

# Meet the Cast



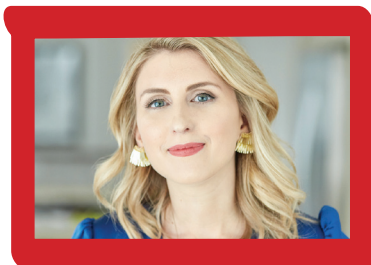
**Chong Zheng**, music director, is from China. Her hobbies include dance and cooking. She especially likes to cook meals for her friends. She started piano lessons with her aunt at the age of 6. Her mother plays a Chinese instrument named the "Erhu." It is a two-stringed bowed musical instrument. Her parents are a great support in her music career.



**Nicholas Mayhugh** is the technician and lives in Des Moines, Iowa. He enjoys building and playing guitars. His favorite food is pineapple pizza. This is Nick's third OPERA Iowa tour, but he has worked for DMMO in the past as part of the technical crew for the Summer Festival. He is a fan of the rock band Rush.



**Amanda Sheriff** is a soprano from Houston, Texas. Her favorite things to do include cooking, playing board games, hiking, hanging out with her husband and Netflix. She started choir in 5th grade and hasn't stopped singing since. She fell in love with opera in college. Recently married in October, Amanda now has a 7-year-old stepson and is learning a lot about bugs and sea animals.



**Kellie Motter**, soprano, is from Atlanta, Georgia. She enjoys photography, playing video games and teaching her dog new tricks. Her favorite foods always involve lots of cheese, but she loves all foods. In middle school she joined choir so she could act in the school play. Kellie played piano at an early age and had a good ear and a knack for reading music. She is the only musician in her family, but her mom is a designer and her dad and brother are both writers. Music is a universal language and she feels sharing its power and beauty with people is an incredible privilege.



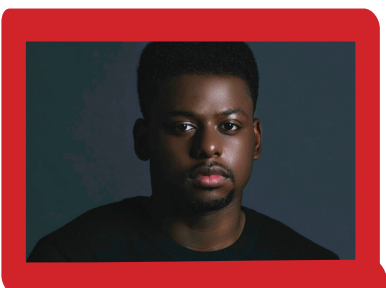
**Dylan Gregg** is a bass-baritone from Salisbury, Maryland. He enjoys painting and writing, as well as fishing, skateboarding, and hiking. He loves to eat all types of spicy food, but especially Indian food. He grew up singing in church choirs which led to an early passion for performing and an appreciation for music. None of his family are musicians but they have grown to really appreciate opera. Dylan played quidditch on Boston University's varsity team as a chaser and a keeper. It's a very intense and legitimate sport!



**Kellen Schrimper**, a baritone from Waukee, Iowa, enjoys fishing and water activities, video games, working out and football (go Minnesota Vikings!). His favorite food is sushi. He got his start in music in high school when he was cast as Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls* and went on to win the Iowa High School Musical Theater Triple Threat Award. Kellen has a younger brother named Riley. He also has relatives who live in Germany. He has traveled to and performed in 6 countries, including England, Italy and the Baltics.



**Briana Moynihan**, mezzo-soprano, is from St. Paul, Minnesota. Her hobbies include reading, journaling, listening to podcasts and new music, watching videos on YouTube and cooking. Her favorite foods include chicken wild rice soup, Caesar salad, Thai curry and just about anything with seafood. Though she was a shy child, her dad was a singer and the family would sing together during the holidays. She joined Minnesota Opera's youth program, Project Opera, and soon became obsessed with the art form. Briana says her mom's chocolate chip cookies are the best in the world! Her best friend is a 16-year-old dog name Dixie.



**Andrew Turner**, tenor, is from Tacoma, Washington. He enjoys hiking, bowling and going to the movies. His favorite food is Mexican and Korean cuisine. Andrew traveled to Korea and spent two weeks learning about the culture. His grandmother inspired him to get involved in music and taught him to play the piano. Singing is an important part of his family and during the holidays they get together and sing concerts full of gospel music in the living room.