



Jacques Offenbach

LA PÉRICHOLE

A comic opera in three acts with English text

Original French libretto by Ludovic Halévy and Henri Meilhac
(based on the play *Le carrosse du Saint-Sacrement* by Prosper Mérimée)

English song text as published in Kalmus vocal score

English dialogue by Daniel Pippin, with adaptations by Colleen Brooks & James Zager

First performance at Théâtre des Variétés in Paris, France
in 1868 (two-act version) & 1874 (three-act version)

COLLEEN BROOKS

Producer & Stage Director

JUN KIM

Music Director & Conductor

JAMES ZAGER

Choreographer

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE

We thank you for silencing all electronic devices
and refraining from audio and video recording.

COLLEEN BROOKS (PRODUCER & STAGE DIRECTOR)



“Brooks communicates beautifully in her singing” (*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* online) and delivers “outstanding musical authenticity” (*San Francisco Classical Voice*). Colleen Brooks, mezzo-soprano, performs in North America, Europe and Asia and has been featured in productions with all three opera companies in our Milwaukee community. She was an apprentice artist with Florentine Opera for their 2008-09 season where she performed the roles of Kate

Pinkerton (*Madama Butterfly*) and Third Lady (*The Magic Flute*). At the Skylight, she created the role of Dora Marx in *The Snow Dragon* (world premiere and Thailand premiere) as well as Wagner’s Mezzos in *The Skylight Ring*. Last season she was featured in a collaborative production of Missy Mazzoli’s *Song from the Uproar* with Milwaukee Opera Theatre, Wild Space Dance Company, and conductor Viswa Subbaraman. This past summer she sang the role of Queen Chandra Devi in a remounting of *The Silent Prince* which took place in Bayreuth, Germany and toured the Czech Republic. She is very much looking forward to returning to Florentine Opera to perform the Huntsman/Sorceress in its upcoming 2018 double bill of *Venus and Adonis/Dido and Aeneas*.

Additional roles performed include Azucena, Rosina, Hansel, Garcias in Tulsa Opera’s *Don Quichotte*, Nora in Vaughan William’s *Riders to the Sea*, Donna Elvira, Catherine in *A View from the Bridge*, Piramo in *Piramo e Tisbe*, and Mrs. Webb in a workshop performance of Rorem’s *Our Town*.

Dr. Brooks has had the privilege of coaching with current American composers such as William Bolcom, Jake Heggie, Thomas Pasatieri, Ned Rorem and Somtow Sucharitkul and performed with Mr. Heggie at the Grandin Music Festival in Cincinnati in 2006. She was a Wisconsin District Winner in the Metropolitan Opera Competition in 2009 and a participant in San Francisco Opera’s Merola Opera Program in the summer of 2010.

Dr. Brooks completed her DMA in vocal performance at the College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) in Cincinnati, OH. She holds a master’s degree in vocal performance from Indiana University as well as bachelor’s degrees in both vocal performance and biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Brooks has been a member of the voice faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee since 2013. She has overseen UWM Opera Theatre since 2015, including productions of *T.G.I.E. (Thank God It’s English)*, Purcell’s *Dido and Aeneas*, and *Recit-a-What?!!*

JUN KIN (MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR)



"Jun Kim conducted the UWM Symphony Orchestra, which played Ravel's challenging, jazzy score with snappy energy and a terrific ear for detail..." (*Milwaukee Magazine*). The winner of the American Prize 2015 in Opera Conducting and prize-winner of 2013 Orquesta de Cordoba Conducting Competition in Spain and 2012 Black Sea Conducting Competition in Romania, Jun Kim has conducted extensively in North America and Europe.

Dr. Kim currently is the Director of Orchestral Activities at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) and Music Director of the UWM Symphony Orchestra. He also serves as Artistic Director of the Washington Chamber Orchestra, in Washington D.C., with whom he performs regularly. Dr. Kim has released WCO's debut CD with renowned cellist Amit Peled to a critical acclaim.

In addition to these positions, Dr. Kim has appeared with Orquesta de Córdoba and Symphony Orchestra of Elche in Spain; the State Symphony Orchestra, the St. Petersburg State Symphony Orchestra and the Moscow Symphony Orchestra in Russia; Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra in the Czech Republic; the Brasov Philharmonic, the Symphony Orchestra of the National Opera and Ballet in Constanta, Pitesti Philharmonic and Bacau Philharmonic in Romania; Lithuanian State Symphony Orchestra in Lithuania; Radom Chamber Orchestra in Poland; National Orchestra of Alte in Italy; Mahler Philharmonic in Austria; Berlin Sinfonietta in Germany; Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra in Canada; as well as Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Baltimore Chamber Orchestra, Duluth Symphony Orchestra and Richmond Symphony Orchestra in the USA.

Dr. Kim was selected as a Discovery Series Conductor at the Oregon Bach Festival under Maestro Helmuth Rilling. He has participated at the National Arts Center of Canada Conducting program and was personally selected by Maestro Kurt Masur for the Kurt Masur conducting seminar in New York. Most recently, Dr. Kim was selected to participate at the St. Magnus Festival in the United Kingdom to work with the BBC Symphony Orchestra. He was also chosen to work with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and the May Festival Chorus and with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra under Marin Alsop. He was a scholarship recipient at the Pierre Monteux School for Conductors. He has returned, by invitation of its musicians, to conduct the Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra and has conducted the production of Verdi's *La Traviata* at the National University of Music Opera Theater in Bucharest, Romania.

Dr. Kim has worked under maestros such as Dumitru Goia, Jorma Panula, Martyn Brabbins, Xian Zhang, Colin Metters, Gustav Meier and Markand Thakar. He received a Bachelor of Music degree from the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University, a Master of Music degree from Indiana University, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree and an Artist Diploma from University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

PRODUCTION TEAM

<i>Choreographer</i>	JAMES ZAGER
<i>Set & Lighting Designer</i>	LEROY STONER
<i>Costume, Hair & Make-up Designer</i>	DANA ROCHESTER
<i>Stage Manager</i>	SARAH ACKER
<i>Rehearsal Pianist & Vocal Coach</i>	JANNA ERNST
<i>Chorus Master</i>	JONATHAN LAABS
<i>Scenic Artist</i>	TINA YAGER
<i>Master Electrician</i>	AARON SIEGMANN
<i>Sound Engineer</i>	KRISTIAN WIBORG
<i>Assistant Stage Manager</i>	SYDNEY SOKOLOWSKI-KIESOW
<i>Production Assistant</i>	MADELAINE HODEL
<i>Dance Captain</i>	SILKEN AMELIA

CAST

<i>Périchole, a poor street singer</i>	LAURA LEMANSKI
<i>Piquillo, a poor street singer</i>	EMANUEL CAMACHO
<i>Andrew Viceroy, CEO of NBC</i>	JASON MARTIN
<i>George Gomez, VP of NBC External Affairs</i>	AUSTIN JERMAINE BARE
<i>Don Pedro, Mayor of South Hollywood</i>	JOSEPH KROHLOW
<i>Anita, first cousin</i>	JENNIFER GROKOWSKY
<i>Berginella, second cousin</i>	VANESSA SCHROEDER-WEBER
<i>Manuelita, third cousin</i>	MELISSA PIGGOTT
<i>Robert Tarapote, Chair of NBC Board</i>	DAVID STARRY
<i>Frasquinella, first secretary</i>	BEATRICE GERFIN
<i>Violetta, second secretary</i>	KAISA HERRMANN
<i>Brambilla, third secretary</i>	SILKEN AMELIA
<i>Ninetta, fourth secretary</i>	KATIE GRUELL
<i>First Notary</i>	JOE HUMISTON
<i>Second Notary</i>	SEAN VANZEELAND
<i>Mr. Sandburg, the old prisoner</i>	SAM SKOGSTAD
<i>Jailer</i>	COLIN HAN

CHORUS

Sopranos

Madison Francis
Emily Marckesano
Keri Marie Salscheider
April Sorenson

Altos

Cassandra Diehl
Cassandra Doolittle
Danielle Gedemer
MacKenzie Gehrke
Carly Gloff

Tenors

Joe Humiston
David Starry
Indalecio de Jesús Valentín

Basses

Colin Han
Sam Skogstad
Sean VanZeeland

MEMBERS OF UWM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Violin I

Paul Sekulski,
concertmaster
Celia Fleischman
Iuliia Mykolyk
Elizabeth Avalos
Sonora Brusubardis

Violin II

Heidi Barker, *principal*
Kira Makeever
Allen Russell
Chris Van Lanen-Wanek
Brittany Thayer
Gabriela Moreno

Viola

Catherine Sliva, *principal*
Jared Judge
Frazier Toole

Cello

Victor Brusubaldis, *principal*
Pin Hui Tsai
Jichen Li
Gregory Schimanski
Austin Doering

Bass

Christopher Cotter,
principal
Christopher Carloni

Flute I

Samantha Haake

Piccolo/Flute II

Maggie Jones

Oboe

Margaret Vella

Clarinet I

Amanda Brittain

Clarinet II

Amy Butler

Bassoon

Julie Allen

Horn I

Madison Larson

Horn II

Kurt Heins

Trumpet I

Matthew Makeever

Trumpet II

Sam Catania

Trombone

Jonah Mutranowski

Timpani

Matt Silverberg

SYNOPSIS

Time: Early 1990's

Place: Corner of Hollywood and Vine, Los Angeles, USA

ACT I

At the close of the work week a crowd gathers at The Three Cousins club for a special happy hour in celebration of the birthday of Andrew Viceroy, CEO of NBC. Don Pedro (the Mayor of South Hollywood), George Gomez (Vice President of NBC External Affairs) and, eventually Mr. Viceroy himself arrive in disguise. Shortly thereafter appear Piquillo and Périchole, a pair of poor street singers, eager for performance opportunities to raise money for the purchase of a long awaited marriage license. Yet again encountering no success, Piquillo leaves to follow the crowd, while Périchole, hungry and exhausted, remains behind to rest. Struck by her beauty, Mr. Viceroy invites her to dinner and offers her a position as NBC's new Executive Administrative Assistant (EAA), in order that she might in actuality fill the role of his newest mistress. Périchole understands what is being asked of her and despite initial refusals she is ultimately swayed by the allure of a more comfortable life. As she composes a break-up letter to her beloved Piquillo, Mr. Viceroy instructs Gomez and Pedro to prepare for her reception. His advisors, however, try to dissuade him from the idea, reminding him that his Board of Directors will strongly object as there is no precedent for hiring an uncredentialed EAA. Gomez states that a single, uncredentialed EAA is absolutely out of the question but mentions in passing that perhaps if she were married to a member of the board, they may receive the news less harshly. Mr. Viceroy, not easily swayed from his latest desire, picks up on this and orders

them to find two notaries and a “board member” husband for Péricole to marry. The wedding ceremony is scheduled for this very evening in front of The Three Cousins club. All parties involved – the no longer hungry Péricole, the suicidal Piquillo, and the high maintenance notaries – require abundant coaxing in the form of alcoholic beverages, but, ultimately, Péricole recognizes Piquillo as her intended groom and despite Piquillo’s lack of recognition and warnings that he is still in love with another woman, the marriage ensues.

INTERMISSION (twenty minutes)**ACT II**

Inside the NBC building late the next morning, employees have been summoned to prepare for an emergency board meeting and a network premiere company gala. The four secretaries and Robert Tarapote, Chairman of the NBC Board of Directors, gossip about the previous evening’s events and the negative turn the company will take as a result. Piquillo joins the conversation and is astonished to learn that he has married an unknown woman, as it turns out the new mistress of the Viceroy. He tells Pedro and Gomez that he loves another woman and will happily leave in search of his true love as soon as they pay him his promised fee. The pair agrees but informs Piquillo he must first present his new wife to the Viceroy at the network premiere. When Péricole appears in her stunning new look, Piquillo feels shocked and betrayed and violently denounces her to Mr. Viceroy and all present before she is able to bring him up to speed on her plan. The crowd is appalled and Mr. Viceroy sentences Piquillo to be imprisoned in the basement cell for recalcitrant husbands.

ACT III, SCENE 1

After digging through the wall of his cell for twelve years with just his tiny pen knife, an old prisoner has finally emerged, although, unfortunately, into another cell. He retreats to his original cell as Pedro, Gomez, and the jailer bring in Piquillo and introduce him to his new home, a cell in the basement of the NBC building. As Piquillo mourns the loss of his freedom, Péricole enters and dismisses the jailer. Mutual insults are followed by confessions of love, and the pair plots to bribe the jailer with Péricole’s new jewels in order to free Piquillo and flee together. However, when “the jailor” reappears, it is now Mr. Viceroy in disguise, and his reply to Péricole’s request is that she too is sentenced to join Piquillo in the cell. Yet before departing, Mr. Viceroy whispers to Péricole his hope that she will change her mind. Left alone, the lovers’ despair is interrupted by the reentrance of the old prisoner who frees them from their handcuffs. Péricole signals Mr. Viceroy that she has had a change of heart, and upon the opening of the cell, the trio seizes him and escapes, leaving the powerful Mr. Viceroy bound and chained in his own “playroom.”

ACT III, SCENE 2

The three fugitives hide in The Three Cousins club as Mr. Viceroy’s employees search the town for them. Their lack of success infuriates Mr. Viceroy. While the three cousins deny knowing the prisoners’ whereabouts, the concealed trio unexpectedly emerges from the club. Péricole and Piquillo request their freedom with a musical scene praising the virtue of forgiveness. Struck by their forthright honesty the Viceroy responds favorably. He forgives the couple and even allows Péricole to keep the jewels he has given her. The old prisoner has turned out to be long-lost NBC Board Member Mr. Sandburg. The Viceroy reluctantly frees him as well, and all celebrate the couple’s courage and Mr. Viceroy’s newfound clemency.

SARAH ACKER (*Stage Manager*) recently stage managed *The Marriage of Figaro* with the Milwaukee Symphony. Sarah was previously Production Stage Manager at Skylight Music Theater, where some of her favorite productions were *My Fair Lady*, *She Loves Me*, *Man of La Mancha*, and *Wings*.

Sarah was also an Assistant Stage Manager at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. In addition, Sarah has stage managed at Alaska Light Opera, Alaska Repertory Theater and was an Assistant Stage Manager for Anchorage Opera. Sarah did several productions for Chicago commercial theatrical producers, Cullen, Henaghan and Platt doing various backstage positions on such shows as *Shirley Valentine*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, and *Steel Magnolias*. She is currently an Associate Producer on CPA Theatricals new musical, *The Numbers Nerds (An (Almost) All Girls Math Challenge)* in Chicago, and is on the Board of Directors of Milwaukee Opera Theater. Sarah is married to Tom Acker, and is the proud Mom of Emily, Alex, and Ben.

SILKEN AMELIA (*Brambilla/Dance Captain*) is very grateful for the opportunity to be dance captain for James Zager in *La Périchole* and feels fortunate to play the part of Brambilla. Silken is a junior at UW-Milwaukee in the BFA Music Theatre program, studying voice with Dr. Tanya Kruse. Some of her favorite past credits include Atina in Greendale Community Theatre's *The Little Mermaid*, the Sorceress Cover/Chorus in UWM Opera Theatre's *Dido and Aeneas*, Meg in UWM Theatre's *Damn Yankees*, and Reno in *Anything Goes*. She will be appearing in *Carnival* at In Tandem Theatre in April. She hopes that you enjoy this wonderful opera and would like to thank everyone who inspires her to follow her dreams.

AUSTIN JERMAINE BARE (*George Gomez*) is a junior BFA in vocal performance at Peck School of the Arts at UWM, where he studies with Dr. Colleen Brooks. He participates in an array of groups such as Concert Chorale, UWM Opera Theatre, and church choir. Austin performed in UWM's

Dido and Aeneas as the First Sailor. This past fall Austin was awarded second place in the National Association of Teachers of Singing competition in the Junior Men's Division. He is extremely happy to be part of such an amazing cast and crew again this year.

EMANUEL CAMACHO (*Piquillo*) is a first-year graduate student pursuing a MM in vocal performance, studying with Dr. Tanya Kruse. Camacho received his BA in music from the University of Wisconsin-Parkside in the spring of 2016. UW-Parkside credits include Sir Marmaduke (*The Sorcerer*), Soloist (*AIDS Quilt Songbook*), and Mr. Brooks (*Little Women*). He performed in UWM Opera Theatre's scenes production this past fall semester as Tamino (*Die Zauberflöte*). He is currently serving as a scholarship singer at the United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay.

CASSANDRA DIEHL (*Alto*) is a sophomore at UWM majoring in choral and general music education. She is in her second semester of studying voice with Professor Wendy Rowe. In high school, Cassandra was involved in various choral groups and performed at Carnegie Hall as part of the Choirs of America Choral Convergence Concert. She is currently a member of UWM's Advanced Women's Chorus. This is Cassandra's very first opera production and she is thrilled to perform for her family and friends.

CASSANDRA DOOLITTLE (*Alto*) is a sophomore at UWM and is ecstatic to be a part of the cast of *La Périchole* as an alto in the chorus. She studies vocal performance under Professor Wendy Rowe and is also pre-medicine. Her previous performance experience includes UWM Opera Theatre's production of *Dido and Aeneas*, musicals such as *The Wizard of Oz*, *Oklahoma!*, *Les Misérables*, *Beauty and the Beast* (Babette), and was featured this past summer in Sauk Prairie Theatre Guild's production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* as Logainne Schwartzandgrunenierre. Thanks to a great cast and group of mentors!

JANNA ERNST (*Vocal Coach/Rehearsal Pianist*) was born and raised in a Navy family. She spent many years in Germany and Spain before moving to California, where she received her Bachelor's Degree in piano performance at San Diego State University and a Master's Degree in collaborative piano at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her final degree is from the University of Michigan, where she worked with Martin Katz as a Specialist in Vocal Accompanying. Janna works steadily as an accompanist and vocal coach in both the university and professional setting. Currently on faculty in the opera theatre department at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, she has also held positions at the University of Oklahoma and Southern Methodist University as well as worked with the New Orleans Opera, Virginia Opera, and Cincinnati Opera. She also has served as accompanist for numerous vocal workshops and masterclasses, most notably those of Marilyn Horne and Renee Fleming. Janna and her family reside in Shorewood, Wisconsin, where her husband is Principal Trumpet of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. Together, they perform and tour extensively as a duo.

MADISON FRANCIS (*Soprano*) is a sophomore at UWM and is so excited to be in her very first opera, *La Périchole*, as a soprano in the chorus. She is studying voice under Dr. Alisa Jordheim, while pursuing a career in music education. Some previous performance experiences include *Aida*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Legally Blonde*, and *Catch Me if You Can*. She was also an active member in the Muskego High School choirs throughout all four years of high school.

DANIELLE GEDEMER (*Alto*) is a second-year BFA vocal performance major. She is studying with Professor Wendy Rowe. She was in the chorus of the UWM Opera Theatre performance of *Dido and Aeneas* last year, and she is very excited to be a part of *La Périchole*!

MACKENZIE GEHRKE (*Alto*) is a freshman pursuing a BFA in music education focusing on choral conducting and studying under Professor Wendy Rowe. She received a Chancellors' Award through UWM prior to entering the program. This is MacKenzie's first time performing in an opera, but she has previously performed in the musical theatre genre. MacKenzie is thankful for this opportunity and all the new friends she has made in the program through this experience.

BEATRICE GERFIN (*Frasquinella*) is a senior this spring at UW-Milwaukee. She is working toward a BFA in vocal performance studying under Dr. Alisa Jordheim. She has been involved in the Opera Theatre program previously in *Suor Angelica*, *Dido and Aeneas*, and the 2014 and 2015 programs of Opera Theatre scenes. She has participated in high school musicals in her hometown of Hartford, WI as well as community productions. She was a featured soloist at the October UWM Band Concert under the direction of Professor Scott Corley. She was also a featured soloist in UWM's "Music From Almost Yesterday" composition recital. Beatrice has her senior recital in the fall and is very excited about the works she will be performing!

CARLY GLOFF (*Alto*) is a second semester sophomore as a BA in voice and a double minor in theatre and psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She is very excited to be in her first opera at UWM. She was in UWM Opera Theatre's production of *Recit-A-What?!?* as Pitti-Sing (*The Mikado*) and is happy to be joining everyone on stage again!

JENNIFER GROKOWSKY (*Anita*) is excited to return to the stage as Anita in *La Périchole*. She is a first-year graduate student at UWM, studying vocal performance with Dr. Tanya Kruse. Jennifer completed her undergraduate work at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, where she graduated *magna cum laude* with a

BA in music-liberal arts. Most recently, she appeared as the soprano soloist in Villa-Lobos's "Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5" with the UWM Cello Ensemble and in UWM Opera Theatre's fall scenes presentation as Rosalinda in *Die Fledermaus*. Jennifer has previously enjoyed being onstage in numerous musical theatre productions, including *Ragtime* (Mother), *Seussical* (Bird Girl), and *Parade* (Lucille Frank). She currently sings as a professional section leader with the Bel Canto Chorus of Milwaukee and is thrilled to be in her first full-length opera.

KATIE GRUELL (*Ninetta*) is a sophomore working towards her BA in voice with a theater minor and studying with Dr. Tanya Kruse. Katie received the Friends of Music Scholarship from UWM and the Ruth DeYoung Kohler Scholarship for Artistic Excellence; she was also a finalist in the Schmidt Vocal Competition in Chicago. Last year, Katie covered the role of Dido in UWM's production of *Dido and Aeneas*. In 2016, Katie won both the Classical and Musical Theatre categories in her age division in the Wisconsin NATS competition. Katie has loved the experience of working on this production and greatly looks forward to all her future shows with UWM.

COLIN HAN (*Jailer/Bass*) is a senior studying information science technology at UWM's School of Information Studies as well as vocal performance with Dr. David Hoffman. Colin is also an active participant in the UWM Choral and Opera Theatre programs and has sung in numerous UWM ensembles including University Chorus, Men's Chorus, and Concert Chorale. Colin performed last spring in UWM Opera Theatre's production of *Dido and Aeneas* and is thrilled to be back alongside such an amazing cast and crew.

KAISA HERRMANN (*Violetta*) is a sophomore BFA in vocal performance. She studies under Dr. Colleen Brooks and is a recipient of the Friends of Music

Scholarship as well as the Moebius Merit Award. Previous performances include Belinda cover and chorus in last year's UWM production of *Dido and Aeneas* and Susanna (*Le Nozze de Figaro*) in this past semester's Opera Theatre scenes production. Kaisa received second place in the Second Year College Women's Division of the 2016 Wisconsin NATS competition.

MADELAINE HODEL (*Production Assistant*) is a freshman in the BFA Technical Production program. Her past experiences in opera were based primarily in performance; credits include ensemble in *Madama Butterfly*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and *Suor Angelica*. She is overjoyed to begin her work in technical theatre with UWM Opera Theatre and hopes to continue working in the field of opera production throughout her education at UWM and beyond.

JOE HUMISTON (*First Notary/Tenor*) is in his third semester at UWM as a BA in voice studying under Dr. David Hoffman. Joe performed in UWM Opera Theatre's *Recit-a-What?!?!* this fall semester. He attended Sheboygan North High School, was part of many of his school's musicals and plays, and spent his spring and summer breaks with his band touring around the mid-west and western states. He is very excited to be performing as a notary along with his good friend Sean VanZeeland. Enjoy the show!

JOSEPH KROHLOW (*Don Pedro*) is a sophomore vocal performance major with a double major in linguistics. *La Périchole* marks his third production at UWM, a list including last semester's *Recit-a-what?!?!* and the role of the Spirit in *Dido and Aeneas*. Joseph placed second at the Wisconsin NATS auditions last fall; he is also a co-founder of UWM's Panther Improv.

JONATHAN LAABS (*Chorus Master*) is in his final semester of a Master of Music in choral conducting at UW-Milwaukee studying with Dr. Zachary Durlam. He is currently serving as a Teaching/Project

Assistant in the choral area, assisting with the various ensembles and conducting the University Chamber Choir. In addition to his work at UWM, he is also the Director of Choirs at Trinity Lutheran Church in Waukesha, an adjunct voice instructor at Falls Baptist College in Menomonee Falls, and sings as a professional section leader with the Bel Canto Chorus of Milwaukee.

LAURA LEMANSKI (*Périchole*) is thrilled to portray the title role in her final production with UWM Opera Theatre. Laura is pursuing a BFA in vocal performance, studying with Dr. David Hoffman. She will finish her academic coursework in May and perform her senior recital in the fall. Most recently, Laura placed second in the Fourth/Fifth Year College/Independent Studio Women's division at the Chicago NATS auditions. Laura has been seen on stage with UWM Opera Theatre many times over the past four years. Highlights include *Dido and Aeneas* (Alto), *Suor Angelica* (Nursing Sister), *Ghosts of Versailles* scene (Rosina), *Little Women* scene (Beth), *Flight* scene (Controller), and *L'Enfant et les sortilèges*.

EMILY MARCKESANO (*Soprano*) is a second-semester freshman pursuing a BFA in vocal performance, studying with Professor Wendy Rowe. Her previous performance credits include *Urinetown* (Tiny Tom), *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* (Snoopy), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Beatrice), and *Honk!* (Lowbutt). She is also a member of Chamber Choir and Advanced Women's Chorus. Emily is very excited to be a part of the cast of *La Périchole*, her first opera and production at UWM.

JASON MARTIN (*Andrew Viceroy*) is a junior pursuing a BA in music, studying voice with Dr. Tanya Kruse. He is ecstatic to be performing in his fourth opera at UWM. His past credits include Papageno (cover) in Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, chorus in Puccini's *Suor Angelica* and a Shepherd in Southwestern Suburban Symphony Orchestra's production of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. His most recent appearance

was as Aeneas in *Dido and Aeneas* in UWM Opera Theatre's preview performance. He is currently a Scholarship Singer at the United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay.

MELISSA PIGGOTT (*Manuelita*) is a non-traditional transfer student pursuing a bachelor's degree in vocal performance with Professor Wendy Rowe. This is her debut performance in opera, and she is beyond thrilled to be working with such a wonderful cast. High School credits include chorus roles in *Beauty and the Beast*, *Oklahoma!*, and *Bye Bye Birdie*.

DANA ROCHESTER (*Costume, Hair & Make-up Designer*) is an alumnus from UW-Milwaukee and is honored to be a part of UWM's Opera Theatre team again. She has designed and run costumes, wigs and makeup for over 10 years and is currently on faculty for the theatre departments at UW-Milwaukee. This summer she will be the Wig and Makeup Director at the Utah Shakespeare Festival. Professional companies include Florentine Opera, Skylight Musical Theatre, The Rep, Chamber Theatre, Renaissance Theatre and Utah Shakespeare Festival. In addition she has been involved with productions at UW-Milwaukee (Theatre, Opera and Dance Departments), Marquette University, The Prairie School, Oconomowoc High School, and Wauwatosa East High School.

KERI MARIE SALSCHIEDER (*Soprano*) is currently a junior pursuing a BA in voice with a theatre minor. You've seen her as Kate in *Platonic*, an original musical by Solana Ramirez Garcia, Spirit (cover) in *Dido and Aeneas* by Henry Purcell and Second Lay Sister in Puccini's *Suor Angelica*. In UWM's annual presentation of opera scenes, she has performed the title role of Handel's *Orlando*, Polly in *The Beggar's Opera* by Gay & Pepsch, and a chorus member in scenes from *The Mikado*, *Semele*, *The Indian Queen*, and *The Yeomen of the Guard*. Keri is currently studying voice with Dr. Colleen Brooks and plans to pursue a performing career upon graduating.

VANESSA SCHROEDER-WEBER

(*Berginella*) is stoked to be back on the UWM stage in this production of *La Périochole*. Currently, Vanessa is working towards her Masters of Music degree in vocal performance at UWM and has been seen previously in UWM's Music Theatre production of *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* as Lucia. Vanessa completed her undergrad at Carthage College where she earned a BA in music theatre and obtained her K-12 teaching certification in music from Cardinal Stritch University. Favorite stage credits include: *Chicago* (Velma Kelly), *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle), *Little Women* (Marmee), and *Young Frankenstein* (Inga). Vanessa has also been behind the scenes dabbling in choreography and music direction. Additional information is available at www.vanessaschroeder.com. Special thank you to her family and friends for their support during this life endeavor and to all of you for coming to the show. Enjoy the show!

AARON SIEGMANN (*Master Electrician*) has worked for theatre companies around Wisconsin such as American Players Theatre, Children's Theatre of Madison, and The Fireside. He is currently working at Wisconsin Lutheran College and Florentine Opera. In August he will be joining the resident crew at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater.

SAM SKOGSTAD (*Old Prisoner/Bass*) is a junior studying BFA in vocal performance with Dr. Tanya Kruse. He's very excited to be performing in *La Périochole*, which is his first opera at UWM since transferring in the fall from UW-Eau Claire. Previous opera experiences include Guglielmo (*Così fan Tutte*) and chorus (*Le Nozze di Figaro*). In addition to studying voice, he sings in the UWM Concert Chorale. Sam is also Director of Music and Liturgy at St. Aloysius in West Allis and an active member of the Milwaukee Archdiocesan Choir under the direction of Jeff Honore.

SYDNEY SOKOLOWSKI-KIESOW (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is a sophomore in the BFA Stage Management program. This is her second stage managing role at UWM. Her past work at UWM and beyond have been with wardrobe (*Winterdances*, *VFR's Coriolanus*, *Hot L Baltimore*, and *Corktown*), lightboard operator (*VFR's Coriolanus*), soundboard operator (*Orphan Train*), run crew (*Damn Yankees*), and stage managing (*Recit-a-What?!?!?*). She is glad to be able to continue working with the music department.

APRIL SORENSON (*Soprano*) is a freshman studying voice under Dr. Alisa Jordheim. Previous performances include Horlick's Annual Renaissance Feast all four years of high school and playing the role of Queen Elizabeth I her senior year. This is her very first exposure to opera, and she is thrilled to be a part of the show as a soprano in the chorus. April has enjoyed the experience of working on this production and looks forward to future shows with UWM.

DAVID STARRY (*Robert Tarapote/Tenor*) is a second semester junior pursuing a BFA in vocal performance, studying with Dr. Tanya Kruse. While attending UW-Eau Claire, he sang the role of Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte* and sang in many opera scenes presentations. Most recently, he was seen as Tom Watson in Greendale Community Theater's production of *Parade*. He works professionally as a chorister for Milwaukee's Bel Canto Chorus, Fox Point Lutheran Church, and as Milwaukee Jewish Day School's Musical Director.

LEROY STONER (*Set & Lighting Designer*) currently serves as Theatre Department Chair. While his principal duties have been in administration he continues to teach courses in theatre management and theatre lighting. During the past 32 years he has provided lighting design and/or technical direction for numerous plays and operas at UWM. Off campus he has designed lighting for many Milwaukee area theaters including the former Melody Top, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, and First Stage.

INDALECIO DE JESÚS VALENTÍN

(*Tenor*) studied with Dr. Tanya Kruse at UW-Milwaukee, where he received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in musical theatre. This is his second time in a UWM Opera Theatre production; he sang Aeneas in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* last spring. He was also seen as Smokey in *Damn Yankees*, Fector in *Dogfight*, and Prince Charming in *Cinderella*. This past year he originated the role of Ben in the staged reading of *Platonic* by Solana Ramirez-Garcia and starred with her as the Taxi Driver in *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*. Other credits include *Rent* (Kalliope Vocal Arts), *Ragtime* (Community Theatre Works), and *In the Heights* (Skylight). Indalecio enjoys organic collaboration with other young, open-minded artists and is glad to sing in the chorus of *La Périchole*.

SEAN VANZEELAND (*Second Notary/Bass*) is a second semester freshman pursuing a degree in choral education and collaborative piano, studying voice under Dr. David Hoffman. Past credits include Lucas in *The Addams Family*, Lord Savage in *Jekyll and Hyde*, and Kenickie in *Grease*, along with many other high school productions. Additionally, Sean has music directed and played in the pit for various local productions and is now enjoying his first opera experience tremendously.

KRISTIAN WIBORG (*Sound Engineer*) is a senior in the BFA Theatre Technical Production program. His main interest lies in sound, and he has a strong interest in carpentry as well. Kristian has previously worked on *The Hot L Baltimore*, *Translations*, and Feast of Crispian's production of *And Comes Safe Home*. He is excited about continuing his learning and developing his skills alongside a fantastic group of students and faculty.

TINA YAGER (*Scenic Artist*) began working as a scenic artist and lecturer at UW-Milwaukee in 2014. She has worked almost exclusively as professional scenic artist for more than a decade, favorite companies include Children's Theatre Company and VEE Corporation of Minneapolis and American Player's Theatre and Opera for the Young in Wisconsin. She is also the founding chair of the Guild of Scenic Artists. For additional information, please visit tinayager.com and scenicguild.org.

JAMES ZAGER (*Choreographer*) is an associate member of Stage Directors and Choreographers (SDC) and has been directing, choreographing, and designing movement in professional theaters throughout the United States for the past 25 years garnering numerous awards for his work. Zager has directed and/or choreographed for Milwaukee Opera Theatre, Milwaukee Rep, Chamber Theatre, Skylight Music Theatre, In-Tandem, Drury Lane Oakbrook, Marriott's Lincolnshire Theatre, Phoenix Theatre, West Virginia Public Theatre, the Barn Theatre in Augusta, MI, and the Fireside Theatre in Ft. Atkinson, WI.

From Merriam-Webster's online Dictionary
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addiction

noun | ad·dic·tion | \ə-ˈdik-shən, a-ˌ

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Definition of ADDICTION

- 1 : the quality or state of being addicted • *addiction* to reading
- 2 : compulsive need for and use of a habit-forming substance (such as heroin, nicotine, or alcohol) characterized by tolerance and by well-defined physiological symptoms upon withdrawal; *broadly* : persistent compulsive use of a substance known by the user to be harmful

Our updated concept of *La Périchole* – early 1990's L.A., specifically South Hollywood's corner of Hollywood and Vine – honors the themes of the production's original setting while allowing us to more specifically explore addictions and distractions of our modern time that may be inhibiting modern society from embracing and living the message of this show – a challenge to both discover a truthfulness to ourselves and achieve honest and respectful communication with each other.

In updating a production, it is incredibly important to me to maintain the themes and message of the original production. Three themes of *La Périchole* particularly struck me: (1) the tension and conflict between aristocratic and common classes of society, (2) the Spanish references of the music and its subsequent demand for dance, and (3) the clever, fun nature of the operetta style and the humorous personalities and relationships its characters embody. The story's message is centered around the juxtaposition of two social groups, both of whom egotistically hide from their true selves through the use of chemical substances and other addictions. As a result of the courage and self-realization of a pair of artists, first Piquillo followed by Périchole, the leader of their society is inspired to forgive and all community members receive an opportunity to reinvent themselves.

With this in mind, the students, production team, and I wanted to explore what addictions and distractions might prevent a more modern society from overcoming differences of social class in order to achieve efficient, honest, and respectful communication with one another. Distractions of alcohol, drugs, food, work, relationships, sex, and ego/pride have all been incorporated as relevant to the conflicts portrayed in this production. It is neither our intent to negatively label any of these topics nor suggest that society must shun them completely, but they may serve as interesting topics for reflection as we seek to be our most authentic selves. Deep philosophical exploration aside, this production has been overwhelmingly fun for us to put together, as operetta should, and we sincerely thank you for the opportunity to perform it for you. Please enjoy!!!

– Colleen Brooks

SPECIAL THANKS

Lisa Dickson, Chris Guse, Randy Holper, Ralph Jones, Jessica Berlin Krivsky, Ana McHenry, Daniel Petry, LeRoy Stoner, Martha Stoner, Sandy Strawn, Anna Van Nuland, Jon Welstead, Pocketbook Opera, & Friends of UWM Opera Theatre

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Friends of UWM Opera Theatre champions the talent of students involved in UWM opera productions so that they may achieve success as the singers and teachers of tomorrow. Friends of Opera encourages talented UWM opera students and supports UWM opera productions through scholarships, community outreach, financial assistance for productions, and volunteer activities in order to advance the educational and artistic vision of UWM Opera Theatre.

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UPCOMING UWM MUSIC EVENTS

UWM Symphony Orchestra

Season Finale Concert, "Izquierdo, Rodrigo, and Shostakovich 5"

Friday, May 5, 2017 @ 7:30pm, Helen Bader Concert Hall

Rodrigo Guitar Concerto (Rene Izquierdo, Guitar)

Shostakovich Symphony No. 5

Spring Choral Showcase, "Ascension"

Saturday, May 7, 2017 @ 7:30pm, Helen Bader Concert Hall

Featuring the UWM Concert Chorale, Men's Chorus, Advanced Women's Chorus, & Chamber Choir

UWM Opera Theatre, Fall Opera Workshop Scenes

Saturday, December 2, 2017 @ 4:00 & 7:30pm, Music Building, Recital Hall (MUS 175)

UWM Vocal Arts Festival, Faculty and Student Recital

Friday, February 2, 2018 @ 7:30pm, Music Building, Recital Hall (MUS 175)

UWM Opera Theatre & UWM Symphony Orchestra, Spring Opera Production

Friday, April 6 & Saturday, April 7, 2018 @ 7:30pm, Helen Bader Concert Hall

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Margery Deutsch, *Community Orchestra*
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Jonathan Monhardt [AH: Composition]
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Elena Abend [AH]
Peggy Otwell, *Piano Pedagogy*
Johanna Schilling

Strings

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Darcy Drexler [SA], *Violin/Viola String Pedagogy*
Stefan Kartman [AH, SA], *Cello, String Pedagogy*
Claudia Lasareff-Mironoff, *Viola*
Bernard Zinck, *Violin, Director of ICM*

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Janna Ernst, *Opera theatre*
David Hoffman, *Tenor*
Alisa Jordheim, *Soprano*
Tanya Kruse [AH], *Soprano*
Wendy Rowe, *Soprano*

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Jennifer Clippert [AH Woodwinds], *Flute*
Gregory Flint, *French Horn*
Matthew Gaunt, *Tuba/Euphonium*
Beth Giacobassi [MSO], *Bassoon/Contra Bassoon*
Curt Hanrahan, *Saxophone*
Kevin Hartman [AH WBP], *Trumpet*
Mark Hoelscher, *Trombone*
Todd Levy [MSO], *Clarinet*
Thomas Wetzel [MSO], *Percussion*
Katherine Young Steele [MSO], *Oboe*

Fine Arts Quartet

Ralph Evans, *Violin*
Efim Boico, *Violin*
Juan-Miguel Hernandez, *Viola*
Robert Cohen, *Cello*

[DC] Department Chair | [AH] Area Head | [MSO] Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra | [SA] String Academy of Wisconsin

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