

UNCSA

THE RIVALS

Apr. 19, 21 at 7:30 p.m.
Apr. 23 at 2 p.m.

AGNES DE MILLE THEATRE

James Allbritten
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Stephanie Havey
GUEST DIRECTOR,
JAMES ALLBRITON DISTINGUISHED
GUEST ARTIST IN OPERA

Lucas Wong, D.M.A.
MUSIC PREPARATION & REHEARSAL PIANIST

Leo Murphy
SCENIC DESIGNER

Teddy McMahon
COSTUME DESIGNER

Frankie Stiehl-Guerra
LIGHTING DESIGNER

Abbey Maruyama
WIG & MAKEUP DESIGNER

Kelly Martin Mann
FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER

Eva Schramm
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

PRESENTED BY
UNCSA

Brian Cole
CHANCELLOR

Saxton Rose
SCHOOL OF MUSIC, DEAN

Michael J. Kelley
SCHOOL OF DESIGN & PRODUCTION, DEAN

THE RIVALS

MUSIC BY

Kirke Mechem

LIBRETTO BY

Kirke Mechem

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SUNG IN ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



Executive Director: **Saxton Rose**

Music Director: **James Allbritten**

Artistic Director: **Steve LaCosse***

Principal Vocal Coach: **Lucas Wong**

Voice/Opera Department Chair**: **Marilyn Taylor, soprano**

Voice Faculty: **Jodi Burns, soprano**

Voice Faculty: **Phyllis Pancella, mezzo-soprano**

Voice Faculty: **Glenn Siebert, tenor**

*A.J. Fletcher Distinguished Professor of Opera

**Witherspoon and Wilder Distinguished Professor of Opera

THE RIVALS

CAST
(IN ORDER OF VOCAL APPEARANCE)

Lydia Larkspur	Carolyn Orr
Mrs. Malaprop	Spencer DesChenes (April 19, 23)
.....	Lani Basich (April 21)
Jack Absolute.....	Robert Raso
Nicholas Astor	Toby Bradford
Julia.....	Danielle Romano
Sir Anthony Absolute.....	Kevin Spooner
Lucy.....	Alicia Bivona (April 19, 23)
.....	Anne Everhart (April 21)
Jasper Vanderbilt	David Maize
Baron von Hakenbock.....	William Brickhouse (April 19, 23)
.....	Marcel Pietrus (April 21)
Supers.....	Onyx Velez, Tommy Johnston, Reagan Almond, Della Pierce

ACT I

15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

ACT II

Assistant Director: **AJ Helms**

Deck Stage Manager: **Alex Magallanes**

Assistant Stage Managers: **Kat Denning, Kelsey Forero**

Production Manager: **Seavor M. Roach**

THE RIVALS

ORCHESTRA

Violin I

Gregorio Midero, Concertmaster
Niara Sanchez, Associate
Concertmaster
Brian Ford*
David Mullikin

Violin II

Colleen Chenail, Principal
Fabrice Dharamraj*, Assistant Principal
Margaret Rehder
Marjorie Sharpe

Viola

Laurence Brooke*, Principal
Rachel Keplin
Maureen Michaels*

Cello

Lee Richey*, Principal
Emily Grissing*

Double Bass

Mara Barker

Flute

Sydney Horner+, Principal
Ivan Felipe Munoz+

Oboe

Evan LaVack*

Clarinet

Ron Rudkin#, Principal
Lucas Gianini

Bassoon

Amber Ferenz*

Horn

Alex Partridge+, Principal
Chase Oncken+

Trumpet

Emily Mudra+

Trombone

Nick Lewis

Percussion

Xin Yin

Harp

Connor May Kelly*

+UNCSA Student

*UNCSA Alumni

#UNCSA Faculty/Staff

Director of Instrumental Ensembles: **Mark A. Norman**

Director of Artistic Operations, Orchestra Manager: **Ken Wilmot**

Production/Operations Graduate Assistants: **Tristen Craven, Jose Olea Vico, Carlotta Wareham, Justin Whitt**

Library Graduate Assistants: **Clara Ruiz Medina, Bo Boisen**

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director.....	Emily Weinberger
Charge Scenic Artists.....	Sophie Frances Block, Paige Spizzo
Properties Director.....	Marlowe Omilian
Costume Shop Manager.....	Lillian Murphy
Wardrobe Supervisors.....	Eliana Askren, Quincy D'Alessio
Production Electrician.....	Trevor Kirschenheiter
Sound Technician.....	Brennan Reilly
Wig and Makeup Shop Manager.....	Teagan Hamel
Director of Production.....	Jessa Grant
Associate Scenic Designer.....	Nathan Bowden
Costume Design Assistants.....	Eliana Askren, Quincy D'Alessio
Assistant Lighting Designer.....	Noelle Longenberger
Assistant Wig and Makeup Designer.....	Victoria Ashmore
Assistant Technical Director.....	Jake Wales
Lead Carpenter.....	Jamie Martinsen
Draftsperson.....	Ophelia Jackson
Assistant Properties Director.....	Crosby Whitman Wood
Assistant Wig and Makeup Shop Manager.....	Brayden Pilson
Assistant Costume Shop Manager.....	Damarius Kennedy
Assistant Production Manager.....	Emma Matusovich
Assistant Scenic Designers.....	Isy Kessler, McKenna Leach
Carpenters/Build Crew.....	Kai Aguirre, Emmy J. Babyak, Jade Caric
.....	Scott Carney, Nahria Cassell, Mel Davis
.....	Eli Dills, Inga Domenick, Chai Freedman
.....	James Goodson, Gabriel Kipp, Alyssa Landry
.....	Ryan Phillip LeBlanc Lasich, Meredith Laws
.....	Christopher Lopez, Maxine Rothstein
.....	Graham Savage, Kristoffer Spersrud
.....	Tez Weddle, Desmond Wood
Painters.....	Delia Chavez, Chase Dietrich, Sarah Ruth Glasl
.....	Max S. Grenadier, Tessa Hager, Jasmine Hernandez
.....	Ophelia Jackson, Gabriel Kipp, Kenzie Lawson
.....	Gamma Dominique Lister, Renae Losee
.....	Ad Merson, Kallie Miller, Katie Pulling
.....	Clara Rimes, Jordan Taylor, Olivia Venable
Deck Chief.....	Jamie Martinsen
Lead Properties Artisans.....	Henry David Beard, Megan DeVolder
Properties Artisans.....	Mahalet Andargachew, Natalie Carney
.....	Nat Carreiro, Renee Chasey, Bianca Decarli
.....	Grace DiMaio, Brady Flock, Cam T. Hayes
.....	Mak Jordan, Isy Kessler, Willow Macivor
.....	Griffin O'Connor, Tyler J. Offner
.....	Mackenzie Potter, Kay Raff, Alexandra Rousseau
.....	Emma Madison Smith, Ross Stephens
.....	E. "Tommy" Thomas, Felix Thompson

PRODUCTION STAFF

Properties Run Crew Dani Austin, Mel Davis, Mak Jordan
..... Alyssa Landry, Chris Lopez
..... Amelia Rose Whitman, Meg Winkler
Drapers Alexandra Brown, Catlin Dean
..... Hannah Ferkol, Molly Klemm, Ella Moffly
..... Megan Peck, BreAnne Servoss
First Hands Hannah Andrews, Logan L. Benson, Emily Harris
..... Mackenzie Hughes, Elliott Hunter, Kira Miller
..... Mya Núñez, Alastair Shoulders, Cassandra Sisson
Stitchers Diana McCullough Bulluck, Elizabeth Coley
..... Elizabeth Dietze, Inga Domenick, Joiya Fishburn
..... Sasha Goodner, Marquita Horton, Liam Klingberg
..... Cal Martine, Aman Mundle, Maki L. Niikura
..... Lee Sibley, Avery Smith, Alex Warren
Costume Crafts Head Maureen Wynne
Costume Crafts Assistants Tahtiana Bellins, Will Wharton
Wardrobe Crew Aissata Alou, Joiya Fishburn, Anna Newlin
E1 Jake Jordan
E2 Justin Seithel
Programmer Joey Todd
Spotlight Operators Justin Seithel, Jake Jordan
Light Console Operator Noah Welby
Supertitle Operator Steven LaCosse
Electricians Aissata Alou, Camryn Banks, Garrett Deutsch
..... Malcolm Foster, Isaiah Gray, Jacob Grebber
..... Max S Grenadier, Abigail Hall, Harrison Marcus
..... Tyler Mckinnon, Grey Nicholson
..... Petko Novosad, Bill Nowlin, Emma Perch
..... Mariakristina Perroni Lutteroth, Sarai Powers
..... Harrison Reid, Lexi Roth, Stephen Smart
..... Noah Welby, Amelia Rose Whitman
Audio & Video Supervisor, House Tech. Director Brent LaFever
Comm. & Video Engineer Brennan Reilly
Wig and Makeup Build Crew Julia Aponte, Kendall Brumley
..... Nova Cunningham, Faith Gilbert, Khepra Hetep
..... Dustin Kirby, Anna Newlin, KC Paulson
..... Madison Skinner, Jasper Somers, Amber Wright
Wig and Makeup Run Crew Khepra Hetep, KC Paulson, Jasper Somers
Model Assistants Isabella Rebollo Colón, Gwendolen Landrum, Bridgette Tran
Video, Communications & Pit Crew Destiney Anderson, Jack Cerminaro
..... Marius Diaz, Luci Dodge, Alyssa Hartstein
..... Ben Jones, Madisyn Montgomery
..... Brennan Reilly, Madison Winterhalter

SPECIAL THANKS

Molly Doan

PRG

THE RIVALS

SYNOPSIS

Rich and dashing British Naval Captain Jack Absolute has fallen in love with American heiress Lydia Larkspur. But Lydia is in love with a romantic fantasy: she wants to elope with some penniless artist and live in “charming poverty.” Jack masquerades as a poor English composer named Waverley and wins her heart; Lydia’s aunt and guardian, the famously verbose Mrs. Malaprop, will not hear of it. She and Jack’s father, both unaware that “Waverley” is Jack, decide that Lydia should marry the real Jack. Jack—now his own rival—has a big problem: how to reveal his true identity to Lydia without losing her.

He ties himself into knots to indulge her rebellious fantasies, but when she learns the truth she rejects him. Jack’s friend Nicholas Astor loves Lydia’s cousin Julia, but his gloomy fear of being loved only for his vast fortune drives him to put her love to such ridiculous tests that she finally breaks off their engagement. Baron von Hakenbock, a bellicose Prussian fortune hunter, has been carrying on a secret correspondence with “Celia,” whom he believes to be Lydia but who is really Mrs. Malaprop.

He and one of Lydia’s rejected suitors, Jasper Vanderbilt, prepare to fight simultaneous duels: Jasper with his rival, the non-existent Waverley, and the Baron with Jack. Jasper is the bumpkin son of the Kentucky Vanderbilts; he also does not know that “Waverley” is his friend Jack. It all comes to a head on the dueling field. True love averts the duels, clears up the misunderstandings, and unites the proper pairs.

PROGRAM NOTES

Set in a turn of the century resort town for the extravagantly wealthy, this farcical comedy pokes fun at the antiquated rituals surrounding courting and marriage that were employed by the upper echelons of society. The comedy playfully examines the societal expectations around gender, class, and marriage. The narrative was derived from an 18th century play of the same name by the playwright Richard Brinsley Sheridan.

In “The Rivals,” the older generation is represented by caricatures of the wealthy: a proper English gentleman in Sir Anthony Absolute, the celebrated military hero in the Baron von Hackenbock and contrived feminine ideals in Mrs. Malaprop. Conflict arises as the younger generation bucks against the expectations placed on them. The young Lydia Larkspur (or Lydia Languish in Sheridan’s play) refuses to participate in the traditional courting as arranged by her guardian Mrs. Malaprop. Lydia goes so far as to claim that she ‘hates rich men’ and longs to be ‘penniless and marry a poor opera composer.’ (A clever detail that the composer of this opera included whereas the original story depicted Lydia as longing to marry a poor soldier.)

One young suitor, Jasper Vanderbilt, draws a sharp contrast to his elder, the heroic Baron von Hackenbock, when he refuses to duel his rival, choosing

THE RIVALS

to forgive instead of solving his problems on the battlefield. Another of the young suitors, Nicholas Astor, has agreed to an arranged marriage to Julia, Lydia's cousin. However, Nick does not want his arranged marriage to Julia to be loveless, he continually tries to test the relationship to find out if she is marrying him for love. Finally, the young Captain Jack Absolute bucks against the tradition of courting that his father, Sir Anthony, has arranged and instead takes on an alternate personality to woo his bride in a very non-conventional manner.

The contrast between the generations highlights perhaps the main message of this opera, the ideal of marrying for love. Yet another, perhaps more subversive, theme running throughout the piece is the absurdity of the rich idealizing a life of poverty. Several mentions of 'suffering from burden of wealth,' or desiring to be 'poverty stricken' cause these otherwise lovable characters to become less sympathetic and remind us that the entire farce is ultimately a commentary on the absurd nature of a lavish life of leisure. Additionally, there are two fun comedic elements that run throughout the opera to keep audiences on their toes. The first is the use of malapropisms. That's right, the term itself comes from the character of Mrs. Malaprop and her misuse of similar sounding words. Our production aims to underline Mrs. Malaprop's confusion by also showcasing her misuse of luxury items and her wacky sense of style.

For opera lovers, the opera is filled with easter eggs! There are many jokes and references to opera and endless musical quotes from operas from different time periods and styles. We hope you will enjoy this madcap story of misunderstandings and imagined rivalries in the highly calculated, overly ornate, and deliciously melodramatic world of 19th century courtship and love!

BIOGRAPHIES

KIRKE MECHEM (COMPOSER, LIBRETTIST)

Kirke Mechem is a prolific composer with a catalogue of over 250 titles. Born and raised in Kansas and educated at Stanford and Harvard Universities, he conducted and taught at Stanford, and served as composer-in-residence for several years at the University of San Francisco. Mechem's compositions cover almost every genre, but vocal music is the core of his work. His three-act opera, "Tartuffe," has been performed over 450 times in seven countries. His extensive choral works have garnered him the title of "dean of American choral composers." The premiere of Mechem's dramatic opera based on American abolitionist John Brown was commissioned to celebrate Lyric Opera Kansas City's 50th anniversary. "Songs of the Slave" — a suite for bass-baritone, soprano, chorus and orchestra from "John Brown" — has been performed over 100 times. His comic opera, "The Rivals," was premiered in 2011 by Skylight Opera in Milwaukee. Mechem has recently completed an opera based on Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice."

STEPHANIE HAVEY (DIRECTOR)

Award winning stage director Stephanie Havey is consistently lauded for her eye-popping stage pictures, brisk dramatic pacing, and convincing theatre that makes the most of every minute. Havey has staged productions for Seattle Opera, The Dallas Opera, Opera de Montreal, Utah Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, Arizona Opera, Opera Omaha, Madison Opera, New York City Opera, and Hawai'i Opera Theatre, among others, and has created new productions for Boston Lyric Opera, The Philadelphia Orchestra, The Atlanta Opera, Lyrique-en-mer International Festival de Belle-Ile, The Curtis Institute of Music, Manhattan School of Music, Finger Lakes Opera, and Tulsa Opera. She has also been a member of the staging staff at San Francisco Opera, Houston Grand Opera, and The Santa Fe Opera.

Havey is a frequent collaborator for the development of new opera, staging new works with Opera Philadelphia for their Double Exposure event, OPERA America's New Works Forum, three seasons as the Resident Stage Director for North American New Opera Workshop, and is currently in development for a new commission with Finger Lakes Opera. In Summer 2023, Ms. Havey joins the artist faculty of the Mostly Modern Festival in Saratoga Springs, New York.

Havey is the Director of the Tomita Young Artist Program at Finger Lakes Opera and a Dramatic Coach for the Houston Grand Opera Butler Opera Studio and Young Artist Vocal Academy. She has also been a guest instructor for professional and academic Young Artist training programs including OPERA America's Career Blueprints, Curtis Institute of Music, Mannes School of Music at The New School, Manhattan School of Music, Oberlin Conservatory of Music, NYU Tisch School of the Arts, Carnegie Mellon University, Central City Opera, Tulsa Opera, and Charlottesville Opera.

DEAN'S CIRCLES

The Dean's Circles support each of the five arts schools at UNCSA — Dance, Design & Production, Drama, Filmmaking and Music. Dean's Circle members support the school of their choosing with an annual gift of \$5,000 or more in support of discretionary funds, scholarships, or other fundraising priorities. Members enjoy special events and opportunities to interact with the school's dean, faculty and students. If you are interested in joining one or more UNCSA Dean's Circles, please contact Shannon Wright, Director of Development for Leadership Annual & Family Giving, at wrights@uncsa.edu or **336-770-1427**.

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Mrs. Laurel H. Meskill, '96
Ms. Tamara Michael
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THE ASSOCIATES

The Associates, UNCSA's volunteer organization, invites you to join them. For more information about the organization and volunteer opportunities, visit www.uncsa.edu/associates or email them at UNCSAassociatesportal@uncsa.edu.

UNCSA MANIFESTO

We Believe

ARTISTS enrich our culture, enlighten our society, lift our spirits, and feed our souls.

Integrative **ART EDUCATION** from an early age sparks a lifetime of creative thinking, powerful self-expression, and innovative problem solving.

Rigorous **ARTISTIC TRAINING** empowers our students and graduates to engage our communities, advance local and global creative industries, and inspire the world.

ART ORGANIZATIONS improve the quality of life and place in big cities and small communities, transforming them from merely livable to truly lovable.

UNC SCHOOL OF THE ARTS nurtures the talent, hones the craft, and develops the unique voices of emerging artists. We realize the full potential of exceptionally creative and passionate students to do their best work and become their best selves.

THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

The School of Music gives talented young artists the opportunity to perfect their musical talent and prepare for life as professional musicians. Our training includes both private instruction and public performance experience, including more than 150 recitals and concerts presented each year. This performance experience, combined with career development opportunities and studies in music theory, literature and style, provides the ultimate training to help young musicians grow as both artists and professionals.

THE SCHOOL OF DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

Unlike other schools that incorporate design and production within theatre studies programs, the School of Design and Production is a highly regarded, independent conservatory. The school is ranked #3 in the nation. Employing a resident faculty of experienced professionals, the school offers a comprehensive curriculum in every aspect of modern stagecraft, from scene design to stage management. Students gain practical experience working on a variety of productions inside theaters of all styles and sizes, and within 100,000 square feet of production space. Graduates have careers in theater, film, television, dance, opera, live and themed entertainment, and more.

UNCSA

Spring Dance

Apr. 20-22 at 7:30 p.m.

Apr. 23 at 2 p.m.

STEVENS CENTER

Spring Dance will highlight the strengths of both ballet and contemporary students with works that explore diverse ends of the respective disciplines.

The program will include “Shostakovich Suite” choreographed in 2013 for the Dance Theatre of Harlem’s professional training program by Endalyn T. Outlaw (née Taylor), dean of Dance and set to Dimitri Shostakovich’s Jazz Suite. Dean Outlaw will restage the work for the dance students with tutus designed and created by Dance Costume Shop Director Marissa McCullough and Jenna Anderson (B.F.A. Design and Production ‘22).

UNCSA Concerto Competition

Apr. 23 at 1 p.m.

WATSON HALL

School of Music students compete in the final round of the annual Concerto Competition. The winner earns the opportunity to perform as a featured soloist with the UNCSA Symphony Orchestra or Wind Ensemble.

UNCSA Piano Studios Recital

Apr. 25 at 7:30 p.m.

WATSON HALL

Piano students perform in recital.