



## ARTIST PROFILES



**Mezzo-soprano Katherine DeYoung**, originally from Traverse City, Michigan, is a recent graduate of The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. In the 2022/23 Season at Lyric, she sang Giovanna in *Ernani* and Mercédès in *Carmen*. She also stepped in as Sibyl for the World Premiere of *Proximity*. She covered Ragonde in *Le Comte Ory*, and Hänsel in *Hänsel und Gretel*. Katherine is a 2019 Sullivan Award Winner from The William Matheus Sullivan Foundation, a 2021 Richard F. Gold Career Grant recipient from the Shoshana Foundation, the 2022 Eileen Deneen Scholarship Award Winner from The American Opera Society of Chicago and was a 2020 Semi-Finalist for the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition. She was a member of the Studio Artist Program at Detroit Opera from 2018-2020 and spent two summers as an apprentice singer with the Santa Fe Opera. Katherine returns to the Lyric Opera of Chicago this fall to sing The Mayor's Wife in *Jenůfa* and cover the Marquise de Berkenfield in *La fille du régiment*.



Multidisciplinary Artist, **Luther Hezekiah Lewis III** is a native of Evansville, Indiana (USA), born August 13, 1986. Luther has studied Vocal Performance at Oberlin Conservatory of Music and the University of Kentucky as well as Art Studio at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago with a focus on Painting, Opera Design & Directing. As a Tenor vocalist, Luther has appeared in principal, supporting and chorus roles with houses in the U.S. and abroad such as Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera, Opera de Montréal, and others. Luther has been seen as a soloist with the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra, Cincinnati Pops, Cincinnati Opera's **Opera Goes to Church**, the 2012 World Choir Games, and as a member of the international touring group Vox Fortura.

In recent years, Luther has utilized his knowledge and experience in singing and visual art as a stage director and curator of arts events. In 2018, Luther presented **Illustrations: A Gallery Concert** in collaboration with Chicago Opera Theater at the historic Goodman Theatre in downtown Chicago. Luther also directed and designed scenic elements for several children's operas and fully-staged musicals with Chicago Opera Theater's *Opera for All* program as well as a Musical Theater development program with After School Matters between 2017 & 2019. Luther was chosen as the inaugural *Crane Directing Fellow* with Opera Columbus for their 2021 - 2022 season which included directing the opera **Vanqui** by Leslie Burrs. He was also selected to be a directing fellow with Opera Saratoga in 2022 and assistant directed **Sweeney Todd** at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center as well as the opera **Sky on Swings** at the Egg in Albany, NY. Luther is currently the stage director member of the prestigious Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center at the Lyric Opera of Chicago.



**Ron Dukes**, bass baritone, second-year Ryan Opera Center member, completed his master's degree in opera at the Jacobs School of Music of Indiana University. While there he served as Associate Instructor of Voice and performed numerous featured roles with IU Opera Theatre, among them *Bartolo/The Marriage of Figaro*, *Don Basilio/The Barber of Seville*, and *Simone/Gianni Schicchi*. He has

extensive experience with local, start-up opera companies in Bloomington, Indiana, including Bloomington Chamber Opera, where he portrayed Sarastro/*The Magic Flute*, and A Little Knight Music Opera Company, where he was heard as Oroveso/*Norma*. Originally from Indianapolis, Dukes is a former Studio Artist at Wolf Trap Opera (*Truffaldino/Ariadne auf Naxos*) and The Glimmerglass Festival (*Old Gypsy/Il trovatore*, Second Priest and Second Armored Man/*The Magic Flute*). He recently concluded a residency with Pensacola Opera for the company's 39th season, singing Basilio/*The Barber of Seville* and Sarastro.



**Donald Lee III**, Virginia native, is the inaugural Ryan Opera Center conductor/pianist, an Ensemble position started in 2021/22. While with Lyric, he has conducted selections for *Sunday in the Park with Lyric* (both 2021 and 2022). Recent engagements as a conductor and pianist include Des Moines Metro Opera for *Carmen* (2023) and *Porgy and Bess* (2022) and Opera Theatre of Saint Louis for their New Works Festival (2023) and other projects. Lee recently programmed and performed in digital recitals titled *Where Honor is Due* with Salon 21 in Cincinnati and *Adaptations with Piano by Nature*, highlighting music of Black composers alongside canonical works. For the Indictus Project, he recorded for the first time a set of cotillions by Black composer Francis Johnson. Lee achieved success as a solo pianist with Liszt's *Totentanz* (Eastern Music Festival's Young Artist Orchestra). He has participated in the Chautauqua Institution, the Art of the Piano Festival, and the Wintergreen Music Festival. An alumnus of James Madison University and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Lee has served as assistant professor of piano at Kentucky State University.