

Applause

Fall 2025



Benefiting the
University of Kentucky's
Opera Theatre Program

McCorvey's Corner

Welcome back to the fall semester. This marks my **34th year** at UK, and I am still as excited about the start of school as I was when I began in 1991. Over the years, the vocal and opera program has grown tremendously, with students performing across the United States, China, Switzerland, France, and beyond. Our alumni continue to grace some of the **world's great stages**, and we take immense pride in their accomplishments.

This success is not the work of one person, but rather the result of a **dedicated team**. We are fortunate to have six voice teachers, three vocal coaches, three choral conductors, and a whole staff working with our students. Just as essential are the theory professors who teach the foundations of music, history professors who provide context and meaning, and language professors who ensure fluency in French, German, Italian, and English. Our seasoned team of professionals also guides students in stagecraft, stage management, lighting design, and direction, while the broader university community ignites intellect and curiosity. Together, we prepare students not only to perform but to thrive as **artists and citizens**.

And lastly, I would be remiss if I didn't mention our wonderful **audience**, who attend our events, support our students, join in our vision, and help make opera a household name in Lexington, KY. You have heard me say this many times, but I will repeat it. We could not do this without you, our beloved audience and supporters of our students. On behalf of all the students, faculty, and staff who go to work every day to make the world a better place and train the next generation of community participants, **we say thank you**.



Dr. Everett McCorvey
Artistic Director

Back to school has always been my favorite time of year, and this year is no different! The return of our beloved students to campus has brought **joy** and **energy** to the building, and we are so delighted to have **laughter** and **music** throughout the building as they swap stories of summer adventures and prepare for the year ahead.

We are already in rehearsal for our production of **Hansel and Gretel**, and it is the perfect opera for this time of year. The music is beautiful, and it the story gives me all those warm and fuzzy "fall" feelings. Our production, directed by doctoral student **Christopher Burchett**, is filled with charm and whimsy, and of course, incredible singing. This work includes Hansel and Gretel's Evening Prayer, which we performed in 2023 as part of the Stars of Tomorrow Opera Gala. This production includes the famous Dream Ballet, which will be choreographed by **Theresa Bautista**, featuring dancers from the Department of Theatre and Dance. You don't want to miss this production.



Megh Jennings-Posner, MA, BFA
Program Coordinator
UK Opera Theatre

Won't You Join Us?

Ticket Info

Fri., Oct 3, 2025, 10 am
Fri., Oct 3, 2025, 7:30 pm
Sat., Oct 4, 2025, 2 pm
Sun., Oct 5, 2025, 2 pm
Lexington Opera House



Beware of fraudulent online tickets. The ticket range is \$47 - \$73 before ticket fees. If you go over that amount, you are purchasing from a fraudulent website.

Don't Miss Our Unforgettable Grand Encore Affair!

Saturday, November 15

6:30 PM – 11:00 PM

Grand Ballroom

University of Kentucky Student Center

160 Avenue of Champions

Lexington, Kentucky

Cocktail attire is requested



An evening of great music, entertainment, dinner, drinks, and dancing. Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 15th!

Your Sponsorship Makes A DIFFERENCE!

OperaLex is proud to champion the University of Kentucky Opera Theatre, providing vital support that allows **students to refine their talents** and deliver outstanding performances right here in Central Kentucky and beyond.

Your sponsorship plays a meaningful role in **shaping the future of these gifted young artists**—and in preserving the tradition of excellence that defines UK Opera Theatre.

Here's a look at the impact:

- A **significant number** of UK Opera Theatre students benefit from OperaLex-funded academic and travel scholarships.
- More than **30 productions** have been staged over the past decade—many earning praise both locally and nationally.
- Over 90% of UK graduates with BM Performance and BME Education degrees build successful careers in opera, musical theatre, K-12 teaching, or go on to advanced studies. BA graduates enter diverse fields including medicine, law, and arts administration.



Sanford M. Archer, MD, FACS, will be the recipient of this year's "Pearse Lyons Champion of the Voice Award."



For more information on sponsorship, scan the QR code or review the opportunities on page 3.



OperaLex Sponsorship Opportunities

Support the voices of tomorrow—today.

What Your Investment Makes Possible

Spotlight Sponsor



- Supports two to four semesters of tuition for students pursuing vocal performance
- Venue rental for large-scale productions such as Sanctuary Road or Hansel and Gretel

\$25,000

Stagecraft Sponsor



- Funds a new custom set for Grand Night for Singing

\$20,000

Costume Sponsor



- Premium costumes for the cast of a full UK Opera Theatre production

\$15,000

Orchestra Sponsor



- Funds the orchestra accompaniment for Grand Night for Singing and opera events

\$10,000

Journey Sponsor



- Supports students attending professional auditions, helping launch careers beyond graduation

\$5,000

Sponsor Recognition



Sponsors Receive:

- 1–2 Tables of 8 at the Grand Encore Affair on November 15, 2025
- Invitations to Pre-Performance Receptions
- Recognition in promotional collateral, including website, social media, signage, and program
- Additional customized benefits based upon investment level are available

Let's Take the Stage Together

To become a sponsor or learn more:

Contact Bonnie S. Mays, bonnie@unitedkymys.com

502-232-3868 | Visit OperaLex.org

Grand Encore Affair | Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025 | 6:30pm

**Opera
LEX**

Grand Encore Affair
presented by OperaLex

Alumni Accolades!

UK Opera Theatre Alumni Shine on Stages Around the World

At the University of Kentucky Opera Theatre, we take great pride in preparing our students for the professional stage—and the spotlight continues to find our alumni in some of opera's most prestigious venues.



Adam von Almen
Tenor
U.S. Air Force
Singing Sergeants

A proud alumnus of the University of Kentucky Opera Theatre, Technical Sergeant Adam von Almen now serves as a tenor vocalist with the United States Air Force Singing Sergeants, the official chorus of the United States Air Force Band. Originally from Lima, Ohio, Adam's journey has taken him from graduate studies and performances in Lexington to stages around the world. Before joining the Air Force in 2022, he enjoyed a vibrant performance career spanning musical theatre, opera, and even television. Highlights include productions of *Candide* with Pasadena Opera, *Grease* at Cabrillo Music Theater, and international performances with Tokyo Disney Sea. He has appeared at prestigious venues including Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, and was named a finalist in the 2020 American Traditions Vocal Competition. OperaLex is proud to celebrate Adam's service and his continuing musical excellence as a representative of UK Opera Theatre on the national stage.



Evan LeRoy Johnson
Tenor

Tenor Evan LeRoy Johnson is captivating audiences on the world's top opera stages with his "radiant" voice and "incandescent lyrical refinement" (Opera News). A standout graduate of the University of Kentucky Opera Theatre program, he has had a busy few years, recently making his hometown debut at Minnesota Opera in *Roméo et Juliette* (Roméo) followed by returns to San Francisco Opera for *La bohème* (Rodolfo), National Theatre in Prague for *Medea* (Giasone), and a debut with the Canadian Opera Company in *Eugene Onegin* (Lenski). Future seasons include debuts with The Metropolitan Opera and Lyric Opera of Chicago, along with a return to the National Theatre in Prague.

2025 Event Calendar

**Subject to changes or additions*

Sept
24

Wednesday, Sept 24: Hansel and Gretel Preview Luncheon

12 pm – Singletary Center

Oct
3-5

Friday, Oct 03 – Sunday, Oct 5: Hansel and Gretel

Oct 3 @ 10 am & 7:30 pm, Oct 4 @ 2pm, Oct 5 @ 2pm – Lexington Opera House

Oct
4

Saturday, Oct 04: 2025 Vocal Competition for Young Singers

All Day – Schmidt Vocal Arts Center

Nov
15

Saturday, Nov 15: Grand Encore Affair 2025

6:30 pm – UK Gatton Student Center Ballroom

Nov
22

Saturday, Nov 22: The Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition

10 am – Singletary Center

Dec
14

Sunday, Dec 14: Celebration of Song

2:30 pm & 5 pm – Alltech Arena, Kentucky Horse Park

OperaLex Board of Directors:

Meet the leaders behind the scenes! We're thrilled to introduce our new OperaLex Board of Directors - passionate advocates for opera, education, and the arts. A special welcome to our new board members, Glenda Creech, Mark Mahan, and Katherine Wright. We also extend our gratitude to Ginny Arnett, Harry Clarke, Keith Dean, and Connie Jennings for their dedicated service.

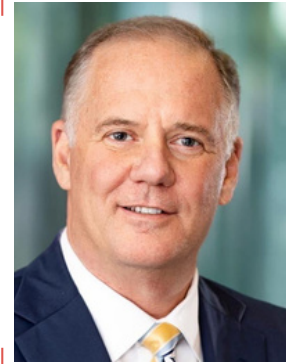
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We extend our sincere thanks to Mary Powell, a devoted supporter and longtime volunteer of UK Opera Theatre, for her years of service in producing the weekly OperaLex Bulletin. As Mary steps back from her volunteer role, we're especially grateful for her help in ensuring a smooth handoff to our marketing team. Her passion for our mission and students—and her deep knowledge—have made a lasting impact. Thank you, Mary, for everything you've contributed!

Join OperaLex Today!

When you become a member of OperaLex, you provide vital support for Central Kentucky's vibrant opera scene and help educate the next generation of opera stars.

By joining OperaLex, you will play an instrumental role in preserving and promoting the arts in our community. Our organization has supported UK Opera Theatre and its renowned director, Dr. Everett McCorvey, for over 25 years.

To learn more about the benefits of OperaLex membership and to join our organization, we encourage you to visit our website at www.operalex.org. Or, review membership levels and benefits by scanning the QR code. We look forward to you joining or renewing your membership today!



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TEDrin Talks (OperaLex Lecture Series) Fall 2025



Dr. Tedrin Blair Lindsay

Just like the words “epic,” “iconic,” and “genius,” the term “masterpiece” gets thrown around a lot. But what makes an operatic masterpiece? Is it stunning originality, or is it achieving the apex of an established style? Is it necessarily lofty, or can it be lowbrow? Is it one-of-a-kind, or is it profoundly influential beyond its era? Is it a cultural mirror of its own time, or is it wildly avant-garde, or does it maybe brilliantly recreate past procedures?

Well, come to my lecture series this fall. You’ll find out that a masterpiece can be all of these things and more, as we explore four celebrated groupings of classic operas from the standard repertoire that evince these characteristics: the three beloved comedies by Mozart and his librettist Da Ponte, then three undeniably iconic exemplars of the Bel Canto style, followed by Verdi’s so-called “popular trilogy” (thus monikered because everyone adores them), and finally Wagner’s literally epic Ring Cycle. Then, in my spring series, we will continue this study with similar groupings from modern operas, including Serialism, Neo-Classicism, Minimalism, and the works of Benjamin Britten, a true genius. And in case you’re wondering ... yes, Hansel and Gretel is indeed a masterpiece, and if you attend my pre-performance talks for our production, you will find out why!

WHAT MAKES A MASTERPIECE A MASTERPIECE?

October 25

The Mozart/Da Ponte Trilogy

November 1

The Bel Canto Triumvirate

November 8

Verdi’s “Popular” Trilogy

November 15

Wagner’s Ring Cycle

Saturdays | 10:30 – 11:45 am

Gail Robinson Music Library

Schmidt Vocal Arts Center

(Corner of Rose Street and Rose Lane, parking
behind the building)

Free and open to the public