

The APSU Music Department
the
Center of Excellence for the Creative Arts
and the
APSU Opera Theatre and Orchestra
present

The Ghosts of Gatsby

Evan Mack, composer

Joshua McGuire, librettist

Dr. Penelope Shumate - Director

Dr. Jacob Aaron Schnitzer - Music Director

Ariadna Benítez Talavera - Assistant Conductor

Nathan Robertson - Technical Director

Luke Anderson - Lighting Designer

Emma Bachman - Graduate Assistant to the Director

Friday, April 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 27 at 3:00 p.m.

George and Sharon Mabry Concert Hall
Music/Mass Communication Building

The Ghosts of Gatsby
by composer Evan Mack and librettist Joshua McGuire

Artists

| | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| CONDUCTORS | Jacob Aaron Schnitzer | Ariadna Benítez Talavera | Jacob Aaron Schnitzer |
| PROLOGUE SOLOISTS | | | |
| “A Whistling Tune” | Kyleigh Nickell | Larry Cotton | Kori Nunn |
| “Waltz” | Natalya Gonzalez | Larry Cotton | Natalya Gonzalez |
| “Never Thought I’d Be Here” | Natalya Gonzalez Carter Hallums | Salem Bowman Larry Cotton | Katelyn Gabler Israel Jimenez |
| “Drinking Song” | Cassandra Yates | Larry Cotton | Cassandra Yates |
| “Blues” | Emma Bell | Larry Cotton | Clover Ross |
| DANCERS | Peyton Ellis | Peyton Ellis | Peyton Ellis |
| OPERA | | | |
| Scott | Micah Nicolai | Israel Jimenez | Micah Nicolai |
| Zelda 1924 | Emma Bachman | Katelyn Gabler | Emma Bachman |
| Zelda 1918 | Bailey Ables | Margaret Blankenship | Bailey Ables |
| Zelda 1948 | Salem Bowman | Madison Frank | Salem Bowman |

There will be a set change pause following the prologue

Ensemble (in alphabetical order)

| Soprano I | Soprano II | Mezzos | Baritones |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Katelyn Gabler | Kyleigh Nickell | Emma Bell | Carter Hallums |
| Natalya Gonzalez | Clover Ross | Salem Bowman | Israel Jimenez |
| Kori Nunn | Cassandra Yates | Hope Fashina | Micah Nicolai |

Evan Mack (b. 1981) winner of the 2024 American Prize in composition, has devoted much of his compositional life to opera and song. His first major operatic composition, *Angel of the Amazon* premiered in 2011 by Encompass New Opera Theatre at the Baryshnikov Arts Center in New York City. Two years later, Fresno State Opera Theater premiered *The Secret of Luca*. This was the first of several collaborations with librettist Joshua McGuire. In August 2016, their American grand opera *Roscoe* premiered at Seagle Music Colony and received its orchestral world premiere with the Albany Symphony starring Metropolitan Opera star Deborah Voigt. Their multi-cultural Christmas opera for children, *Lucinda y las Flores de la Nochebuena* is quickly becoming a holiday standard. Other works include *Beach and Moan*, *#IsOperaDead*, *Roscoe*, *Lucinda y Las Flores de la Nochebuena*, *The Ghosts of Gatsby*, and *Dragon's Breath*. He is currently working a musical comedy, *The World Still Needs You*, *Boris Yeltsin!* Evan was named "2018 Professional of the Year" by Musical America, a Senior Teaching Professor at Skidmore College. In 2020, Mack founded *We Are Instrumental*, an organization that supports better access to music in K-12 public schools in the Adirondacks. He lives in Ticonderoga, NY with his wife, Kristin and two sons, Carter and Henry. More at www.EvanMack.com.

Joshua McGuire (b. 1980) is the author of over ten librettos for the opera stage, including *The Ghosts of Gatsby* and the holiday staple *Lucinda y Las Flores de la Nochebuena* (with music by Evan Mack). The recipient of prizes and fellowships from Opera America, Washington National Opera, The National Opera Association, The American Center for New Works Development, and Yaddo, he is also the author of one nonfiction title, *The Secret of Music: a look at the listening life* (Shanti Arts Press, 2019). His poetry has appeared in numerous journals, including *Levee Magazine* and *The Manhattan Review*. McGuire currently teaches at the Vanderbilt University Blair School of Music. He is represented by Deirdre Mullane of Mullane Literary Associates.

The Ghosts of Gatsby is a one act prologue and opera composed by Evan Mack to a libretto by Joshua McGuire. The world premiere was at Samford University in Alabama and the composer and librettist won 2019 the National Opera Association's Dominick Argento Chamber Opera Competition for their opera.

The work begins with a prologue that feature cast members in solos and ensemble numbers inspired by events in the lives of F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald.

Following the prologue, the opera is set in the French Riviera in 1924 in Scott and Zelda's apartment. They display signs of their strained marriage as Scott writes his novel, *The Great Gatsby*. Zelda is confronted past and future versions of herself, forcing her to face her failed dreams.

Artistic and Production Staff

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|--|---|
| Director - Penelope Shumate | Music Director - Jacob Aaron Schnitzer |
| Graduate Conductor - Ariadna Benítez Talavera | Musical Preparation and Coach - Penelope Shumate |
| Rehearsal Pianist and Répétiteur - Ryan Jones | Rehearsal Pianist and Répétiteur - Juniper Thomas |
| Costume Designer - Penelope Shumate | Scenic Designer - Penelope Shumate |
| Set Items and Props - Penelope Shumate | Stage Direction - Penelope Shumate |
| Poster Design - Clarissa Gunn and Penelope Shumate | Tap Dance Choreographer - Elaine Husted |
| Guest Stage Director - Emma Bachman | Guest Stage Director - Katelyn Gabler |
| Graduate Teaching Assistant - Emma Bachman | Technical Director - Nathan Robertson |
| Lighting Designer - Luke Anderson | Assistant Technical Director - Mackenzie Kelly |
| Technical Assistant - Zachary Lowery, Brady Byrd, Braden “Seven” Kubena | Graduate Assistants to the Technical Director - Francis “Frank” Ferri, Madison Frank, Ian Underwood |
| APSU Facebook and Instagram Management - Penelope Shumate and Emma Bachman | Program - Penelope Shumate |

Additional Production Crew

APSU Opera Theatre Singers and Sydney Bell, Jaxon Mays, Anthony Parker, Emily Rye, and Nicole Valentini

APSU Symphony Orchestra

Violin I

Tyler Combs-Condon
Timothy Lewis
Joshua Ferguson
Skyler White
Tessa Whittaker, concertmaster

Violin II

Ignatius Oelgoetz
Phoebe Sienkiewicz
Gyorgyi Sutt
Mattie Smith, principal

Viola

Razvan Berindean
Andrew Miller, principal
Emma Pierce

Cello

Aiden Hooten, principal
Joe Roberts
Ja’lin Washington

Piano

Ryan Jones
Juniper Thomas

Bass

Zachary Lowery
Molly Swardstrom

Clarinet

Michael Shaffield

Drumset

Antonio Witter

Vibraphone

Jolea Tucker

Special Thanks from APSU Opera Theatre

Center of Excellence for the Creative Arts, Emma Bachman, Margaret Blankenship, Michael Borowitz, John Douglas, Craig Fields, Michelle Fraley, Katelyn Gabler, Clarissa Gunn, Ryan Jones, Charlie Kranz, Kevin J. Loveland Jr., Sean McCully, Dugg McDonough, Rick Piersall, Juniper Thomas, and Shanna Tucker.

About APSU Opera Theatre and Workshop

Austin Peay State University's Opera program is open to all students, and particularly designed to give voice students the opportunity to explore their vocal and dramatic excellence. Each fall the Opera Workshop class is open to all who wish to join us to explore singing and acting for the stage. The class culminates in a concert with piano at the end of the semester. Each December auditions take place for the spring production which is fully staged with costumes and performed with the APSU Orchestra.

- There will be a set change pause after the prologue
- No food or drinks allowed in Mabry Hall
- Before the performance, please silence and noise-making devices and refrain from texting or taking photos or recordings during the performance
- To learn more, please like and follow us on www.facebook.com/APSUOpera

—Upcoming Events—

| | | |
|----------|--|-----------|
| April 27 | Austin Sparks Gr. Saxophone Recital | 7:30 p.m. |
| April 28 | APSU Folk Ensemble <i>The Fiddlin' Peayple</i> in Recital Hall | 7:30 p.m. |
| April 29 | APSU String Studio Recital in Recital Hall | 5:30 p.m. |
| | APSU String Studio Recital in Recital Hall | 7:30 p.m. |
| | Perignon Espinosa Jr. Saxophone Recital | 7:30 p.m. |
| April 30 | Choir Fest—a CECA-sponsored event | |
| | Choir Fest Concert | 5:30 p.m. |
| May 1 | Katelin Csiszer Sr. Clarinet Recital | 5:30 p.m. |
| | APSU Guitar Ensemble in Heydel Hall | 7:30 p.m. |
| May 2 | Christian Tankersley Sr. Guitar Recital in Heydel Hall | 7:30 p.m. |
| | Devin Peltó Sr. Trumpet Recital in Recital Hall | 7:30 p.m. |
| May 3 | Travis Franck Jr. Horn Recital | 5:30 p.m. |
| | Emma Bachman Gr. Voice Recital | 7:30 p.m. |
| May 4 | Bobbie Textor Faculty Piano Recital | 3 p.m. |
| May 5 | Clarksville Children's Chorus Concert—a Community School of the Arts event | 7:30 p.m. |
| May 6 | APSU Russian Vocal Literature Recital | 5:30 p.m. |
| | Bailey Ables Gr. Voice Recital | 7:30 p.m. |



*Events listed above are held in the George and Sharon Mabry
Concert Hall in the
Music/Mass Communication Building and are free and open to the public,*

If you would like to be added to the Music Department patron database to be notified about future events, please send your name, address and email to music@apsu.edu or call 931-221-7818.

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