Opera Experience LIVE! presents…

The Mad Ones

By Kait Kerrigan and Bree Lowdermilk
Based on an Idea by Zach Altman and Bree Lowdermilk

Sound Design by Alex Hawthorn
Electronic Music Design by Dana Hayne

The Made Ones is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals.
www.concordtheatricals.com

Kait Kerrigan (she/her) is an award-winning lyricist, bookwriter, and playwright. Off-Broadway: THE MAD ONES (fka THE UNAUTHORIZED AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF SAMANTHA BROWN), HENRY & MUDGE, with composer Bree Lowdermilk. She has written book and lyrics for the immersive house party THE BAD YEARS, REPUBLIC, UNBOUND, IRENA; and lyrics for ROSTE REVERE, ENGINEER & FRIENDS, and EARTHRISE. Her plays include FATHER/DAUGHTER, DISASTER RELIEF, IMAGINARY LOVE, and TRANSIT. Her work has been developed by La Jolla, Kennedy Center, Theatreworks/Silicon Valley, Primary Stages, Goodspeed, and others. Awards: Kleban, Larson, Theatre Hall of Fame Most Promising Lyricist. Alumna of Dramatists Guild Fellowship, Page 73's I-73, BMI Musical Theatre Writing Workshop, and Barnard College.

Bree Lowdermilk (they/them or she/her) is a queer, gender non-conforming writer and composer. Their musicals include The Bad Years, Henry & Mudge, The Mad Ones (fka The Unauthorized Autobiography of Samantha Brown), Republic, Rosie Revere Engineer & Friends and the albums Our First Mistake and Kerrigan-Lowdermilk Live. Awards: Jonathan Larson, Alan Menken, Richard Rodgers, Dramatists Guild Fellowship. www.kerrigan-lowdermilk.com

CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

Wednesday Cast

Shailagh Maher, soprano, is a classically trained vocalist with a passion for a variety of repertoire. She is pursuing her GPD in Vocal Studies under Professor Carol Mastrodomenico. She holds an MM in Vocal Studies from Longy School of Music and a BM in Vocal Performance from the University of Connecticut. Her previous voice teachers include David Small, Rod Nelman, and Marc Deaton. Shailagh's previous musical theatre roles include Erin in Sondheim's *Sondheim on Sondheim*, Marta in Sondheim's *Company,* and Peggy/Uzo in Schwartz's *Godspell*. Her previous operatic roles include La Fee in Massenet's *Cendrillon*, Hänsel in Humperdinck's *Hänsel und Gretel*, and Miss Todd in Menotti's *The Old Maid and The Thief*.

Kelsey Moisan, praised for her "beautiful rich tone," is a soprano native to Massachusetts. She obtained her masters from Longy School of Music in 2024 and is currently enrolled in their Graduate Performance Diploma program (and will hopefully graduate this May- for real this time). Kelsey's roles performed include Cendrillon and Madame de la Haltière (*Cendrillon),* Barbara (*Sondheim on Sondheim)*, Hexe and Gertrud (*Hänsel und Gretel)*, Second Lady (*Magic Flute: Retold!)*, Sorceress (*Dido and Aeneas)*, Sky Masterson (*Guys and Dolls)*.

Latina mezzo-soprano **Ruby Abreu** is a dynamic performer and arts marketer with a passion for storytelling through music and design. Most recently, she appeared as Madame de la Haltière in Longy's *Cendrillon* and as Euan Morton in *Sondheim on Sondheim*. Recent credits include Hänsel cover in *Hänsel und Gretel*, Monitor and Abbess in *Suor Angelica,* alto soloist in Mozart Requiem*,* Mrs. Nolan in *The Medium*, and Ruth in *The Pirates of Penzance*. Ruby is also the Marketing Manager for the Bach Festival Society of Winter Park. When not performing, she's baking cookies, cracking jokes, or designing websites for fellow artists and nonprofits.

Harry Otero-Rivera is a proud Puerto Rican born baritone who newly calls New England home! Most recently, Harry made his European debut performing excerpts from Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Die Zauberflöte,* and Kálmán's *Die Csárdásfürstin.* Through his master's studies at Longy, where he is the Edward H. Mank and Michael Guleserian Equity Scholar, Harry made his Boston debuts performing his first full operatic roles in Longy's productions of *Hänsel und Gretel* (2023) and *Cendrillon* (2024). Due to his varied training, Harry has always loved exploring different genres of music and is excited to be performing some musical theater for you tonight!

Thursday Cast

Sarah Curtis is a multi-genre vocalist who sings opera, jazz, musical theatre and pop. After graduating from Bates College as a philosophy major, Sarah lived and taught English in Japan. While in Japan, Sarah performed as leading roles in two original musicals entirely in the Japanese dialect of Tosaben. Sarah continues to nurture her passion for the Japanese language through music and recently gave a recital of Japanese art songs at the Kaji Aso Studio in Boston. This spring she is excited to appear as *Sam* in "The Mad Ones," and *Ellen* in "Three Sisters Who are Not Sisters." In her free time, she enjoys playing electric bass.

Kelsey Moisan, praised for her "beautiful rich tone," is a soprano native to Massachusetts. She obtained her masters from Longy School of Music in 2024 and is currently enrolled in their Graduate Performance Diploma program (and will hopefully graduate this May- for real this time). Kelsey's roles performed include Cendrillon and Madame de la Haltière (*Cendrillon),* Barbara (*Sondheim on Sondheim)*, Hexe and Gertrud (*Hänsel und Gretel)*, Second Lady (*Magic Flute: Retold!)*, Sorceress (*Dido and Aeneas)*, Sky Masterson (*Guys and Dolls)*.

Wendan Zhu, a mezzo-soprano vocalist, who graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Pop Vocal Performance from a prestigious conservatory in China. She is currently studying at Longy School of Music in the Jazz and Contemporary Music Department, under the guidance of Doctor Ana Guigui. Specializing in pop, jazz, and musical theater, her distinctive and captivating mid-low vocal range stands out. Wendan is capable singing in five different languages and she has achieved outstanding results in both national and international art competitions. In the musical Mad Ones, She portrays Sam's mother, Beverly.

Kristian Mitchell was born in Atlanta, Georgia and has always had an interest in the arts. He graduated from Tri-Cities High School in 2016 as a visual arts student, but realized his true passion was in music. He decided to study classical music and attended Young Harris College and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music - Voice in spring of 2020. Then in January 2022, he decided to further his musical education by attending Longy School of Music as part of the Jazz & Contemporary Music graduate program under the instruction of Carol Mastrodomenico. In September 2022, he joined the Boston Gay Men's Chorus and has since become the Tenor 1 Music Section Representative in the ensemble. He received his Master of Music degree from Longy in May 2024 and will finish the Graduate Performance Diploma program in May 2025.

Creative Team

Carol Mastrodomenico is a versatile recitalist and guest soloist with choruses, orchestras and other chamber ensembles as well as cabaret and musical theater. She most recently sang Sondheim and contemporary musical theater to the audiences of the Canary Islands in the iconic Jameos del Agua theater. She is in demand as a musical theater director in the United States and Europe. Her course Broadway: Agent of Change at Longy has students developing their own themed cabarets with affective social messages. Her great love for Spanish and Latin American repertoire has led her to the curation of recitals and the development new repertoire courses. She is on the faculties of Longy School of Music of Bard College, Tufts University, and Dramatic Voices Program Berlin, teaching voice and vocal pedagogy, repertoire courses and directing opera and musicals. A champion of new music, she commissioned and premiered many new works including: Thomas Stumpf's adaptation of Oscar Wilde's Nightingale and the Rose and The Happy Prince, John Morrison's History of England by Jane's History of Englandand Vartan Aghababian's Knave of Hearts. She is sought after by colleges throughout the US for master classes on resonance strategies for classical and musical theater. She is a frequent lecturer for vocal pedagogy and particularly for the prevention, rehabilitation and reframing of vocal injury with Opera Programs Berlin and Lanzarote Academy and Music Festival.

A native of Croatia, **Libor Dudas** began his piano studies at the age of 8. His professional career began at 14 when he gave his first organ recital in his hometown of Osijek. This was soon followed by performances in major cities of the former Yugoslavia and East Germany. A scholarship took him to the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Vienna, Austria, to

study organ and liturgical music. Upon receiving his Diploma with Distinction, Dudas moved to the United States to further his studies at the University of Notre Dame, where he received his Master's in Music. He went on to receive a Doctorate of Musical Arts in organ performance at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. In addition to being a solo keyboard instrumentalist, Dr. Dudas is also active as a vocal coach and collaborative pianist and teaches at the Longy School of Music, Boston Conservatory, and the Boston Archdiocesan Choir School.

As a classical tenor with passions for pedagogy, arts marketing, directing, research, and conducting, **William D. Aldenberg** feels equally at home both on and backstage. William's first musical love is nineteenth-century lieder, though he actively performs many genres, including opera, oratorio, contemporary art song, and musical theater. Recent roles include Le Doyen in Massenet's *Cendrillon,* Businessman and Drunkard in Rachel Portman's *The Little Prince*, and Peter (Father) in Humperdinck's *Hänsel und Gretel*. He is pursuing a Graduate Performance Diploma in Vocal Studies from the Longy School of Music, studying under Dr. Tyler Reece. William holds an M.M. in Vocal Performance from Longy, and a B.M. in Vocal Performance and B.A. in Music History from the University of Connecticut.

Danielle Shevchenko is a singer and voice teacher based in Boston. She works with many companies around the Boston area including Cambridge Chamber Ensemble, Boston Baroque, Opera del West, Sudbury Savoyards, and Calliope Music. Besides opera, she specializes in singing Ukrainian music alongside husband, Bohdan, on the piano. She is a voice teacher with the POMS music program in Bedford, where she teaches students of all ages across a variety of styles. In addition to singing, Danielle is also a certified yoga teacher, personal trainer, and avid hiker.

Collaborative Pianists

Dasha Ovchinnikova, organist and composer from Saint Petersburg, Russia. Founder and director of the children's musical theater KukaREku (Saint Petersburg, Russia, 2012-2023), laureate of international competitions. Author and composer of a number of musical theater productions for children. Graduate of the Saint Petersburg Musical College named after N.A. Rimsky-Korsakov (music theory, composition, bachelor's degree), Saint Petersburg Conservatory (musicology, specialist) and Saint Petersburg State University (historical performance on keyboard musical instruments, department of organ, harpsichord and carillon, master's degree). Currently a master's student at the Longy School of Music, organ, professor Dr. Dudas.

Born in Augusta, GA, pianist, composer, and teacher **William Smith** began his musical studies at the age of six and is currently in his second year at the Longy School of Music pursuing a Masters of Music in Piano Performance studying under Mr. Wayman Chin. In 2023, William graduated from Florida State University where his primary piano teacher was Dr. David Kalhous. A strong advocate for contemporary music, William regularly performs and premieres

music written in the 20th century to the present day. He is also an active composer and a collaborator and works regularly with vocalists and instrumentalists alike.