

Joseph Haydn

ORFEO

L'anima del filosofo / The Soul of the Philosopher

Composed in London 1791; premiered in Florence 1951

May 26 & 27, 2023

MacMillan Theatre, Faculty of Music, University of Toronto

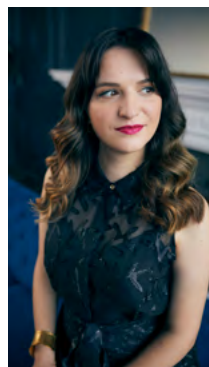
CAST



Sri Lankan tenor **Asitha Tennekoon (Orfeo)** has established himself as one of Canada's most versatile singing artists, performing principal roles with the Canadian Opera Company, Pacific Opera Victoria, Vancouver Opera, and Tapestry

Opera. Asitha has appeared as a soloist with Tafelmusik, the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, the Vancouver Bach Choir, and the Ottawa Choral Society, specializing in the works of Bach, Britten, and Handel. He won rave reviews for his "tour-de-force performance" as Boy Angel in the Canadian premiere of *Angel's Bone* in Vancouver. In June, he will star as Tamino in John Greer's adaptation of *The Magic Flute* with Winnipeg's Little Opera Company.

Lindsay McIntyre (Euridice) is a Canadian vocal artist whose work lies at the intersection of technical precision and the magic of mindful experience. Awed by the natural world, Lindsay believes that music making is a form of transfiguration: creating moments out of thin air. A scholar of the voice, body, and meditative practices, Lindsay is particularly passionate about using her instrument as a vessel for contemporary music. Recent performances include Mendelssohn's *Elijah* with the Toronto Mendelssohn



Choir and Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Reich's *Drumming* with NEXUS and Torq, and two touring programs (Europe 2022, 2024) of the music of Claude Vivier with Soundstreams.



Originally from Prince Edward Island, baritone **Parker Clements (Creonte)** is a Toronto-based performer who is delighted to return to the operatic stage in this production. Parker is an alumnus of the University of Toronto Diploma of Operatic Performance and holds an MA degree from Western University. He is a current core member of the Tafelmusik Chamber Choir. Past roles include: Malatesta (*Don Pasquale*), Silvio (*I Pagliacci*), Edmund (*Mansfield Park*), The Lecturer (*A Water Bird Talk*), Don Giovanni, Escamillo (*Carmen*), and

Belcore (*L'Elisir d'Amore*). An avid recitalist, he has recently appeared in concert at the Arts and Letters Club of Toronto and Under the Spire Music Festival (P.E.I.), and with Tapestry Opera.

“Virtuoso singer” (*WholeNote*), and “triple-threat ... talented coloratura” (*OperaCanada*) **Maeve Palmer (Genio)** has performed with New Music Concerts, Continuum Contemporary Music, Opera Atelier, Tapestry Opera, and Off-Centre Music Salon, among other companies. Recent operatic roles include Jean MacDonald and Daisy Fairchild (*The Bells of Baddeck*), Susanna (*The Marriage of Figaro*), Zerbinetta (*Ariadne auf Naxos*), and Mary Crawford (*Mansfield Park*). Maeve is the 2021 recipient of the Jim and Charlotte Norcop Prize in Song and is a 2022 Dora Mavor Moore Award winner for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble for *RUR A Torrent of Light* (Tapestry Opera).



CREATIVE TEAM

With a repertoire spanning 400 years and six instruments, **Dorian Komanoff Bandy (conductor)** is one of the most versatile talents to emerge on the early music scene. He has performed as a conductor,

recitalist, and concerto soloist on both sides of the Atlantic, in venues ranging from London's Wigmore and Cadogan Halls to Amsterdam's Concertgebouw and New York's Symphony Space. In 2019, he joined the faculty of McGill University's Schulich School of Music. In addition to performing, Dorian is active as a musicologist. He is the author of a monograph on Mozart, and his other writings – on Mozart, Beethoven, and Stephen Sondheim, and on bad movies, bad music, and bad novels – have appeared in leading academic journals and popular blogs.

Caryl Clark (producer) is Professor of Music History and Culture at the University of Toronto, Fellow of Trinity College, and Senior Fellow of Massey College. Her publications include *The Cambridge Haydn Encyclopedia*, *Haydn's Jews: Representation and Reception on the Operatic Stage*, and *The Cambridge Companion to Haydn*. Since her doctoral studies at Cornell, she has been championing Haydn's operas, later becoming captivated by *Orfeo: The Soul of the Philosopher* after hearing Cecilia Bartoli performing the roles of both Euridice and Genio at Convent Garden. Bringing this musical gem to the stage in North America has been a longtime aspiration. An amazingly talented creative team and many friends have now made this dream come true.

Abby Esteireiro (costume designer) is a designer, director, and arts administrator based in Toronto. She loves magic, fandom, and Christina Aguilera's rendition of "Reflection." Recent credits include: set and costume design for the 2022 Soulpepper Academy showcase of *Peggy Pickit Sees the Face of God*, set and costume design for *The Boy Who Cried* (Crème de la Crème/Toronto Fringe), and assistant production design for *Apocalypse Play, or Bundle of Joy* (Two Birds One Stone/Common Boots Theatre). She extends her gratitude to her mentors, Astrid Janson and Snezana Pesic. For more of her work, [click here](#).

Production design work by **Astrid Janson (scenic designer)** has been seen on stages across Canada, from Newfoundland to Victoria, including the Stratford Festival, COC, and many Toronto theatres, most recently the costume design for *Kisaageetin*, at the NAC. She designed or co-designed the costumes for 13 of Michael Hollingsworth's *History* plays, most recently *The Cold War*. Her career also includes award-winning TV films and series, and international work in Germany, Amsterdam, Paris, Sweden, and New York. She has been recognized with numerous awards,

including the Silver Ticket Award for Lifetime Achievement in Theatre, and an honorary doctorate from Wilfrid Laurier University.

Nico Krell (director) is an Uruguayan-born director who was raised across three continents. He creates theatrical adventures: plays, operas, immersive escapades, and, once, a gastrotheatrical adaptation of *Medea*. He is an educator at Princeton University, mentoring students and restructuring their program towards a more holistic theatre culture. He has directed projects at Lincoln Center, wild project, Mercury Store, McCarter Theater, Princeton Summer Theater, and Lucid Body House. He has also supported work at Soho Rep., Heartbeat Opera, and Opera America. He is the recipient of the Louis Sudler Prize, Princeton University's highest honour in the arts, for his cross-disciplinary research on the ethical dynamics of performed violence. nicokrell.com

Equally at home conducting symphonic and choral repertoire, **Ivars Taurins (chorus director)** is the founding director of the Tafelmusik Chamber Choir, now celebrating its 41st season. Principal Baroque Conductor of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra from 2001 to 2011, he has appeared as guest director with orchestras and choirs across Canada, including the Vancouver Chamber Choir, Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, and Pro Coro Canada. A passionate lecturer and teacher, Ivars teaches orchestral conducting at the University of Toronto, is on the faculty of the Glenn Gould School, and has been a guest teacher/conductor at universities and with youth choirs and orchestras across Canada.

ORCHESTRA

Sallynee Amawat (guest concertmaster) performs throughout North America and Asia as a chamber and orchestral musician specializing in historical performance. She completed her DMus in Early Music performance at McGill University in 2016 and serves on the Board of Directors of Early Music America. Outside of music, she enjoys perfecting her Thai cooking technique while waiting for the next season of *The Handmaid's Tale* to be announced.

Alex Belser (serpent/horn) is a DMus candidate at the Schulich School of Music, specializing in the serpent and ophicleide, the organological ancestors of the tuba.

Vincent Canciello (flute) is an American flutist who has performed in Boston, Montréal, and Siena, appearing with the Boston Camerata, the Musicians of the Old Post Road, and Ensemble Bonaventure, a student initiative he co-founded with McGill colleagues in 2022.

Tate Cohan (oboe), who is from Washington State, is pursuing a double major in modern and baroque oboe at McGill University.

Tor Ellergodt (cello) is a student of the baroque cello, an instrument of elegance and charm. He studies with Susie Napper at McGill, who guides him with wisdom and calm.

Sonia Hellenbrand (violin) is from Berlin, Germany, and recently completed her master's degree in violin performance. She also plays viola and is passionate about teaching and biking.

Wilton Huang (violin) is originally from San Francisco and holds degrees from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and McGill Schulich School of Music. In the fall, he will be moving to Amsterdam to study baroque violin at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam and hopes to start a bow-making apprenticeship as well.

Amanda Kitik (oboe) is a graduate of McGill's Schulich School of Music. She remains based in Montréal and performs on historical oboes with groups across North America.

Jessica Korotkin (cello; composer) has performed throughout the USA, South America, Canada, and Europe as a soloist and chamber musician. This summer she will make an appearance as an Early Music Vancouver's Next Generation Artist.

Namgon Lee (viola) is a doctoral candidate at McGill specializing in historical performance. In his recent lecture-recital, he arranged and performed Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater dolorosa* for unaccompanied viola. He is also a passionate home cook and enthusiastic fiddler.

Currently completing a PhD in musicology, **Maryse Legault (clarinet)** is a historical clarinetist specializing in repertoire from the turn of the nineteenth century and Romantic philosophy. When not researching or performing, she composes for synthesizers and enjoys horror movies.

Alex Miron-Perreault (violin) has been exploring early music for the past three years and recently started a baroque violin degree at McGill's Schulich School of Music.

Born in Hungary, **Andras Molnar (trumpet)** studied at the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest and became principal trumpet in the Hungarian Symphony Orchestra before coming to Canada. He has performed with Tafelmusik and the Aradia Baroque Ensemble and is currently principal trumpet with the Guelph Symphony Orchestra.

A graduate of the University of Toronto, **Richard Moore (timpani)** studied baroque timpani in Munich, Germany, at the Hochschule für Musik. He has performed with Tafelmusik, the Toronto Consort, and the Aradia Baroque Ensemble. He also specializes in hammered dulcimers from Germany, Hungary, and the British Isles.

Shanti Nachtergaele (double bass) is a PhD candidate in musicology, writing a dissertation on the socio-material history of the double bass. She also makes excellent waffles!

Camille Piorier-Lachon (violin), who is from Quebec City, enjoys playing a variety of repertoire, from baroque to contemporary. She just finished her Artist Diploma in modern violin at McGill University and will start a master's degree in baroque violin at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam in the fall.

This past year, **Ian Plansker (flute)** was led by his musical interests to direct a production of Henry Purcell's *Dido & Æneas*, which included his reconstruction of the lost prologue, choruses, and dances. He has also conducted the premiere of several stage works by Thomas Linley Jr.

C. Ellis Reyes (bassoon) is pursuing a PhD in Musicology, researching music during the colonial era in South America. He enjoys board games, plants, and learning languages.

Jonah Stemen (horn) is an aspiring horn player from Chicago. Pursuing a degree in modern performance, he is also very curious about historical instruments, which brings him to this production.

CHORUS

Leandra Dahm (soprano) is completing her BMus in Voice Performance. She recently participated in Tapestry Opera's "Songbook XII," a showcase of Canadian contemporary opera scenes. This summer, she will join Toronto Summer Music as an Art of Song Fellow. She is thrilled to participate in this exciting project!

Joshua Tolulope David (tenor) is completing his second year of doctoral studies in musicology at UofT, where he is researching opera productions in Lagos, Nigeria, staged by the Musical Society of Nigeria (MUSON) 2010–2020. He is delighted to be on stage again!

Praised for his clear and silvery sound, **Benjamin Done (tenor)** has recently completed his MMus degree at UofT Opera. Recent operatic roles include John Adams in *The Mother of Us All* with VOICEBOX: Opera in Concert, Casey Baldwin in Dean Bury's *Bells of Baddeck*, and Charles Darnay in Arthur Benjamin's *A Tale of Two Cities*.

James Dyck (countertenor) is working towards a BMus in Performance at UofT while pursuing a minor in linguistics. He recently wrapped up the debut season of the Trinity Bach Project, participating as a core member.

Charlotte Goss (soprano) is a graduate of the University of Toronto and a student of Lorna MacDonald. In addition to opera, she has a passion for choral and jazz singing.

Nathan Gritter (tenor) is pursuing a master's degree in choral conducting at UofT. He sings professionally in many choral groups across the GTA and is the music director at Kingsway Lambton United Church. New to opera, he's excited to join the chorus for this novel production of *L'anima del filosofo*.

Ryan MacDonald (countertenor) is currently completing a DMA in Historical Performance at the University of Toronto. Upcoming engagements include Symphony in the Barn, New Music Concerts, and his debut appearance with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

Owen Phillipson (bass) is a bass-baritone studying voice performance under Darryl Edwards, entering his second year at UofT. His most recent endeavours include a performance of John Rutter's *Requiem* with the Elmer Iseler Singers.

Alekzander Rosolowski (bass) is graduating with a BMus (Comprehensive) from UofT's Faculty of Music, where he studied voice under Gregory Dahl. He is thrilled to make his opera debut and would like to thank his family and friends for their continuous love and support.

Eva Stone-Barney (alto) completed a bachelor's degree in Classical Voice Performance, with a minor in Early Music, at McGill's Schulich School of Music. She then moved to Toronto to pursue an MA in Musicology. Active as a choral singer, she also works as an arts administrator and music journalist, and is Assistant Editor at *La Scena Musicale*.

Hermione Tankard (soprano) is a recent graduate of the Faculty of Music at UofT and a student of Wendy Nielsen. In addition to singing, they are passionate about dance, writing, and language acquisition.

George Theodorakopoulos (bass) received his BMus in Vocal Performance from UofT in 2022 and is entering the second year of the Master's in Opera program, studying with Peter Barnes. His recent roles with UofT Opera include Sidney Carton in A. Benjamin's *Tale of Two Cities*, Dr. Gregg in D. Moore's *Gallantry*, and Claudius in the premiere of *Disobedience*.

Chihiro Yasufuku · 安福知優 (soprano) is a promising, fresh performer-creator, co-founder of the Hibiki Project, and administrator based in Tkarón:to (Toronto). In August, Chihiro will appear as Atalanta in Handel's *Serse* (Halifax Summer Opera Festival) and then begin graduate studies in the UofT Opera program in the fall.

Orfeo was created through the hard work of many committed artists who believe in the basic human need to make music and tell stories. If you are moved by what you see here tonight, please consider making a tax-deductible donation. **Donate here: uoft.me/Orfeo**