In consideration of the performers and other members of the audience, please enter or leave a performance at the end of a composition.

Cameras and recording equipment are not permitted. Please turn off all electronic devices, and be sure that all emergency contact cell phones and pagers are set to silent or vibrate.

This event is free to all UNI students, courtesy of the Panther Pass Program.

Performances like this are made possible through private support from patrons like you! Please consider contributing to School of Music scholarships or guest artist programs. Call 319-273-3915 or visit www.uni.edu/music to make your gift.
PROGRAM

The Merry Wives of Windsor by Otto Nicolai
based on the play by Shakespeare, adapted by Hermann von Mosenthal

ACT I
Scene 1: A courtyard outside the Ford and Page houses
Scene 2: A room in the Ford house

- INTERMISSION -

ACT II
Scene 1: A room at the Garter Inn
Scene 2: A courtyard outside the Ford and Page houses
Scene 3: A room in the Ford house

- BRIEF PAUSE -

ACT III
Scene 1: The Page house
Scene 2: Windsor Forest

CAST

Alice Ford ......................................................... Kayla Kjeldseth, Noelle Smith
Meg Page .......................................................... Megan Grey, JoAnna Geffert
Sir John Falstaff .................................................. John Hines
Mr. Ford ............................................................ Brandon Haralson
Mr. Page ............................................................ Morgan Kramer
Fenton ............................................................... Andrew Hanson
Anne Page ......................................................... Sarah Draffen, Katherin Kneisley
Slender ............................................................... Brandon Schneider
Dr. Cajus ............................................................. Rhys Lloyd Talbot
A Neighbor .......................................................... Sam Bergan
The Company ..................................................... Alexandra Saulsbury, MaKayla McDonald, Lauren Soukop, Marie Sorenson, Michelle Monroe (Jeanette Brown), Leia Lensing, Aisendra Henkle, Chambray Daughtery, Luke Fosselman, Adam Dean Brown, Sam Bergan, Aaron DeSantiago, Joshua Burk (servant), Sean Smith, Will Lubaroff (servant), Phillip Bowie

PRODUCTION PERSONNEL

Directed by Mitra Sadeghpour*
Music Preparation by Korey Barrett++ and Tina Su*
Conducted by Rebecca Burkhardt*

Stage Manager ..................................................... Dylan Nicole Martin
Assistant Stage Manager ........................................ Nick Mayhugh
Choreographers ................................................ Mandy Masmar++ and Jennifer Hampton
Scenic and Lighting Design ................................... Lawrence Guadagnol++ and Chris Tuzicka
Technical Director, Scenic and Props Design ............ Lawrence Guadagnol++
Costume Coordinator .......................................... Danielle Mason
Musical Preparation and Rehearsal Pianists ............. Korey Barrett++ and Tina Su*
Chorus Master ................................................... Morgan Kramer
Assistant Chorus Master ....................................... John Hines
Scenic .......................................................... Jenna Guy and Michael Hellman
Hair and Makeup ............................................... Mallory Rustad
Poster and Cover Design ...................................... Desiree Dahl
Lightboard Operator .......................................... Jarad Dettman
Production Coordinator ...................................... Mitra Sadeghpour
Bengtson Auditorium Technical Support .................. Chuck Pugh*
Program .......................................................... Caroline Boehmer
Opera graduate assistants ................................. Branden Haralson, Katherin Kneisley, Noelle Smith
Voice Faculty .................................................... Jeffrey Briech+, John Hines, Morgan Horning+
Director, School of Music ................................... John Vallentine

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

John Hines • Jordan Kelly Andrews • Jennifer Chapman and Amanda Profaizer, from University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Department of Theatre Arts • Tom Barry • Waterloo Community Theatre • Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center • Elliott Wessel • College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences Dean’s Office • Liz Evans, Sierra O’Rourke, Jaime Mayer, Mrs. Natalie Hamil at Columbus Catholic High School • Debra Smith • UNI Department of Theatre • UNI Dance Program • Susie Hines • JoAnn Schnabel, UNI Department of Art

* Denotes faculty
+Denotes graduate of UNI School of Music
ºº Performances on 2/6 and 2/8
ººº Performances on 2/4 and 2/7
º Denotes faculty
+ Denotes graduate of UNI School of Music
Rhys Talbot: A Regional Finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Rhys Lloyd Talbot is a graduate of the University of Northern Iowa with a B.M. in Vocal Performance. A student of Dr. John Hines, during his time at UNI Rhys performed the roles of Melchior (Amahl and The Night Visitors), David (A Hand of Bridge), Papageno (Die Zauberflöte), Frank (Die Fledermaus) and the Count (Prima Donna) with the UNI Opera Theater. Rhys has also appeared as a featured soloist in major choral works at UNI including W.A. Mozart’s Requiem, Gabriel Fauré’s Requiem, and Ralph Vaughan William’s Hodie as well as the Brahms Liebeslieder Waltzes with the San Francisco Opera Center. Rhys is an alumni of young artist programs across the country including the Central City Opera Company Studio (2011), Houston Grand Opera Young Artist Vocal Academy (2012), Wolf Trap Opera Studio (2012), as well as the Merola Opera Program in San Francisco (2013 and 2014).

**SYNOPSIS**

Die Lustigen Weiber von Windsor (The Merry Wives of Windsor) is Otto Nicolai’s (1810-1849) most famous opera, premiering in Berlin in 1849. It is based on William Shakespeare’s five act play of the same title. Not all of Shakespeare’s characters are present in Nicolai’s re-telling of the story, but the central plot of Sir John Falstaff’s wooing of the “Merry Wives” Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Page, and their revenge on the “old sinner,” is maintained. The fictional character of Falstaff also appears in Shakespeare’s history plays as a contemporary of Henry IV in the 15th century, but Shakespeare places this story of Falstaff’s romantic escapades in his own contemporary Elizabethan England. The Merry Wives of Windsor is the only Shakespeare play set in the author’s own time and country. It bravely features the newly formed English middle class. In this opera, the middle class certainly gets the best of the old aristocracy, in the form of Sir John Falstaff.

**Act I:** Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Page compare notes on identical love-letters each has received from Falstaff. They decide to take vengeance on Falstaff and then publically humiliate him. Mr. Ford has promised his daughter Anne in marriage to the rich but simple Mr. Slender, while Mrs. Ford prefers the French Doctor Cajus. Anne, however, is in love with penniless Fenton who tries to plead his case with Mr. Ford, to no avail.

During her famous aria, Mrs. Ford plans how she will trick Falstaff by pretending to succumb to him. She does feel some doubt about the trickery, but gaily decides to follow through with her plan with Mrs. Page. She receives Falstaff, who protests his love while Mrs. Page eavesdrops: they are “interrupted” by Mrs. Page who has sent a letter to Mr. Ford telling him a man is in the house with his wife. Falstaff hides in a laundry basket, as a jealous Mr. Ford and the townspeople search the house but do not find a man in hiding. Mr. Ford is humiliated in front of his neighbors for his jealousy. As planned by the women, Falstaff is dumped into the river with the laundry by her servants.

**Act II:** The townspeople of Windsor relax at the Garter Inn and engage in drinking games. Mr. Ford, disguised as the fictional Mr. Brook, pumps Falstaff on his relations with Mrs. Ford and plots to catch him out and therefore prove his wife’s indiscretions. He offers Falstaff money to attempt to seduce Mrs. Ford, to which Falstaff readily agrees. In the following scene, all three of Anne’s suitors are in the court yard outside her window attempting to see her. A distraught Anne rushes in to find Fenton and tell him her parents will not allow their marriage but that she is still true to him. Returning to the Ford house, Falstaff is once again wooing Mrs. Ford and forced to hide. Mr. Ford threatens his wife with exposure while Falstaff, disguised as a woman, is smuggered out by Mrs. Ford, not before being thoroughly humiliated a second time.

**Act III:** Mrs. Page sings the ballad of Herne the Hunter and how he came to haunt Windsor Forest. Mr. Ford and Mrs. Page are now aware of their wives’ plot for revenge and are fully complicit in a final humiliation of Falstaff. They have arranged for all the townspeople to meet in Windsor Forest that night to frighten Falstaff (dressed up as Herne the Hunter in order to meet the ladies in disguise). They lead him to believe he has stumbled on the actual Herne and Hunter and his fairies who will torment him to death. In an aria, Anne decides that with the help of her friends she will fool her two unwanted suitors into running off together; by disguising herself as Titania and Fenton as Oberon, they will be married. The people of Windsor play their roles impeccably; amidst much merriment, a fairy wedding takes place, Falstaff is tormented by “fairies and insects,” and all is resolved, to a reprise of the overture’s theme.

Synopsis based on Kobbe’s Opera Guide

**ORCHESTRA**

**CONDUCTOR**

Rebecca Burkhardt

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Violin I</strong></th>
<th><strong>Flute/Piccolo</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Frederick Haigedahl+, Jacob Thiele, Elizabeth Anderson, Lydia Pakala, Anne Sloter</td>
<td>Mara Miller, Shaina Davis</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Violin II</strong></td>
<td><strong>Oboe/English Horn</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Hebbeln, principal Austin Jacobs, Jennifer Watters, Julia Hetrick</td>
<td>Michaela Garringer</td>
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<td><strong>Viola</strong></td>
<td><strong>Clarinet</strong></td>
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<td>Alyssa Adamec, principal Nichelle Probst, Andrea Sanchez Jotham Polashek</td>
<td>Stacia Fortune, Rachel Jones</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cello</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bassoon</strong></td>
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<td>John Haverdink, principal Kyle Geesey, Malcolm Burke</td>
<td>Victoria Piper</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bass</strong></td>
<td><strong>Horn</strong></td>
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<td>Tessa Cohen, principal Joseph Mnayer</td>
<td>Ashlyn Chistensen, Aaron Anderson</td>
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<td><strong>Timpani</strong></td>
<td><strong>Trumpet</strong></td>
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<td>Suzanne Santag</td>
<td>Jordan Boehm, Michael Prichard</td>
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<td><strong>Trombone</strong></td>
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<td>Craig Goettle</td>
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<td><strong>Harp</strong></td>
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<td>Suzanne Santag</td>
<td>Alex Lafrenz</td>
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+UNI Faculty
Thank you for attending UNI Opera’s The Merry Wives of Windsor! After months of rehearsing, outreach performances, and our Sneak Preview in November, we are excited to share our full production with you. Opera requires an exhilarating and epic collaboration between music, drama, visual art, and dance and I couldn’t be more proud of the artists who have come together to create what you are about to see. In addition to the students and faculty on stage and in the pit, innumerable students, staff, designers, and volunteers have worked tirelessly to bring Shakespeare’s story to life. My thanks to everyone who has been involved and believed in UNI Opera. Dr. Korey Barrett and Dr. Rebecca Burkhardt are central to UNI Opera’s success, and my special thanks for dance faculty Mandy Masmor for her choreography, grace, and collaboration.

We have a full semester ahead as well. UNI Opera will be involved with the Residency of American composer Jake Heggie who will be on campus March 24-28, 2015. We will perform scenes with the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra from his opera Dead Man Walking. Finally, we will present an Opera Showcase on April 22, 2015 in Bengston Auditorium that will include some exciting collaborations with classes and organizations on campus and in the community! Many of our students are also giving recitals this semester—check the UNI Music calendar. I hope your anticipation is building, because ours is! It is our goal for Opera at UNI to be the premiere academic opera program in the Midwest for both graduate and undergraduate students. You can help us on our way to that goal by supporting our performances on campus!

I am excited to announce our newly established Opera Development Fund, which will support our outstanding students, our performances, and our curriculum in voice and opera at UNI. More information will be forthcoming, so please check our website and the information available in the lobby during intermission. We welcome your support! If you know others who would interested in our work and supporting our young artists, you can also help us by helping us make connections with collaborators or donors in the Cedar Valley. We will be offering school performances and outreach throughout the year—talk to music teachers you know and tell them about us!

I truly believe that anything is possible for Opera at UNI. A long history of talented and dedicated students and faculty exists here, and I am honored to be a part of the team.

Thank you again for supporting Opera at UNI.

Mitra Sadeghpour, DM
mitra.sadeghpour@uni.edu

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Brandon Schneider: Brandon Schneider is a senior at The University of Northern Iowa, and is enjoying his first semester as part of the opera program. Brandon has participated in several ensembles on campus such as Concert Choral, Men’s Glee Club, UNI Singers, Cantori, and the barbershop quartet S.H.O.P. He has co-music directed productions back in his home town, and taken part in productions such as Fiddler on the Roof, Little Women The Musical, Grease, 42nd Street, Guys and Dolls, and The Sound of Music. He plans on graduating with his degree in education and to continue performing.

Noelle Smith: Hailing from Kansas City, Missouri, soprano Noelle Smith is a second year master’s student in Vocal Performance. She graduated cum laude with a B.M. in Vocal Performance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory. Noelle was most recently seen on the UNI stage as the Second Secretary in A Game of Chance in 2014, as well as The Foreign Woman (The Consul) and Mrs. Peachum (The Beggar’s Opera) in the 2013 Opera Scenes program. Noelle has performed many partial roles, including Elettra (Idomeneo) and Amenaide (Tancredi) with the Kansas City Opera Institute, and Melisande (Pelleas and Melisande), Iphigénie (Iphigénie En Tauride), and Marie Antoinette (The Ghosts of Versailles) with the UMKC Conservatory. Noelle is a Graduate Assistant in Opera at UNI and a proud member of the voice studio of Dr. Jean McDonald.

Sean Smith: Baritone Sean Smith is a senior double majoring in Psychology and Voice at UNI, and is a member of the voice studio of John Hines. He has performed in the chorus for many productions at UNI, and is a member of Concert Chorale and Cantori. Sean has played the role of Mr. Peachum in The Beggar’s Opera and Billy Bigelow in scenes from Carousel for the UNI Scholarship Benefit Concert. Sean wants to thank all of his fellow performers; they are what makes these productions such a pleasure to be a part of.

Marie Sorenson: Marie Sorenson is pursuing a master’s degree in Vocal Performance at the University of Northern Iowa, studying with Dr. John Hines. Marie received her Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance from Wartburg College where she studied with Dr. Jennifer Larson. At Wartburg, Marie performed twice as a selected Young Artist on Dr. Simon Estes’ Roots and Wings Concert Series and toured internationally with the Wartburg Choir. During her first year at UNI, Marie was the soprano soloist for the GBPAC Artist Series Kristallnacht, Night of Broken Glass and performed with UNI Opera as Anna Gomez in scenes from The Consul as well as a chorus member in scenes from The Beggar’s Opera. Marie was also a chorus member in UNI Opera’s full production of Dido and Aeneas and will soon be performing the role of Joe’s Mother in scenes from Jake Heggie’s Dead Man Walking.

Lauren Soukup: Lauren Soukup is a freshman at UNI majoring in Vocal Music Education and Performance. Lauren is from Marion, IA and is a soprano. Recently, Lauren was a finalist in her division of the Iowa State NATS at UNI. In the past, Lauren was actively involved in the Linn-Mar High School choirs and show choirs for six years and was selected into the Iowa All State Chorus in 2012 and 2013. Throughout her high school career, Lauren appeared as Maria in The Sound of Music, Sarah Brown in Guys and Dolls, and as a part of the Ensemble in Into the Woods. Lauren studies privately with Dr. Jean McDonald at UNI.
Will Lubaroff: Originally from Iowa City, Iowa, Will Lubaroff is a sophomore Music Education major at UNI. Will is very excited to portray Robert the servant in this production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. This is the first opera production he has been a part of. Will studies voice privately under Morgan Horning.

Dylan Martin: Dylan Nicole Martin is a junior Theatre Design and Production major studying production management and stage management. A Cedar Falls native, Dylan is a member of Alpha Xi Delta Women's Fraternity, Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity, and is Vice President of Alpha Psi Omega Theatre Honor Fraternity, Dylan has been Assistant Stage Manager for shows such as *The American Way of Eating* and *August: Osage County* at Theatre UNI. In the spring she will be Stage Manager for *The Great God Pan*. This is Dylan's first experience working in opera. She is loving getting to know the students and faculty and learning something new every day!

Makayla McDonald: Makayla McDonald is a senior majoring in Voice Performance at UNI. She is a Soprano studying with Jeffrey Brich. This is her seventh semester participating in the opera program at UNI. She has been seen in many of the scenes and operas during that time including, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Make our Garden Grow*, *Countess Maritza*, *Armoni* and the *Night Visitors*, *Street Scene*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *Il Trovatore*, *The Wreckers*, *Le Devin du Village*, *The Beggar’s Opera*, and *Game of Chance*. In the spring 2015 semester she will participate alongside the UNI Opera Ensemble performing scenes from Jake Heggie’s *Dead Man Walking*. She participated in a young artist program with Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre in the summer of 2014 performing *The Mikado* and plans to audition for more summer young artist programs and graduate schools for the upcoming school year.

Michelle Monroe: Soprano Michelle Monroe, native of Pierre, South Dakota, made her University of Northern Iowa opera theatre debut in the fall of 2013. Michelle is currently pursuing her M.M. in Vocal Performance at UNI. She completed her undergraduate work at Northern State University (NSU) where she was an active performer in theatre, opera, and ensembles. Her notable roles include Belinda in Purcell’s *Dido and Aeneas*, a Novice in Puccini’s *Suor Angelica*, and an Angel and stage fighter in Tchaikovsky’s *The Maid of Orleans*. Her scenes performances include Susannah in Mozart’s *Le nozze di Figaro*, Hansel in Humperdinck’s *Hansel and Gretel*, and Peaseblossom in Britten’s *Midsummer Night’s Dream*. Her musical theatre experience includes performing as Christine in *Phantom of the Opera* and a Bar Girl in *Miss Saigon*. Her young artist programs include the Johanna Meier Opera Theatre(3,12),(998,996) Institute and Music in Germany for Singers and Pianists. Michelle was featured as the soprano soloist on Joseph Haydn’s Paukenmesse with NSU’s choir and orchestra and on Bach’s *Schweigt stille, plaudert nicht* and *Ich bin vergnügt mit meinem Glücke* with UNI’s cantorei choir and chamber orchestra. At NSU, Michelle received the Opera Theatre Outstanding Performer award for her portrayal of Belinda and the Theatre’s Most Outstanding Performer award for her role of Christine in *Phantom of the Opera*. She was also chosen for two consecutive years to perform in the collegiate honor recital at the SDMEA conference and was awarded 1st place in the SDNATS competition in 2012.

Alexandra Saulsbury: Alexandra Saulsbury is a soprano pursuing her Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance at the University of Northern Iowa. She began studying voice privately in her hometown of Sioux City, IA with Shannon Salyards, and now studies voice with Dr. Jean McDonald. Ms. Saulsbury has been featured in scenes at Morningside College in the role of Susanna (*Le nozze di Figaro*) and in scenes at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute Young Artists Vocal Program in the role of Aloës (*L’Étoile*).
JoAnna Geffert: A native of Kansas City, MO, mezzo-soprano JoAnna V. Geffert is pursuing her master’s degree in Vocal Performance at the University of Northern Iowa. Notable roles include El Gato (El gato con botas) with the Kansas City Opera Institute, Olga (The Merry Widow), and Kate (The Pirates of Penzance) with the Kansas City Metro Opera, as well as #3 (Transformations) with the Kansas City Civic Opera. While at UNI, JoAnna has portrayed the roles of Mrs. Peachum (The Beggar’s Opera), First Witch (Dido and Aeneas), and she will soon be performing the role of Meg Page (The Merry Wives of Windsor). JoAnna teaches voice as a graduate assistant at UNI, where she studies privately with Dr. Jean McDonald.

Megan Grey: A native of Cedar Falls, mezzo-soprano Megan Grey is currently a junior Voice Performance Major at UNI. An active performer, Megan is a member of UNI Concert Chorale, Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, and UNI Opera Ensemble. As a member of the Opera Ensemble she has appeared as the Secretary in scenes from Gian Carlo Menotti’s The Consul, the Sorceress and Spirit in Henry Purcell’s Dido and Aeneas. Megan has also been a competitor in the National Association of Teachers of Singing Statewide contest where she placed 2nd in the Freshman Women division in 2012 and 1st place in the Junior Women division in 2014. She was also a recent 2nd place winner in the 2014 Annual Schubert Club Scholarship Competition. Megan has also been recognized for her academic excellence by Pi Kappa Lambda in being named Outstanding Freshman and Sophomore of the UNI School of Music for the 2012-2014 academic years. In addition to singing, Megan is also a cellist and is on faculty with the UNI Suzuki School, where she gives private cello lessons, teaches group classes, and coaches young chamber ensembles. She currently studies voice with Dr. Jean McDonald, and cello with Dr. Jonathan Chenoweth.

Andrew Hanson: Andrew Hanson is a sophomore music performance student. He was most recently seen on the UNI opera stage as a member of the chorus in Dido and Aeneas. Andrew is a student of Professor Jeffrey Brich.

Branden Haralson: Branden D. S. Haralson, baritone, is a second year graduate student at the University of Northern Iowa majoring in voice performance and studying with Professor Jeffrey Brich. He received his bachelor’s degree in voice performance at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance, where he performed in a multitude of full operas and opera scenes. Most recently, he was seen as Johnny Inkslinger in UNI’s scene concert of Paul Bunyan and other operas celebrating Benjamin Britten’s centennial birthday. He is very excited to be performing the role of Mr. Ford in The Merry Wives of Windsor, and to be working with such talented colleagues. Mr. Haralson will be seen in the spring of 2015 as Owen Hart in UNI’s scene concert of Jake Heggie’s Dead Man Walking.

Alessandra Henkle: Alessandra Henkle is a sophomore performing arts management major and marketing minor from Ankeny, Iowa. She studies voice with Jeffrey Brich and is a member of UNI Singers. This is Ali’s first experience in an opera. She sang the roles of Patsy in Sparmalot and Ethel McCormick in Footloose while she was a student at Ankeny High School. She was also a member of Ankeny’s nationally acclaimed varsity show choir Visual Adrenaline for two years, as well as Ankeny’s advanced mixed choir for three years.

John Hines: John Hines, Associate Professor of Voice at UNI and internationally acclaimed bass, has been heard from the concert and opera stages of Italy, Austria, Russia, and the United States. In March 2013, Hines celebrated his Carnegie Hall debut as bass soloist in Haydn’s “Lord Nelson” Mass. Since 2007, his many performances in the Russian Federation – most notably those of Russian vocal music – have earned him the title “The American Chaliapin” by Russian critics and audiences, and a seat on the international panel of jurors for the Boris T. Shokolov International Vocal Competition in St. Petersburg, Russia since 2008. Hines has also appeared in performance with artists from the Mariinsky, Bolshoi, and Kiev Theaters, and has had many of his performances broadcast over Russian Federal Television and Radio. In addition to programs of Russian music, Hines has also performed works by traditional Western composers, most notably Franz Schubert’s song-cycle Winterreise at the St. Petersburg State Academic Capella in 2009 – the last artist to perform this work in the Capella since the late Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau 60 years prior. In 2012, Hines was a featured solo artist on the Northern Iowa Wind Symphony anniversary tour of Northern Italy.

Kayla Kjeldseth: Kayla Kjeldseth is a native of Sioux City, Iowa and is currently attending the University of Northern Iowa as a first year graduate student in Vocal Performance. She has sung with the Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre in The Mikado during the summer of 2014, and has sung the roles of Countess Maritza in Countess Maritza, Dido in Dido and Aeneas, and Sally in A Hand of Bridge with UNI Opera just to name a few. In the fall of 2014, she had the privilege of singing in the Great Hall debut as bass soloist in Haydn’s “Lord Nelson” Mass. Since 2007, his many performances in the Russian Federation – most notably those of Russian vocal music – have earned him the title “The American Chaliapin” by Russian critics and audiences, and a seat on the international panel of jurors for the Boris T. Shokolov International Vocal Competition in St. Petersburg, Russia since 2008. Hines has also appeared in performance with artists from the Mariinsky, Bolshoi, and Kiev Theaters, and has had many of his performances broadcast over Russian Federal Television and Radio. In addition to programs of Russian music, Hines has also performed works by traditional Western composers, most notably Franz Schubert’s song-cycle Winterreise at the St. Petersburg State Academic Capella in 2009 – the last artist to perform this work in the Capella since the late Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau 60 years prior. In 2012, Hines was a featured solo artist on the Northern Iowa Wind Symphony anniversary tour of Northern Italy.

Kathleen Kneisley: Kathen Kneisley is a senior pursuing his bachelor’s degree in Vocal Music Education under the vocal instruction of Dr. John Hines. Throughout his education at the University of Northern Iowa, Morgan has performed various roles including The Representative (A Game of Chance), Mr. Peachum (The Beggar’s Opera), Antonio (Le nozze di Figaro), Colas (Bastien und Bastienne), and Popolescu (Countess Maritza) as well as solos in J.S. Bach’s cantatas BWV 12 and BWV 18. Outside of UNI, Morgan has performed the role of Masetto (Don Giovanni) at the Toronto Summer Opera Workshop in Toronto, Ontario (2013). After graduation Morgan intends to pursue a master’s degree in Choral Conducting.

Leia Lensing: Leia is a junior Choral Music Education major at UNI, studying under Dr. Jean McDonald. Throughout her time at UNI, she has been a member of UNI Singers, Concert Chorale, Cantorei, as well as the opera program. Leia has been awarded several music scholarships. Most recently, she was awarded the Charles and Marleta Matheson Scholarship in the Spotlight Series Performance Competition. In addition to these awards, Leia has had solos in the Bach Cantata series as well as roles in the opera program, including Mrs. Peachum (The Beggars Opera) and the Second Witch (Dido and Aeneas). In the spring, Leia will be performing in scenes from Jake Heggie’s Dead Man Walking as Sister Helen Prejean with the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, as well as performing in UNI’s Crème de la Crème concert.