

Nazareth College Opera Workshop presents
Henry Purcell's

Dido & Aeneas



Saturday, April 10, 2021 at 7:30pm

Beston Hall, Glazer Music Performing Center at Nazareth College

Cast

Dido.....Morgan Beaton
 Aeneas.....Dominic Vesely
 Belinda.....Julie Welch
 2nd Woman.....Haley Brunstad
 Sorceress.....Nia Sargeant
 1st Witch.....Rayna Mandara
 2nd Witch.....Mealea VanDenburg
 Sailor.....Natalie Allen
 Spirit.....Briannah Rice
 Ensemble.....Lauren Armstrong, Abigail Farr, Brenna Griggs,
 Noelle Sahloff, Sophia Soler, Amara Wilson

Quintet & Continuo

Violin I.....Bridgette Sroka
 Violin II.....Lydia O’Sullivan
 Viola.....Jessica Geisler
 Cello.....Mackenzie Dupra
 Bass.....Matthew Glende
 Harpsichord.....Dr. Kevin Nitsch
 Special Effects Percussion.....Kristen Shiner-McGuire

Production Team

Director.....Emily Cuk
 Music Director.....Dr. Kevin Nitsch
 Lighting Design.....Tony Rajewski
 Audio Engineer/Technician.....Joshua Labman
 Media Production.....Evan Mikoll
 Video Editor.....Kyle Wiesinger
 Camera Operators.....Rebecca Kilpeck & Weston Pytel
 Follow Spot Operator.....Louis Semenoro
 Production Manager in the Arts Center.....Kathleen Gilliland
 Operations Manager in the Arts Center.....Lindsay Chasse
 Coordinator of Vocal Studies.....Dr. Katie Hannigan

*Special thanks to the following people for
 their role in assisting with the production
 of Dido and Aeneas:*

Lindsay Chasse, Dr. Bonnie Choi, Dr. David Davies, Kathleen Gilliland, Pamela
 Griffin, Bernadette Rall, & Nancy Strelau



Morgan Beaton - Dido

Morgan Beaton is a senior in the Music Education program at Nazareth. Previously at Nazareth, Morgan performed as Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel*, and as Mrs. Nolan in *The Medium*. Outside of the opera she is the Undergraduate Assistant of Nazareth Choirs as well as the President of Nazareth's ACDA chapter.



Dominic Vesely – Aeneas

Dominic Vesely is a junior in Nazareth's Music B.A. program. Playing the role of Aeneas in *Dido and Aeneas* has been his first opportunity to act on stage. At Nazareth, he has participated in many other ensembles including playing bassoon in the Symphonic Band, Chamber Winds, and Night Flyers ensemble, playing baritone saxophone with the Lab Band, singing with the Chamber Singers, and playing bass and singing with the Rock Ensemble.



Julie Welch – Belinda

Julie Welch is a second-year Master's student in the Vocal Performance and Pedagogy program. Previously at Nazareth Julie was the Assistant Stage Manager of *Hansel and Gretel*. On stage in her home state of Oklahoma, she has played roles in *Hello Dolly*, *Addams Family*, *When You Wish*, *The Music Man*, and premiered the role of Julia Howe in *A Porcelain Doll*. Outside of her music studies, Julie is an active member of the Northridge Church and her Community Group.



Haley Brunstad – 2nd Woman

Haley Brunstad is a senior Vocal Performance major. Previously at Nazareth, Haley has performed in the roles of the Dew Fairy in *Hansel and Gretel*, Ms. Gobineau in *The Medium*, and an ensemble member of *Clara My Love*. In 2019 Haley was awarded the Grand Prix at the International Chamber Choir Competition in Rzeszów, Poland with the Nazareth College Chamber Singers as well as singing back up in Josh Groban's Bridges Tour. Outside of the opera, Haley is currently a Resident Assistant in Founders Hall at Nazareth.



Nia Sargeant – Sorceress

Nia Sargeant is a second-year Master's student in the Vocal Performance and Pedagogy program at Nazareth. Previous performances by Nia include various roles and Millie in the Nazareth Opera Workshop's "An Evening of Collaborative Scenes", Sandy in *Grease*, Sarah Brown in *Guys and Dolls*, and ensemble roles in *Once on this Island* and *Little Shop of Horrors*. Outside of her studies at Nazareth, Nia does session work in various genres.



Rayna Mandara – 1st Witch

Rayna Mandara is a senior at Nazareth in the Theatre Arts and English programs. Rayna has previously performed in *Midsummer Night's Dream* as Hermia, *Love's Labour's Lost* as Dramaturg and Longaville, *The Tempest* as Ceres, *The Laramie Project* in multiple roles, and *8x10 Season 2* as Mrs. Sorken. In her spare time, she enjoys watching films and skating around on her penny board.



Mealea VanDenburg – 2nd Witch

Mealea VanDenburg is a sophomore in the Music Performance program at Nazareth. Previous performances by Mealea include Eva Peron in *Evita*, dance choreographer and ensemble in *Mamma Mia*, and ensemble roles in *Damn Yankees* and *Big Fish*. Outside of her music studies, Mealea loves to cook and bake.



Natalie Allen – Sailor

Natalie Allen is a senior in the Music Education program at Nazareth. Her performances include *Beauty and the Beast* as Belle, *Guys and Dolls* as General Cartwright, *Shrek the Musical* as a Little Pig and the Blind Mouse, *Into the Woods* as the Golden Harp and *Anything Goes* as an ensemble member. Outside of her music studies she enjoys reading and expanding her pin collection.



Briannah Rice – Spirit

Briannah Rice is a junior in the Music Education and Psychology programs at Nazareth with a concentration in conducting. This is her first production at Nazareth and she is very excited to be a part of *Dido and Aeneas* as her first opera. She has previously played Horton in *Seussical the Musical*, The Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz*, as well as other various supporting roles.



Laruren Armstrong – Ensemble

Lauren Armstrong is a junior at Nazareth in the Music Therapy program. Previously, Lauren has performed as Cinderella in *Into the Woods*, the Narrator in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and the dance captain and an ensemble member in *Young Frankenstein*. Outside of school Lauren enjoys photography.



Abigail Farr – Ensemble

Abigail Farr is a first-year Master’s student in the Vocal Performance and Pedagogy program. Abby’s previous performances include Mama Ogre in *Shrek the Musical*, ensemble in *Beauty and the Beast*, and ensemble in *All Shook Up*. Abby has her own vocal studio with several students in the Buffalo area.



Brenna Griggs - Ensemble

Brenna Griggs is a second-year Master’s student in the Vocal Performance and Pedagogy program. Previously at Nazareth Brenna was the Graduate Assistant and an Assistant Stage Manager of *Hansel and Gretel*. Previous roles on stage include Luisa in *The Fantastiks*, Sarah Brown in *Guys and Dolls*, Marian Paroo in *Music Man*, Mrs. Brown in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, Winnie Tate in *Annie Get Your Gun*, and small roles in various other productions. Brenna has also directed several youth productions including *Lion King Jr.* and *Alice in Wonderland Jr.*



Noelle Sahloff - Ensemble

Noelle Sahloff is a sophomore in the Music Therapy program at Nazareth. As well as being a member of the ensemble, Noelle studied as a cover for the role of 2nd Woman. Outside of her musical studies Noelle enjoys embroidering.



Sophia Soler – Ensemble

Sophia Soler is a sophomore double majoring in Music Education and Vocal Performance at Nazareth. She has experience on stage with previous roles in musicals before taking the stage at Nazareth with her first opera. When not on stage, Sophia is co-running Nazareth’s coed acapella group, Fermata Thin Air.



Amara Wilson – Ensemble

Amara Wilson is a sophomore at Nazareth in the Musical Theatre BFA program. Outside of her studies, Amara serves as an activist and advocate for the BLM Movement and special needs children.



Bridgette Sroka – Violin I

Bridgette Sroka is a first-year graduate student in the Music Education program. Bridgette is the Graduate Assistant of the Orchestras at Nazareth and has performed as Concert Mistress, as well as Principal 2nd Violin. Before Nazareth, Bridgette studied at SUNY Geneseo, and graduated with a B.A in Violin Performance.



Lydia O'Sullivan – Violin II

Lydia O'Sullivan is a Junior Music Therapy major studying with Dr. Margaret Leenhouts. She has soloed with the Finger Lakes Symphony Orchestra, performed in two Honors Recitals at Nazareth College, is the co-concertmaster of the Nazareth College Symphony Orchestra, and has performed with the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. She has played in the pit for several Nazareth College productions, including *The Medium*, *Hansel and Gretel*, and *Spring Awakening*. Lydia has also studied at the Philippos Nakas Conservatory in Athens, Greece with Nikos Mandilas.



Jessica Geisler - Viola

Jess Geisler is a junior Music Education and Music Performance major. They are a viola and violin double primary. Jess is the assistant principal violist of the Nazareth College Symphony Orchestra. Previous pit orchestra performances include 2nd violin in *Voices of Carmen*, Violin/Viola in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, and 1st violin in *Catch Me If You Can*, *How to Succeed In Business*, *Cinderella*, and *Aida*.



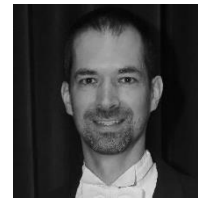
Matthew Glende - Bass

Matthew Glende is a Music Education major at Nazareth College who is also involved with performance opportunities within the community. He has been a bassist at Nazareth in the Symphony Orchestra, Wind Symphony, and Jazz Ensembles as well as in the community in Center Stage Pops, the Genesee Symphony Orchestra, and several other groups in the Greater Rochester area.



Emily Cuk – Director

Emily Cuk is an Adjunct Faculty member at Nazareth College, having directed Menotti's *The Medium*, Humperdinck's *Hänsel und Gretel*, and *Dido and Aeneas*. After directing Handel's *Acis and Galatea* with Pegasus Early Music, she is thrilled to be returning as the Stage Director for Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo*. As a Directing Fellow for Wolf Trap Opera's 2019 season, Emily directed Ravel's *L'heure espagnole* with the National Orchestral Institute and conductor Ward Stare. Emily received a MM degree in Opera Directing at the Eastman School of Music and a BA at Bard College, where she has frequently returned as a guest Stage Director for the Undergraduate Opera Program.



Dr. Kevin Nitsch – Music Director/Harpsichord

Kevin Nitsch is a pianist, collaborator and teacher in the Rochester area. He is a member of the piano faculty at Nazareth College of Rochester and is vocal coach at SUNY Geneseo. Kevin performs regularly with Rochester Oratorio Society, Finger Lakes Opera, Lyric Opera and Madrigalia. Kevin holds a BM in Piano Performance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music, and a MM and DMA in Performance and Literature in Piano Performance from the Eastman School of Music. He has completed Yoga Teacher Training at Open Sky Yoga in Rochester and finds *pianobenchasana* to be his favorite pose. Kevin lives in Penfield with his wife, Brenda and enjoys hiking, biking, kayaking and biohacking.



Tony Rajewski – Lighting Design

Tony Rajewski is a Lighting Designer hailing from the Catskills of New York and holds a passion for designing Dance and Avant-Garde theatre. His most recent productions include *The Onion Game*, *Crazy For You*, and *Marat/Sade*. Tony has worked and designed in WNY for several years and has been nominated for an Artie with his work on *Shine* in 2014. He has also designed for the Lexington Children’s Theatre and the Krannert Center for Performing Arts. Tony holds an MFA from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in Lighting Design and Technology.