

The Glenn Gould School Spring Opera
Gioachino Rossini: *La cambiale di matrimonio*
Giacomo Puccini: *Gianni Schicchi*

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 7:30pm

Friday, March 20, 2026 at 7:30pm

These are the 1,509th and 1,510th concerts in Koerner Hall

Stephen Carr, director
Gordon Gerrard, conductor
Jennifer Tung, assistant conductor
Lesley Abarquez Bradley+, stage manager
Emmanuelle So+, assistant stage manager
Taylor Cumming, apprentice stage manager
Jalen Innis, production manager & technical director
Adriana Bogaard, set & properties designer
Alex Amini, costume designer
Jason Hand, lighting designer
Carmina Pascutiu, head of properties
Bebe Brunjes, head of hair & make-up
Camila Farah, head dresser
Kaitlyn Smith, opera manager
Stéphane Mayer, music preparation
Timothy Cheung, répétiteur & orchestral pianist
Sara Maida-Nicol, diction coach
Adrienne Pieczonka, O.C., Head of Vocal Department & casting
Royal Conservatory Orchestra

La cambiale di matrimonio

Tobias Mill: **Gabriel Klassen**
Fanny Mill: **Alyssa Bartholomew**
Norton: **Matthew Black**
Clarina: **Alannah Beuparlant**
Slook: **James Coole-Stevenson^**
Edward Millfort: **Yanik Gosselin***
House Staff: **Clara Moniz & Marie Conceição**

Gianni Schicchi

Gianni Schicchi: **James Coole-Stevenson^**
Lauretta: **Leandra Dahm**
Rinuccio: **Jeffrey Liu**
Zita: **Jada Alexiou**
Marco: **Matthew Black**
Betto: **Callum Aldworth**
Simone: **Tyler Prince**
Gherardo: **Nicholas Klufftinger**
La Ciesca: **Charlotte Anderson**
Nella: **Daniela Carreón Herrera**
Gherardino: **Meghan Linnington**
Ser Amantio di Nicolaio, Notary: **Gabriel Klassen**
Maestro Spinelloccio: **Joel Katz~**
Pinellino: **Marie Conceição**
Guccio: **Clara Moniz**

The Glenn Gould School is delighted to present *Una serenata italiana* (An Italian Evening), featuring two one-act comic operatic gems: *La cambiale di matrimonio* by Gioachino Rossini and *Gianni Schicchi* by Giacomo Puccini. In *La cambiale di matrimonio* (The Marriage Contract), we meet Tobias Mill, an English gentleman who is weighing up marriage options for his daughter. A Canadian industrialist has expressed intentions of marriage and comic complications ensue. This is Rossini's first opera, composed when he was just 18 years of age. In *Gianni Schicchi*, we meet a large Florentine family who are quibbling over the details of the will of a relative who is at death's door. Gianni Schicchi comes to their rescue with an ingenious plan. This work, Puccini's only comic opera, has all the trademarks of his operatic masterpieces - glorious melodies and thrilling orchestration.

- Adrienne Pieczonka, O.C.

Stephen Carr

Director

Stephen Carr directed *Les dialogues des Carmélites* for the RCM two seasons ago, and he is thrilled to be working again with the incredibly talented young artists at the GGS. In recent seasons, he has directed productions of *Lucia di Lammermoor* for the Korean National Symphony; *Turandot*, *Tosca*, and the world premiere of *The Rising World* at the Seoul Arts Center; and *Le nozze di Figaro* with the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra. Additional engagements include the Washington National Opera, Daegu Opera, Mississauga Symphony Orchestra, Daejeon Opera, Palm Beach Opera, Opera North, Opera Naples, Ohio Light Opera, Center City Opera of Philadelphia, and Toronto City Opera. Stephen spent eight years on the faculty of the Eastman School of Music, and he now teaches at the University of Toronto and as a Visiting Professor at the Senzoku Gakuen Conservatory in Tokyo. He is currently pursuing a PhD in musicology and ethnomusicology at York University. www.stephencarr.ca

Gordon Gerrard

Conductor

For Canadian conductor Gordon Gerrard, music is an animating life force. He has guest-conducted major Canadian orchestras (Vancouver, Quebec, Toronto, Victoria, London, Kitchener-Waterloo) and opera companies (Calgary, Hamilton, Edmonton). He loves working with emerging artists (Calgary Opera, the Atelier Lyrique de l'Opéra de Montréal, the Banff Centre, Montréal's Opera McGill, and The Glenn Gould School.) Since 2016, he has been the dynamic music director of the Regina Symphony Orchestra. All rather unlikely for a kid who grew up on a farm just outside Brandon, MB. Piano lessons began at seven and then, at 17, Gordon left the farm to study at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, followed by a master's degree at the Manhattan School of Music. He loved collaborating with singers, which led to a fascination with opera and the world of conducting. He is thrilled to be taking the lead with City Opera Vancouver, a company with a reputation for developing new work.

Adriana Bogaard

Set & properties designer

Adriana Bogaard is a multi-disciplinary artist from British Columbia. Her work as a designer has been showcased in feature films, television, theatrical productions, and operas. A graduate of the National Theatre School and The Banff Centre for the Arts, she has designed sets, costumes, and puppets for companies in BC, Alberta, Ontario, and Quebec. Also active in the film industry, she was nominated for a Canadian Screen Award for her work on Atom Egoyan's opera feature film *Seven Veils* alongside production designer Phillip Barker. Feature films that she has designed include *The King Tide*, *Youngblood*, and *Blood Lines*, all of which premiered at TIFF. She splits her time between Ontario and BC.

Alex Amini

Costume designer

Select theatre credits include: *The Magic Flute* (The Glenn Gould School), *Kelly v Kelly*, *Caroline or Change*, *The Wild Party* (Dora nominee), *Grey Gardens* (Dora nominee), *Onegin*, *Next To Normal* (Dora Nominee – Musical Stage Co.), *To Life*, *Gloria: A Life*, *The Jazz Singer* and *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (The Harold Green Jewish Theatre), *Mary Poppins*, *Mamma Mia*, and *Beauty and the Beast* (Port Hope Capitol Theatre). As always, thanks to Carmen for saving my life.

Jason Hand

Lighting designer

Recent Toronto projects: *Identity* (Against the Grain), *Bright Star* (Mirvish/GTP), *Playing Shylock* (Mirvish/Starvox), *The Comeuppance* (Soulpepper). Theatrical designs for Theatre Aquarius, Tarragon Theatre, Grand Theatre, Canadian Stage, Stratford, Shaw, Charlottetown Festival, and Soulpepper. Selected opera credits: Canadian Opera Company, Vancouver Opera, Edmonton Opera, Minnesota Opera, Against the Grain, Banff Centre, and Tapestry Opera. Immersive experiences: *Immersive Disney Animation Experience* (Rome, Singapore, Las Vegas, Toronto, and 26 more cities worldwide), *Original Immersive Van Gogh* (Toronto, Las Vegas, New York, and 14 worldwide), and *National Cowboy* (Western Heritage Museum). He is a proud member of IATSE ADC659. Nine Dora Award nominations, a META for Outstanding Design, Siminovitch Prize protégé recipient. JasonHandLighting.com
Instagram: @JH_Lighting

Jalen Innis

Production manager & technical director

Jalen Innis (He/Him) is a Toronto-based freelance production manager and technical director. He completed the Theatre Production program at Humber Lakeshore in early 2020, just as venues had to close their doors. Jalen found work and, more importantly, community in site-specific and digital productions before working at venues like CanStage, The Elgin and Winter Garden, and of course The Royal Conservatory. Jalen remains focused on fostering a healthy community and building safe spaces, literally and figuratively, for people to explore their art. After joining the GGS team last year for *The Magic Flute*, Jalen is excited to be returning to The Royal Conservatory for his second spring opera. He most recently took on the role of production manager for Necessary Angel's *Moonlight Schooner* and hopes to see you at the Toronto Comic Arts Festival this June.

Lesley Abarquez Bradley

Stage manager

Lesley is delighted to be returning as stage manager for The GGS Spring Opera. Previous credits include *Die Zauberflöte*, *Dialogues des carmélites*, *Flight*, *Rinaldo*, *Die Fledermaus*, *La Cecchina*, *Alcina*, *La belle Hélène*, and *The Cunning Little Vixen*. Working primarily in opera for 30 years, she stage manages regularly for the Canadian Opera Company, and has also enjoyed working with Edmonton Opera, Tapestry Opera, Against the Grain Theatre, the Banff Centre, Opera Columbus, the Canadian Children's Opera Company, and the University of Toronto Opera School.

Royal Conservatory Orchestra

Joaquin Valdepeñas, Resident Conductor

The Royal Conservatory Orchestra (RCO), part of the Temerty Orchestral Program, is widely regarded as an outstanding ensemble and one of the best training orchestras in North America. Four renowned conductors work with the RCO each season, allowing Glenn Gould School students to gain experience through professional rehearsal and performance conditions. A full week of rehearsals culminates in a Koerner Hall performance under the batons of such distinguished guest conductors as Sir Roger Norrington, former Ichnatowycz Chair in Piano Leon Fleisher, Bramwell Tovey, Johannes Debus, Peter Oundjian, Gábor Takács-Nagy, Ivars Taurins, Tania Miller, Andrei Feher, Mario Bernardi, Richard Bradshaw, Nathan Brock, Julian Kuerti, Uri Mayer, Tito Muñoz, Andrés Keller, Earl Lee, Naomi Woo, William Eddins, and Lior Shambadal. With four annual performances, participation in the RCO ensures that instrumental students in the Bachelor of Music and the Artist Diploma Program of The Glenn Gould School graduate with extensive orchestral performance experience. Additionally, winners of The Robert W. and G. Ann Corcoran Concerto Competition have the opportunity to appear each year as soloists with the RCO. Graduates of the RCO have joined the ranks of the greatest orchestras in the world, including the Cleveland Orchestra, the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, the BBC Orchestra, the Israel Philharmonic, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Tafelmusik, the Canadian Opera Company Orchestra, the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, the Calgary Philharmonic, the Quebec Symphony Orchestra, the Hallé Orchestra of Manchester, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, and Leipzig Gewandhaus. In addition to performances in Koerner Hall, the RCO has performed on numerous occasions at the Isabel Bader Performing Arts Centre in Kingston, has been heard repeatedly on the national broadcasts of the *CBC Radio*, and in May 2024 made its Carnegie Hall debut under Maestro Peter Oundjian.

The RCO's Resident Conductor, Joaquin Valdepeñas, is supported by a generous gift from Robert & Ann Corcoran.

The Glenn Gould School recognizes its voice faculty

We are fortunate to have some of the best musicians in Canada on our faculty here at the GGS. In our voice department, faculty members enrich each student's experience through repertoire and diction classes, rehearsals, and in private lessons.

Adrienne Pieczonka, O. C., *Vocal Chair, Head of the Vocal Department*

Mia Bach

Stephanie Bogle

Camila González Bravo

Tom Diamond

David Eliakis

Nesrine El-Zine

John Greer

Jason Howard

Joel Katz

Rachael Kerr

Jean MacPhail

Jason Nedecky

Sara Maida-Nicol

Miriam Swatuk

Ivars Taurins

Peter Tiefenbach

Jennifer Tung

Xin Wang

Ilana Zarankin

