

Biographies

Creative Team

Scott Skiba

Stage Director

Award-winning stage director Scott Skiba has led more than 70 new productions, earning recognition for his imaginative stage direction and dynamic physical approach to storytelling. He serves as executive artistic director of Cleveland Opera Theater where his recent production of *La traviata* was named “the best professional opera production Cleveland has seen in years.” He was recently appointed as production director for Opera Western Reserve and has made company debuts in recent years with the opera companies of Grand Rapids, Indianapolis, Mobile, Pensacola, Tampa, and Toledo; as well as the Natchez Festival of Music.

Mr. Skiba is the director of opera studies at Baldwin Wallace Conservatory. He also serves as the assistant artistic director for the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival and an instructor in movement and acting for Music Across the Pond. He presents frequent master classes and workshops throughout the United States and Europe, and has guest directed productions for University of Tennessee Opera Theatre, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, and Oberlin Opera Theater.

A proponent of new opera, Mr. Skiba is a creator of Cleveland Opera Theater’s {NOW} Fest, serves on the National Opera Association’s Chamber Opera Composition Competition committee, and is a member of the review panel for MassOpera and OperaHub’s New Opera Workshop. He directs and produces interdisciplinary collaborations in alternative and site-specific venues to promote civic engagement and develop new audiences.

Amidst the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Skiba has pivoted to embrace the intersections of remote collaboration, contemporary technology, and traditional artistic

values, including projects and premieres for Opera Western Reserve, Baldwin Wallace Conservatory, Cleveland Opera Theater, On Site Opera, and the Curtis Opera Theatre.

www.scottskiba.com

Grant Loehnig

Music Director

Pianist, vocal coach, and administrator Grant Loehnig serves as head of music staff at Opera Philadelphia and Wolf Trap Opera, where he is also the music director of the Studio Artist program. He works regularly as music staff at Lyric Opera of Chicago and serves on the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music as master opera coach.

In recital, Mr. Loehnig has collaborated with such artists as Susanne Mentzer, Morris Robinson, Albina Shagimuratova, Paul Groves, Brenda Rae, and Marcus DeLoach. Recently recordings include art songs of Karim Al-Zand, a premiere recording of songs of Carlisle Floyd with Susanne Mentzer, and the premiere recording of David Hertzberg’s *The Wake World*. For his work as chorus master for Wolf Trap Opera, *Opera News* praised his “finely honed, spirited chorus.” He has prepared the chorus and small roles for the Houston Symphony’s performances of *Wozzeck*, which was awarded the 2018 Grammy Award for Best Opera Recording.

Mr. Loehnig holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, and a Master of Music degree in vocal accompanying from the Manhattan School of Music. He is a graduate of the Houston Grand Opera Studio, Music Academy of the West, and San Francisco Opera’s Merola Program. Before joining the Curtis faculty, Mr. Loehnig served on the opera studies faculty of Rice University.

Miloš Repický

Music Director

Born in Bratislava, Slovakia and raised in France and Canada, pianist and conductor Miloš Repický is on the music staff of the Metropolitan Opera, where recent productions include *Rusalka*, *Otello*, *The Death of Klinghoffer*, and *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*. He has collaborated with the Cleveland Orchestra on productions of *Ariadne auf Naxos* and *The Cunning Little Vixen*, with the Lincoln Center Festival on *Daphne*, and with the Joffrey Ballet on *Bluebeard's Castle* and *The Miraculous Mandarin*. He has worked with the Canadian Opera Company, Houston Grand Opera, Orquesta Nacional de Galicia, Royal Opera House Muscat in Oman, San Francisco Opera, and the Spoleto Festival; and is co-artistic director of Music for Montauk. Mr. Repický is frequently engaged as a specialist in the linguistic and musical preparation of Czech opera and song repertoire. He has been a guest faculty member at the Juilliard School, the University of Cincinnati-College Conservatory of Music, Yale University, the Chautauqua Institution, and the Castleton Festival.

With Toronto-based Against the Grain Theatre, Mr. Repický served as music director for *#UncleJohn* and in the development of *No One's Safe* at the Banff Centre. He conducted Tobin Stokes and Heather Raffo's *Fallujah* at the Kennedy Center's World Stages Festival.

As a pianist, he has performed for the Ottawa International Chamber Festival, Curtis on Tour, medici.tv, TED, Jeunesses-Musicales de Canada, and the Banff Centre; and at Carnegie Hall and Alice Tully Hall. He is the pianist on the Sundialtech Pictures multimedia DVD of *Pierrot Lunaire*, and conducted the score for the feature film *The Bohemians*, an adaptation of Puccini's *La bohème*.

Mr. Repický studied at the University of Victoria with Robin Wood; at the Manhattan School of Music with Warren Jones; and at the Music Academy of the West, the Merola Program at San Francisco Opera, and the Banff Centre. He joined the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music in 2016.

Brittany Merenda

Production Designer

Brittany Merenda, owner of Dark Lumen Productions, is a projection designer, production designer, and creative director working in theater, opera, and dance throughout the country. At the onset of the pandemic, she pivoted to fully virtual productions including a real-time, six-camera feed interactive play titled *Deja Zoom!* She also served as the creative director for a state-of-the-art virtual national convention in Summer 2020.

Previous theatrical works include an off-Broadway production of *Sincerely, Oscar*; *Shrek The Musical* with the Beck Center for the Arts; *Howie D: Back in the Day*, *Elf The Musical*, *Newsies*, and *The Little Mermaid* at the Rose Theatre; *Sweeney Todd* with the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival; and *Oklahoma!* at The Wick in Boca Raton, Fla. As the resident projection designer for Parallel 45 Theatre in Traverse City, Mich., Ms. Merenda has designed for *Mr. Burns*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Medea*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, and many other shows. Opera productions include *The Light in the Piazza* for Columbus State University; *La bohème*, *The Barber of Seville*, and *Madama Butterfly* for Cleveland Opera Theatre; *La finta giardiniera* and *Le nozze di Figaro* for the University of Tennessee Opera Theatre; *Glory Denied* and *Dialogues des Carmélites* for Baldwin Wallace Conservatory; *Little Women* and *Alcina* for the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival; Verdi's *Macbeth* for Opera Tampa; *Carmen* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for the Lakes Area Music Festival; and *Tosca* for Opera Grand Rapids. She has also designed *Appalachian Spring* for St. Paul Ballet and *Nutcracker in Wonderland* for Ballet Co.Laboratory.

Ms. Merenda received a Master of Arts in digital arts and sciences from the University of Florida and received a Barbizon Award for her projection design in *dark play or stories for boys*. www.brittanymerenda.com