



DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Friday, November 14, 2025 • 7:30 PM

Sunday, November 16, 2025 • 2:00 PM

DEPAUL OPERA THEATRE PRESENTS

THE TENDER LAND

AARON COPLAND, COMPOSER

HORACE EVERETT, LIBRETTIST

Robert McConnell, conductor

Hannah Zizza Stanfield, director

Sasha and Eugene Jarvis Opera Hall
2330 North Halsted Street • Chicago

Friday, November 14, 2025 • 7:30 PM
Sunday, November 16, 2025 • 2:00 PM
Jarvis Opera Hall

THE TENDER LAND

Robert McConnell, conductor

Hannah Zizza Stanfield, director

PROGRAM

Act One: The day before graduation - late afternoon.

Intermission

Act Two: That evening.

Intermission

Act Three: Later that night; then graduation day - dawn.

*The running time is 1 hour 45 minutes
plus two 15 minute intermissions.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DePaul Opera Theater thanks The Theatre School at DePaul University, Opera Festival of Chicago, and Konow's Corn Maze for their assistance with this production.

As a courtesy to those around you, please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices. Flash photography is not permitted.

CAST

Laurie Moss	Sofia LoConte
Ma Moss	Gabriela González Basurto
Beth Moss	Isabella Wiliford
Grandpa Moss	Elliot Kovitz
Martin	Connor Trombly
Top	Zachary Mendenhall
Mr. Splinters	Jack Sullivan
Mrs. Splinters	Brooke Craig
Mr. Jenks	Justin Bach
Mrs. Jenks	Rylie Jo Peck

ORCHESTRA

FLUTE

Noam Niv

CLARINET

Finley Jones

BASSOON

Casey Delsandro

PIANO

Wonee Kim

VIOLIN

Angela Rojas

Benjamin Mora Neira

Jenna Krause

Tsz Shan Ma

VIOLA

Madeline Guyer

Alejandra Contreras

CELLO

Aurian Kutner

Jackson Arnold

BASS

Stephen Kilpatrick

PRODUCTION TEAM & CREW

Conductor	Robert McConnell
Director	Hannah Zizza Stanfield
Musical Preparation	Nicholas Hutchinson
Rehearsal Pianists	Nicholas Hutchinson
	Wonee Kim
Stage Manager	Shelby Krarup
Assistant Stage Manager	Audrey Terhune
Production Manager	Darren Lee Brown
Costume Designer	Rachel Lambert
Lighting Designer	Aria Morris
Scenic Designer	Devin Meseke
Props Designer	Grace Reynolds
Supertitles Design	Hannah Zizza Stanfield
Asst Lighting Designer	Leah Donovan
Technical Director	Darren Lee Brown
Master Electrician	Nathan Lesperance
Wardrobe Supervisor	Jennifer Lightfoot
Master Carpenter	Jon Luke Lassa
Paints Charge	Devin Meseke
Carpenters	Cameron Baba
	Darren Lee Brown
Painters	Nora Brooks-Slauter
	Shokie Tseumah
	Cameron Baba
Scenic Artists	Olivia Volk
	Sydney Joos
	Devin Meseke
	Darren Lee Brown
Electricians	Sarah Knoke
	Nik Hunder
	Ethan Brentlinger
Lighting Programmers	Leah Donovan
	Zach Fonder
Wardrobe	Megan Turner
Board Operator	Leah Donovan
Supertitles Operator	Matthew Stanfield
Jarvis Technical Director	Michael Sportiello
Jarvis Assistant Technical Director	Payton Kaye
Facilities Manager	Julia Miller

SYNOPSIS

The action takes place on a lower-middle-class farm in the mid-west. The time is in the early thirties – June – the time of spring graduation and spring harvest.

The isolated world of a rural family turns around the graduation of its elder daughter. Yet, she is unsure of her place in that world. It is invaded by a threat and then an actuality of two outsiders who excite in the girl dreams of a larger life. The boys are accepted into the community as harvesters.

At a party on the eve before graduation, one of them falls in love with the girl. The match is discovered by the grandpa, and the boys are ordered away. The boy and girl plan an elopement at daybreak, but the boy, attacked by fears of responsibility abetted by forebodings of his companion, flees. The girl's anticipation of fulfillment turns to despair when she finds the boys gone. She is consoled by her family who remind her of graduation and the pattern of her life. But she realizes that the time has come to break that pattern and assert her own being. Though accepting, the mother does not recognize the woman her daughter has become. And as the girl goes to find her own life, the mother turns to her younger daughter knowing that one responsibility has ended and another has begun.

BIOGRAPHIES

Robert McConnell is pleased to return to the DePaul Opera Theatre, having previously conducted *Street Scene* by Kurt Weill in 2016. He is a conductor of opera, oratorio, and symphonic works, and is a frequent collaborator with Chicago's Joffrey Ballet where he has conducted performances of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Joby Talbot, *Atonement* by Laura Rossi, *Jane Eyre* by Philip Feeney, the *Siegfried Idyll* by Richard Wagner, and Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* as choreographed by Christopher Wheeldon. McConnell has also conducted *Nutcracker* with the Peoria Ballet, Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* with the Calyx Vocal Ensemble, Bach's *St. John Passion* with the Oregon Bach Festival, and has appeared as a guest conductor with Lyric Opera of Chicago's Opera in the Neighborhoods Program, the Northwestern Opera Theater, Door County's Peninsula Music Festival, and the Skokie Valley Symphony. He is a graduate of Northwestern's Bienen School of Music where he studied conducting with Victor Yampolsky.

Hannah Zizza Stanfield, director, marks her directorial debut at DePaul Opera Theatre, though this is her fifth season working with the students and team at DePaul in various roles. As a trained soprano and instrumentalist, Hannah has a deep passion for opera and opera education. She holds triple undergraduate degrees from the University of Missouri in voice performance, flute performance, and French literature and education, as well as a masters in voice performance from Roosevelt University's CCPA with an additional concentration in musicology and a thesis covering the musical and textual treatment of Shakespeare's *Ophelia* in operatic contexts. Since finishing her masters, Hannah has been working regularly as a director and assistant director with companies around Chicago such as, Chicago Opera Theatre, Haymarket Opera Company, Opera Festival of Chicago, and Roosevelt University as well as spending winters in Florida with Sarasota Opera. Hannah would like to thank Dr. Nick Hutchinson for such a wonderful opportunity, Maestro Robert McConnell for being such a gracious and insightful collaborator, and her beloved cast of students for their hard work and dedication to our show.

Devin Meseke is a Scenic Designer and Scenic Painter and he recently graduated from DePaul University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Scenic Design. This is his second opera with DePaul University, his first being *Sour Angelica* / *Gianna Schicchi* where he was the paint charge. For the past 4 years he has worked as a scenic painter with several theaters including Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Shattered

Globe Theatre, Lifeline Theatre, Opera Festival of Chicago, Rivendell Theatre, Remy Bumpopo Theatre Company, and Albany Park Theater Project and most recently this summer he was the Scenic Charge for Peninsula Players Theatre's season.

Aria Morris is a Chicago-based lighting designer from Las Vegas. She holds a BFA in Lighting Design from DePaul University. Her favorite Midwestern state is Iowa.

Costume Designer **Rachel Lambert** is thrilled to be working with the DePaul School of Music again. Her Chicago design credits include productions with Goodman Theatre, The Second City, Northlight Theatre, Remy Bumpopo Theatre, First Folio Theatre, The Gift, Eclipse Theatre, Greenhouse Theatre, BoHo Theatre, Underscore Theatre, Signal Ensemble and American Blues Theatre. Regionally she has designed for Peninsula Players and the Texas Shakespeare Festival.

Grace Reynolds is a Chicago-based props designer and actor who is so excited to be working with DePaul Opera Theatre for another show! Recently, she has worked on props with Opera Festival of Chicago, Peninsula Players Theatre, and Viterbo University. She has also recently performed with The National Theatre for Children. Love to Mom, Dad, Annie, Gabby, Deacon, and Shawn.

Shelby Krarup is thrilled to be back for her third season with DePaul Opera Theatre. She finds immense joy in working with the students here, and helping to nurture their artistry. Other recent credits include: Lyric Opera of Chicago – Lyric Unlimited: *Frida Kahlo and the Bravest Girl in the World*; *Tamerlano* with Haymarket Opera Company; and Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company Chicago. You may also see her out and about in historically inspired Star Wars cosplay at conventions, and playing violin with the Chicago City Wide Symphony Orchestra. Lots of love to Kimby, Athena, and Falkor. <3

A Dayton, Ohio native and Chicago resident, **Darren Lee Brown** has worked in theatre, film, and live events across Chicagoland since 2018. Concluding his second school year as the Production Manager and Technical Director for DePaul Opera Theatre, his credits include *Street Scene*, *Dark Sisters*, *Orfeo ed Euridice*, *Suor Angelica*, and *Gianni Schicchi*. Additionally, he serves as Production Manager and Technical Director for Opera Festival of Chicago and A Short Leap Theatre Company, where he is a resident ensemble member. He makes his Chicago directorial debut this July with A Short Leap

Theatre Co.'s production of *The Subtle, Sublime Transformation of Benny V*. Other managerial and collaborative partnerships involve *Teatro Zinzanni*, Steep Theatre, Prop Thtr, and the Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival. In addition to technical theatre work, Darren holds an MFA in Acting from the University of Connecticut and performs and teaches extensively as a puppeteer. Acting and puppeteering credits include: Connecticut Repertory Theatre, The Monomoy Theatre, ESPN, *Sesame Workshop*, Mumford & Sons' *Gentlemen of the Road Tour*, The Zoot Theatre Company, and Glass Apple Theatre. He performed as a lead puppeteer in the Midwest Regional Emmy winning television program *Adventures of Em*, in addition to his contributions in scenic design. He is the founder and Artistic Director of Ohio-based Rocky Horror Picture Show troupe, *Dayton Rocky*. IG: @darrenlybrown

TICKETS AND PATRON SERVICES

We hope you enjoy each and every concert experience you attend at the Holtschneider Performance Center (HPC). We encourage you to share your experiences when visiting our concert and recital halls. It's our pleasure to answer any questions or concerns you may have when visiting or planning your visit. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns:

HPC Box Office Information

2330 North Halsted Street | Tuesday–Saturday | 10 AM–3 PM*

773–325–5200 | musicboxoffice@depaul.edu

*Seasonal hours apply, but we are always open 90 minutes prior to all ticketed events.

Accessibility: HPC is dedicated to providing access for all patrons. We ask that you please contact the HPC Box Office at least two weeks prior to your performance date to request accessibility services.

Cameras and Recorders: The taking of photographs or the recording of concerts held at HPC is strictly prohibited. By attending this concert, you consent to be photographed, filmed and/or otherwise recorded. Your entry constitutes your consent to such and to any use, in any and all media throughout the universe in perpetuity, of your appearance, voice and name for any purpose whatsoever in connection with HPC and DePaul University School of Music.

Concert Dress: At any given concert, you will observe some concertgoers dressed up and others dressed more casually. Many patrons wear business attire or casual business attire. We encourage you to wear whatever makes you feel most comfortable.

Food and Beverage: While drinks, with lids, are allowed in performance spaces, food is never allowed.

Fire Notice: The exits indicated by a red light nearest your seat is the shortest route to the lobby and then outside to the street. In the event of fire or any emergency, please do not run. Walk to that exit.

Late Seating: Late seating breaks usually occur after the first piece on the program or at intermission in order to minimize disturbances to other audience members and those performing on stage. Late patrons will be seated at appropriate breaks at the discretion of the house management staff.

No Smoking: All public spaces in HPC are smoke-free.

Phones and Paging Devices: All electronic devices—including cellular phones, pagers and wristwatch alarms—should be on silent while in any concert or recital hall.

Website: For information about HPC, the DePaul University School of Music, and its upcoming concerts or events, please visit go.depaul.edu/musicevents.

DePaul University School of Music Advisory Board

Rich Daniels, Chair
Mark T. Mroz, Vice-Chair

MEMBERS

Craig Anderson
Heather Boehm
Janai Brugger
Robert D'Addario
Orbert Davis
Rich Daniels
Frank DeVincentis
Shelley MacArthur Farley
Sasha Gerritson
Graham Fuguitt
Geoff Hirt
David Harpest
Cary Jacobs
Carlotta Lucchesi
Mary K. Marshall
Colleen Mayes
Deane Myers
Mark T. Mroz
Jim Shaddle
Kristine Suzuki
Dan Stevens
Liz Ware
Cathy Williams
John Zielinski

DePaul University School of Music Emeritus Board

Russ Bach
Dr. Patricia O. Ewers
Victor D. Faraci
Scott G. Golinkin

Sidney C. Kleinman
Samuel Magad
Florence M. Miller
Anthony D. Peluso

Nancy J. Petrillo
Mimi Wish
William J. Young

The DePaul University School of Music is proud to recognize the following annual donors

MAESTRO CIRCLE (\$100,000+)		
The Estate of Mary Patricia Gannon	Geoffrey Hirt, PhD & Linda Hirt	
BRAVO CIRCLE (\$50,000+)		
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund Sasha Gerritson & Eugene Jarvis	The Estate of John C. Herklotz Rev. John E. Rybolt, C.M.	Cathy C. Williams
BENEFACTOR CIRCLE (\$25,000+)		
Bulley & Andrews, LLC Patti & Peter Duwel Victor D. Faraci	Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund National Philanthropic Trust	Eugene A. Payson Ernest & Mimi Wish
LEADERSHIP CIRCLE (\$10,000+)		
The Estate of John R. Curns Robert & Gina D'Addario Raymond A. Daly Frank M. DeVincentis	Graham & Margaret Fuguitt The Estate of Anastasia P. Graven Peter & Mimi O'Brien James & Laura O'Connor	PJ Wells Bar & Grill Mike & Barbara Scudder Judy & Dan Stevens Ann Zagoreos
PARTNER CIRCLE (\$5,000+)		
Joseph & Leslie Antunovich Archdiocese of Chicago Congregation of the Mission Pat Ewers Shelley MacArthur Farley & Bill Farley Jack & Donna Greenberg David Harpest	Irish American Labor Coalition Cary & Amy Jacobs Carlotta & Ron Lucchesi Ed & Colleen Ward Mayes Mark Mroz & Rich Daniels James F. Shaddle Kristine Suzuki & Alex Sasieta	The Theatre School at DePaul University Stephen & Nicole VanderVoort Elizabeth K. Ware The Kurt Weill Foundation for Music
PATRON CIRCLE (\$2,500+)		
Anonymous Chicago Federation of Musicians City Lights Music, Inc.	CME Group, Inc. Daniel P. Corrigan Reverand L. Scott Donahue	Mary K. Marshall Bob & Kathryn Mayer Florence M. Miller
MEMBERSHIP CIRCLE (\$1,000+)		
American Online Giving Foundation, Inc. Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund Susanne & David Baker William & Susan Bennett Corboy Foundation Cheryl & Sunil Cutinho Melinda Dickler Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund Kelly & Dennis Howe Walker C. Johnson	Brendan Keating The Estate of Jacqueline Krump Eunjin Lee Steven M. Levy Lundstrom Family Foundation Cynthia Manzo Carla R. Michelotti Francois Millard Deane & Layni Myers Christine & Thomas Okelman	Charles & Roberta Price Renew Chicago Rick Rodriguez James & Mary Schaefer Katherine Scherer Rebecca Schewe Dr. Margaret Smollen Michael A. Tunney Gregory Vogt John & Laura Zielinski

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MUSIC



You can make a difference by providing critical scholarship funding and other opportunities to the next generation of musicians. Make a gift of any size in order to guarantee exceptional arts experiences for years to come.

Visit give.depaul.edu/music today.

*For more information, please contact:
Pedro Guerrero, Assistant Director of Development
DePaul University School of Music
pedro.guerrero@depaul.edu
(773) 325-5140*

UPCOMING EVENTS
DePAUL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

November 16 • 3:00 P.M.
Dempsey Corboy Jazz Hall
Jazz Ensemble

November 17 • 8:00 P.M.
Gannon Concert Hall
Wind Symphony

November 17 • 7:00 P.M.
Dempsey Corboy Jazz Hall
Jazz Combos II

November 18 • 7:00 P.M.
Allen Recital Hall
Wind/Mixed Chamber II

November 18 • 7:00 P.M.
Dempsey Corboy Jazz Hall
Jazz Combos III

*For ticketing information and a complete list of concerts visit:
go.depaul.edu/musicevents.*

Holtschneider Performance Center

2330 North Halsted Street • Chicago

Gannon Concert Hall, Allen Recital Hall, Brennan Recital Hall • HPC First Floor

Dempsey Corboy Jazz Hall • HPC Second Floor

Sasha and Eugene Jarvis Opera Hall

800 West Belden Avenue • Chicago

DEPAUL
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MUSIC



804 West Belden Avenue
Chicago, IL 60614
773.325.7260
music.depaul.edu

Sign up for Music @ DePaul E-Notes!

Receive monthly updates in your inbox on performances taking place at the School of Music, as well as special offers and discounts to ticketed events! You can choose to unsubscribe from the list at any time. We have a strict privacy policy and will never sell or trade your email address.

You can sign up for E-Notes by visiting music.depaul.edu and clicking on Concerts and Events.