

Enjoy this digital program before the show, and then please turn your phone off when the orchestra begins to play.

TOO SMALL TO READ?

To increase the size of the text, just turn your phone sideways.



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LOOKING AHEAD



introduction

SOUTH BAY MUSICAL THEATRE'S production of

The Sound of Music

Music by Richard Rodgers • Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II Book by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse Suggested by *The Trapp Family Singers* by Maria Augusta Trapp

The Sound of Music is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of The Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization.

housekeeping notes

ANY VIDEO AND/OR AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

Electronic devices: We encourage you to enjoy this digital program before the show and during intermission, but ask that you turn off your phones during the show.

Concessions: Except for bottled water, food and beverages are not allowed in the theater. Please consume anything purchased during intermission before returning to your seat.

Show length: The show runs **2 hours and 30 minutes** plus an intermission. Our intermissions are targeted at **15 minutes**, but can run longer during sold-out shows.

Act I runs approximately 90 minutes. Act II runs approximately 60 minutes.

Safety: Please note the location of all exits.

PATRON ALERT

Please note that flashing lights are used several times in this performance, which may impact patrons with photosensitive conditions. In addition, there will be thunder and lightning effects during one scene.

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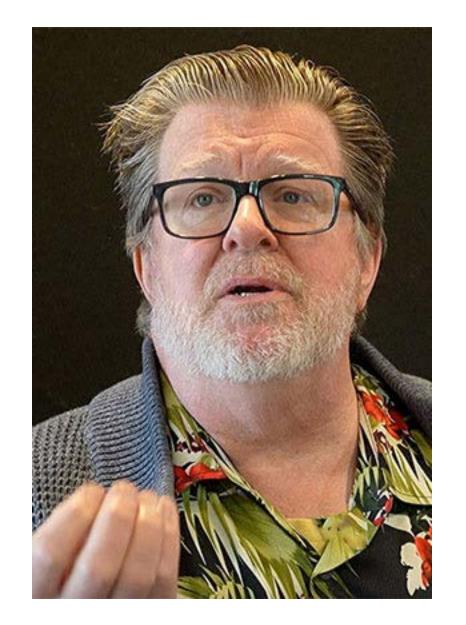
director's note

of this production and South Bay Musical Theatre's Artistic Director, I wear more than one hat here—but this is a show I couldn't resist directing myself. *The Sound of Music* is one of the most beloved pieces of

classic musical theatre, and I wanted to be sure it was given the same love and skill that audiences have come to expect from SBMT's past productions of *Brigadoon, Singin' in the Rain*, and other Golden Age treasures.

I have a personal fondness for this show: in 2012, I performed as "Uncle" Max in the Woodside Musical Theater production, directed by Doug Brook and choreographed by Esther Selk (the same team behind SBMT's gorgeous *Brigadoon*). Like many of you, I also hold a deep affection for the 1965 film, which has shaped how generations remember this story. But what you'll see tonight is *The Sound of Music* as Rodgers and Hammerstein first wrote it for the stage—an experience both familiar and fresh.

When people ask about my "take" on this show, I tell them: there's no need to reinvent a classic that works so beautifully on its own. Rodgers and Hammerstein built *The Sound of Music* using much of the sturdy, traditional structure of musical theatre: a central couple who spar before falling in love; a comic pair who lighten the mood; young lovers whose romance brings freshness; and instead of a chorus of



singing and dancing chorus girls, an unforgettable ensemble of singing nuns and seven irresistible von Trapp children. Add to this the tension of Austria in 1938, just before the Anschluss (Hitler's forced annexation of Austria into Nazi Germany), and you have a show

with enough heart, humor, and conflict to captivate any audience.

When *The Sound of Music* premiered in 1959, World War II was only fourteen years in the past—audiences needed no reminder of the dangers of Nazism. Today, some viewers may be startled by resonances with current events, but I believe theatre can—and must—offer space for reflection. This show is not just about romance and music; it is also about courage, conscience, and the choices ordinary people make in extraordinary times.

Ultimately, though, this is a joyous evening of theatre. My greatest responsibility as director has been to get out of the way and let our exceptional cast and creative team shine. They have poured heart and talent into every moment, and I think you will love not only the sound but also the movement in our *Sound of Music*.

Thank you for joining us. May the story, the songs, and the spirit of this classic remind you why live theatre matters—and why *The Sound of Music* endures.

Walter M. Mayes Director

welcome

A Message from Michael Paul Hirsch

South Bay Musical Theatre Executive Director

Relcome to the start of South Bay Musical Theatre's 63rd season! Together, we are about to experience the power of stories told through song, the way only live musical theatre can.



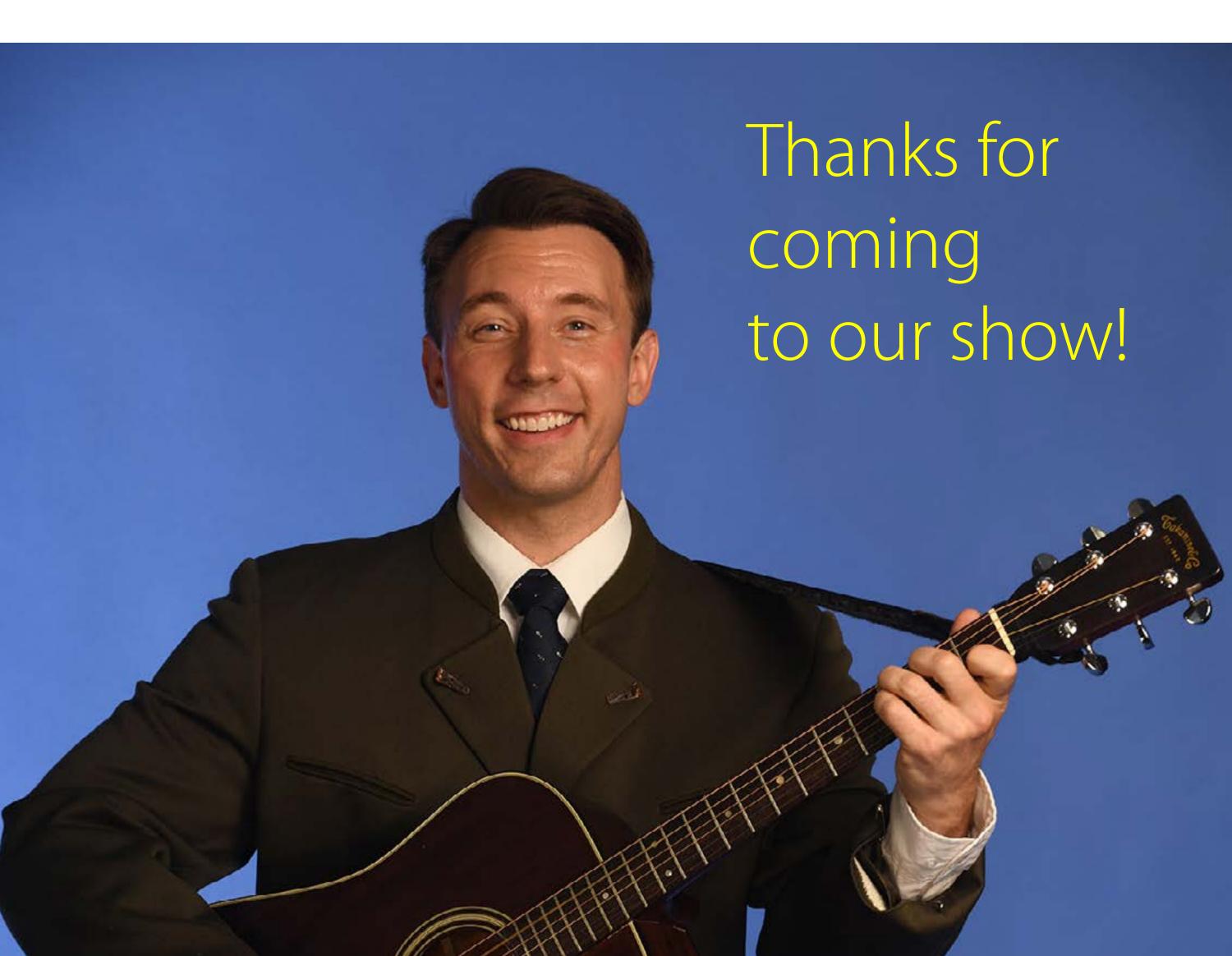
Our season is full of characters summoning courage, chasing dreams, and finding family. *The Sound of Music* shows us love and hope blooming even in the darkest of times. *In the Heights* celebrates resilience, community, and the vibrant spirit of a neighborhood bound together by music. *Little Women* reminds us of the strength that comes from creativity, sisterhood, and holding fast to what we believe in.

In addition, like last season's thrilling concert, *Titanic*, both *Let it Show* and *On the 20th Century* are going to be an emotional tide of pure musical bliss.

Though these stories unfold in very different times and places, they

all echo something deeply human: our longing to belong, to dream, and to transform. As SBMT begins its own new chapter, I can't think of a better set of stories to share with you.

Thank you for being here, for supporting live theatre, and for making our work possible. Together, we create a space where music and stories lift us all. I can't wait to share this journey with you throughout the season.



cast of characters

PERFORMANCE DATES

Gretl von Trapp......Isabella Simon Skyler Roman

*Schnitzel With Noodles cast performs Sept. 26, 28, Oct. 4, 10, 12, and 17. **Crisp Apple Strudels cast performs Sept. 27, Oct. 3, 5, 11, 16, and 18.

songs & scenes

The action takes place in Salzburg, Austria, just before the German annexation of Austria (the Anschluss of 1938).

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Finale Ultimo

Scene 7: The Garden of the Abbey, that night

.The Company

production staff

Director	
Madelyn Simon Stage ManagerEmily Tao Assistant Stage ManagerQuentin Tepliuk ASM CoverStephanie Mose	
Costume Designer	
Hair & Makeup Designer	
Sound Designer	
Cast Deputy	

board of directors

Tipu Purkayastha, Chair Ann Lucena, Vice Chair Andy Switky, Secretary Dan Singletary, CTO Ray Smith, CFO Doug Hughes Marcy Bates Dick Robbins Lashonda Eagels Steve Sammonds

sbmt staff

Executive Director	Michael Paul Hirsch
Artistic Director	Walter M. Mayes
Box Office Manager	Diane Hughes
Business Manager	Lori Wood
Chief Technical Officer	
Historian, Properties Manager	Barbara Heninger
Marketing Director	
Patron Manager	
Production Manager	

orchestra

Conductor

George Yefchak

Flute

D. Asa Stern

Diana Tucker (sub)

Oboe

Vicky Xiong

Julianne Stafford (sub)

George Pascoe (sub)

Clarinet I

Jordan Selburn

Brandi Frisbie (sub)

Clarinet II

Brandon Smith

Jenny Ugale (sub)

Horn

Tim Dowd

Trumpet I

Guy Clark

Jay Schuler (sub)

Trumpet II

Laura Shea-Clark

Brendan

Wilhelmsen (sub)

Trombone

John Fitzhugh

Michael Gross (sub)

Percussion

Dori Shimer

Violin I

Faye Yang

Violin II

Jaime Yang

Cello

Karmen Peng

Carrie Tseng (sub)

Je-Shiuan Hsu

(sub)

Bass

Richard Lum

Keyboard

Shannon Wang

Linus Wong



Front, from left: John Fitzhugh, George Yefchak, Karmen Peng, Faye Yang. Standing: TIm Dowd, Richard Lum, Brendan Wilhelmsen, Laura Shea-Clark, Jay Schuler, Guy Clark, Linus Wong, Dori Shimer, Brandon Smith, Jordan Selburn, Vicky Xiong, Kent Peacock, Jaime Yang. Not pictured: D. Asa Stern, Diana Tucker, Julianne Stafford, George Pascoe, Brandi Frisbie, Jenny Ugale, Michael Gross, Carrie Tseng, Je-Shiuan Hsu, Shannon Wang.

land acknowledgment

South Bay Musical Theatre acknowledges that its theater, rehearsal studio, and set shop are located on the ancestral home of the Muwekma Ohlone peoples of the Tamien Tribe who are the original inhabitants of the South Bay Area. We recognize that we benefit from living and working on their traditional homeland, and we send our appreciation.

acknowledgments

Deepest thanks to Marcy Bates, Rev. Vincent Dang of St. Thomas of Canterbury Parish, Vian Davis, Maricela Disch, Michelle Escoto, Guglielmo Winery, Nancy Hand and WVLO Musical Theatre Company, Joe Kelly, Luciana Profaca PhD, Tom Shamrell, Nancy Tepperman, Leslie Newport Wright, and Jeff Yaeger for their support of this production.





recognition







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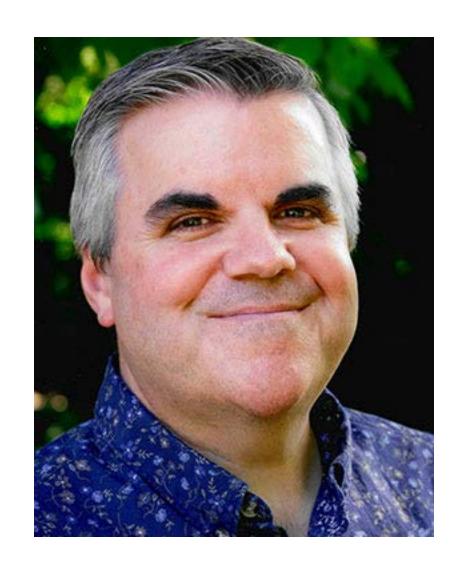
meet the cast



Julia Barten (Ursula, Nun, Nazi Storm-trooper) is thankful to be making her SBMT debut in *The Sound of Music!* She first performed in the show at age 12 as Elsa Schraeder (who many seldom hear of). Her adult theatre credits include *The Gondoliers* (ensemble) with LTSJ, *Pirates of Penzance* and *HMS Pinafore* with The Savoyaires in Chicago, *The Music Man*

(Alma) with the Potomac Theatre Company in Maryland, and La Belle Hélène with the Victorian Lyric Opera Company in Virginia. Julia was the musical director of her college barbershop a cappella group and loves choral and part singing. A pelvic health physical therapist by day, she also creates musical parodies for fun—complete with multi-part vocals and amateur video editing. Julia thanks her husband, Alex, for his support, and her two fur babies, Luma and Duke, for their endless cuddles after rehearsals.

Andy Bates (Franz) is elated to make his stage debut at SBMT after years of attending shows here. His previous credits include Grandpa Joe in Willy Wonka, Rhino in Just So (both at SST), and Joe Boyd in Damn Yankees (SCP). Aside from the occasional walk-on role, Andy has helped behind the scenes, contributing his time and artwork to various SBMT productions. In



his spare time, he enjoys attending Bay Area plays and musicals, reading comics, and other suitably nerdy pursuits. He would like to thank his family and friends for their enthusiastic and unwavering support!



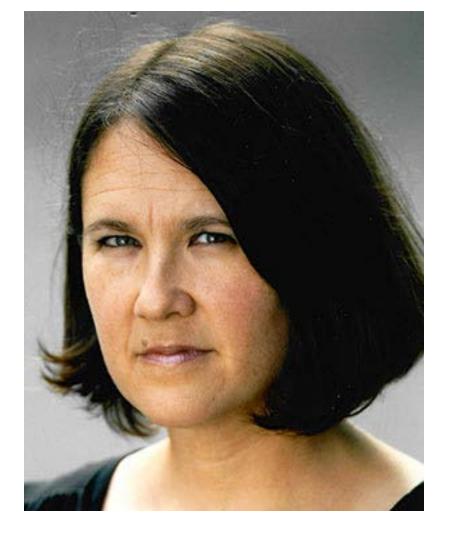
Beatrice Bell (Friedrich von Trapp, Strudels Cast) is so excited to be performing in their first SBMT show! Some past credits include Fun Home (Alison Bechdel, Upstage Theater), Alice By Heart (Director/choreographer, Upstage Theater), Chicago (Velma Kelly, BCP), and The Addams Family (Alice Beineke, GIFT). Outside of rehearsals, Beatrice loves to sew, roller-

skate, and dress up their collection of porcelain dolls. Beatrice thanks you for coming and hopes you enjoy the show!

Kama Belloni (Mother Abbess) has donned the habit before in *The Sound of Music* (FMT 2018, Sr. Sophia WVLO 2011) but this SBMT production is her first as Reverend Mother—bringing back fond memories of a trip to Austria in 2017 when she and her then "sixteen going on seventeen" daughter visited the real Nonnberg Abbey. A retired performing arts di-



rector with operatic training, Kama vocal directs at the high school level (come see *The Little Mermaid* this fall at PHS!) and leads the music on Sundays at St. Thomas of Canterbury. A familiar face in our lobby, Kama serves on staff as Patron Manager for SBMT. Among her "favorite things" are performances in *Titanic: In Concert* (SBMT 2025), Agnes Gooch in *Mame* (SBMT 2018), *The Bridges of Madison County* (ensemble, SBMT 2017) and Jack's Mom in *Into the Woods* (FMT 2018.) Kama dedicates this performance in memory of both Sr. Vivian Snow, SNDdeN and PJ (Sr. Peter Joseph Navone, SNDdeN), who was the most musical theatre-loving nun and my dear theatre buddy. Love always to my family and TeamB #459LoveYouBunches



Mandy Carmack (Sister Berthe) is thrilled to be making her debut with SBMT. Recent credits include Mother in A Christmas Story: the Musical (LASC), Mary of Bethany in Lamb of God (Oakland Temple Hill), and Adult Ensemble in Matilda the Musical (PAP). Decades ago, her most memorable role in a local youth production was Tzeitel in Fiddler on the Roof (LAYT). Man-

dy teaches 6th grade at Pinewood School, where she first gained her love of theatre as a child. Besides musical theatre and teaching, these are a few of her favorite things: ice cream, fireworks, board games, playing piano, and writing parody songs; at the top of the list are faith, family, friends, and the color yellow. She'd like to thank her husband and five great kids for their support.

Adeline Choi (Marta von Trapp, Noodles Cast) is ten years old and she has one cat. She is also on a gymnastics team. She loved The Sound of Music since she was little and had so much fun learning all the movements and lines. She hopes you enjoy the show!





Coraline Christian (Liesl von Trapp) is honored to make her SMBT debut alongside such a talented cast and crew. She began performing at the age of seven and has never looked back. Most recently, she played Gretchen Wieners in Mean Girls: High School Version (SVCT), Chava in Fiddler on the Roof (LTSJ), and Silena Beauregard in The Lightning Thief:

The Percy Jackson Musical (SVCT). Coraline is fifteen, going on sixteen, and in her sophomore year of high school. She is concurrently taking college courses and working toward degrees in psychology and Spanish. Coraline loves singing, dancing, and acting—both on and off stage. She would like to thank her family and friends for their constant support and encouragement.

Lauren D'Ambrosio (Maria Rainer) returns to SBMT after performing in Mame (Pegeen/DC) and the 2000s "Broadway by the Decade" concert. She has most recently been seen as a multi-instrumentalist in the ensemble of Twelfth Night (LASC), Julia in The Wedding Singer (WVLO), and Voice of Scarecrow in The Wizard of Oz (PAP, ASL-immersive pro-



duction). Other credits include Kate Monster in *Avenue Q*, the Rockstar Doctor in *Next to Normal* (SCP), and Alice in *The Book of Will* (FMT). This one is dedicated to her vocal coach, Erin, and the elementary school music teacher who jump-started her love for *The Sound of Music*, Peggy Rahman.



Whitney Deng (Nun, Saengerbund of Herwegen Trio, Party Guest) is in her happy place whenever she's involved with music. She plays the piano (ABRSM Grade 6 Distinction), cello (why not) and sings (kind of). Thank you for coming to our production of *The Sound of Music* and may the hills bring you alive!

Maura Goetzke (Louisa von Trapp, Strudels Cast) is super excited to play the role of Louisa. Maura has had a love for theatre since her fifth grade school production of The Little Mermaid. Some of her favorite characters she has played are Willy Wonka in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz at Seacrest School. She



also enjoyed playing Bulda in *Frozen* at CRT. She would like to thank her family for always being there, for her friends for supporting her no matter what, and for her vocal coach Sophia Alawi for always offering a helping hand. She is very excited to be performing with SBMT.



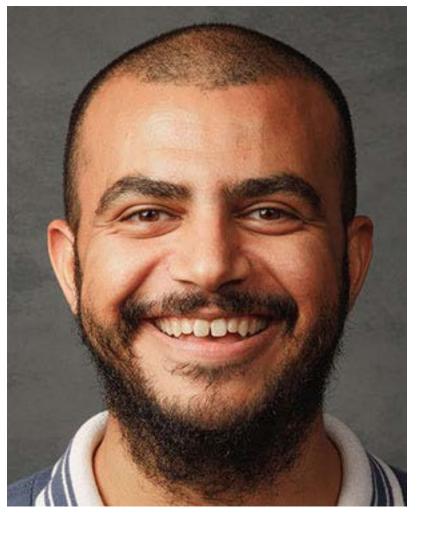
Robin Holbrook (Nun, Party Guest, Nazi Stormtrooper) is grateful for being cast in such an iconic musical! She previously appeared with SBMT in Brigadoon; Big River; Mame; My Fair Lady; City of Angels; and Kiss Me, Kate. Robin has also been in productions with SLOC, SCP, and LTSJ in recent years. When not on stage, Robin sings with First Lutheran

Church Choir in Palo Alto and takes voice lessons with Carl Franzen. Retired from Stanford after 36 years on staff, she is currently working in a biotech start-up, Rejuvenation Technologies Inc. She is a voracious reader and enjoys zentangling, travel with friends and family, and being on stage!

Selina Hsu (Nun, Nazi Stormtrooper) is thrilled to be a part of the nuns ensemble in her very first musical theatre production! Prior to deciding to get thee to a nunnery, she grew up singing in choir and in collegiate a cappella. Recently, she's been singing with the Bay Area A Cappella community and the Symphony San Jose Chorale. The Sound of Music holds a special



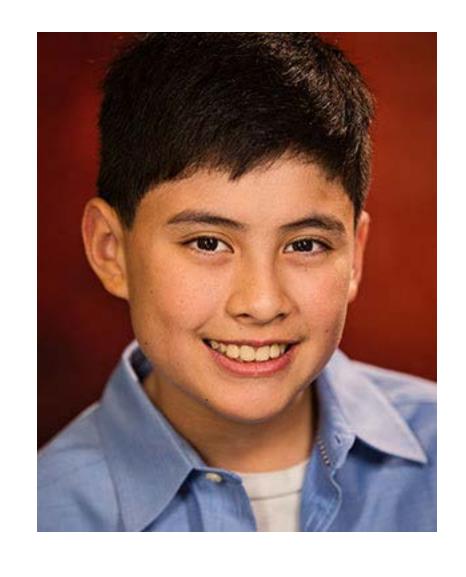
place in her heart, as she and her family have always loved watching the film air on TV during the Christmas season.



Mohamed Ismail (Max Detweiler) is an Egyptian-American actor who performs all around the Bay Area. He was (somewhat) recently seen in another musical featuring dastardly Nazis in *The Producers* at HTC. Mohamed would like to make it clear that fascism is BAD and if you are silently waiting for things to blow over you are enabling it! Mohamed is also a member of

the award-winning barbershop chorus Fog City Singers in San Francisco, and is on the board of directors at CLTC. Outside of performing, Mohamed works as the Director of Electrical Engineering at Dovetail Product Development. In addition to graduating from ASU and Stanford with engineering degrees, Mohamed also attended Gelato University in Italy and loves making frozen treats. He wishes his wife could see this show, but the show she is performing in has the same performance times.

Evan Kronstadt (Kurt von Trapp, Strudels Cast) is excited to be appearing in his first SBMT production! Previously, he was Christian in Fun Home (2025) with Upstage Theater, a spirit in OSJ's The Magic Flute (2024), and Horton the Elephant in Seussical (2024) and Michael in Elf The Musical (2023) with PYT. Evan also served as Assistant Stage Manager for PYT's



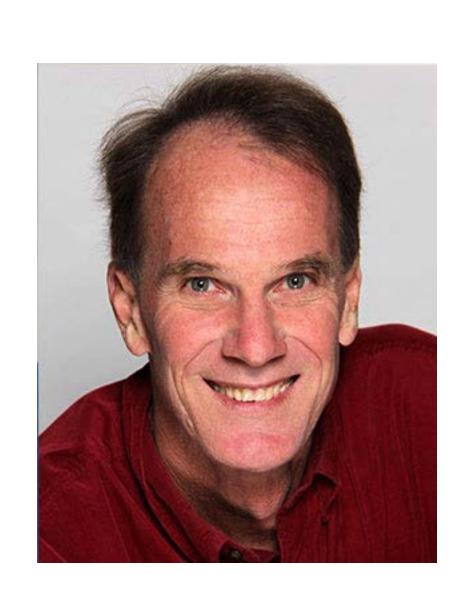
Tuck Everlasting (2024). When not on stage, he enjoys singing in his choir, drawing, and practicing Kung Fu.



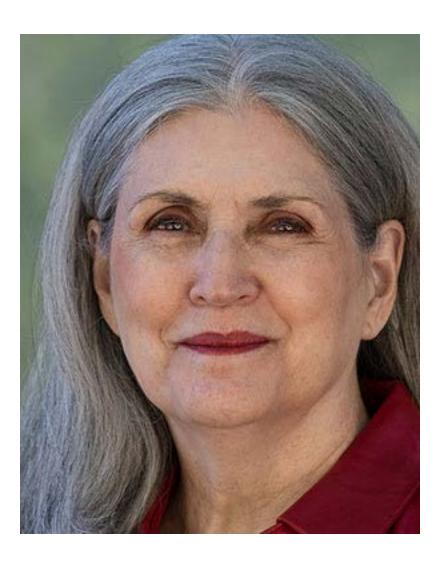
Coco LaMarche (Brigitta von Trapp, Noodles Cast) is thrilled to be making her SBMT debut alongside such a talented cast and crew! Coco started performing in musicals when she was 8 years old and this will be her 9th production! Past favorite roles include Charlie Bucket in Willy Wonka Jr (SCP), and Michael Banks in Mary Poppins Jr (SCP). Outside of the-

atre Coco spends her time dancing, hanging out with friends, and listening to music. She would like to thank her family and friends for their never-ending support and also YOU for coming to see the show!

Hank Lawson (Baron Elberfeld) is trading a kilt for a tux and moving from the Scottish Highlands to the Austrian Mountains. "How could I not be in Sound of Music", he exclaims, "I love to waltz!" This is his sectond go around with SOM having performed it with WVLO back in 2011. In between that time he's been in Brigadoon (SBMT), Legally Blonde (FMT), Will Rogers Follies



(WVLO), Catch Me If You Can (WVLO), Elves & The Shoe-maker (TTC), and Oliver (SCP). The one thing that Hank has learned is, "cats add spice to life while theatre is the frosting on the cake (now I'm hungry)."



Josie Burgin Lawson (Frau Schmidt) is excited to cap off her time on the Bay Area stage by joining SBMT for *The Sound of Music* and finally getting to work with Walter. (Her husband, Skip, has been hired by Vast Aerospace so they will soon be moving to Los Angeles.) You may have seen her in Four Old Broads, The Hound of The Baskervilles, and See How They

Run (SCP); Pippin (SVCT); The Secret Garden (LASC); Native Gardens (CLTC); Spring Awakening (SCP); Shakuntala

(FMT); All the Way (PAP); O'Keeffe: Paintings From the Faraway Nearby (TTC); multiple productions of A Christmas Carol (NTC); The Crucible (CRT); as well as Julius Caesar, Much Ado About Nothing, Macbeth, and Measure For Measure (SVS).

Alicia Liu (Brigitta von Trapp, Strudels Cast) is thrilled to make her SBMT debut with such an incredible cast and crew! Alicia is going into seventh grade at Menlo School. Some of her favorite past roles include Young Elsa in Frozen (PYT) and Michael Banks in Mary Poppins (SCP). She loves singing, dancing, and playing the piano. Outside of musical theatre, Alicia



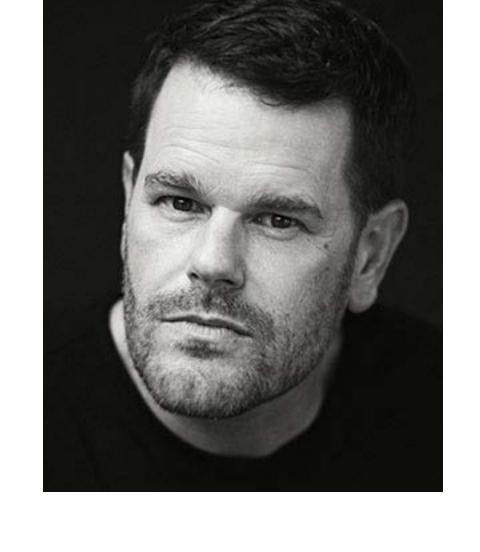
enjoys playing sports with her family, participating in robotics, and playing with her dog. She would like to thank her family, friends, and production staff for all their love and support.



Daelin Malizia (Nun, Party Guest, Nazi Stormtrooper) is grateful and excited to be joining SBMT for The Sound of Music! This is her debut show with SBMT and she is proud to be a part of such a wonderful show. She moved to the Bay Area four years ago and has fallen in love with California. Her past productions have included Stranger Things: The Experience (2022)

and *Don't Follow the Lights* (2023) in San Francisco. She wants to thank her family, friends, and especially Kevin for all of their support!

Casey Martin (Herr Zeller) is appearing in his first show with South Bay Musical Theatre with this performance in *The Sound of Music*. He would like to thank the entire cast, crew, and creative team for their hard work and support on this production.





Janet Miller (Nun, Baroness Elberfeld) is excited to be back on stage after a sixyear hiatus. She was last seen in Big River (ensemble), Hunchback of Notre Dame (choir), and Mame (ensemble). For the 2017 season she produced SBMT's beautiful The Bridges of Madison County. She has filled many roles both on and off stage

at SBMT, performing in *Hello, Dolly!*; *The Music Man* (Mrs. Squires); *Funny Girl* (Emma); *Anything Goes*; *Finian's Rainbow*; and *Ragtime*. She has served on the Board of Direc-

tors, and has been awarded the group's Legacy Robe, Carol Srigley "Heartbeat" Award, the Harriette Hill Technical Award, and a Silver Jacket. Favorite local credits include *The Sound of Music* (Sister Margaretta) with LTSJ and WVLO, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Helena Landless), *Phantom* (Carlotta received the "Erma Award") with WVLO; and the all-female 1776 (Caesar Rodney) with TTC, where she also directed "The Guardians" as part of their 2017 "10-in-10" short plays.

Beth Monthaven (Nun, Nazi Stormtrooper) is thrilled to be performing in her very first musical ever! While theatre has always been a lifelong dream, her primary focus over the years has been expanding her vocals and improving in ballet. Playing a part in an all-time favorite classic like *The Sound of Music* is an exciting opportunity to add acting to her skills. Beth would like to thank SBMT for this opportunity!



Brooke Presley (Nun, Party Guest, Fraulein Schweiger) is incredibly excited to make her SMBT debut! Her musical list is extensive and years long. Some notable roles she's performed in: Jack's Mother in Into the Woods at WVC, Adult Women in Spring Awakening at WVC, and Mrs. Schroeder in Anyone Can Whistle at WVC. Brooke would like to dedicate this

performance to her friends, family, guides, and loved ones closest to her.

Ellen Quitzau (Postulant, Party Guest) was born and raised in Brazil and moved to California in 2019. She is thrilled to make her SBMT debut in such a beloved classic as *The Sound of Music*. With a background in dance and formal training in TV and film through the Meisner technique, Ellen currently performs in short films and commercials throughout the Bay



Area. Recent roles include SJDT's *The Original San Jose Nut-cracker* as Grandma, The Maid, and Angel. In addition to her passion for the stage, she also works as an interior designer.



Erika Robertson (Sister Margaretta, Party Guest) is delighted to return to the world of musical theatre after a 13-year hiatus from the stage. Previous roles include Cinderella in Cinderella (LTSJ), Johanna Barker in Sweeney Todd (SCP), Rapunzel in Into the Woods (SVCT), Jellylorum in CATS (CMT), and Mrs. Darling in Peter Pan (CMT), as well as featured

ensemble roles in *Working* (FMT) and *Nine* (CLTC). Erika is grateful to their found family for the encouragement (aka: lovingly persistent peer pressure) that brought them back to the stage, and especially to Nicholas for his unwavering love and support.

Skyler Roman (Gretl von Trapp, Strudels Cast) is super excited to play Gretl in The Sound of Music! She has loved being on stage since she was 6 years old, in shows like Aesop's Fables and Life Cycles and is also a vocal soloist with Silbermann Studios. Skyler sings lead with her friends' band, Loud City, and has fun taking les-



sons in singing, piano, and acting. When she's not performing, you can find her training jiu jitsu at her dad's gym, swimming, rollerblading, ice skating, or making art projects and funny doll videos. Skyler's favorite thing to do is sing, dance, and act—and she is so happy to share that with you tonight!



Brad Satterwhite (Captain Georg von Trapp) is excited to be part of his first production at SBMT. His recent performances around the Bay include Dmitry in Anastasia, Dr. Pomatter in Waitress, Sky Masterson in Guys and Dolls, Jamie Wellerstein in The Last Five Years, Whizzer in Falsettos, and the Guy understudy in Once. Other favorite roles in the area include Chris

Bean in *The Play That Goes Wrong*, Ethan in *The Full Monty*, Lancelot in *Spamalot*, Cliff in *Cabaret*, and Warner in *Legal-ly Blonde*. When he isn't acting, he is an author under his penname, Hal Emerson.

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Maddie Barrow Schneider (Marta von Trapp, Strudels Cast) is a 5th grader at Hammer Montessori in San Jose. She is overjoyed to make her SBMT debut in The Sound of Music! Maddie's theatre journey began at age 4, when she was cast as Lulu in the San Jose stop of the 2nd National Tour of Waitress. Since then, she's performed in 17 productions



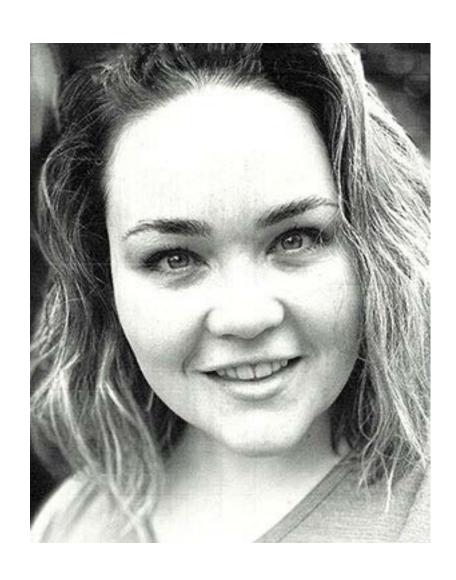
with Starting Arts and CMT. Her favorite part of theatre is the lasting friendships she makes along the way, and she is especially grateful for the new "siblings" she's found in the von Trapp family.



Jennifer Seguin (Nun, Party Guest, Saengerbund of Herwegen Trio) is delighted to be joining SBMT for her third performance. You may have seen her in Mame (Ensemble) as well as in the choir in The Hunchback of Notre Dame. More recently, she has been serving as the SBMT House Manager for at least part of the run of every show. Jennifer is also the Co-Direc-

tor of the LTSJ Victorian Carolers performance group. When not on stage, Jennifer sings with the Westminster Presbyterian Church Choir. She works as a local government executive and enjoys spending time with her kids, traveling, reading, and playing the piano. She would like to thank her family and friends for their love and support!

Kaitlyn Shelton (Nun, New Postulant, Party Guest) is thankful to be a part of the cast in her first show with SBMT! Most recently she was cast as Catherine in Pippin at SVCT and has been in many other shows in the Bay Area. She is especially grateful for her husband, Andrew, and family. Enjoy the show!





Isabella Simon (Gretl von Trapp, Noodles Cast) is 9 years old and a fourth grader at South School. Izzy is especially excited to perform on stage with her real-life big sister, Madelyn. She was recently seen as Kate in Annie (CRT) and as a Chocolate Kiss in Willy Wonka (PPP). When she's not performing for her family at home, Izzy

loves singing, dancing, opening surprise Mini Brands, coloring, hanging out with her friends, and spending time with her family. She can't wait for everyone to see the show!

Madelyn Simon (Louisa von Trapp, Noodles Cast) is thrilled to make her debut with SBMT as Louisa in The Sound of Music! Her past credits include The Women in Theatre Project at 54 Below in New York, Sweeney Todd at San Mateo High School, From Page to Stage at Feinstein's at the Nikko, The Music Man at PAP, playing Jason in Falsettos at



42SM, Susan in White Christmas (CRT), Annie in Annie Warbucks (LMT), Amanda in Matilda, the Musical (BP), and Little Fan in A Christmas Carol (ACT). She would like to thank her three siblings and her parents for their endless love and sup-

port! @madsup_simon



Janet Sirett (Nun, Saengerbund of Herwegen Trio) is making her community theatre debut in *The Sound of Music*. She's grateful to the cast and crew for their support and hopes you enjoy the show.

Augustus (Gus) Solomon (Friedrich von Trapp, Noodles Cast) (he/him) is honored to make his SBMT debut as part of an incredibly talented, professional, and positive cast and crew. Gus loves being on stage. He studies piano, acting, and voice, and he has yet to meet a musical he doesn't love, nor one in which he can't imagine performing. His last pro-



fessional appearance was in OSJ's production of *The Magic Flute* as the First Spirit. Some of his favorite roles have been Agatha Trunchbull in *Matilda* (Laurel School) and Young Charlie in *Kinky Boots* (ProArts Playhouse, Maui). Gus lives in Menlo Park, and he is in 8th grade at Tessellations School. He would like to thank his voice teacher for encouraging his love of musical theatre, as well as his parents and dogs for doing the same and for being an ever-willing audience for his impromptu vocal performances.



Miriam Stern (Sister Sophia) is super excited to be in her first show with SBMT! Past favorite shows include Fiddler on the Roof and Ragtime with LTSJ, Pippin with WVLO, and The Other Mr. Lincoln with Star Productions. In her spare time Miriam loves tap dancing and drinking boba tea. She thanks her boyfriend, family, and friends for always supporting her.

Leigh Trautman (Nun) is excited to be performing in her first show with SBMT. She was last on stage in The Prom (adult ensemble/parent) with FMT. Other past productions include Into the Woods (Granny, u/s Jack's Mom, voice of the giant), Working (cast) with SCP, Mamma Mia! (ensemble) with WVLO, Sister Act (Sister Mary Irene) with WVLO, and La



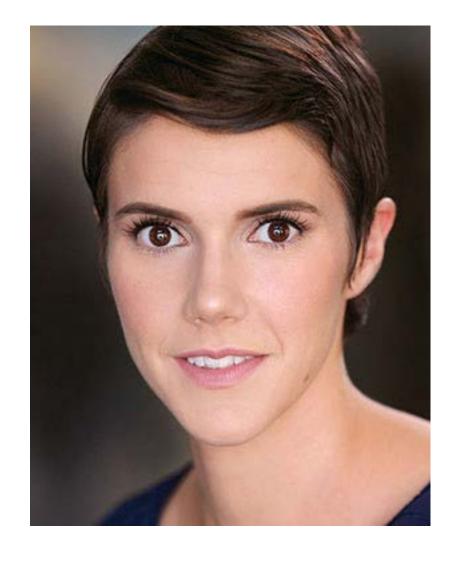
Cage Aux Folles (pit singer) with SCP. She sings with several community and church groups and loves to be outdoors from the coast to the mountains.



Jackson Velez (Rolf Gruber) is so excited to be returning to SBMT for his third show in a row! Past SBMT credits include Sandy Dean in *Brigadoon* and Officer Barrel in *Urinetown*. Other recent credits include Mordred in *Camelot* (CRT), and The Baker in *Into The Woods* (BAeTc). In his free time Jackson likes to put on his own productions online and watch plenty of New

York Mets baseball. He would like to thank his parents, as their support in helping him pursue his interests is invaluable.

Jessica Whittemore (Elsa Schraeder) (she/her) returns to SBMT after assistant directing Shout! and performing as Ilona Ritter in She Loves Me and Lucille Early in No, No, Nanette. Now she is truly delighted to sing and dance with her real-life husband for their first-ever duets. Other favorite roles include Adult Alison (Fun Home, CLTC), Dot (Mrs. California, TTC),



Margaret (*Silent Sky*, CLTC), Ulla (*The Producers*, CSC), and Amalia (*She Loves Me*, FMT). Off stage, Jessica is working on an online course to improve transgender and gender-diverse healthcare as an Instructional Designer for Stanford Medicine EdTech, and has a Master's in Environmental Justice from the University of Michigan. She believes in celebrating our differences and protecting our most vulnerable.



Gavin Wong (Kurt von Trapp, Noodles Cast) is thrilled to be making his debut as Kurt von Trapp in SBMT's The Sound of Music! Past Bay Area credits include Nemo in Finding Nemo (PYT), Oliver in Oliver, Charlie in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, and Young Simba in The Lion King. Gavin is an award winner, receiving the Judy Robe Award from PYT.

Other hobbies include playing various instruments like classical guitar since age 3, starting a band, writing original music, and flying planes with the Microsoft Flight Simulator where he's received his personal pilot's license! He'd love to thank his friends and family for their unwavering support and dedicate this performance to his mom.

Michael Yu (Admiral von Schreiber) is excited to perform in his second musical with SBMT! He was recently cast as Angus MacGuffie in SBMT's *Brigadoon*. A classically trained vocalist, Michael often performs at church celebrations, weddings, and recitals. He is eager to grow and develop his acting skills through this production. Michael would



like to thank his loving wife for her continuous support and encouragement.

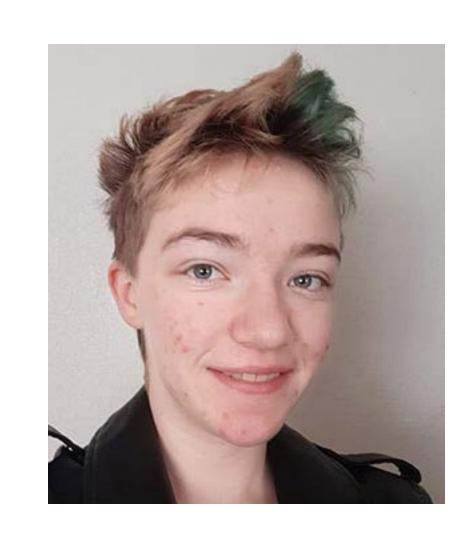
meet the staff



Steve Allhoff (Assistant Director) first appeared on SBMT's stage as Edward Rutledge in 1776 (2017) and was last seen as Tommy in Brigadoon. More recently, he's been involved with shows from the sound booth and by lending his voice to the pre-show announcements. This is Steve's first AD effort and he would

like to thank Walter for the opportunity and the rest of staff for allowing him to watch, learn, and support where needed. And as always, thank you to his friends and family for their support during the long rehearsal hours.

Kisti Christensen (Scenic Designer) debuted their first set design in 2022 with BADC's production of Water. Since then, they have primarily worked as a craftsman; holding the position of Lead Carpenter and Scenic Charge at CLTC, while contributing to various other productions around the South Bay. They are currently studying at SJSU to get a Bachelor's in scenic design.



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Francesca Cipponeri (Choreographer) is a dancer and choreographer in and around the San Francisco Bay Area. She currently holds an MFA in Choreography from Mills College in Oakland, CA and is Dance Faculty at SJSU. She strives to allow story to come to life through movement and connection, and she is thrilled to be choreographing *The Sound of Music*.

Walter M. Mayes (Director and Artistic Director) made his triumphant return to the stage (after a twenty-year absence) in the title role of Man of La Mancha in 2008. After years of directing shows for SBMT (The Producers; A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum; Promises, Promises; Hairspray; The Genius of Leonard Bernstein; 1776;



Chess in Concert; Peter & the Starcatcher; A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder; and, most recently, A Little Night Music), he has taken on the Artistic Director position and looks forward to guiding SBMT through its seventh decade. He is the librarian at The Girls' Middle School in Palo Alto.



Rachel Michelberg (Vocal Director) is happy to return to SBMT after vocal directing Brigadoon. She has performed and directed with numerous local theater and opera companies, including TWSV, OSJ, WBO, SFPO, PAP, and WVLO. Favorites include the title role in Carmen, Rosina in The Barber of Seville, Mother Abbess in The Sound of Music, Cin-

derella in *Into the Woods*, Anna in *The King and I*, Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof*, and Eliza in *My Fair Lady*. Her memoir *Crash: How I Became a Reluctant Caregiver* was published by SheWrites Press in Spring 2021. Ms. Michelberg teaches voice and enjoys cooking, gardening, and hiking with her husband, Richard, and their dog, Mr. Bean.

Don Nguyen (Projections Designer) Recent projections design credits: SBMT's Brigadoon; Titanic: In Concert; Urinetown; No, No, Nanette; Mary Poppins; A Little Night Music; Rent; Ópera Cultura's Très Minutos; SCP's A Midsummer Night's Dream; LTSJ's The Great Gilbert & Sullivan Sing-off; TPT's Once on this Island;



SJSU's Bernstein's Mass; Considering Matthew Shepard. Recent performing credits: Urinetown (Mr. McQueen) and

She Loves Me (Maître D') with SBMT, OSJ chorus member for the '18-'19 season and Madama Butterfly '25, Light Opera Around the World with LTSJ, and The Little Mermaid (Grimsby) with SCP. Instagram: @mrdonnguyen

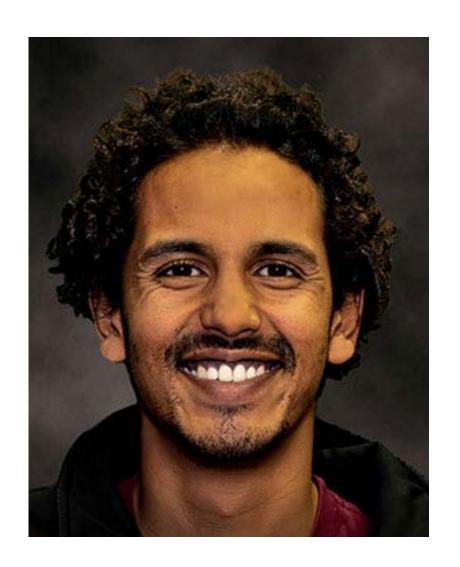


Aishy Panwar (Hair & Makeup Designer) (she/her/hers) is excited to return to SBMT, this time on staff. She was just in SBMT's *Brigadoon* as a member of the ensemble, and before that, she played Kate Murphey in *Titanic: In Concert*. Other roles of hers include the title role in *Pippin* (WVLO) and Johanna in *Sweeney Todd* (SCP). She hopes you enjoy this

beautiful production of such a beloved classic!

Y. Sharon Peng (Costume Designer) (Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.) is a guild member of IATSE Local 706 and an alum of the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising. Recent costumes for stage include What the Constitution Means to Me (Perseverance Theatre, AK), Cabaret (LASC), and Brigadoon (SBMT). Sharon also works extensively in Opera and is the resident Costume, Wigs & Makeup Designer for Opera Parallèle.





Sheraj Ragoobeer (Sound Designer) is delighted to design sound for *The Sound of Music* with SBMT. His journey in theatre began in Saratoga, where he first discovered sound mixing with WVLO's *Mamma Mia*. Over the past five years, Sheraj has designed productions including *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at SCP, *Curtains* at Menlo School, *SpongeBob*

with Borel at SMPAC, *Elf* at HTC, and *The Wizard of Oz* with PAP. Beyond theatre, he is passionate about building communities through spiritual education and sees sound as a powerful way to connect hearts through storytelling.

Emily Tao (Stage Manager/Production Manager) is honored to have collaborated with such a talented group of staff, actors, designers, and crew for this production of The Sound of Music. Recent shows include Richard III (SVS, stage manager), Titanic: In Concert (SBMT, stage manager), and Brigadoon (SBMT, props designer). Many



thanks to her family, friends, and dogs for their unwavering love and support.



Quentin Constantine Tepliuk (Assistant Stage Manager) is elated to have you join us for this production! This is Quentin's sixth show with SBMT following his work on *Titanic; Urinetown; No, No, Nanette; Mary Poppins;* and *A Little Night Music*. Earlier show credits include Assistant Stage Managing *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and *Violet*, and Stage Managing *Into the Woods*, all at FMT,

and Stage Managing The Little Mermaid at SCP.

Noella Thu (Lighting Designer) is excited to be working on her first show with SBMT. Previously, she has also designed for *The Red Mill* at Lyric Theatre, as well as Westmont High School, where she also dabbled in Stage Management and Technical Direction in shows such as *Into the Woods, Footloose*, and *Sherlock Holmes*. She is grateful for her peers and mentors who



have guided her through her first years in technical theatre.



George Yefchak (Music Director) is thrilled to return after his SBMT debut with No, No, Nanette. He leads South Bay Philharmonic, which provides a welcoming atmosphere for musicians from a wide range of skill levels. He also serves as associate conductor with Nova Vista Symphony and has conducted performances with the Redwood and Saratoga Symphonies as well

as the Googler Orchestra. When not rehearsing, performing, or typesetting concert programs, George works in chemical analysis instrumentation development at Agilent Technologies.

list of abbreviations

42SM = 42nd Street Moon; ACT = American Conservatory Theater; BADC = Bay Area Drama Company; BAeTc = Bay Area Educational Theatre Company; BCP = Bellarmine College Prep; BP = Berkeley Playhouse; CLTC = City Lights Theater Company; CMT = Children's Musical Theater San Jose; CRT = Coastal Repertory Theatre; CSC = Cabrillo Stage Company; FMT = Foothill Music Theatre; HTC = Hillbarn Theatre Company; LASC = Los Altos Stage Company; LAYT = Los Altos Youth Theatre; LMT = Landmark Musical Theatre; LTSJ = Lyric Theatre of San Jose; NTC = Northside Theatre Company; OSJ = Opera San José; PAP = Palo Alto Players; PHS = Presentation High School; PPP = Pied Piper Players; PYT = Peninsula Youth Theatre; SBMT = South Bay Musical Theatre; SCP = Sunnyvale Community Players; SFPO = SF Pocket Opera; SJDT = San Jose Dance Theatre; SJSU = San Jose State University; SLOC = Stanford Light Opera Company; SST = Shoestring Theatre Company; SVCT = South Valley Civic Theatre; SVS = Silicon Valley Shakespeare; TPT = The Pear Theatre; TTC = Tabard Theatre Company; TWSV = Theatre-Works Silicon Valley; WBO = West Bay Opera; WVC = West Valley College; WVLO = WVLO Musical Theatre Company.

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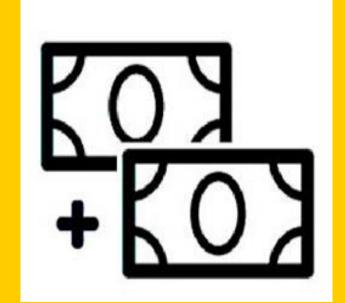
Our nonprofit theatre relies on the generosity of patrons and community members like you to keep bringing high quality theatre to the South Bay Area. To



make a one-time or sustaining contribution, please visit our website at SouthBayMT.com/donate or drop a few dollars in the donation box in our lobby as you leave today. Thank you for your support!

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onors over the past year and a half have been exceptionally generous. There were 45 individuals (*indicated with an asterisk) who contribute monthly to SBMT to ensure the longevity of the arts in Saratoga. The patrons gratefully acknowledged in the list below donated between Aug. 1, 2024 to Sept. 5, 2025.

Thanks to everyone! Please consider joining the donor family by either making a monthly contribution or a <u>one-time donation</u>. We also welcome gifts of <u>volunteerism</u> (especially if your corporation provides matching funds!), in-kind donations, sponsorships, IRA distributions, and legacy gifts. For details on the many ways to donate visit our **DONATE** page. If you have any questions or creative proposals (or have corrections for any errors or oversights in the listings below), please reach out to donations@ <u>southbaymt.com</u>. We first want to acknowledge this show's sponsor, **playSTUDIOS**, as well as contributions from SVCreates and the County of Santa Clara, the Saratoga Rotary Charitable Foundation, and the City of Saratoga.









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external links

Want to know more about SBMT or this production? We invite you to visit any of the following external links.



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Media representatives are invited to visit our PRESS page to download the show's press release along with some high-rez photos you can use in your news stories or blog posts.



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HISTORY: Formerly called Saratoga Drama Group, SBMT has been staging musicals in this community since 1963. Read about <a href="https://how.it.all.now.it.



ACCOMMODATION:

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Multimedia links. Learn more about *The Sound of Music* from the team that created it. Note: these links contain audio, so please do not access them while seated inside the theater.



VIDEO: Lauren D'Ambrosio (Maria), tells us about the show's current relevance, its differences from the movie, and how she started as a musician before she ever took up acting.



VIDEO: Mohamed Ismail (Max) tells us about his expanded role and how he and his real-life wife Jessica Whittemore are looking forward to playing opposite one another.



VIDEO: Maura Goetzke
(Louisa) tells us what
she's learning from the
staff, and offers advice
for anyone else who
shares the dream of
being a performer.



VIDEO: Janet Miller
(Baroness Elberfeld)
tells us what brought
her back to the stage for
the first time since before the pandemic.

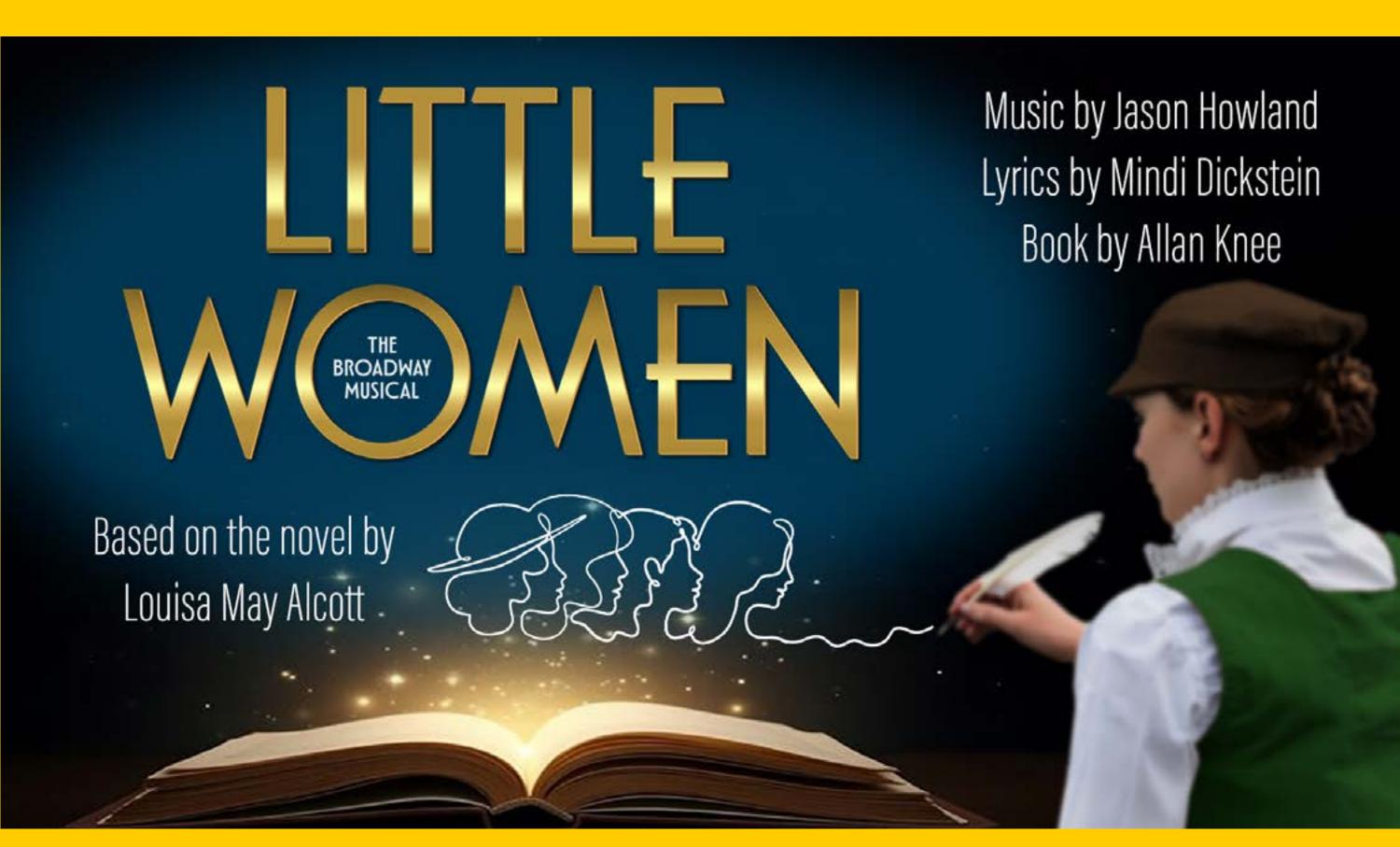


VIDEO: Selina Hsu (Nuns choir) tells us there are no puppets in the stage version of this iconic musical, but "The Lonely Goatherd" still makes an appearance, with "Uncle Max" playing an expanded role.

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looking ahead

Join SBMT for the rest of our fabulous 2025-2026 season!

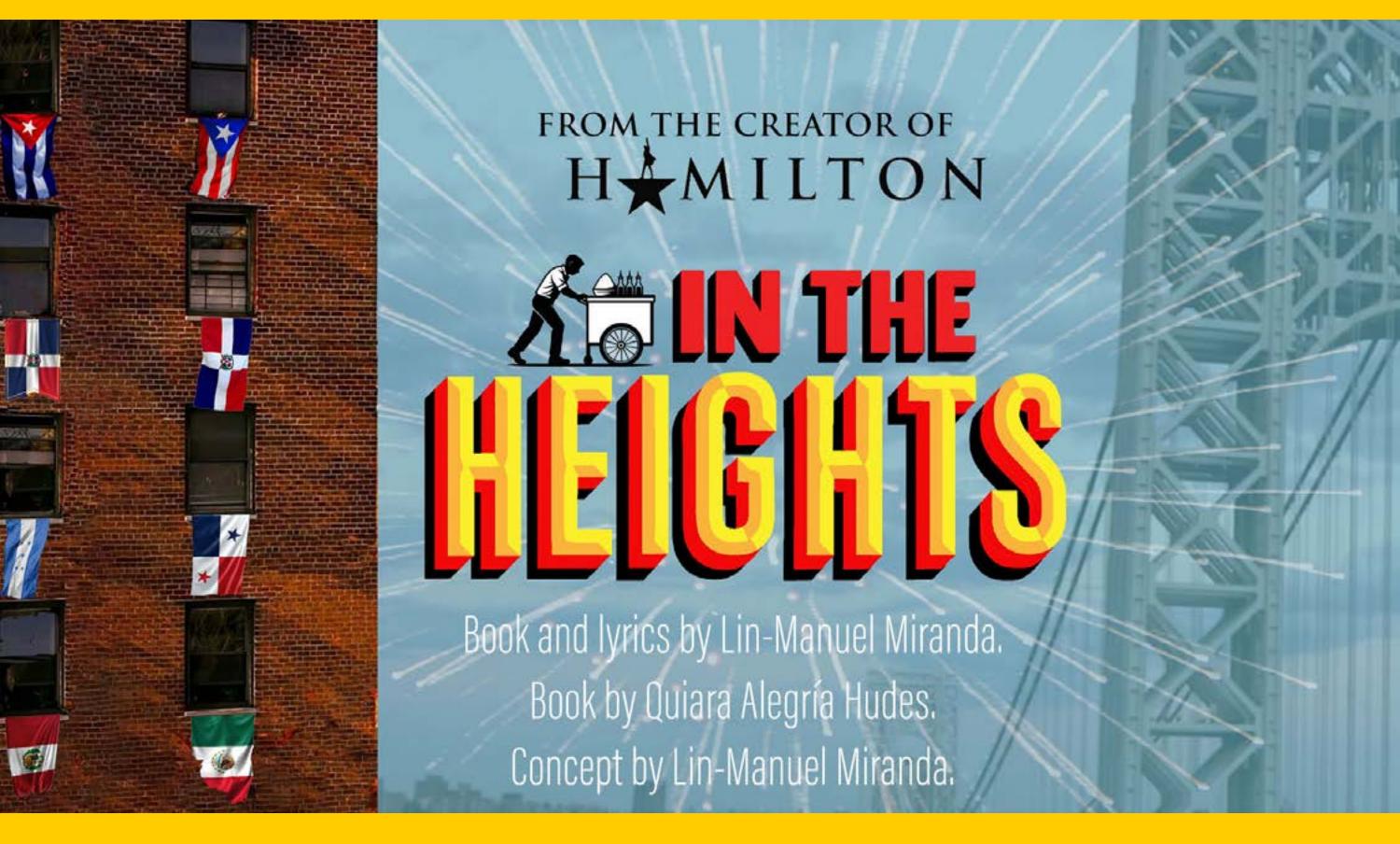


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Discover four sisters learning who they will become in a changing America.

As Jo March and her sisters grow up in the shadow of the Civil War, they strive to remain loyal to one another while seeking out their own places in the world.

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A 90-minute family concert celebrating Broadway's contribution to the season, with songs like "We Need a Little Christmas," "White Christmas," "Do You Want to Build a Snowman?" and more, including a visit from Santa and a sing-a-long! Holiday refreshments will be offered at Intermission.

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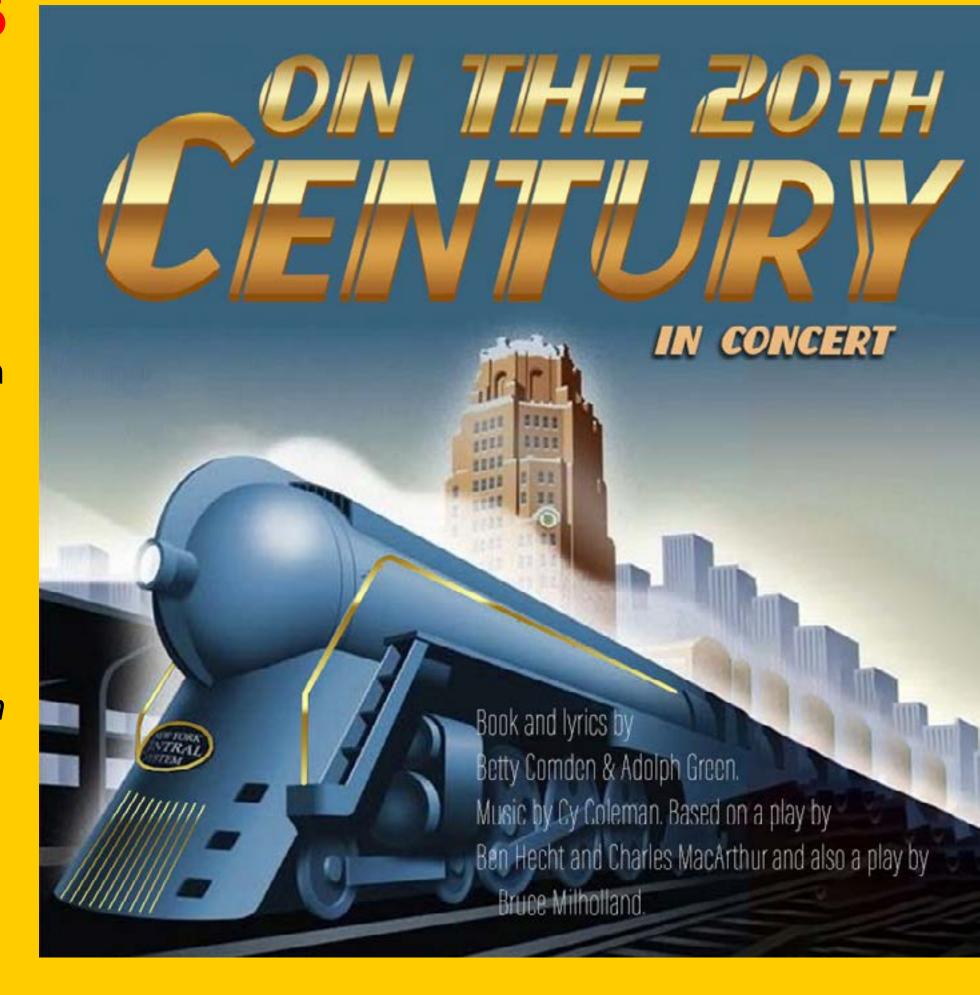
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