



Canadian Children's Opera Company

Ann Cooper Gay, Artistic & Executive Director

Celebrating
150 Years
of Alice

Alice in Wonderland

A new children's opera based on the book by Lewis Carroll
by Errol Gay & Michael Patrick Albano



May 7 - 10, 2015

Friday & Saturday at 7:30pm
Saturday & Sunday at 2:00pm

School Previews: Thursday & Friday at 10:00am; Thursday at 1:00pm

Harbourfront Centre Theatre - 231 Queen's Quay W
Harbourfront Centre Box Office: 416-973-4000

\$35; \$20 Senior; \$15 student/child
School Previews: \$10 per student

www.canadianchildrensopera.com



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

Alice in Wonderland

was commissioned in 2014 by the
Canadian Children's Opera Company

Canadian Children's Opera Company

The Canadian Children's Opera Company was founded in 1968 and is the only permanent children's opera company in Canada that regularly commissions and produces new operas for children on a regular basis. The company also functions as the children's chorus of the Canadian Opera Company, as well as collaborating with other leading arts organizations such as the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the University of Toronto Faculty of Music, and Luminato. It has toured in North America and Europe, most recently to Austria and Italy in 2011. The CCOC has also recorded five albums, and has been broadcast on CBC Radio 2. Its latest recording, the Juno-nominated *A Midwinter Night's Dream*, was released on the Centrediscs label, and features the CCOC-commissioned opera of the same name by Harry Somers. *Lullabies*, their latest CD, is due to be released in May 2015.

Currently, the CCOC has five Divisions providing appropriate training and performance experience for young people from age four to young adult, and averages over 30 performances each season. OPERATION KIDS, the outreach arm of the CCOC, provides an introduction to opera for hundreds of additional children each year. The CCOC is committed to fostering a lifelong enjoyment of the arts by introducing children to the magic of live opera, both as performers and as members of the audience.

SURTITLES™ invented at the Canadian Opera Company in 1983 and introduced worldwide with their production of *Elektra* by R. Strauss.

❧ Welcome ❧

Welcome to another CCOC world premiere, but first have a peek at the recipe for this tea party:

- One cup of a best-loved children's classic
- One cup of libretto from a master writer
- One cup of music from a master musician-composer
- One cup of brilliant stage direction
- One cup of superb stage management
- One cup of elegant design: costumes, props, set & lighting
- One cup of experienced orchestral musicians
- One cup of committed volunteers
- One cup of dedicated artistic and administrative staff
- One cup of a visionary board
- Six cups of talented, faithful, extraordinary performers

Mix well in a four-quart magical teapot, marinate, and serve on a well-appointed stage.

Enjoy as often as you wish!



Ann Cooper Gay

Artistic Director

Canadian Children's Opera Company



🌀 Synopsis 🌀

Alice sits in a garden with Charlotte, who is enjoying a book of fairy tales. Unlike her sister, Alice is disappointed with their predictability. Alone, Alice soon spies a white rabbit hurrying past, muttering about an appointment. Intrigued, she chases him down the rabbit hole, but falls behind, and finds herself in the company of a caterpillar on a toadstool.

Remarking on her now-tiny stature, Alice offends the insect, but he does tell her how to use the mushroom to adjust her size. She experiments until she is the correct height to enter a nearby cottage, and enters the kitchen.

Here she meets the grotesque Duchess and her Cooks, with a group of captive children who they intend to eat. However, the Duchess is interrupted by the arrival of the Queen's frog footmen, who bear an invitation to play croquet. She dresses and leaves Alice alone with an unusual baby.

Outside, Alice meets the Cheshire Cat, who gives her directions to nowhere in particular, but promises to see her again before he vanishes. Following the cat's directions, Alice soon finds herself at the Mad Hatter's tea party. Despite a stated lack of room, she soon finds herself drawn into the conversation, which she escapes only after some confusion.

Leaving the table, she finds herself in a garden, where guards are painting white roses red. They tell Alice about the difficulty of pleasing their queen's whims. Before they can finish, the Queen of Hearts arrives and orders everyone's head removed. Her deadly edict is only stymied by the lack of a handy executioner and by the lure of croquet.

The game begins and ends in chaos, but Alice wins, prompting the Queen to once again call for her head. This time, Alice is saved by the distraction of dessert. Searching for her favourite pastry, the Queen is once again enraged when the Knave of Hearts is found eating her strawberry tarts.

At the trial, the jury and the King struggle with the formalities of court procedure, but manage to enlist a series of witnesses, including the Hatter, the Cooks, and finally Alice herself. However, Alice is disqualified when she begins to grow back to her full size, throwing the court into pandemonium. On recognizing the others as a pack of cards, Alice wakes from her dream back in the garden, and the cards turn to autumn leaves around her.

*There are gossamer threads between shadow and the dawn
The path is not always what it seems
The desire to escape is the voyage itself
And so the wish becomes the dream*

The Team

CREATIVE & PRODUCTION

Music Director/Conductor.....	Ann Cooper Gay
Composer/Associate Music Director	Errol Gay
Stage Director/Librettist.....	Michael Patrick Albano*
Costume Designer.....	Lisa Magill
Props Design, Set Builders & Painters.....	Michele Morgan & Ciaran O'Clérigh
Designer.....	Jim Wilson
Lighting Designer	Gavin McDonald
Stage Manager	Tracy Lynne Cann*
Choreographer	Anna Theodosakis
Assistant Stage Director.....	Penelope Cookson*
Assistant Costume Designer and Costume Coordinator	Jan Venus
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Lesley Abarquez*
Props Coordinator	Michele Morgan
Rehearsal Pianists	Gergely Szokolay & Errol Gay
Surtitles™ Operator	John Sharpe
Production Manager.....	Ken Hall
Apprentice Stage Manager	Hannah Gordon

** appear with the permission of Canadian Actor's Equity Association*

CANADIAN CHILDREN'S OPERA COMPANY

Exec. Artistic Director, Principal/Youth/Intermediate Chorus Conductor Ann Cooper Gay

Artistic Staff

Associate Music Director/Conductor/Pianist	Errol Gay
Apprentice Chorus Conductor & OPERATION KIDS Coordinator.....	Adine Mintz
Ruby Chorus Conductor & Chorus Coordinator	Emily Bird
Youth Chorus Vocal Coach	Adreana Braun
Drama Coach	Benoît Boutet
Principal Chorus Pianist	Gergely Szokolay
Apprentice Chorus Pianist	Myna Denov

Administrative Staff

General Manager.....	Ken Hall
Director of Development	Keith Wright
Office Administrator	Diana Roach
Bookkeeper.....	Mala Perera
Public Relations	Marilyn Pytka

HARBOURFRONT CENTRE THEATRE

Front of House Manager.....	David Followes
Box Office Coordinator	Daniel Palmo
Production Manager.....	Brian Aitken
Technical Director	Sam Shaw
Stage Carpenter	Alex Maitland
Head Electrician	Patrick Hales
Crew	Colleen Pilger

Stage Technicians employed at the Theatre are represented by Local 58 of The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Technicians, Artists and Allied Crafts of the United States, its Territories and Canada.

❧ *The Cast* ❧

	<u>May 8 & 9, evenings</u>	<u>May 9 & 10, afternoons</u>
<i>Alice</i>	Ella Jonas Farlinger	Sophie De Goey
<i>Charlotte</i>	Claire Hamilton	Mara Bowman
<i>Promenaders</i>	Annika Faric Anna Farley Arianna Forgione Alia Ginevra Sophie Habkirk Carolyn Hao Laudomia Lo Greco Beatrice Nusink Mei Parkin Serene Sakhini Kaiya Winter	
<i>The White Rabbit</i>	Benoît Boutet* Iori Lewis (understudy)	
<i>The Caterpillar</i>	Morgan Graves-Ward Frances Quilty Vannessa Gadoutsis	Elora Stothers-Robertson Saba Blyden-Taylor †Hanna Lemeneva-Wollesen ‡Charmaine Chang
<i>Mushrooms</i>	Elora Stothers-Robertson Saba Blyden-Taylor Charmaine Chang	Morgan Graves-Ward Frances Quilty Vannessa Gadoutsis
<i>Caterpillar arms</i>	Mara Bowman Perry Guloien Hanna Lemeneva-Wollesen	Claire Hamilton Perry Guloien †Mara Bowman ‡Hanna Lemeneva-Wollesen
<i>The Duchess</i>	Sarah Boutros	Dorian Pringle
<i>The Cooks</i>	Zoie Bellas Zoe Kertes Leah McDonald	

* appears with the permission of Canadian Actor's Equity Association

† Saturday, May 9, afternoon

‡ Sunday, May 10

The Children

May 8 & 9, evenings

May 9 & 10, afternoons

Katarina Bojic
Rachel Courante
Annika Faric
Sophia Filip-Vicari
Carolyn Hao
Mei Parkin
Serene Sakhnini
Claudia Winfield-Hicks
Nathalie Winfield-Hicks
Yiling Yang



Frog Lieutenants

Laudomia Lo Greco
Connor Ross

Frog Footmen

Sylvia Dai
Rea Dhillon
Arianna Forgione
Kiran Nair
Nathan Niang
Alexander Szokolay
Ezra Unger Brandt

Junior Frog Footmen

Ruby, Apprentice & Intermediate Choruses

The Cheshire Cat

His Head

His Body

His Legs

His Tail

Catnip

Simon Scrutton

Alia Ginevra^{CT}

Julianna Harsfai

Chiara Urban^{CT}

Darija Gulens-Taube

Sophie Habkirk^{CT}

Makayla McManus-Leggett

Beatrice Nusink

Serene Sakhnini

Gabrielle Grieco

Simon Scrutton

Julianna Harsfai^{CT}

Hanna Lemeneva-Wollesen^{CT}

Veronica Tucci

Anna Farley

Uma Ganguli

Makayla McManus-Leggett

Clara Moir^{CT}

Madelaine Ringo Stauble

Dræe Clarke

	<u>May 8 & 9, evenings</u>	<u>May 9 & 10, afternoons</u>
<i>Little Alice</i>	Alexandra Bernstein	*Laudomia Lo Greco †Carolyn Hao
<i>The March Hare</i>	Dave Vyas	William Graham
<i>The Mad Hatter</i>	Iori Lewis	David White
<i>The Dormouse</i>	Omneya Tollar	Arianna Forgione
<i>The Tea Maids</i>	Perry Guloien Zoe Kertes Alexa Laengert Leah McDonald Dorian Pringle Riley Rose Raleza Felicity Rugard Alice Shen Chloe Vaina Maaike van Benthem Kaiya Winter	Allexandra Bernstein Geneva Bernstein Mia Bojic Mara Bowman Lauren Chang Sylvia Dai Rea Dhillon Claire Hamilton Alana Hodgson Diya Kittur Kiran Nair
<i>The Guards</i>	Drae Clarke Jakob De Abreu Cassius Francis Gabriel Gough William Graham Kai Lee Iori Lewis Adam Markle Rob Pereira David O'Neill Simon Scrutton Dave Vyas David White Tristan Winfield-Hicks	
<i>The Queen of Hearts</i>	Georgia Perdikoulis	Julia Sebastien
<i>The King of Hearts</i>	Kai Lee	David O'Neill
<i>The Knave of Hearts</i>	Connor Ross	Ezra Unger Brandt
<i>A Hedgehog</i>	Geneva Bernstein	Gabrielle Grieco

* Saturday, May 9, afternoon

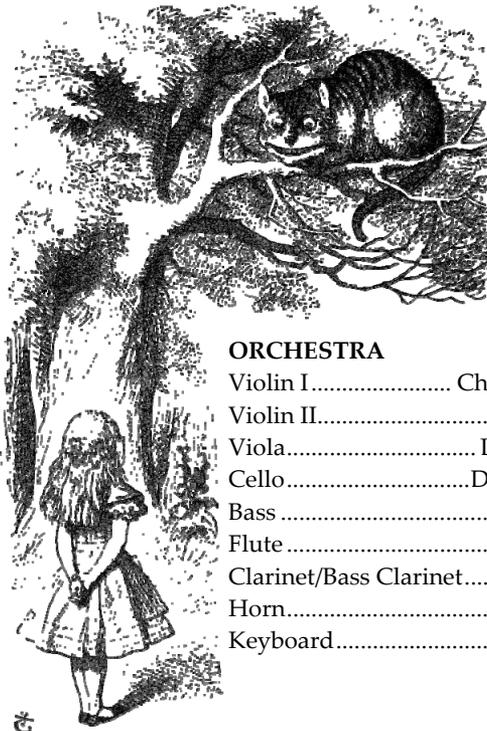
† Sunday, May 10

Principal Chorus

Zoie Bellas, Alexandra Bernstein, Geneva Bernstein, Saba Blyden-Taylor, Katarina Bojic, Charmaine Chang, Rachel Courante, Sylvia Dai, Sophie De Goey, Rea Dhillon, Annika Faric, Anna Farley, Ella Jonas Farlinger, Sophia Filip-Vicari, Arianna Forgione, Uma Ganguli, Alia Ginevra, Morgan Graves-Ward, Gabrielle Grieco, Darija Gulens-Taube, Perry Guloien, Sophie Habkirk, Carolyn Hao, Julianna Harsfai, Alana Hodgson, Diya Kittur, Alexa Laengert, Hanna Lemeneva-Wollesen, Laudomia Lo Greco, Makayla McManus-Leggett, Clara Moir, Kiran Nair, Nathan Niang, Beatrice Nusink, Mei Parkin, Frances Quilty, Riley Rose Raleza, Madelaine Ringo Stauble, Connor Ross, Felicity Rugard, Serene Sakhnini, Alice Shen, Elora Stothers-Robertson, Alexander Szokolay, Omneya Tollar, Veronica Tucci, Ezra Unger Brandt, Chiara Urban, Chloe Vaina, Maaïke van Benthem, Claudia Winfield-Hicks, Nathalie Winfield-Hicks, Kaiya Winter, Yiling Yang

Youth Chorus

Mia Bojic, Sarah Boutros, Mara Bowman, Lauren Chang, Drae Clarke, Jakob De Abreu, Cassius Francis, Vannessa Gadoutsis, Gabriel Gough, William Graham, Claire Hamilton, Zoe Kertes, Kai Lee, Iori Lewis, Leah MacDonald, Adam Markle, David O'Neill, Georgia Perdikoulis, Rob Pereira, Dorian Pringle, Simon Scrutton, Julia Sebastien, Dave Vyas, David White, Tristan Winfield-Hicks



ORCHESTRA

Violin I.....	Christopher Wilshere
Violin II.....	Sophia Szokolay
Viola.....	Laurence Schaufele
Cello.....	David Hetherington
Bass	Edward Tait
Flute	Ken Hall
Clarinet/Bass Clarinet.....	Michèle Jacot
Horn.....	Kent Larmee
Keyboard.....	Gergely Szokolay

Chorus of Junior Frog Footmen
Ruby, Apprentice & Intermediate Choruses

May 8 & 9 – 7:30 pm

Charlotte Andison
Sholly Chepkemboi
Lucas Drube
Derin Su Firat
Samantha Fu
Christopher Gayowsky
Helena Giamos
Julian Gough
Imany Lambropoulos
Paulina Leyva-Arcos
Pico Madden
Fiona Madden

Simone Neubacher
Sofia Occhipinti
Tyler Prince
Julia Rodin
Cecilia Rugard
Charlotte Rugard
Ava Sandler
Zahra Somji
Sophia Watson
Manuela Williams
Nathan Yousefzadeh

May 9 & 10 – 2:00 pm

Zoey Boyce
Demi Cai
Nicole Cai
Poem Choi
Demyan Diakunchak
Ekaterina Egorova
Serena Emerson
Zoe Finkelshtein
Andrew Gresham
Lula Harris Munye
Leila Ledbetter

Riley Moreau
Michelle Mosu
Ivy Parkin
Clara Parkin
Elishka Roux
Carl-Edmund Roux
Ben Schneider
Maia Simmons
Rosalind Spiegelman
Claire Wilcox
Alexander Zhang



NAME THAT TUNE - CONTEST ENTRY

There is no shortage of literary quotes that we take from Alice in Wonderland, but in our opera, it works both ways! Hidden in the score are many quotes and references to famous pieces of music. The entrant who can identify the greatest number, as adjudicated by the composer, will receive a fabulous prize of a complete set of CCOC recordings on CD. *CCOC staff and members of Principal and Youth Choruses are not eligible.*

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

Name the musical quote:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

Leave your completed entry with CCOC volunteers in the lobby, or e-mail your entry to info@canadianchildrensopera.com no later than 10:00AM on Monday, May 11.

You might as well say that to say what I quote is the same as to quote what I say!





Ann Cooper Gay – Executive Artistic Director

Ann Cooper Gay is an accomplished conductor, opera singer, pianist, organist, and flutist, well known in the artistic community for her extraordinary enthusiasm, energy, and consistently high level of artistic achievement. During her tenure, which began in July 2000, Ms. Cooper Gay has formed a youth chorus; established a drama instruction program for all divisions; produced a CD

entitled *There and Back Again*; commissioned seven operas: *Alice in Wonderland* (premiere May 2015), *East o’ the Sun and West o’ the Moon* (May 2014), *Laura’s Cow: The Legend of Laura Secord* (June 2012 - Luminato Festival), *The Secret World of Og*, *Dragon in the Rocks*, *A Dickens of a Christmas*, and *The Hobbit*; and led the CCOC in a recording of Harry Somers’ opera *A Midwinter Night’s Dream*, nominated for a Juno award in 2007. *Lullabies*, the newest CD, will be launched in May 2015.

Ann has served as conductor of the University of Toronto Women’s Chorus, Associate Conductor of the Hart House Orchestra at the University of Toronto, and string/orchestra instructor for the Toronto Board of Education. Her guest conducting includes the North York Concert Orchestra, the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Youth Orchestra, serving as Assistant Conductor for the COC’s *La fanciulla del West*, and appearing as Music Director/Conductor for the youth opera production of *A Dickens of a Christmas* in Limerick, Ireland at the “Summer Music on the Shannon” Festival. Ann founded the Children’s Choir at the Royal Conservatory of Music and the award-winning High Park Choirs of Toronto, and was honoured by the Toronto YWCA as a “Woman of Distinction.” She led the CCOC on European tours in 2001, 2007, and, in 2011, 54 young artists (ages nine to 17) won new friends and garnered great reviews on a tour to Austria and Northern Italy. A musical highpoint was placing 2nd in the Summa Cum Laude International Youth Music Festival (treble category), resulting in an invitation to sing on the Gala Concert at Vienna’s famed Musikverein.

In May 2012 Ann presented a lecture-demonstration on choral blend, which featured members of the CCOC, for the Ontario chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS). She appeared as Guest Conductor of the York Symphony Orchestra in November, 2012.

Ms. Cooper Gay holds Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Music and Music Education, as well as a Diploma in Opera Performance (*with Distinction*). Before becoming Assistant Professor of Music at Houghton College in New York, she was a soprano soloist with the Canadian Opera Company, touring throughout North America as Despina (*Così fan tutte*), Mimì (*La bohème*) and Violetta (*La traviata*). Ann can be heard as Sara Riel on the Centrediscs recording of Harry Somers’ *Louis Riel*, recorded live at Washington’s Kennedy Center.



Errol Gay – Composer

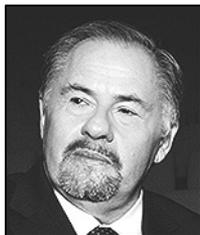
A native of Pouce Coupé, British Columbia, Errol Gay holds a Bachelor of Music from the University of British Columbia, a Master of Arts in Musicology from the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill) and a Doctor of Musical Arts from Stanford University (California) in Conducting. He has been Music Director of orchestras in New York, Texas and North Carolina and has been a studio and orchestra trombonist and pianist in Vancouver and Toronto, as well as holding professorial positions at several American universities.

From 1970 to 1976, Errol was a conductor and chorus master with the Canadian Opera Company. After 1983, he was repeatedly engaged as guest conductor by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and other leading Canadian Orchestras, including Edmonton, Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, Windsor, Kitchener-Waterloo and the National Arts Centre (Ottawa). For several seasons, he was Assistant Musical Director of the Charlottetown Festival and Co-Conductor of the High Park Choirs of Toronto, as well as Music Advisor/Conductor of the Hart House Orchestra and Adjunct Associate Professor of Conducting at the University of Toronto. Maestro Gay was Music Director of Orchestra Toronto from 2002 to 2010. In 2006, he retired after 24 years as Associate Principal Librarian of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

Errol has been privileged to conduct for such outstanding and diverse artists as Doc Severinsen, Dizzy Gillespie, the Kings' Singers, the Modern Jazz Quartet, the Chieftains, Canadian Brass, Jean-Luc Ponty, Ferrante & Teicher, the National Tap Dance Company, Magic Circle Mime Company, Jacques Israelievitch, Mary Lou Fallis, Ann Mortifee, Martin Beaver, Erika Raum, Al Simmons, Fred Penner, Monica Mancini, and Anne Murray. He has performed as pianist with clarinetist Richard Stoltzman, and with the Empire Brass; and was engaged by Sir Andrew Davis to be "cover" conductor on two European tours of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

In December 2005 Errol's opera, *A Dickens of a Christmas* (based on Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, conceived by Ann Cooper Gay with libretto by Michael Patrick Albano) was produced by the Canadian Children's Opera Company, with guest soloists, at the Harbourfront Theatre in Toronto. An expanded score was greeted with great acclaim in December 2006, and the work was given its European première at the "Summer Music on the Shannon" Festival in Limerick, Ireland in August 2007. *A Dickens of a Christmas* was remounted in Toronto in 2008 and 2010.

Errol again collaborated with Michael Albano in writing a second opera for the Canadian Children's Opera Company-- *Laura's Cow: The Legend of Laura Secord*, which premiered in 2012 and was remounted in 2013. With the success of these two works, the Artistic Director of the Company, Ann Cooper Gay, proposed that the team present a third opera, *Alice in Wonderland*, in 2015.



Michael Patrick Albano – Librettist & Stage Director

Michael Patrick Albano is the resident stage director of the opera programme at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music, where he has staged over forty operas including the Canadian premieres of Debussy's *L'enfant prodigue*, Paisiello's *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Britten's *Paul Bunyan* and Kulesha's *The Last Duel*.

Mr. Albano's directorial credits include Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia* for the New York City Opera, *Le comte Ory* for the Manhattan School of Music, *Le nozze di Figaro* for the Yale School of Music, *L'elisir d'amore* for Opera Hamilton, *La belle Hélène* for the Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Verdi's *La traviata* for the Opera Festival of New Jersey, *The Gondoliers* for the Brevard Festival, and a new dialogue version of *Die Fledermaus* for the Kentucky Opera. For the Canadian Opera Company he has directed *La bohème*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Swoon*, *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and *Così fan tutte*.

In addition to his directorial assignments, Mr. Albano is a frequent contributor to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, for which he has devised the documentaries *Love Letters*, *Wit, Wisdom and Song* and *Edward and Mrs. Simpson*. He has written and directed *An Evening with Noel Coward*, starring John Neville for Toronto's *CentreStage* which was subsequently broadcast over the CBC's *Arts National*.

An accomplished librettist, Mr. Albano has written four original children's opera librettos; *The Very Last Green Thing*, *The Thunder of Horses* (based upon a Blackfoot Indian legend) and *The Enchantment of Dreams* - commissioned & performed by the Opera Theatre of St. Louis and the Washington Opera. In 2005, *A Dickens of a Christmas* was commissioned & premiered by the Canadian Children's Opera Company. Additional librettos include *Gianni* (based on the life of the baroque composer, Giovanni Pergolesi) for Opera Lyra, *The Last Duel* (with music by Gary Kulesha) for MusicCanada 2000 and *Loss of Eden* (based upon the lives of Charles and Anne Lindbergh) which was premiered in June of 2002 by the Opera Theatre of St. Louis, subsequently repeated in Minneapolis and broadcast over National Public Radio.

Mr. Albano's interest in the development of original opera librettos has led to a graduate course in operatic composition at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music as well as his involvement for the past sixteen years as resident dramaturge for the *Tapestry New Opera Works* annual composer/librettist laboratory. His latest librettos include *Rob Ford, the Opera*, *Antigone*, and *Encounters and Footsteps in Campbell House* for the University of Toronto's Student Composer Collective as well as *Laura's Cow: The Legend of Laura Secord*, commissioned by the Canadian Children's Opera Company and presented by LUMINATO in June of 2012.



Benoît Boutet – White Rabbit

Among the most versatile artists of his generation, Benoît Boutet is known worldwide for the superb musicality and acting he brings to the variety of roles he performs in opera and in concert. In addition to having performed with every opera house and symphony orchestra in Canada, he has sung operas in San Francisco, Minnesota, and Phoenix, as well as with many orchestra, including those of Chicago, Philadelphia, Houston, Cincinnati, Phoenix, Naples, Rochester, Detroit, and Baltimore. Critics are unanimous in praising his remarkable performance in roles such as Chevalier de la Force in *Les dialogues des Carmelites*, Narraboth in *Salome*, Jacquino in *Fidélio*, Nadir in *Les pêcheurs des perles*, and Vasek in *The Bartered Bride*, as well as in concerts such as *Carmina Burana*, Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, Mozart's *Requiem*, and Berlioz's *L'Enfance du Christ*. In Europe, he sang at the Royal Festival Hall and at the Barbican in London, with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra in Bournemouth, at opera houses in Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Strasbourg, Angers, Rouen, Lyon, Paris, Nantes, Tours and Rennes, as well as in Porto, Portugal. Mr. Boutet's performance as Janek in *Makropoulos Case* can be seen on video and his discography includes *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* (Erato) as Nathanaël, *Roberto Devereux* (Nightingale) as Lord Cecil, *Jocaste* (MFA) as Polynice, and *Powers of Two* by Barry Truax.



Penelope Cookson – Assistant Stage Director

Penelope Cookson is a singer, actor, and director who has lived and worked in Canada and England. She assisted director Michael Albano on the first CCOC production of *A Dickens of a Christmas*, in 2005. Three more *Dickens* followed, then two productions of *Laura's Cow* in 2012 and 2013, and now: *Alice in Wonderland!* Penelope considers it a great privilege to work with the CCOC and to have been involved with these wonderful new operas by Errol Gay and Michael Albano. She has also taught acting classes for the CCOC. Penelope directed *Così fan tutte*, *The Magic Flute*, *I Pagliacci*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Rigoletto*, *La Cenerentola*, *Die Fledermaus*, *La bohème*, and *Don Giovanni* for Opera Kitchener (formerly Brampton Lyric Opera). She directed, *Carmen In Concert*, *La bohème*, *The Magic Flute*, *Die Fledermaus*, *La traviata*, and *And the Rat Laughed* for Opera York.



Lisa Magill – Costume Designer

Lisa is thrilled to be joining the team for the Canadian Children's Opera Chorus for the second time, after having had such an exciting time designing *Laura's Cow*. As the Costume Designer for the University of Toronto Opera, she has designed the costumes for many new productions including *Postcard from Morocco*, *HMS Pinafore*, *Don Pasquale*,

and *Rob Ford, the Opera*, as well as the recent production of *Footsteps in Campbell House*, a charming piece about the life of Chief Justice Sir William Campbell, enacted in Campbell House Museum. Most recently, Lisa's most recent designs have been seen in the world premiere of *Führerbunker* for the COSI Connection. Other recent credits include a year costuming shows for the Crescent School: a sophisticated Madmen era *School for Scandal*, and a romp through the ridiculous with *the Clumsy Custard Horror Show*. Stay tuned for a colourful *Wizard of Oz* later this month. Upcoming projects include costuming *Cosi Fan Tutte* and *La Calisto* with the Centre for Opera Studies in Italy (COSI).



Gavin McDonald – Lighting Designer

Gavin is a Lighting Designer for theatre, dance, events, and installations. Notable credits include: For CCOC, *Laura's Cow* (Co-design with Renee Brode), *AllOneWord* (James Kudelka/Coleman-Lemieux); *The Disappearance of Right & Left* (Peggy Baker Dance Projects); *Outside Looking In* (OLI 2013-2015); *Mango Cherry Mix* (Miyamoto/Johar); *The Godot Cycle* (Yes Let's Go); *The Last Five Years* (Angelwalk Theatre);

Hamlet, *Twelfth Night*, *Romeo & Juliet*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (The Classical Theatre Project); *John & Jen* (Acting Upstage); *Solo, Red* (inDance); *Mango Cherry Mix* (Hiroshi Miyamoto/Navtej Johar); *People Power* (Carlos Bulosan Theatre); and the *Marvel Super Heroes Science Exhibit* (with Christopher Dennis for the Ontario Science Centre). Gavin is thrilled to be working again with the CCOC. He holds a BFA Honours from York University in Theatre Production & Design, and is a member of The Associated Designers of Canada. Gavin lives in Toronto with his amazing wife and phenomenal 7 year-old daughter who claims to be a "superhero princess spy detective". They are awesome and you should totally meet them.



Anna Theodosakis – Choreographer

Anna Theodosakis is pursuing a Diploma in Operatic Stage Direction at the University of Toronto. During her first year with U of T Opera Anna co-directed the concert series *Brush Up Your Shakespeare* with Michael Albano, choreographed and was the assistant director for both *HMS Pinafore* and *Footsteps in Campbell House*, and assisted on *Postcard from Morocco* and Tim Albery's *Last Days*. Anna also directed the

Cabaret "Everytime We Say Goodbye" for the Arts and Letters Club in December. Originally from Vancouver, Anna has directed and choreographed both opera and musical theatre for companies such as UBC Opera, Music on the Mind, AR Productions, and the White Rock Chamber Music Society. In April she assisted Joel Ivany for the Canadian Stage workshop of Mozart's *Requiem* to be presented next year with the TSO. In addition to her work with the CCOC, Anna choreographs for the Taylor Academy at the RCM.



Jim Wilson – Designer

Mr. Wilson is an artist and registered architect practicing primarily in Texas and the southern half of the United States. He received his Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Texas at Austin and went on to receive his Master of Architecture from Harvard University's Graduate School of Design (GSD) where he also received the Gerald M. McCue Medal for the highest academic achievement in his class. Mr. Wilson currently serves on the Alumni Council at Harvard's GSD. With over 30 years of experience in design and architecture, Mr. Wilson managed his own firm for over 15 years. He recently joined forces with a large architectural and engineering firm located in Texas where he is the Principal Architect. Jim splits his time between McKinney, Texas and Taos, New Mexico where he paints, creates, and looks at the stars.



Michele Morgan – Properties Designer & Coordinator, Set Painter

Michele has contributed to the CCOC as a Prop builder and coordinator for several years. Providing custom-built props for three seasons of *A Dickens of a Christmas*, *The Secret World of Og*, *Dragon in the Rocks* and *Laura's Cow*, and *East o' the Sun and West o' the Moon* as well as contributing to the annual CCOC Open House with her Prop Making Workshop. With a background in film and television as a Prop Master her credits include Disney's Emmy award winning *Color of Friendship*, *Degrassi: The Next Generation* and *What Katy Did*. She holds a degree in Fine Art from the University of Toronto and her artistic practice is as wide and varied as her inspirations. From her Toronto studio and Gallery, The Annex Art Centre, she also channels her passions into fine art classes for children, creative summer camps and coordinates art and gallery events throughout the year.



Tracy Lynne Cann – Stage Manager

Tracy is thrilled to be back with the Canadian Children's Opera Company after working on *East o' the Sun and West o' the Moon* (2014), *A Dickens of a Christmas* (2005, 2006, 2008, 2010) and *The Hobbit* (2004). A graduate of the theatre program at Brock University, Tracy has since worked as a Stage Manager in theatre, musical theatre, opera and dance. She has toured extensively in the past few years, covering most of Canada and the USA, as well as Asia and Europe. Selected companies include: The Agokwe Collective, Banff Centre for the Arts, Buddies in Bad Times, Cabaret Theatre Company, Canadian Opera Company, Carousel Playhouse, Charlottetown Festival, GFour Productions, Globe Theatre, Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia, Monlove Enterprises Inc., Port Hope Festival Theatre, Red Sky Performance, Showboat Festival Theatre, Stirling Festival Theatre, Sudbury

Theatre Centre, Theatre Gargantua, Tribal Productions, Victoria Playhouse Petrolia, and Workman Arts.



Jan Venus – Assistant Costume Designer

Jan Venus has been involved for a number of years in the Toronto and Montreal theatre world. She specializes in costume design, construction and coordination and set design. Recent credits include sets for *Into the Woods* and *Cabaret* (Music Theatre Montreal) 2012-13, costumes for *East o' the Sun and West o' the Moon* (Canadian Children's Opera Company) 2014, and design of the World Pride Parade float for Kulanu Toronto 2014. She is currently also working on costumes for *Glengarry Glen Ross* (Jet Girls).



Lesley Abarquez Bradley – Assistant Stage Manager

Lesley is pleased to return to the CCOC as ASM for *Alice in Wonderland*. Previous credits with the CCOC include *Laura's Cow* and *The Pirates of Penzance*. Lesley has been a stage manager in opera and musical theatre for many years. Working regularly with the Canadian Opera Company, she was stage manager for *Die Walkure*, *La Bohème*, *The Bear/Swoon*, *Don Giovanni/Le Renard*, *The Magic Flute*, *Dido & Aeneas/Coffee Cantata*, and several school touring productions; and assistant stage manager for at least another 30 operas! A recurring stage manager at the Glenn Gould School, recent credits include *La Belle Helene*, *The Cunning Little Vixen* and *A Silent Serenade*. Lesley has also enjoyed working with such great companies as: Against the Grain, Tapestry New Opera Works, the University of Toronto Opera School, Queen of Puddings, The Banff Centre for the Arts, Summer at the Roxy and Resurgence Theatre. Upcoming projects include *Death & Desire* with Against the Grain, and *The Thirst for Love & Water* with Cinetic Creations, as part of the 2015 Pan Am games.



Hannah Gordon – Apprentice Stage Manager

A graduate from Sheridan College's theatre arts technical production program, Hannah has been with the Canadian Opera Company for the past 3 seasons in various production roles and this is her first time working for the Canadian Children's Opera Company. Recent work has included apprentice stage managing on *Don Quichotte* at the Canadian Opera Company and assistant stage manager for *The Cunning Little Vixen* at the Glenn Gould School. Other stage management credits: *Potosi* (Gold Old Neon Theatre), *Legally Blonde: The Musical* (Randolph Academy), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Theatre Sheridan). It has been an amazing experience working with this group of talented children & adults! Special thanks to Tracy & Lesley for mentoring me in my apprenticeship. Toi toi!

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