



Sarah Lawrence, Soprano

Sarah Lawrence enjoys a widely varied career as a singing actor in opera, musical theatre, and in concert, singing everything from Baroque to Broadway.

Sarah has performed with the symphonies of Augusta, Omaha, Madison, Milwaukee, Boise, the Duluth-Superior Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, the San Luis Obispo Symphony Orchestra, Music St. Croix, Oratorio Society of Minnesota, and Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, singing repertoire including Handel's Messiah, Haydn's Creation, Bach's B Minor Mass, Beethoven's 9th Symphony, and Prokofiev's Ugly Duckling. A frequent pops soloist, Sarah has sung concerts of Rodgers & Hammerstein, Lerner & Loewe, and Bernstein, and was a guest soloist with Greek tenor Mario Frangoulis with Omaha Symphony.

Equally comfortable on the stage, Ms. Lawrence has performed more than 30 roles in opera and musical theatre, including Donna Anna in Don Giovanni, Frasquita and Micaela in Carmen, and Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*. She has appeared with Madison Opera, Skylark Opera, Light Opera Oklahoma, Opera Omaha, and the Guthrie Theater. With Lyric Opera of the North she has appeared in the title role in Handel's *Semele*, Pamina in *The Magic Flute*, Norina in *Don Pasquale*, Rosina in *The Barber of Seville*, and Gilda in *Rigoletto*. With Colder By the Lake, she created the roles of Missy in *Les Uncomfortables* by Tyler Kaiser, and Pristine in *Phantom of the NorShor*. A fan of Gilbert & Sullivan's operettas, Sarah has appeared as Rose Maybud in *Ruddigore*, Angelina in *Trial by Jury*, Yum-Yum in *The Mikado*, and Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance*. Musical theatre roles include Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady* and Lily in *The Secret Garden* (The Duluth Playhouse), Ivey Smith in *On the Town*, Eileen in *Wonderful Town*, and Rosabella in *The Most Happy Fella* (Skylark Opera), and Julie Jordan in *Carousel* (Minnesota Orchestra). Ms. Lawrence appeared as Christine Daaé as a member of the Third National Tour of *The Phantom of the Opera* and in *Phantom: The Vegas Spectacular*.

The 2024-25 season also includes engagements with Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, Borealis Chamber Artists, Augusta Symphony, and the Randy Lee Jazz Orchestra. Sarah makes her home in Duluth with her husband, Calland Metts and daughter Giulia. For more information about Sarah Lawrence, please visit sarahelawrence.com.



Georgia Jaconson, Alto

A native of Duluth, Minnesota, mezzo-soprano Georgia Jacobson's recent engagements in the 2022–2023 season included debuts with Kentucky Opera as Tisbe (*La Cenerentola*) and Maggie (*The Gift of the Magi*), and Opera Santa Barbara, covering Lucilla (*La scala di seta*), and singing Margaret Johnson (*The Light in the Piazza*) and Waltraute (*Die Walküre*). Additionally, her 2022–2023 season included the roles of Hannah After (*As One*) and Lola (*Cavalleria Rusticana*) with Lyric Opera of the North. Jacobson returned to the Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra as the mezzo-soprano soloist in Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*, as well as debuting with the Los Angeles Philharmonic in Chris Thile's *Attention*.

In the spring of 2022, Jacobson covered the role Virginia Woolf in the world premiere/concert version of *The Hours* by composer Kevin Puts and librettist Gregory Pierce at the The Philadelphia Orchestra. Jacobson was to workshop the role of Virginia Woolf at The Metropolitan Opera, but it was cancelled due to COVID-19. Additionally, she made her debut as Cherubino in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* at the University of Cincinnati- CCM. In March 2022, Jacobson returned home to Minnesota to premiere two song cycles, both commissioned for her by The Schubert Club and composed by Carol Barnett (*Young/Old Witches, Bat*) and Linda Kachelmeier (*Lake Superior Songs*). In the summer of 2022, she covered the role of Hermia in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Des Moines Metro Opera.

In previous seasons, Ms. Jacobson covered Mary Johnson (*Fellow Travelers*) as an Apprentice Artist at Des Moines Metro Opera (2021), and premiered the role of Sage (*Everything Comes to A Head*) with Lyric Opera of the North (2021). Jacobson has been a Metropolitan National Council Encouragement Award winner in the South Carolina and Arizona districts. Additionally, Ms. Jacobson won 1st Place in the National Opera Association's 2020 Carolyn Bailey and Dominick Argento Vocal Competition. Born in Nice, France, Jacobson has a special affinity for French repertoire, and she was proud to make her professional debut with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra in their production of Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges* as Maman/Tasse/La libellule under the baton of Maestro Louis Langrée. A consummate musician and lover of new music, she workshopped the roles of Virginia Woolf (*The Hours*), Ruth (*Awakenings*) and Vesta (*Fierce*) with Opera Fusion: New Works and Cincinnati Opera. Her other recent roles include *Zweite Dame* (*Die Zauberflöte*) and Endimione (*La Calisto*) with CCM Opera. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Voice Performance from University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, and Master's of Music (Voice) from University of Cincinnati – College Conservatory of Music, where she has recently received an Artist Diploma (Opera Performance).



Gene Stenger, Tenor

Deemed an “impressive tenor” (The New York Times), Gene Stenger is a Bach specialist who is also heralded for his “crisp, clear tenor in action” (Washington Post) of his performances of oratorios by Handel, Haydn, Mendelssohn, and Mozart. He regularly performs with leading ensembles and interpreters of early music while continuing to expand his repertoire to include music of the 20th and 21st centuries.

Mr. Stenger’s 2025–26 season features solo engagements with Toledo Symphony (Handel’s Messiah), Portland Symphony (Bach’s Mass in B Minor), Princeton Pro Musica (Bach’s Magnificat), Bach Society of St. Louis (Mozart’s Requiem & Schubert’s Mass in G), Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra (Handel’s Messiah), Colorado Bach Ensemble (Handel’s Messiah & Bach’s St. John Passion), WindSync’s OnStage OffStage Chamber Music Festival (Mahler’s Das Lied von der Erde), Bach Collegium San Diego (BWV 106 & TVWV 4:17), Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church NY (Bach’s St. John Passion), and Bach Vespers at Holy Trinity Lutheran NY (Schütz’s St. John Passion).

Equally at home in opera, Gene has performed with Opera LaFayette at the Kennedy Center, Teatro Nuovo at Lincoln Center, and premiered new works with both Odyssey Opera at Jordan Hall, and the Harvard University Choirs. In 2024, he received a jump-in offer from ResonanceWorks Pittsburgh to sing his first Rossini role in Rossini’s opera *La donna del lago* for which he was lauded by The Pittsburgh Tatler as “particularly stunning.... with a vibrant and powerful voice and a charismatic stage presence.” This Fall, he will be making his debut with Winter Opera St. Louis, performing the role of Alexis in Gilbert & Sullivan’s *The Sorcerer*.

Originally from Pittsburgh, Gene holds degrees from Yale University’s School of Music, and Institute of Sacred Music, Colorado State University, and Baldwin Wallace University Conservatory of Music.



Andrew Garland, Baritone

Andrew Garland has performed recitals at Carnegie Hall, the New York Festival of Song, the Ravinia festival, Vocal Arts DC, Marilyn Horne Foundation, The Bard Festival, The Cleveland Art Song Festival, Camerata Pacifica, Andre-Turp Society Montreal, Voce at Pace, Huntsville Chamber Music Guild, Fanfare in Hammond, LA, Cincinnati Matinee Musicale, Cincinnati Song Initiative, Tuesday Morning Music Club, Vocal Arts DC, college campuses around North America, and venues in Italy, Croatia, Greece and Turkey.

He has premiered works by Jake Heggie, William Bolcom, Stephen Paulus, Steven Mark Kohn, Eric Nathan, Lee Hoiby, Tom Cipullo, Thomas Pasatieri, and Gabriela Frank. This season he released his seventh Album: *El Rebelde: Gabriela Frank and Dmitri Shostakovich*.

He has performed in concert with the Atlanta Symphony, Boston POPS, Boston Baroque, Handel and Haydn, Boston Youth Symphony, National Philharmonic, Albany Symphony, Washington Master Chorale at the Kennedy Center, National Chorale at Lincoln Center, Colorado Symphony, Nashville Symphony, Houston Symphony, UMS Ann Arbor, and with the Takács, Dover, Amernet, and Deadalus String Quartets. He has performed leading opera roles at Seattle Opera, New York City Opera, Opera Philadelphia, Cincinnati Opera, Minnesota Opera, Arizona Opera, Hawai'i Opera Theatre, Opera Colorado, Boston Lyric, Dayton, Fort Worth Opera, The Bard Festival, Opera Saratoga, and others. Garland is a member of the voice faculty at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and is a mentor with Bel Canto Boot Camp and tonebase.com.

Andrew (Andy) bicycles year-round and for the past 32 years has raised funds for the Dana Farber Cancer Institute through the Pan Mass Challenge.