamadori in *Madama Butterfly* and Harlekin in *Ariadne auf Naxos* (Kentucky Opera), Dandini in *La cenerentola* (Opera Iowa)

* returning Filene Artist   ^ former Studio Artist

STUDIO ARTIST BIOS – WTO *MERLIN'S ISLAND* 2019

BRADLEY BICKHARDT, *tenor*
Columbia, NJ
TRAINING: Indiana University (M.M. 2020), Opera Saratoga (2018), Charlottesville Opera (2016), Indiana
University (B.M. 2014)
Learn more about Bradley Bickhardt

JUSTIN BURGESS, *baritone*
South Lyon, MI
TRAINING: University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (M.M. 2020), University of Michigan (B.M. 2018), Opera in the Ozarks (2017–2018), Bel Canto Institute (2016)

WILFORD KELLY, *bass-baritone*
Plantation, FL
TRAINING: San Francisco Conservatory of Music (M.M. 2020), University of North Florida (B.M. 2018)
Learn more about Wilford Kelly