

4-19-2024

## Celestial Visitors

Opera Chapman

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OPERA CHAPMAN PRESENTS

# *Celestial Visitors:*

*Il sogno di Scipione*

by W. A. Mozart

&

*the West Coast premiere of*

*From the Towers of the Moon*

by Robert Moran

**Marc Callahan**

Director

**Danko Druško**

Conductor

The Chapman Orchestra

**April 19 & 21, 2024**



**College of  
Performing Arts**  
Hall-Musco Conservatory of Music



## A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Dear Friends:

Without you, our audience, the performance you are about to enjoy would be incomplete. On behalf of our students, faculty and staff, thank you for supporting Chapman University's Hall-Musco Conservatory of Music through your attendance at today's performance.

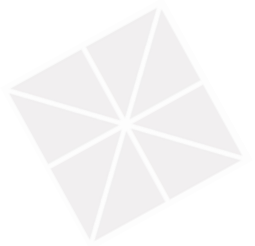
Our students are at the core of everything we do in the College of Performing Arts (CoPA), and we are passionately dedicated to providing them the best possible education. Our mission is to help them master their craft and prepare for today's performing arts professions by providing access to all the tools necessary to succeed.

*Training artists and transforming lives:* that's our focus each and every day. Our students have exceptional opportunities to learn; whether from master artists and residencies or experience performing in venues ranging from intimate studios to state-of-the-art facilities, thanks to the extended support of patrons like you. The end result is a strong record of alumni who have enjoyed rich and diverse careers in the performing arts around the world.

Please enjoy this performance and come back for another CoPA event soon! To view our full season of events, visit [Chapman.edu/tickets-copa](https://chapman.edu/tickets-copa).

**Giulio Ongaro, Ph.D.**

Dean and Professor  
Bertea Family Chair in Music  
College of Performing Arts  
**Chapman University**



CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY  
HALL-MUSCO CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC  
AND OPERA CHAPMAN PRESENT

# *Celestial Visitors:*

## *Il sogno di Scipione*

by W. A. Mozart

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*the West Coast Premiere of*

## *From the Towers of the Moon*

by Robert Moran

**Marc Callahan**

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The Chapman Orchestra

Friday, April 19, 2024

7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 21, 2024

2 p.m.

**MUSCO CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

## **SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

**Bandō Hidesomi**

for her guidance through workshops with our students.

**Bandō Hirohichirō**

for his teachings and guidance.

**The Japan Foundation of Los Angeles**

for their generous support.

**Michael Wood**

for his knowledge and translation of our poems  
into historical writing.

**Teranishi Masahiro**

「tera」 「寺西 政洋」

for permitting use of their Fire Rat illustration.

**Voice Faculty of the Hall-Musco Conservatory of Music**

for their support in preparing our students.

Portions of visual media provided by

「妖怪図鑑」『新版TYZ』

and authored by 土用野筍.

## CREATIVE TEAM

Director.....**Marc Callahan**  
Scenic Designer.....**Tesshi Nakagawa**  
Costume Designer.....**Saori Mitome**  
Lighting Designer.....**Camille Roberts**  
Props Master.....**Chad Smith**  
Projection Designer.....**David Murakami**  
Associate Projection Designer.....**Morgan Embry**  
Hair & Makeup Designer.....**Joyce Cantrell**  
Hair & Makeup Assistants.....**Sarah Rose Kruse**  
**Skyler Nielson**  
Hair & Makeup Apprentices.....**Alyssa Helstern**  
**Zoey Waldron**  
Choreographer.....**Jean Park**  
Associate Choreographer.....**Connor Dapkus**  
Conductor.....**Danko Druško**  
Music Co-Directors.....**Clara Stosch Cheng**  
**Janet Kao**  
Engraving.....**Connor Low**

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager.....**CJ Lazatin**  
Associate Stage Manager.....**Keaton Lewis**  
Assistant Stage Manager.....**Ariel Bradshaw**

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

*Something old, something new; it all revolves around the moon.*

Welcome to the 2024 spring opera double bill featuring Mozart's serenata *Il sogno di Scipione* and Robert Moran's *From the Towers of the Moon*. Our productions blend the classical and contemporary, all centered around the enigmatic allure of the moon.

In *Il sogno di Scipione*, we journey into a dream world far above the earth where the protagonist, Scipione, encounters two goddesses, between whom he must choose one to follow.

Our second offering recounts an ancient Japanese fairy tale where a goddess from the moon is sent to earth in human form to learn about life on earth. While *Il sogno di Scipione* is a classical-era opera, we have given it a retro-futurist setting, including commercial choreography from senior Chapman dance major Jean Park. *From the Towers of the Moon* is a contemporary opera, yet we approached it with reverence for traditional Japanese theater, dance and costuming.

In the 55th year since Americans first stepped foot on the moon, our version of *Il sogno di Scipione* tells the tale of a young woman who yearns to be an astronaut. As she drifts off to sleep, she wakes in a dream where she is met by the goddess Fortune and goddess Constancy. Each battles for Scipione's attention with their armies of Fortuna-bots and Costanza-bots. In this dream, Scipione also meets her ancestors Publio, the first woman astronaut, and even Mozart herself! Each lectures her on her tasks on earth to achieve greatness. But which path will the confused and, at times, distracted Scipione choose? Will it be immediate fortune and fame, or long-term planning? Stay tuned to find out!

*From the Towers of the Moon* (1991) tells the story of Princess Kaguya from *The Tale of the Bamboo Cutter* (竹取物語), a goddess from the moon sent

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

to earth in human form, inadvertently teaching the world the meaning of love and protection. When I first came across this opera, it was through a transcendent aria filmed by PBS and four movements of a string quartet extracted from scenes of the opera. Given the subject matter of the work and my own experiences with traditional Japanese theater, I knew this would be the perfect companion piece for Opera Chapman to pair with *Il sogno di Scipione*. However, there was no published score or recording of the piece. Through many contacts, I reached out to the composer, who graciously sent us the music scores that had been hiding away in his attic since the opera's 1991 premiere. With the help of Chapman music student Connor Low, who transcribed all the string parts, we had a completed version ready for performance, resurrecting what could have easily been a lost opera!

Together with an incredible team of creative artists—Saori Mitome, David Murakami and Tesshi Nakagawa—we began to research the Heian Period to create the world of our show. Meanwhile, our student cast had the opportunity to workshop with famed Nihon-buyō dancer and teacher Bandō Hidesomi to learn the basics of traditional Japanese dance, which you will see infused in this evening's performance. As the director, I owe much to them and to my students' hard work, but also to my sensei Bandō Hirohichirō, Noboyuki Ōe, Shingo Katayama, Tatsushige Udaka, and Diego Pellechia.

—Marc Callahan, director  
Opera Chapman



## CAST: FRIDAY, APRIL 19

### *Il sogno di Scipione*

Scipione.....**Julia Sapeta** (Evan Richards\*)

La Fortuna.....**Dylan Mattingly**  
(Janine Lutfi and Isabella De La Torre\*)

La Costanza.....**Abby Olson** (Noelle Salcido\*)

Publio.....**Kyla McCarrel\*\*** (Edgardo Lopez Yanez\*)

Emilio.....**Isabella De La Torre** (Ethan Eliafan\*)

La Licenza.....**Ting Choi** (Mary Zhang\*)

Fortuna bots.....**Lucianna Bedoya Chirinos**  
**Taylor Briar**  
**Anissa Polania**  
**Carmen Rodriguez**  
**Natale Torres**

Costanza bots.....**Isabella Piechota**  
**Olivia Potter**  
**Carmen Rodriguez**

## CAST: FRIDAY, APRIL 19

### *From the Towers of the Moon*

The Peasant.....**Evan Raymond** (Maxwell Pruett\*)  
The Wife.....**Mary Zhang** (Ting Choi\*)  
The Girl.....**Hannah Prince**  
The Emperor.....**Logan Choe** (Evan Raymond\*)  
The Emperor's Mother.....**Payton McKinnis** (Grace Huyhn\*)  
The Grand Consul.....**Makayla Flocken** (Edgardo Lopez Yanez\*)  
The Minister of War.....**Maxwell Pruett** (Connor Dapkus\*)  
The Grand Consul's Servant.....**Ethan Eliafan** (Evan Richards\*)  
The Minister of War's Servant.....**Scott Tucker** (Connor Dapkus\*)  
Featured Buyoka.....**Kiyomi Petersen**  
Chorus.....**Crimson Bray**      **Evan Richards**  
                  **Paola Morales**      **Kat Shepherd**  
                  **Concepcion**      **Madeline Slind**  
                  **Caleb Cox**      **Julia Tonai**  
                  **Connor Dapkus**      **Scott Tucker**  
                  **Ethan Eliafan**      **Anna Woolford**  
                  **Grace Huyhn**      **Edgardo Lopez Yanez**  
                  **Eva Jackson**      **Charlotte Yoder**  
Dancers.....**Vanessa Alberti**  
                  **Connor Dapkus**  
                  **Kiyomi Petersen**  
                  **Olivia Potter**  
                  **Carmen Rodriguez**  
                  **Julia Tonai**

## CAST: SUNDAY, APRIL 21

### *Il sogno di Scipione*

Scipione.....**Julia Sapeta** (Evan Richards\*)

La Fortuna.....**Dylan Mattingly**  
(Janine Lutfi and Isabella De La Torre\*)

La Costanza.....**Abby Olson** (Noelle Salcido\*)

Publio.....**Kyla McCarrel\*\*** (Edgardo Lopez Yanez\*)

Emilio.....**Isabella De La Torre** (Ethan Eliafan\*)

La Licenza.....**Ting Choir** (Mary Zhang\*)

Fortuna bots.....**Lucianna Bedoya Chirinos**  
**Taylor Briar**  
**Anissa Polania**  
**Carmen Rodriguez**  
**Natale Torres**

Costanza bots.....**Isabella Piechota**  
**Olivia Potter**  
**Carmen Rodriguez**

\*Cover

\*\*Faculty

## CAST: SUNDAY, APRIL 21

### *From the Towers of the Moon*

The Peasant.....**Evan Raymond** (Maxwell Pruett\*)  
The Wife.....**Mary Zhang** (Ting Choi\*)  
The Girl.....**Jess Tonai**  
The Emperor.....**Logan Choe** (Evan Raymond\*)  
The Emperor's Mother.....**Payton McKinnis** (Grace Huyhn\*)  
The Grand Consul.....**Makayla Flocken** (Edgardo Lopez Yanez\*)  
The Minister of War.....**Maxwell Pruett** (Connor Dapkus\*)  
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                  **Caleb Cox**      **Julia Tonai**  
                  **Connor Dapkus**      **Scott Tucker**  
                  **Ethan Eliafan**      **Anna Woolford**  
                  **Grace Huyhn**      **Edgardo Lopez Yanez**  
                  **Eva Jackson**      **Charlotte Yoder**  
Dancers.....**Vanessa Alberti**  
                  **Connor Dapkus**  
                  **Kiyomi Petersen**  
                  **Olivia Potter**  
                  **Carmen Rodriguez**  
                  **Julia Tonai**

## OPERA CHAPMAN

Vanessa Alberti  
Crimson Bray  
Taylor Briar  
Lucianna Bedoya Chirinos  
Logan Choe  
Ting Choir  
Paola Morales Concepcion  
Caleb Cox  
Connor Dapkus  
Isabella De La Torre  
Ethan Eliafan  
Makayla Flocken  
Grace Huyhn  
Eva Jackson  
Janine Lutfi  
Dylan Mattingly  
Payton McKinnis  
Abby Olson  
Isabella Piechota  
Anissa Polania  
Olivia Potter  
Hannah Prince

Maxwell Pruett  
Evan Raymond  
Evan Richards  
Carmen Rodriguez  
Elle Sacido  
Julia Sapeta  
Kat Shepherd  
Madeline Slind  
Jess Tonai  
Julia Tonai  
Natale Torres  
Scott Tucker  
Anna Woolford  
Edgardo Lopez Yanez  
Charlotte Yoder  
Mary Zhang

### Staff

President: Makayla Flocken  
Vice President: Julia Sapeta  
Secretary: Abby Olson  
Publicity: Payton McKinnis and  
Dylan Mattingly

# THE CHAPMAN ORCHESTRA

Danko Druško, conductor

## **VIOLIN I**

Kaitlyn Irianto\*  
Lindsey Cho  
Adrian Fernandez 🎵  
Liam Collins  
Zoe Edeskuty  
Peter Lai

## **VIOLIN II**

Sarah Schmainda\*  
Tadan Baartz-Bowman  
Aly Pickett  
Nina Laffoon  
Alana McKinnon 🎵  
Sydney Chung  
Allison Woodbury

## **VIOLA**

Eleas Vrahnos\*🎵  
Alexis Reeves  
Carlos Bueno  
Adelyn Ho  
Joey McWherter

## **CELLO**

Kelly Picton\*  
Francisco Martinez Devis  
Ella Magen  
Benjamin Chan  
Michael Ball  
Jack Majeski  
Kellen Downey

## **BASS**

Ethan Reed ♦

## **FLUTE/PICCOLO**

Jorden Enderton  
Galen Weiss

## **OBOE/ENGLISH HORN**

Melissa McElroy  
Noah Chen

## **CLARINET/ BASS CLARINET**

Matthew Chandler

## **BASSOON**

Kaylee Laird  
Aidan Chun

## **HORN**

Lizbeth Ramirez  
Thomas Yamada

## **TRUMPET**

Tim Healy  
Caroline Volmer  
Connor Low

## **TROMBONE**

Alexander He

## **PERCUSSION/TIMPANI**

Annie Okuhara 🎵

## **KEYBOARD**

Clara Stosch Cheng  
Paige Ye  
Sandra Nam

## **HARPSICHORD**

Janet Kao

## **STAFF**

### Managers

Thomas Yamada  
Ella Magen

### Librarians

Kelly Picton  
Michael Ball

### Operations Crew

Sawyer Livsey  
Lizbeth Ramirez  
Nicholas Lippold  
Caroline Volmer

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\* Principal

🎵 Senior

♦ Guest

## ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

**MARC CALLAHAN** (Director) is Associate Professor and Robert and Norma Lineberger Endowed Chair in Music at Chapman University and director of Opera Chapman. As a director and designer, Dr. Callahan received critical acclaim for his production of Jean-Philippe Rameau's *Les Indes Galantes*, saying it was "designed and directed with jaw-dropping invention," and was awarded first prize for his production of Kurt Weill's *Der Jasager* from the National Opera Association as well honors from the American Prize's Charles C. Reilly Director's Prize. He has worked on productions at the Royal Opera House, the Aldeburgh Festival, the Holland Festival, Scottish Opera, Miami Music Festival, the New World Center, Théâtre du Châtelet, and the Théâtre du Capitole. Recent productions include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Albert Herring*, *Ordo Virtutum*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Cendrillon*, and *The Blue Forest*, *Help, Help, the Globolinks!*, *Der Jasager*, *Lohengrin*, *Alcina*, *ATLAS*, *Die Walküre*, *Il sogno di Scipione*, and *L'incoronazione di Poppea* ("...devising a brilliant production of remarkable dramatic intimacy").

**TESSHİ NAKAGAWA** (Scenic Designer) is delighted to be returning to Chapman University's College of Performing Arts, where he previously designed *Avenue Q* in 2018. Hailing from Tokyo, Japan, Tesshi has been working in the theater, film, and commercial industries as a scenic designer/art director. His work has graced numerous venues across the Los Angeles area, including the Pasadena Playhouse, A Noise Within, Boston Court Pasadena, South Coast Repertory, Antaeus Theater, Lewis Family Playhouse, Sierra Madre Playhouse, East West Players, Los Angeles Theater Center and International City Theater. He currently serves as an adjunct professor/instructor at East Los Angeles College. Tesshi is a proud graduate of UCLA. [www.tesshi.com](http://www.tesshi.com).

**SAORI MITOME** (Costume Designer) is a Los-Angeles based costume/clothing designer and a seamstress, originally from Japan. She creates custom-made

## ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

costumes and clothing pieces. Her areas of focus include the entertainment industry as well as fashion. She is a proud member of IATSE 705 (The Motion Picture Costumers). Having worked for Bill Hargate Costumes, Saori has the opportunity to leave her mark on the Hollywood film landscape and work on high-end projects such as streaming services series and film projects, including *Welcome to Chippendales* (Hulu), *Wakanda Forever* (Disney) and *Guardians of the Galaxy* vol. 3 (Disney). While she is working at the costume company, Saori also had the opportunity to create costumes for Reba McEntire's U.S. tour 2022–23 and Disney and Universal Studio Hollywood theme parks.

Saori has also designed and hand-made clothing for concept fashion presentations including fashion design competitions. In 2022, she was the Japanese designer finalist at the 10th Metropolitan Fashion Week at the Los Angeles City Hall, an International fashion competition that featured high-fashion masterpieces inspired by world architecture. A piece she created for the Metropolitan Fashion Week was exhibited in March 2023 at The Palm Springs Art Museum, and she participated in the 11th Metropolitan Fashion Week Los Angeles show as the headliner of the event in October 2023. She has received the 1st prize in the Eco-Couture Fashion Competition produced by Goodwill Southern California in June 2023.

**CAMILLE ROBERTS**, she/her (Lighting Designer), is an L.A.-based designer and alumna of Chapman University. Nominated for Orange County Theatre Guild and Broadway World awards for lighting design, she has had the privilege to design for a multitude of productions in her career, including illuminate at the STRAT Casino and Hotel in Las Vegas and New York, and a variety of dance shows and musicals in the L.A. area. Additionally, she has worked as a lighting technician on music festivals including EDC Las Vegas, Countdown, HARD Summer and others with Insomniac Events. Camille is very excited to be working on this production, and hopes that you enjoy it as



## ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

much as she does! [camillerobertsdesign.com](http://camillerobertsdesign.com)

**CHAD SMITH** (Props Manager) is thrilled to be working with such a great group of professionals, teachers and students on his first opera in a college setting. Chad started his theatrical career in Southern California studying theatre at Long Beach City College. He then went off to New York City where he worked in production at Blue Man Group and The Public Theatre/NYSF. The last 14 years he spent back home in Los Angeles as Technical Director of Center Theatre Group. Chad is now a theatrical consultant and builder of sets, props, and fine furniture.

**DAVID MURAKAMI** (Projection Designer) is a projection designer and film director focused on the union between the cinematic and theatrical. Recent productions include *Das Rheingold* at Seattle Opera; *Everest* at Dallas Opera; *Elektra* at Minnesota Opera; *The Shining* at Atlanta Opera; Luis Valdez' *Zoot Suit* and *Valley of the Heart* at the Mark Taper Forum; *Singin' in the Rain* with McCoy Rigby; *Sense and Sensibility* at South Coast Repertory; and Gordon Getty's *Scare Pair* at LA Opera Off Grand. Other notable design credits include Opera Parallèle's *La Belle et la bête*, *Dead Man Walking*, *Little Prince*, and *Champion*; *Habibati Man Takoun* and *The Philosopher* at Riyadh Season; and *Spotlight Bar* and *5-Skies* aboard Princess Cruises' flagship Royal-class vessels. Other companies include Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Calgary Opera, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Opéra de Montréal, San Jose Repertory Theater, SFJazz, Alonzo King LINES Ballet, Presidio Theatre, Arizona Opera, Skylight Theatre, Sun Valley Summer Symphony, and East West Players. Upcoming productions include the world premieres of Laura Karpman's *Balls* with Opera Parallele, Damien Geter's *American Apollo* with Des Moines Metro Opera, and B.E. Boykin's *Two Corners* at Finger Lakes Opera. David is a proud member of United Scenic Artists 829 and teaches projection design at the University of California, Irvine.

## ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

**MORGAN EMBRY**, she (Associate Projection Designer), is a production designer, creative director and dancer currently based in Los Angeles, CA. She received her BA in Dance from The University of Alabama and her MFA in Lighting Design at the University of California, Irvine. She designs for dance and theatre, acting as resident lighting designer for Willing Kompany and Festival Ballet Theatre, and projection designer for CounterBalance Theatre. She is also a production designer for live music; Vance Joy, Bryce Vine, Beabadoobee, Allie X and SWISS being among the list of wonderful collaborators she gets to regularly create with. Morgan is excited for this opportunity to collaborate with fellow artists and creators.

**SARAH ROSE KRUSE**, she/they (Hair & Makeup Assistant), is honored to join Chapman University as part of the makeup crew for Celestial Visitors. As musical theater major at Fullerton College who always had a love for makeup, Sarah Rose has recently begun expanding her skills in hair, makeup and costume design. You can also catch Sarah Rose performing at Knott's Berry Farm, or as a children's party performer playing various different roles. Design credits include assistant hair and makeup designing for *By the Bog of Cats*, *In the Heights*; *The Spitfire Grill*; and *Marian, or the True Tale of Robin Hood* (Fullerton College); hair and makeup designing for *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Riverside Community Players); and hair & makeup and assistant costume designing for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Cabrillo Playhouse). Some of Sarah Rose's favorite performance credits include Camila Rosario (*In the Heights*, Fullerton College), Voice #5 (*Curious Incident...*, Riverside Community Players) and Megan Jones/Hannah swing (*Puffs*, Cabrillo Playhouse). Huge thanks to Joyce Cantrell for this amazing opportunity.

## ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

**SKYLER NIELSON**, he/him (Hair & Makeup Assistant), is so excited to be part of the hair and makeup crew! Previously he designed makeup for *Fourth Planet* and was head of hair and makeup crew for *9 to 5* and *In the Heights* at Fullerton College. He also designed for *Shrek the Musical* with Buena Park Youth Theater. He is currently a student at Fullerton College studying theater arts and stage combat.

**ALYSSA HELSTERN** (Hair & Makeup Apprentice): sophomore, BA Theatre, technical theatre emphasis. Chapman credits: Student-Directed One-Acts: *Icarus's Mother* (costume designer), *Small Mouth Sounds* (makeup designer). Other credits: *The Mortician's Wife* (deck crew), *The Lesson* (assistant stage manager/board operator).

**ZOEY WALDRON** (Hair & Makeup Apprentice) has two to three years of make-up design experience for high school productions as well as pageants, and is thrilled to be part of this experience. She hopes you enjoy the show!

**JEAN PARK**, she/they (Choreographer), is a queer Korean performance artist whose work is informed by their multicultural experiences and identity. Jean was born and raised in Seoul, South Korea, but briefly lived in Illinois and Tokyo during their childhood. They are currently attending Chapman University, pursuing a BA in Dance with a minor in Creative & Cultural Industries. They credit experiences with Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company, Pilobolus, Outrun the Bear and Sean Greene for influencing their movement work. Jean is currently interested in exploring the realm of physical theatre in their performance artwork. Their artistic interests stem from the complexities of human relationships and experiences of various people groups. As a choreographer, they seek to create work that may influence their audience to feel uncomfortable and contemplative, combatting the notion that dances are created merely to fulfill the viewers' desire for pleasure and leisure.

## ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

**CONNOR DAPKUS** (Assistant Choreographer) is double-majoring in Vocal Performance and Music Education. Connor held a multifaceted role in the most recent Chapman Celebrates as both a featured vocalist and a dancer. Connor is in University Singers and a performer in Opera Chapman. Some previous dance experience includes Tap Ensemble in 42nd Street (Rose Center Theater) and Ren in Footloose (OC Performing Arts).

**DANKO DRUŠKO** (Conductor). Assistant Professor of Orchestral Studies at Chapman University, is a dynamic conductor and educator born to Croatian immigrants in Germany. He is a regular guest conductor and frequently serves as cover conductor for the L.A. Phil at venues like Walt Disney Hall, the Hollywood Bowl, and The Ford. Druško is also artistic director of the California Orchestra Academy, advocating for global access to high-level music education. His collaborations include artists such as Alison Balsom, Nicola Benedetti, Gustavo Dudamel, and many more. For more information, please visit [www.dankodrusko.com](http://www.dankodrusko.com).

**CLARA CHENG** (music co-director) is a native of Taiwan who has extensively as a collaborative pianist in recitals, master classes and studios with renowned musicians in the U.S. Cheng currently serves as faculty pianist at Chapman University and vocal coach at Fullerton College. Cheng received her DMA in Keyboard Collaborative Arts from USC and Master of Music in Collaborative Piano from The Juilliard school.

Pianist **JANET KAO** (music co-director), a native of Taiwan, is an accomplished musician with extensive experience as a solo pianist, vocal/instrumental collaborator, and an opera coach. She has performed on many stages including Alice Tully Hall in New York City, Harris Concert Hall in Aspen, Preston Bradley Hall in Chicago, National Concert Hall of Taiwan. She has been invited to participate in summer music festivals including Bowdoin Music

## ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

Festival, the Yellow Barn Chamber Music Festival, and the Music Academy of the West and has served as a staff accompanist at the Aspen Music Festival, Idyllwild Summer Arts Academy, as a staff coach at Opera in the Ozarks, Arkansas and the American Institute of Musical Arts in Graz, Austria. Currently, she is the staff pianist/coach for "Opera for kids" with Pacific Symphony since 2015. She received teaching fellowships from the Juilliard School and the USC Thornton Opera, working closely with renowned conductors, Judith Clurman and Brent McMunn. Her interests in contemporary music have led her to collaborate on new operas including *Miss Lonelyhearts* by Lowell Liebermann and *Powder Her face* by Thomas Adès. In addition to opera, she has premiered many contemporary chamber works with the New Juilliard Ensemble, under the baton of Joel Sachs. Dr. Kao holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Keyboard Collaborative Arts from the University of Southern California, in addition to a collaborative arts degree from the Juilliard School and a piano performance degree from the Peabody Conservatory. Dr. Kao is currently an adjunct professor and opera coach at Chapman University and Fullerton College.

## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION TEAM

**CJ LAZATIN**, she/her (Stage Manager), is excited to be part of the Chapman Team. CJ is a Southern California native and theatre artist. She is a recent graduate from California State University, Fullerton, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Technical Theatre Design and Production with an emphasis in Stage Management. In the past, she has stage-managed for several productions and live events such as musicals, plays, recitals, galas, and world premieres. CJ is extremely grateful to her friends and family for their love and support while she continues on this dream career path.

**ARIEL BRADSHAW** (Assistant Stage Manager): senior, BA Theatre, technical theatre area of study, Leadership Studies minor. Chapman credits: *Metamorphoses* (stage manager), *Mother Courage and Her Children* (stage manager). Other credits: *Spring Awakening* (stage manager). *Celestial Visitors* is the twelfth production Ariel has worked on at Chapman, and they are incredibly thankful to be part of such a strong team of stage managers, directors, designers, and actors. They are so excited to be the assistant stage manager of this amazing production! Ariel looks forward to the rest of their time at Chapman and is very excited for everyone to see the amazing show the opera team has put together.



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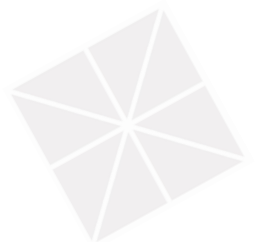
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## COMING UP NEXT



**April 20, 2024**

### **Faculty Showcase Recital: Gary Matsuura & Albert Alva**

Gary Matsuura, director of the Chapman Saxophone Ensemble, and Albert Alva, director of the Chapman Big Band and Jazz Combo, perform together in an evening of original compositions and jazz standards for saxophones, flute, string quartet and vocalist.

2 p.m. | Salmon Recital Hall (BH 100)



**April 23, 2024**

### **Chapman Big Band & Jazz Combo**

The Chapman University Big Band & Jazz Combo fire up for an evening of jazz favorites and big-band swing, including original student compositions. Dance students make a debut performance in this concert. Free community reception!

7:30 p.m. | Musco Center for the Arts



**April 26, 2024**

### **Chapman University Wind Symphony**

Directed by Mathieu Girardet, the University Wind Symphony presents a concert of exciting classical and contemporary symphonic works by Egil Hovland, Vincent Persichetti, Zhou Tian and James Barnes.

7:30 p.m. | Chapman Auditorium (Memorial Hall)



**April 27, 2024**

### **Chapman Percussion Ensemble**

An evening of dynamic and unconventional chamber music, featuring viscerally captivating performances produced from a large assembly of percussion instruments from around the world.

8 p.m. | Salmon Recital Hall (BH 100)



## COMING UP NEXT



**April 28, 2024**

### **Vocal Jazz Ensemble**

A fun evening of music featuring both the jazz ensemble and soloists in various styles such as swing, bossa nova, funk and more.  
8:00 p.m. | Salmon Recital Hall (BH 100)



**May 2, 2024**

### **New Music Ensemble**

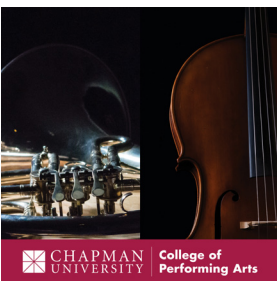
A recital of new works by current composition majors and many of the leading composers of the last 50 years.  
8 p.m. | Salmon Recital Hall (BH 100)



**May 3, 2024**

### **University Treble Choir**

This exciting concert features advanced treble voice literature from around the world in various styles and languages, ranging from historical to contemporary works.  
7:30 p.m. | Salmon Recital Hall (BH 100)



**May 4, 2024**

### **Instrumental Chamber Music**

Two chamber music performances to choose!

- Woodwind trios, quartets and quintets, and brass ensembles.
- String trios, quartets and quintets.

2 p.m. Woodwinds & Brass | 5 p.m. Strings  
Salmon Recital Hall (BH 100)

## SUPPORT THE STARS OF TOMORROW

One of the best ways to help support CoPA students is to give to the **Fund for Excellence**. This invaluable program gives students access to a variety of high-caliber resources so they can create and perform their best work.

Every dollar donated to the Fund has an immediate impact on the performing arts student experience. Donations are used exclusively to help CoPA students through enhancement of student productions, recruiting professional artists for master classes and supporting touring student ensembles, to name a few. For example, the Fund allowed us to bring Complexions Contemporary Ballet to campus for a week-long intensive with our dance students, giving them a valuable opportunity to train with working professionals from an award-winning, internationally renowned company.

If you're already a contributor to our Fund for Excellence, THANK YOU! And if you haven't yet joined hands with others who support the performing arts at Chapman University, please, consider making a gift today. Any amount helps!

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