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GRAND HOTEL
THE MUSICAL

Book By: LUTHER DAVIS
Music and Lyrics by:
ROBERT WRIGHT, GEORGE FORREST

Based on VICKI BAUM’s GRAND HOTEL
by arrangement with TURNER BROADCASTING CO.
Owner of the motion picture “GRAND HOTEL”

Additional music and lyrics by MAURY YESTON

Directed by Sasha Gerritson
Conducted by Christopher Owen
Choreography by Andrew Waters

Performance running time: approximately 2 hours
(Including one 15 minute intermission)
Dear friends,

Thank you so much for being here tonight to celebrate and support this production of Grand Hotel, the musical. It has been SUCH a fun semester!! The cast, crew and orchestra have worked really hard and I am so proud of this show.

Very special thanks to all of my extremely generous friends and family who bought ads in the program book. They made this possible through their donations. Please take a look at the ads, utilize their services when and if you can, and try to say thank you if you see them.

I am truly grateful for the support of the NEIU Dept. of Music, the NEIU Foundation and the NEIU Administration. Special thanks to Dr. Shayne Cofer and Dr. Travis Heath. You are such wonderful friends to me!

So, to conclude I can only say mille grazie, merci beaucoup, muchas gracias, danke schön and in every other way thank you for making this show possible. Next year at this time we will present an opera, as it is our tradition to rotate every other year. Please keep in touch.

Fondly,
Sasha Gerritson
Director

WHO’S WHO IN THE CAST

Lorenzo Formosa  Nicholas Brubaker  Wellington Da Silva
Jeremy Cairns  Andrea Tucci  Beth Jargstorf
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- EDUARD & CARLA HARABETIAN
WHO’S WHO IN THE CAST CONT.

Anne Glaza
Phil Platakis
Kehinde Hart
Miguel Long
Sam Gallagher
Carlos Rodas
Chris Hatcher
Wesley Hentges
Dee Kimpel
Joe Polise
Justice Bishop
Danielle Bohrer
Carolyn Johnson
Kayla Boye
Isaiah Silvia-Chandley
CAST

Colonel-Doctor Otternschlag .................................................................Lorenzo Formosa
Baron Felix Von Gaigern .................................................................Nicholas Brubaker
Hermann Preysing ...........................................................................Wellington Da Silva
Otto Kringelein ................................................................................Jeremy Cairns
Raffaela ............................................................................................Andrea Tucci
Elizaveta Grushinskaya .................................................................Beth Jargstorf
Flaemmchen ....................................................................................Anne Glaza
Zinnowitz/Scullery ..........................................................................Philip Plataks
Jimmy ...............................................................................................Kehinde Hart
Jimmy ..............................................................................................Miguel Long
Madame PeePee ...............................................................................Sam Gallagher
Rohna .................................................................................................Carlos Rodas
Erik .................................................................................................Christopher Hatcher
Witt .................................................................................................Wesley Hentges
Sandor .............................................................................................Dee K. Kimpel
Chauffeur ......................................................................................Joe Polise
Bellhop ...............................................................................................Abby Vicenes
Bellhop .............................................................................................Xavier Becerra
Bellhop ..............................................................................................Kendall Battaglia
Telephone Operator ........................................................................Justice Bishop
Telephone Operator .........................................................................Danielle Bohrer
Telephone Operator ........................................................................Carolyn Johnson
Countess ..........................................................................................Kayla Boye
Gigolo .............................................................................................Isaiah Silvia Chandley
Scullery ............................................................................................Isaiah Brown
Scullery .............................................................................................Lyle Nicholson
Maid .................................................................................................Letty Ortega
Maid .................................................................................................Rebecca Fortier
Francesca ........................................................................................Liliana Valenzuela
Detective ..........................................................................................Fred Sivils
Doorman ..........................................................................................Eugene Jarvis

Ensemble
Liz Broeker, Mimi Dean, Laura Finnegan, Joshua Jarvis, Nate Jarvis, Lucy Kennedy,
Kyrie Nelson, Emma Oberdick, Ashanti Roberts, Gretchen Sheirok

Dancers
Kayla Boye, Isaiah Silvia Chandley
Dance Captain: Carolyn Johnson

Choreographer
Andrew Waters
MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I
1. Grand Parade—Opening parts 1–5
2. Table with a View/At the Grand Hotel
   3. Maybe My Baby Loves Me
   4. Fire and Ice
5. Twenty Two Years/Villa on a Hill
   6. Girl in the Mirror
   7. Everybody’s Doing it
   8. The Crooked Path
9. Yellow Pavillion Lounge
10. Who Couldn’t Dance with You?
   11. The Merger is On!
   12. Love Can’t Happen

INERMISSION

ACT II
1. What You Need
2. Bonjour Amour
3. The Grand Charleston
4. We’ll Take a Glass Together
   5. I Waltz Alone
6. Roses at the Station
   7. Death Bolero
8. How Can I Tell Her?
9. Finale—Parts I & II, Grand Ending
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Our production opens with the staff of the Grand Hotel getting ready for the day. We see the different characters come to life. The Colonel Doctor, who was injured in the war, helps his mental and physical pain by injecting himself with morphine.

The telephone operators promise prompt service and one by one, people enter the lobby of the hotel: Baron Felix Von Gaigern is seen in the lobby while being vigorously hounded by a gangster who thinly veils himself as a chauffeur. Erik waits on news of his son’s birth while still attempting to attend to his duties as front desk operator. One of those duties includes dealing with the dancing diva who is Elizaveta Grushinskaya, entering the lobby with a flourish alongside her company manager, Witt; a theatre impresario, Sandor; and her loyal companion, Raffaela. Next to her is a woman, Frieda Flamm, who has taken the stage name Flaemmchen. She is an aspiring actress who is afraid that she might be pregnant. Preysing, a general manager of a textile mill, who is waiting nervously to hear from Boston to see if his company is going to merge with another, or if his company is going to go bankrupt. The final man is Otto Kringelein, who is mortally ill and has decided to spend his last days extravagantly at The Grand Hotel.

Erik discovers that his wife is in great pain while giving childbirth. The Doctor dismisses her pain as insignificant to that which he suffers every day. Kringelein tries desperately to check into the overbooked Grand Hotel, but the general manager, Rohna, can’t find a room for him. The Baron comes to his aid and uses his pull to make sure that Kringelein can spend his final days in style. Flaemmchen waits nervously for Preysing, as she has agreed to be his typist for the evening. The Jimmys tell Flaemmchen all about America. Witt and Sandor successfully convince Grushinskaya that she must dance by quoting old reviews of her dancing. Raffaela sings of her passion for Grushinskaya and how she wishes that they could just retire to a villa on a hill. The Baron and Flaemmchen cross paths near the coat room and flirt playfully. She enjoys The Baron’s interest in her, and it gives her the confidence to wonder if she could be a movie star in Hollywood.

Preysing’s attorney, Zinnowitz, hounds him to calm his shareholders by telling them that the merger is on with the Boston company. Preysing stands by his morals, saying that he can’t tell his shareholders things that aren’t true. Zinnowitz tries unsuccessfully to get Preysing to change his mind. Preysing meets with Flaemmchen, to head off to his room so that she can type his notes for the meeting. Just then, Preysing receives the devastating news that the Boston merger is off. Realizing that his company—and, therefore, his life—is in ruins, Preysing considers lying to his shareholders. The Chauffeur catches up with The Baron again and offers him a solution to his debt problems. The Chauffeur describes a necklace in Grushinskaya’s room that the Baron could steal. The Baron heads off to The Yellow Pavilion Lounge to forget about his worries. There, he runs into Flaemmchen, whom he courts. She is ecstatic that a Baron would take such an interest in her. The Baron sees Kringelein, standing alone at the side of the dance hall, and asks Flaemmchen if she would dance with him. She obliges, and life returns to the fading Kringelein. The Baron approaches Kringelein in the lobby and tries to convince him to buy stock, because “It’s crazy not to own stocks today.” Meanwhile, Grushinskaya dances in her concert, but the audience is hardly appreciative of her. Grushinskaya refuses to go back out onstage and, instead, rushes back to the hotel for solace. However, upon entering her room, Grushinskaya finds The Baron standing beside her precious necklace. The Baron quickly improvises that he is in her hotel room because he is her biggest fan and has been following her all across Europe. The two jaded romantics
quickly fall for each other while Raffaela sits alone in her room, singing of her love for Grushinskaya. Elsewhere in the hotel, Erik tries to sneak off the job to see his wife, but Rohna stops him and threatens to fire Erik if he doesn’t get back to work. Preysing, facing certain destruction once his lie is found out, decides to go to Boston and force the other company to merge with his. Preysing also manages to convince Flaemmchen to come along with him “to take care of him.” The next morning, The Baron confesses to Grushinskaya that he was in her room to steal her necklace, but now he wants only to be with her. Grushinskaya offers The Baron money to travel with her to Vienna.

The Baron sees Flaemmchen and tells her of his new love for Grushinskaya. Kringelein bursts into the lobby and informs The Baron that his advice on the stocks was correct! Kringelein buys drinks for The Baron and himself, and they sing along with The Jimmys. Kringelein gets so worked up that he passes out and drops his wallet. The Baron sees the wallet, bursting with money, and picks it up before helping Kringelein off to his room. The Doctor, who has been observing all of the goings-on at The Grand Hotel, sits in his room, alone. He injects himself with more morphine and laments. The Baron is struck by his own conscience and returns the wallet to Kringelein. Kringelein, realizing what has transpired, gives his friend a wad of money as a thank you for all of his help. The Baron is ecstatic and runs off, as he now has enough money to go to Vienna with Grushinskaya. The Chauffeur takes the wad of money and tells The Baron to go to room 420. The Chauffeur hands The Baron a gun to make sure he gets the job done. The Baron sneaks in next door and is about to rob Preysing when he hears Flaemmchen’s cries from the next room. He runs next door and confronts Preysing, who, in turn, accuses The Baron of being there to rob him. The fight escalates until The Baron takes out his gun, which Preysing grabs and shoots The Baron dead. The Ghost of The Baron moves to the railway station, where he was to meet Grushinskaya before going to Vienna. News of The Baron’s death spreads through the hotel, and all of Grushinskaya’s friends agree not to tell her the news until they are in Vienna. Raffaela is tortured, wondering what will happen.

The police take away Preysing to prison, Kringelein asks Flaemmchen what she was doing with someone like Preysing. She tells him that, regretfully, she was with him for the money, Kringelein reminds her that he has money and that he will always take care of her. Erik finds out that everything is okay with his son and wife. Witt, Sandor and Raffaela usher Grushinskaya out the lobby of the hotel, hoping that she will not hear of The Baron’s death. The Doctor looks through the lobby of the hotel and while the Company sings, The Doctor adds, “I’ll stay—one more day.”
CONGRATULATIONS SASHA!

Wishing you all the best on the performance of Grand Hotel

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Lighting and Sound Manager ............................................................................. Christopher Burpee
Lighting Designer ....................................................................................................... Michael McShane
Costume Designer .................................................................................................. William John Morey
Hair/Makeup Designer ............................................................................................. Sienna Macedon-Kusek
Scenic Design Assistant/DraftsPerson .................................................................. Erin Gautille
Assistant to the Director .......................................................................................... Gisella Milla
Production Assistant/Poster Design ...................................................................... David Mitchell
Stage Manager ......................................................................................................... Becca Levy
Technical Director .................................................................................................... Stanley Rouse Hicks
Deck and Props Manager ....................................................................................... Ryan Neal McCain
Costume Assistant .................................................................................................... Kate Setzer-Kamphausen
Videographer ............................................................................................................. Anthony Schiavone
Audio Recording Engineer ....................................................................................... Phil Pugh
Accompanists ............................................................................................................ Jane Kenas-Heller, Kay Kim
Dance Captain ........................................................................................................... Carolyn Johnson
House Manager .......................................................................................................... Steve Zivin
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SASHA

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Kendall Battaglia—BELLHOP: is a junior at Maine South High School and joins us under the NEIU outreach and recruitment program. She is thrilled to be a member of the cast of Grand Hotel, and thanks Sasha for another wonderful opportunity to perform at NEIU. This is her 10th production under Sasha’s direction. Previously she has been in Suor Angelica, Jekyll & Hyde, Die Fledermaus, Guys and Dolls, La Vie Parisienne, Sweeney Todd, Street Scene, A Christmas Carol, and La Bohème. She currently is in the Park Ridge Community Church Angeli Choir and enjoys running on the Maine South track team.

Xavier Becerra—BELLHOP: is currently a music performance major in Harold Washington College who will be transferring in to NEIU later this semester. He is also auditioning for the scholarship grant in April and hopes to continue his studies afterwards.

Justice Bishop—TELEPHONE OPERATOR: is a sophomore at NEIU studying Vocal Music Education. She is also in the University Chorus and a student ambassador as well. This is her first performance under Sasha’s direction; however she was in several productions in her home state of Kansas, some of which include Mary Poppins, Once Upon a Mattress, and Hairspray. She is excited for her first performance in Chicago.

Danielle Bohrer—TELEPHONE OPERATOR: is excited to dancing her way back onto the stage in Grand Hotel after a two year hiatus from performing! Past NEIU shows include Die Fledermaus, and Guys and Dolls. Danielle will be completing her Masters Degree this Spring and hopes to earn her Black Belt in Shotokan Karate in the near future! Thank you to Sasha, Drew, and the amazing team for this wonderful opportunity!

Kayla Boye—THE COUNTESS: is thrilled to be a guest at the Grand Hotel! Chicago credits include South Pacific (Drury Lane Theatre), Can-Can, Billy Elliot, Little Me (Porchlight Music Theatre), Pippin, Mary Poppins (Mercury Theater Chicago), Anything Goes, Gypsy, Mame (Music Theater Works, formerly Light Opera Works), and A Christmas Story (Citadel Theatre). She holds a BA from Youngstown State University. Cheers to Andrew and Sasha! www.kaylaboye.com

Isaih Brown—SCULLERY: is originally from the south suburbs of Chicago in a rural town of Harvey, IL. Isaih Brown started his love for music by singing in his church choir as he is a proud graduate of South Suburban College. Isaih was an active member of “The South Holland Master Chorale’. In Fall 2017, Isaih transferred to Northeastern Illinois University to further his love and passion of music and is currently seeking his Bachelor’s of Music degree in vocal performance and music education. Isaih has performed various roles during his time of study: Jack in the Fall 2017 opera scene recital production of “Into the Woods”. In Fall 2018, he played the roles of The Half brother—Gege in “The Adventures of Princess of Fu Xiao”, and Monastatos in The Magic Flute. Isaih is eternally grateful for the opportunity to be apart of such a wonderful group of talented musicians, singers and educators. Isaih gives all glory and honor to God and thanks his teacher Sasha Gerritson for equipping him with the knowledge and tools. Thanks Sasha, You’re the Best!

Liz Broeker—ENSEMBLE: is a Junior at NEIU majoring in Music Education. She also appeared in last spring’s Jekyll & Hyde and Suor Angelica. Thanks always to Sasha!

Nicholas Brubaker—BARON FELIX VON GAIGERN: is currently a pursuing a second master’s degree in Vocal Pedagogy at NEIU and studies voice with Dr. Heitzinger. While at NEIU, he has been seen as Henry

Jeremy Cairns—OTTO KRINGELEIN: is a graduate student at NEIU pursuing the M.A. in Applied Pedagogy, studying with Dr. Heitzinger. He is a singer, actor and arts administrator based in the Chicago. He received his B.M. in Voice Performance from the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. Jeremy wishes to thank Sasha for her endless support, Gisella for her sense of humor, and Christopher for his love and patience.

Derrick Colon—SCULLERY: is a NEIU Alum (BA in English/Communication), has been performing in theatre every since he was in High School. Recent/Favorite credits include Jekyll and Hyde, Die Fledermaus and Guys and Dolls. When not performing on stage, he enjoys traveling, coaching Basketball, reading The Onion and Rock Climbing. During the day he works in the Chicago Public Schools and as a Background TV/Film Actor during the Summer. Thank you for coming to our show and enjoy!

Wellington Da Silva—HERMANN PREYSING: is a senior at NEIU majoring in Vocal Performance. He has appeared in numerous NEIU productions, including: Into the Woods, Sweeney Todd, The Secret Garden, and Guys and Dolls and Gianni Schicchi. He also has the pleasure of serving as the tenor soloist with the Park Ridge Community Church Chancel Choir, under the direction of Sasha Gerritson.

Mimi Dean—ENSEMBLE: is a English major/Flute performance minor working towards a BA. She performs in various ensembles including the NEIU Wind Ensemble and the NEIU Opera Workshop group. Flute is her main instrument and primary focus as a musician, however singing and acting have become important parts in her life as well. She enjoys being able to explore these elements in Sasha’s productions. This will be her 8th appearance with Sasha and she looks forward to a lot more. She gives Sasha all the thanks for allowing her to pursue new opportunities in theater!

Laura Finnegan—ENSEMBLE: is a first year, second Bachelor’s student at NEIU. This is the second time she will be performing on stage. She is grateful to be in this program and have the opportunity to sing such lovely music.

Lorenzo Formosa—COLONEL-DOCTOR OTTERTNSCHLAG: is an artist who delight’s audiences in performances of opera, operetta, and symphony works. Making his critically acclaimed debut as Figaro in Il Barbiere di Siviglia with Eugene Opera, The Register-Guard praised his performance saying, “Formosa has it all—voice, looks, intelligence and absolute command of the stage.” Some past engagements include the roles of Sweeney Todd in Sweeney Todd and Harry Easter in Street Scene at NEIU as a guest artist; Silvio in I Pagliacci at the Accorn Theater; Germont in La Traviata with L’Opera Piccola; Ping in Puccini’s Turandot with the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra; Carmina Burana with the Hawaii International Choral Festival and Honolulu Symphony Orchestra; Figaro in Il Barbiere di Siviglia with L’Opera Piccola. Other highlights include Carmina Burana with the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra; Silvio in I Pagliacci with the Dayton Opera; Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 with the Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra and the Traverse Symphony Orchestra; Pops concerts with the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra and the Winnipeg Symphony.
 Orchestra; and Sondheim’s *Sweeney Todd* with Chicago’s Ravinia Festival where he also understudied the title role. As a concert soloist, Lorenzo’s repertoire features the *Requiem* of Brahms, Durufle and Mozart, Beethoven’s *Symphony No.9* and Mass in C, Bach’s *B Minor Mass*, Dvorak’s *Te Deum*, Haydn’s *Second Mass in C*, Handel’s *Messiah* and *Judas Maccabaeus*, and Orff’s *Carmina Burana*. In 1987 he was selected as a cantor in the celebration of the Eucharistic Liturgy with Pope John Paul II at Pontiac Silverdome, MI. In September 2001, the Aon Corporation called upon Lorenzo to sing their memorial service at the Cathedral of St. Patrick, New York, honoring their employee’s lost in the World Trade Center. Lorenzo resides in Geneva, IL, a suburb of Chicago. In addition to stage and concert performances he is a soloist at Park Ridge Community Church, Park Ridge, IL, was a member of Chicago’s 2016 Olympic Bid Committee, and currently works in IT Security for USBank.

**Rebecca Fortier**—MAID: is thrilled to be joining NEIU for the first time in Grand Hotel. Chicago area productions include *Oklahoma* as Dream Laurey, *Carousel* as Louise, *CATS* as Etcetera, *Cabaret* as Frenchy, *West Side Story* as Velma, *42nd Street, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Guys & Dolls*, *Pajama Game*, and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. For 9 years Rebecca performed for The Walt Disney Company throughout its theme parks and resorts in Orlando, Florida and Tokyo, Japan. She wishes to thank family and friends for their endless love and support. And thanks to you for supporting live theater!

**Sasha Gerritson**—DIRECTOR: has served as the Opera/Musical Theater Director for NEIU for the past 10 years, in addition to being Scholarship Coordinator for the Music Department. Previously she also taught Music Theory and Sight Singing. Sasha also is the Director of Music Ministries for the Park Ridge Community Church and the Business Manager/Executive Director of the North Shore Dojo. She lives in Glenview, with her husband Eugenius and their sons Nate and Josh. In addition to music and teaching, Sasha loves karate!

**Anne Glaza**—FLAEMMCHEN: is a graduate student in vocal pedagogy at Northeastern Illinois University. She is a graduate of Dominican University in River Forest, where she studied voice with Rose Guccione. At Dominican, Anne performed onstage in *The Drowsy Chaperone* as Kitty and *As You Like It* as Doo-wop muse. She was most recently seen onstage as Cosette in scenes from *Les Miserables* at NEIU. As a choral singer, Anne has sung with the Chicago Chorale and the chorus of the Ravinia Music Festival. Anne studies voice with Dr. Robert Heitzinger, and is proud to join the NEIU community in this performance.

**Christopher Hatcher**—ERIK LITNAUER: is certain that you may recognize him from his last performance of *Gianni Schicci* playing the role of Beto. He is excited to share the stage with so many talented cast members and hopes you enjoy the show!
Kehinde Hart—JIMMY: is an actor that comes to life time after time, inspired by new scripts and after the closing of great performances. Whether he is a Simba one night or one of two antelope story tellers in Walt Disney’s The Lion King—Cheetah Tour or a kid who didn’t believe fat meat is greasy, in Dr. Ronald Combs’ The Monkey’s Paw, he is grateful to have fresh rewarding experiences onstage at North Eastern Illinois University. I thank God for it all, Mom and Dad you are bountiful spiritual support, Lil Bro for being present and honest. Feels like I’m coming out of retirement…or something.

Beth Jargstorf—ELIZAVETA GRUSHINSKAYA: is an undergraduate at Northeastern Illinois University. She is pursuing a degree in vocal performance with an educational studies minor. Most recently, she has appeared as Pamina in Mozart’s The Magic Flute, La Ciesca in Puccini’s Gianni Schicchi, and Annina in Strauss II’s A Night in Venice. She also maintains a private studio and performs regularly throughout Chicago in the classical arena as well as with the Chicago Jazz Duo. This past summer, she was honored to sing in the Orvieto Musica Festival Art of Song program in Orvieto, Italy. Additionally, she is a winner of the Elyse Mach Concerto Competition. Beth is thrilled to have had the opportunity to collaborate on this production with a group of such dedicated artists.

Joshua Jarvis—BRATTY KID: is 8 years old and this is his second opera. He is in the second grade at Lyon School in Glenview. In addition to being in shows, he loves to do karate, sing in junior Choir, watch Survivor and play Roblox. He is super excited to have a “featured part”, in his own words.

Nate Jarvis—RICH KID: is 11 years old and this is his second opera. He loves to sing and to read Harry Potter books. In fact, he is very proud of the fact that he finished all 7 HP books in under a year! In addition to singing, Nate studies piano, trombone, does karate and sings in the Junior choir at church. He loves to watch YouTube and he loves to text.

Carolyn Johnson—TELEPHONE OPERATOR: is so pleased to return to the NEIU stage! She has been seen at NEIU in Street Scene, Sweeney Todd, and Jekyll & Hyde. Among others, she has also worked with Piccolo Theatre, Rising Stars, and Nightblue Theatre Company. Offstage, she owns An Event Less Ordinary, planning weddings in the Chicago area. Thank you to Sasha for getting her onstage again, and Mike Johnson for the laughs.

Jane Kenas-Heller—ACCOMPANIST/ VOCAL COACH: is Dr. Kay Kim’s predecessor as staff pianist for the NEIU Music Department, is thrilled to continue her association with Opera Workshop. She is fortunate to have toured twice for the USO, performing on US military bases in Europe, Iceland, Greenland, and Canada. As a singer, Jane was a finalist in the Bel Canto Competition, sang with Chicago Opera Theatre, and toured with the Lyric Opera of Chicago Center. As a composer, Jane’s one-act opera, Romance Novel, was premiered by the NEIU Opera Workshop. She earned her Master of Arts in Vocal Pedagogy degree from NEIU as a student of Dr. Phyllis Hurt, and her Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point as a voice student of Dr. Ronald Combs.

Lucy Kennedy—ENSEMBLE: is a retired technical writer and veteran of the Chicago amateur performance scene. She sang the Durafle Requiem and toured to international choral festivals in Vienna and Brussels with the Park Ridge Community Church Chancel Choir. She sang Carmina Burana with the Chicago Bar Association.
BIOGRAPHIES cont.

Symphony Chorus and Orchestra and Ralph Vaughan Williams’ *Dona Nobis Pacem* and the Mozart *Requiem* with the Oak Park/River Forest Symphony Chorus, both at Symphony Center. At NEIU, she has appeared in *Violet*, *Sweeney Todd*, *La Vie Parisienne*, *Cosi Fan Tutte*, *Die Fledermaus*, and *Jekyll/Hyde*, and previously in comedies, dramas, and musicals with various community theater groups. She has studied voice with Rebecca Patterson. As always, she is grateful to Sasha for this opportunity to perform with such a fine ensemble of young professionals.

Kay Kim—ACCOMPANIST/VOCAL COACH: is an active collaborator, pianist Kay Kim performs an average of over 50 concerts a year both domestically and internationally. She has been one of the pianists of Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s conductor’s rehearsals, performed with the Stradivari Society artists and collaborated with Chicago Chamber Musicians. As a member of musical ambassador group Trio Chicago and Friends, Ms. Kim performs worldwide in Europe, Africa, Middle East, and Asia. She has been heard in CBS ‘Early Show’, WFMT ‘Impromptu’ and Dame Myra Hess Series. Ms. Kim serves as a full-time staff pianist and as an instructor of piano accompanying at NEIU. Her previous teaching and staff positions include Northwestern University, Indiana University and the Juilliard School. She holds a doctoral degree in piano performance from Northwestern University.

Dee K. Kimpel—SANDOR: is an NEIU Alumna and current vocal performance major, has been in productions such as *Guys and Dolls*, *Cosi fan Tutte*, *La Vie Parisienne*, and many NEIU scene recitals. She has performed in Gilbert and Sullivan’s
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**Patience, The Pirates of Penzance, The Mikado, Little Shop of Horrors and various musicals and operetta’s.** Dee performed the role of Lois, in NEIU’s emeritus Jim Blair production of Lounging, in the summers of 2015 and 2016 and as first touriere in Sour Angelica and first Lady in The Magic Flute. She also was an understudy for the role of Zita in Gianni Schicchi. “I’m honored to be in any production of Sasha Gerritson’s, because I know ‘you just can’t go wrong.’ Glory to God! Thanks to my husband ‘Bear,’ my daughter’s Zephranie and Dana. “I am a Woman—Phenomenally” —Maya Angelou

**Sienna Macedon-Kusek**—HAIR & MAKEUP DESIGN: is very excited to be here for her tenth show! She has worked with such companies as Northbrook Children’s Theatre, Music Theatre Works, North Riverside Players, and is an artist in residence with Petite Opera Productions. A special thank you to Sasha for leading such an amazing production, Toph, for always being so very patient, and David for dragging me along for this crazy ride.

**Becca Levy**—STAGE MANAGER: is delighted to be returning to stage manage with NEIU Opera after stage managing last spring’s Puccini Operas, Suor Angelica and Gianni Schicchi, as well as Jekyll & Hyde spring 2017! She is a proud ensemble member at Strawdog Theatre Company and works as a stage manager, production manager, and teaching artist at a number of fantastic theatres all around Chicago. Becca can also be found on the road as a Company Stage Manager with Potted Potter. BFA Stage Management, Western Michigan University. Big love to BL, PS, & BN!

**Miguel Long**—JIMMY : is a NEIU Alumni and a Chicago native! He is associate company member at Trap Door Theater. Favorite roles include Nicely from Guys & Dolls at NEIU, Lion from The Wiz at Emerald City Children’s Theater, Prince Conti in Monsieur D’Eon Is A Woman with Trap Door.

**Kay Lea (Meyers) Schuetz**—SCENIC DESIGN & PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT: has worked with Sasha Gerritson for over 10 years in various roles. She is thankful for all the good people who help to bring the shows to life with their hard work. She sends love to her momma and her sister Chelsea. Her deepest thanks goes to Sasha for being in her life and a friend, always.

**David Wesley Mitchell**—PRODUCTION ASSISTANT: is a graduate of NEIU, David has been seen there in Jekyll & Hyde, The Laramie Project, Guys and Dolls, Sweeney Todd, The Secret Garden, and Into the Woods, as well as other plays, operas and scene recitals. Among others, he has also worked with Griffin Theatre, Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre, Strawdog Theatre, Broadway in Chicago, Light Opera Works, and Emerald City Theatre. Thanks and love, as always, to Sasha.

**Gisella Milla**—ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR: is a NEIU graduate in Master of Arts in Music 2017. She performed the role of Sour Angelica in NEIU’s production of Suor Angelica and as Sophie in last Fall’s program. She has also participated in outside productions as With Blood, With Ink with Third Eye Ensemble, Dido & Aeneas and La Calisto with Roosevelt University. She has also performed as a soloist and performed in several different recitals in Chicago area. She is so thankful to be at service of such an amazing boss and better person, thank you Sasha! And to everyone, enjoy the show!

**Bill Morey**—COSTUME DESIGN: has designed costumes for several operas and musicals at NEIU including The Secret Garden, A Christmas Carol, Sweeney Todd, Street Scene, La Vie Parisienne, Die Fledermaus, Guys and Dolls and others. Bill is an fifteenth time Jeff Award nominee, and a four time Equity Jeff Award winner. He is also the recipient of two After Dark Awards and the BroadwayWorld Award for costume design. www.billmorey.com
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Congratulations to Sasha on another smashing year!

Benita and Joe Kaminkow
Kyrie Nelson—ENSEMBLE: is a senior in the NEIU English department. In the past, she has been in the ensembles for the NEIU productions of: *La Bohéme*, *Guys & Dolls*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, and *Suor Angelica*. She is grateful for the opportunity to once again take the stage in *The Grand Hotel*.

Lyle Nicholson—SCULLERY: is new to the NEIU music scene but certainly not to the Chicago music scene. While in junior college, he was accepted into the Chicago Symphony Chorus under director and founder Margaret Hills and later joined the Lyric Opera Supplementary Chorus under Giulio Favario. He was eventually accepted and studied voice at the American Conservatory of Music. Lyle has sung roles with Chamber Opera Chicago, DuPage Opera Theater, Grant Park Orchestra and Green Bay Symphony to name a few. Lyle spent 4 years with the North American tour of *Showboat* with Live Entertainment as a swing and understudy and sang the role of Joe in Los Angeles with Ned Beatty and Cloris Leachman in title roles. Lyle has also acted in commercials for Nike, Horseshoe Casinos, Shoneys Restaurants and many others. He has also done voiceovers for the National Restaurant Association, First American Bank and did a recurring role for ABN Amro for several years. Lyle is extremely grateful for the opportunity to appear in NEIU's production of *Grand Parade* and hopes to continue working with this very talented group of musicians.

Emma Oberdick—ENSEMBLE: is a 24 year old vocal performance major that just graduated from NEIU. She is so happy to be back in her fifth full production with Sasha Gerritson. Past roles have been Emma Carew in *Jekyll & Hyde* (2017), Sarah Brown in *Guys and Dolls* (2015), Rosalinda in *Die Fledermaus* (2016) and Nella in *Gianni Schicchi* (2018). Enjoy the show!

Lety Ortega—MAID: is currently pursuing two Bachelor's Degrees at Northeastern Illinois University. She is this year's President to NEIU's collegiate chapter of the National Association for Music Education. By day she teaches Pre-K–3rd grade Spanish and by night she participates in Northeastern's vocal ensembles. Previously, she portrayed the role of The General in NEIU's production of *Guys and Dolls*, she performed in Sasha Gerritson's adaptation of *Cosi Fan Tutte* as a member of the chorus and she played Amy in the Fall of 2013 musical scene recital of *Little Women*. Lety would like to thank her voice professor Dr. Katherine Petersen, her choir director and academic advisor, Dr. Owen, and her Opera Workshop professor and angel, Sasha Gerritson. Those three people have been truly instrumental in her growth as a musician. Thanks to them, she expects to graduate in the spring of 2020 with degrees in Music Education and in Spanish. Lastly, she would like to thank her friends and family for supporting her.

Dr. Christopher Owen—CONDUCTOR: is the Director of Choral Activities, Associate Professor of Music Education at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago, Illinois. He conducts the NEIU Chamber Singers, University Chorus, teaches choral conducting, vocal music methods, supervises clinical and student teachers, and is excited to be back on the podium for NEIU’s Grand Hotel. In addition to his work at the university, Dr. Owen is a sought-after clinician and adjudicator and is a contributing author to the Teaching Music Through Performance in Choir Series. As a performer he serves as a conductor and chorus master for Vox3 Collective, Chicago Opera Vanguard, and is the Director of Music at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Evanston. His work as a conductor has also had him on the podium in front of the Chicago Clarinet Ensemble, Chicago Brass Festival, Minnesota Chorale, Minnesota
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Oratorio Society, and the Omaha All-City Honor Chorus. Also known as a collaborative pianist, Dr. Owen will perform as a collaborative artist in California, New York, Ohio, and Chicago in the coming season. Internationally, he is an artistic partner with the men’s vocal ensemble CANTUS, and was recently a visiting artist to the Chorakademie am Konzerthaus Dortmund in Germany.

Carlos Rodas—ROHNA: is a Music Education major and has been attending Northeastern for four years now. He has done multiple shows with Sasha including Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde and Die Fledermaus. Additionally, he has done other shows outside of the university, such as Into The Woods and The Sound of Music. He is excited to continue working with Sasha on this and various productions in the future.

Philip Platakis—ZINNOWITZ/SCULLERY: is happy to be returning to the NEIU stage after last year’s production of Gianni Schicchi and Suor Angelica. He graduated from NEIU’s Music Ed program in 2009; since then, he’s been teaching high school music in Chicago, performing with various singing groups, acting (stage and screen), serving coffee to people, and not sleeping a whole lot. Favorite NEIU roles include Major Holmes in The Secret Garden and Sir Archibald Proops in Jekyll and Hyde. Big thanks to Sasha for the opportunity to perform with these really, really talented folks in the cast and crew. Thanks and love to family and friends for their support and patience.

Joe Polise—CHAUFFER: is excited and pleased to have been cast in Grand Hotel. The professionalism and esprit du corps of the production’s director, cast and crew were remarkable, giving Joseph, a theatrical newbie, the perfect working environment to craft his character.

Ashanti Roberts—ENSEMBLE: is a senior in the Vocal K-12 Music Education Program and a part-time employee here at Northeastern Illinois University. This is her second performance under Sasha’s direction. Previously, she sang in the NEIU University Chorus for several semesters. She is thrilled to be a member of the cast this semester.

Isaiah Silvia-Chandley—GIGOLO: is ecstatic to be apart of Grand Hotel. Regional performance credits include Beauty and the Beast with Drury Lane Theatre, Memphis, Cole Porter’s Can-Can with Porchlight Music Theatre, Spamalot with Seacoast Repertory Theatre, The Young Americans Music and Dance Outreach Tours in Japan, Europe and U.S.. BFA Musical Theatre Performance from Columbia College Chicago. Endless gratitude to Mom, Dad, family and friends for their constant love and support. www.isaiahsilviachandley.com @itszayzay_.

Fred Sivils—DETECTIVE: appeared in his first musical production for Sasha Gerritson as a Community Listener in the April 2010 presentation of La Bohème. He is currently a Graduate-Student-At-Large at NEIU and has studied Voice with Kathy Cowan and Music Theory with Sasha. This is his 19th appearance in one of Sasha’s productions. He is grateful for the chance to appear again with so many highly talented fellow singers and actors.

Gretchen Sheirok—ENSEMBLE: is an NEIU music student, is thrilled to be in another show at NEIU. This makes her 31st appearance singing and being the prop mistress. She also enjoys singing in local choir groups around the city and suburbs.
Andrea Tucci—RAFFAELA: is thrilled to be returning to the NEIU stage in her third production! Andrea is a grad student at NEIU studying with Dr. Peterson. Previous roles at NEIU include La Badessa in Suor Angelica and the first scene in The Adventures of Princess Fu Xiao as Roberta. She wants to thank her fellow Grand Hotel cast and crew members, as well as Sasha, for giving her such a wonderful opportunity and Dr. Petersen for helping her grow as a singer. She also wants to thank her friends, family, and Eva for all their support.

Liliana Valenzuela—CONCIERGE FRANCESCA: is doing a BIAS with a Minor in Music at NEIU and will be graduating at the end of the summer. She is long connected to Sasha thru their work together at the Ravenswood Music Institute under the direction of George Rico. Liliana plays and teaches piano as well as singing and lives nearby with her husband and 3 children. She is currently working on competition pieces with her students for the IGSMA.

Abby Vicenes—BELLHOP: is a 8th grade student. This is her 2nd performance under Sasha’s directing. Previously, she was in The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee and loved every second! She has also done the Band Camp here at NEIU. Abby is hoping that she will get into ChiARTS for Musical Theater, so she took this perfect opportunity to get the feel of an actual production! Abby is looking forward to being in more productions here at NEIU.

Andrew Waters—CHOREOGRAPHER: is thrilled to be working with Sasha Gerritson again having collaborated on productions of Die Fledermaus, Guys and Dolls, Into The Woods, A Christmas Carol and The Secret Garden. He is Presently choreographing Music Theater International’s pilot production of Matilda. Mr. Waters has choreographed for Porchlight Music Theatre, Mercury Theatre Chicago, Bailiwick, and Drury Lane. He has been a freelance choreographer of over 60 productions and has been a proud member of Actors’ Equity for Twenty-six years. Thank you for supporting live theater.

Wesley Hentges—WITT: is a former Neiu student and is glad to be back working under the direction of the wonderful Sasha and this fantastic cast.
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In order to give our students a variety of experiences, as they go forward with their performing and teaching careers, an intentional four year repertoire rotation was established in 2007. In between major productions we supplement the student learning experience with scene recitals drawn from all types of repertoire.

YEAR ONE.................................Modern opera
YEAR TWO............... Modern musical theater
YEAR THREE .......................Standard rep opera
YEAR FOUR............... “Legit” musical theater

2007–2008 (Year One)
Susannah by Carlisle Floyd & The Medium by Gian Carlo Menotti

2008–2009 (Year Two)
Into the Woods by Stephen Sondheim

2009–2010 (Year Three)
La Bohème by Giacomo Puccini

2010–2011 (Year Four)
The Secret Garden by Lucy Simon

2011–2012 (Year One)
A Christmas Carol by Ronald Combs & Street Scene by Kurt Weill

2012–2013 (Year Two)
Sweeney Todd by Stephen Sondheim

2013–2014 (Year Three)
La Vie Parisienne by Jacques Offenbach & Cosi Fan Tutte (in Italian) by Mozart

2014–2015 (Year Four)
Guys and Dolls by Frank Loesser

201–2016 (Year One)
The Worst One Ever by Gary D. Belshaw & Die Fledermaus by J Strauss

2016–2017 (Year Two)
Jekyll & Hyde by Frank Wildhorn & Leslie Bricusse

2017–2018 (Year Three)
Suor Angelica & Gianni Schicchi by Giacomo Puccini

2018–2019 (Year Four)
Grand Hotel by Robert Wright, George Forrest and Maury Yeston

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