

CANDIDE

The Royal National Theatre Version
Music by Leonard Bernstein
Book adapted from Voltaire by Hugh Wheeler
In a New Version by John Caird
Lyrics by Richard Wilbur
Additional Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, John Latouche, Lillian Hellman, and Leonard Bernstein

Directed by **Peter Rothstein**Music Direction by **Philip Brunelle**

THEATER LATTE DA

THEATER MUSICALLY

March 20 - 24, 2019

The Cowles Center for Dance and the Performing Arts



VOCALESSENCE AND THEATER LATTÉ DA PRESENT

CANDIDE

The Royal National Theatre Version
Music by Leonard Bernstein
Book adapted from Voltaire by Hugh Wheeler
In a New Version by John Caird
Lyrics by Richard Wilbur
Additional Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, John Latouche, Lillian Hellman,
Dorothy Parker, and Leonard Bernstein

Directed by Peter Rothstein Music Direction by Philip Brunelle

FEATURING

Andrew Alness
Phinehas Bynum
Michael Fairbairn
Bradley Greenwald
Elizabeth Hawkinson
Susan Hofflander
Rodolfo Nieto
Liv Redpath
G. Phillip Shoultz, III

WITH

VocalEssence Chamber Chorus & Ensemble Singers Chamber Orchestra

CANDIDE (NATIONAL THEATRE VERSION)

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.com

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About VocalEssence







Over the years VocalEssence has performed the music of Leonard Bernstein: his "Kaddish" Symphony, *A White House Cantata*, Choruses from *The Lark*, *Chichester Psalms*, and "A Simple Song" from his *Mass*—but not his amazing *Candide*....until now! Partnering with Theater Latté Da and their brilliant Artistic Director, Peter Rothstein, we celebrate this collaboration with an all-star cast of Minnesotans!

Returning to the Cowles Center and the Goodale Theater (last time with Virgil Thomson's Four Saints) we are thrilled to present a theatrical concert version of Bernstein's amazing score with our all-Minnesota cast, the VocalEssence Chamber Chorus and Ensemble Singers, and accompanied by a fantastic group of instrumentalists.

Looking back over 50 years there have been a number of Broadway shows with significant choral music which we have performed—music of Cole Porter, George Gershwin, Kurt Weill, John Phillip Sousa, and Victor Herbert—so it is a delight to celebrate this Golden Anniversary with another of the great choral shows from Broadway. Join us in "the best of all possible worlds"!

-Philip Brunelle,

Thilip

VocalEssence Artistic Director and Founder

PLEASE NOTE:

- The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.
- Please help us keep the performance space quiet. Take a moment now to check that all cell phones, paging devices, wristwatch alarms, and the like, are turned off before the concert begins. Thank you.
- Student and group discounts are available for most VocalEssence concerts.
 Half-price tickets are available to students (ages 6-18 and college) with a
 student ID. Groups of 10 or more save 15% on tickets.
- Children of all ages are welcome at all of our Family Series events. Visit www.vocalessence.org/welcomefamily for more information and a list of events. Tickets for children ages 0-17 are free.
- Accessible seating is available at all of our concert venues. However, some of our facilities do not have elevator access to the balcony level. Please make your needs known when you order tickets.
- You may return VocalEssence single concert tickets for resale up to 48 hours
 prior to a performance. No refunds or exchanges can be given; however,
 you will be sent a receipt for your tax-deductible contribution. (VocalEssence
 subscribers may call 612-371-5642 to request free ticket exchanges and lost
 ticket replacement.)
- Latecomers will be seated at appropriate pauses in the concert according
 to the conductor's wishes. Please plan plenty of time for locating the concert
 venue and parking. Or, better yet, allow an extra hour and join us for
 Concert Conversations with the composers and artists, held one hour before
 most concerts.

SHOW WARNINGS:

Adult content



Bradley Greenwald



Phinehas Bynum



Liv Redpath



Philip Brunelle

CANDIDE

THE CAST (in order of appearance)

Narrator/Doctor Pangloss	Bradley Greenwald*
Gofer	Andrew Alness
Candide	Phinehas Bynum
Paquette	Elizabeth Hawkinson
Maximilian	Rodolfo Nieto
Cunegonde, March 21-23	Liv Redpath
Cunegonde, March 24	Sarah DeYong
Old Woman	Susan Hofflander*
Governor	G. Phillip Shoultz, III
Vanderdendur	Michael Fairbairn

VocalEssence Chamber Chorus VocalEssence Ensemble Singers Chamber Orchestra

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Peter Rothstein**
Music Director	Philip Brunelle
Scenic Designer & Prop Master	Erica Zaffarano
Costume Designer	Aaron Chvatal
Hair & Wig Designer	Paul Bigot
Lighting Designer	Marcus Dilliard^
Sound Designer	Nicholas Tranby
Live Sound Effects Designer	Katherine Horowitz
Stage Manager	Chris A. Code*
Assistant Stage Manager	Laura Topham*
Technical Director	Bethany Reinfeld

EQUITY/UNION LANGUAGE

- Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors
- ** Member of SDC, the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union
- ^ Member of the United Scenic Artists, a national union that represents designers and scenic painters for the American theater

SYNOPSIS

ACT ONE

Young Candide lives with his cousins Cunegonde and Maximilian, and the serving maid Paquette, in a baronial castle in Westphalia, and all four happy young people are tutored by Doctor Pangloss in the philosophy of Optimism. After Candide, a bastard, is thrown out for kissing Cunegonde, the daughter of a baron, the castle is attacked by Bulgars, and everyone is slaughtered. Candide, alone and lamenting the loss of his true love, wanders first to Holland, where he is surprised to find an old friend; then on to Portugal, where he is flogged by the Holy Inquisition, and meets an old woman with one buttock. After something awful happens, he heads to South America with a captain's commission to fight for the Jesuits near Montevideo.

ACT TWO

In South America, Candide finds the church of the Jesuits he was sent to protect, and is surprised by two more old friends, but must leave after something awful happens again. He then stumbles into the fabled paradise of Eldorado. After staying three years, he decides to leave, for a very good reason. Stopping in the colony of Surinam, he is swindled out of some good fortune by a villainous Dutchman. Candide is then off to Venice, is surprised by more chance encounters, and is the victim of more villainy, treachery, and lying. With growing disillusion, he struggles to reconcile his tutor's rosy Optimism with the crueler Realities of Life he has encountered since his exile from Westphalia. And then...

PRODUCTION NOTE

When Voltaire's satirical novel *Candide* was published in 1759, its success was both immediate and scandalous. Our Theater Latté Da/VocalEssence performance of Leonard Bernstein's musical adaptation is presented as a radio broadcast from the 1930s—think Orson Welles's *War of the Worlds* without the mass hysteria. Philip Brunelle and the Studio Orchestra and Chorus, along with the company of Studio Actors, will bring Bernstein's *Candide* to life ON THE AIR with you, the Studio Audience, cheering them on. And, of course, there will be sound effects—ship's sails, baaing sheep, dead bodies thumping to the ground, gunshots, and whips—good old-fashioned radio theater, for the ear and for the imagination.

THE CAST



Bradley Greenwald (Narrator/Doctor Pangloss) THEATER LATTÉ DA: A Little Night Music, Steerage Song, Oliver!, C.

(also book and lyrics), NEXT Festival; THEATER: Open Eye Figure Theater: The Longest Night, Dear Lenny: Bernstein's Life in Songs & Letters; Jungle Theater: I Am My Own Wife, The Mystery of Irma Vep; Ten Thousand Things Theater: My Fair Lady, As You Like It; Children's Theater Company: A Year With Frog & Toad, The Wizard of Oz, The Snow Queen, The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins; Park Square: The Pirates of Penzance; Artistry: Follies, The Baker's Wife; Frank Theatre: The Threepenny Opera, Cabaret; James Sewell Ballet: Nutcracker (not so) Suite; AWARDS: Minnesota State Arts Board Music Fellowship, McKnight Fellowship for Theater Artists, Ivey Award (I Am My Own Wife); ALSO: libretto adaptation of A Wrinkle in Time, opera by Libby Larsen.



Andrew Alness (Gofer)
OPERA: Lakes Area Music
Festival: La bohème;
Fargo-Moorhead
Opera: Amahl and the
Night Visitors, The

Daughter of the Regiment, The Merry Wives of Windsor, The Merry Widow, The Barber of Seville, The Marriage of Figaro, Fidelio, La Cenerentola; Skylark Opera: La Rondine. THEATER: SACT: Seussical. TRAINING: Concordia College Moorhead: B.M.



Phinehas Bynum (Candide) THEATER LATTÉ DA: All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914; OPERA: Minnesota Opera: La

traviata (upcoming), Silent Night, La rondine, Thaïs, Rigoletto, Dead Man Walking, Don Pasquale, Don Giovanni; Mill City Summer Opera: Così fan tutte (upcoming), Carmen, Sweeney Todd; Skylark Opera: Don Giovanni; TRAINING: St. Olaf College: B.A.



Elizabeth Hawkinson (Paquette) THEATER LATTÉ DA: A Little Night Music, Sweeney Todd; THEATER: Asolo Repertory Theatre: Sweeney Todd (upcoming); Park Square Theater: The Pirates of Penzance; Trademark Theater: The Boy and Robin Hood; Theatre Forever: The Accident Book; Illusion Theater: Only One Sophie; The Ordway: The Sound of Music; Girl Friday Productions: The Matchmaker; Artistry: Carousel; 7th House Theater: Little Shop of Horrors; FILM: 76 Film Co: Friends Two; TRAINING: Franz Schubert Institut: German Lied Mastercourse, St. Olaf College: B.M.



Rodolfo Nieto
(Maximilian)
THEATER LATTÉ DA

THEATER LATTÉ DA: A Little Night Music, Man of La Mancha, All is Calm (2017 National Tour, 2018

Off-Broadway), Assassins; THEATER: Lyric Arts: Guys and Dolls; DalekoArts: She Loves Me; Theatre in the Round: 110 in the Shade; Mixed Blood Theatre: Safe at Home; OPERA: Lakes Area Music Festival: Die Zauberflöte, La Cenerentola; Des Moines Metro Opera: María de Buenos Aires; Minnesota Opera: Tosca, La Fanciulla del West, Werther, La bohéme, Silent Night; www. rodolfo-nieto.com.



Liv Redpath (Cunegonde)

OPERA: Santa Fe Opera: Ariadne auf Naxos, The Golden Cockerel; LA Opera: Hansel and Gretel,

Les contes d'Hoffmann, Orphée et Eurydice, Carmen, Nabucco, Rigoletto, Die Entführung aus dem Serail, La clemenza di Tito; Edinburgh International Festival (upcoming); Cincinnati Opera: Ariadne auf Naxos (upcoming); Aspen Opera Theater: Béatrice et Bénédict; Opera Theatre of Saint Louis: Ariadne auf Naxos; CONCERT: LA Phil: Beethoven Choral Fantasy, Suite from Three Billboards; Seattle Symphony: Handel Messiah (upcoming), Vivaldi Gloria; Pacific Symphony: L'enfant et les sortilèges (upcoming); Los Angeles Master Chorale: Mozart Requiem, Kirschner Songs of Ascent; Toronto Symphony: Thaïs (upcoming); TRAINING: The Juilliard School: M.M., Harvard University: B.A.



Sarah DeYong (Cunegonde) THEATER: Artistry Theatre: Candide (in concert), Follies, Legally Blonde, She Loves Me; St. Croix Off Broadway Dinner Theatre: The Marvelous Wonderettes; Chameleon Theatre Circle: Chess the Musical, Chicago (in concert); Sabes JCC: Philly the Musical; Candlelight Dinner Playhouse: Into the Woods; TRAINING: Oklahoma City University: B.M.



Susan Hofflander (Old Woman) THEATER LATTÉ DA: A Little Night Music; THEATER: Broadway National Tour: The

Phantom of the Opera; Guthrie Theater: The Merchant of Venice; Ordway: The Sound of Music; Chanhassen Dinner Theatre: Beauty and the Beast, Mary Poppins; Lyric Opera Chicago: The Cunning Little Vixen, The Merry Widow, Street Scene, Pirates of Penzance, Tannhäuser, Hänsel und Gretel; Minnesota Opera: Il Barbiere di Siviglia; Theatre Elision: Ruthless!; Music Theatre Wichita: HONK!, Beauty and the Beast, Footloose: Minnesota Orchestra: La Traviata, Beethoven's 9th Symphony and Chorale Fantasie, Jungle Book; Skylight Music Theater: Bernstein Revued, Working, Albert Herring, Close Harmony Holidaze, El Capitan, The Gondoliers; Skylark Opera: Iolanthe, La Belle Hélène; Chicago Opera Theater: L'Italiana in Algeri; Nautilus Music Theater: Carousel; Grant Park Symphony: The Mikado, Anything Goes, West Side Story; Chamber Opera Chicago: Cosí fan Tutte, Falstaff, The Hero, The Marriage of Figaro; Crystal Cathedral: soloist.



G. Phillip Shoultz, III (Governor)

THEATER: VocalEssence: Riversongs and Tales (conductor and performer); Springer

Opera House: Big River, A Christmas Carol, Inherit the Wind; Shaw Theater: 1920's Radio Hour, Arabian Nights; Human Experience Theater: Holiday Cabarert; Fourth Street Theater: numerous Black history shows; OPERA: Athens Grand Opera: Le Nozze di Figaro, Die Zaberflöte, The Consul, Carmen; Brenau Opera: The Bartered Bride; Georgia State Opera: Cendrillon (chorus master); University of Minnesota: Coffee Cantata; ORATORIO: (soloist) St Matthew Passion (staged), St Paul, Come, Ye Sons of Art, Coronation Mass, Messiah, Beethoven 9th Symphony, Faurè Requiem, St Cecilia

Mass; Oratorio Society of Minnesota: Let My People Go: A Spiritual Journey of Along the Underground Railroad; TRAINING: University of Minnesota: ABD, Georgia State University: M.M., University of Georgia: B.A. and B.M.



Michael Fairbairn (Vanderdendur) THEATER: North Dakota State University: H.M.S.

State University: H.M.S. Pinafore, Forever Plaid, The Secret Garden, Trial

by Jury, Mikado, Amahl and the Night Visitors; TRAINING: North Dakota State University: B.A.

THE PRODUCTION TEAM



Peter Rothstein (Director)

Peter Rothstein has directed 76 mainstage productions for Theater Latté Da, including 11

world premieres. Other collaborations include the Guthrie Theater, the Children's Theater Company, Minnesota Opera, the Illusion Theater, Ten Thousand Things, Minnesota Orchestra, Utah Shakespeare Festival, Seattle's 5th Avenue Theater, and Asolo Repertory Theatre. He is the creator of All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914. Peter was named the 2015 Artist of the Year by the Star Tribune, Theater Artist of the Year by Lavender, and Best Director by City Pages. He has received nine Ivey Awards and has been awarded grants and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Theatre Communications Group, the Minnesota State Arts Board, and the McKnight Foundation. He holds a B. A. in Music and Theater from St. John's University and a Master of Fine Arts in Directing from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. www.Peter-Rothstein.com



Philip Brunelle (Music Director)

is celebrating his 50th season as artistic director and founder of VocalEssence. During that

time he has conducted choral and orchestral music from five centuries—from Handel and Mendelssohn oratorios and Berlioz masses to music of Benny Andersson, the Rolling Stones, John Rutter, Dominick Argento, and Libby Larsen. He has also conducted hundreds

of world premieres and commissioned choral works. Philip is an internationallyrenowned conductor, choral scholar, and visionary having conducted symphonies, operas, and choral festivals on six continents. He served 18 years on the board of Chorus America, 9 years as Vice President of IFCM (International Federation for Choral Music), and has been recognized for his commitment to choral music by the governments of Norway, Sweden, Mexico, Hungary, and the United Kingdom. Philip is also celebrating 50 years as organistchoirmaster at Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis. His thoughts on music are found at RenaissanceManpodcast. com. vocalessence.org/philipbrunelle.

Erica Zaffarano (Scenic Designer & Prop Master) THEATER: History

Theater: 20 Days to Find a Wife, Capital Crimes, Sweet Land, Sisters of Swing; Artistry: Hairspray, Singing in the Rain, Other Desert Cities, Guys and Dolls, Agnes of God; Tiger Lion: Kipo, The Dragons are Singing Tonight, TOURS: Jekyll and Hyde, Pump Boys and Dinettes; Stagewest: The Medora Musical; Theatre Forever: S. Gunter Klaus, Or the White Whale, Nature Crown, Animal Farm, My Favorite Kind of Pretty, Super Monkey; Ten Thousand Things: Romeo and Juliet, Scapin, Once on This Island.



Aaron Chvatal (Costume Designer) THEATER: Ordway Center for the Performing

Center for the Performing Arts: Annie, Broadway Songbook; Park Square

Theatre: Marie & Rosetta, The Agitators, Amy's View; History Theatre: A Crack in the Sky; Penumbra Theatre Company: Detroit '67; OPERA: Crane School of Music: Mayo; Opera on the James: Cosi fan Tutte, Don Giovanni, Don Pasquale, Gianni Schicchi, Hansel and Gretel; Janiec Opera Company at Brevard Music Center: Don Pasquale, Street Scene, Falling Angel; Minnesota Opera: The Nightingale (Project Opera)



Paul Bigot (Wig and Hair Designer) THEATER LATTÉ DA: Oliver, Sweeney Todd, Gypsy, Man of La Mancha, Assassins, A Little Night

Music; THEATER: Chanhassen Dinner Theatres: Camelot, Grease, Sister Act, Newsies, Holiday Inn; Artistry: Hairspray, Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, The Drowsy Chaperone, Little Shop of Horrors, Follies; Guthrie Theater: Full-time Wig Technician; Tours (Hair and Makeup Supervisor): Hairspray, Wizard of Oz, Young Frankenstein the Musical, La Cage Aux Folles, Flashdance the Musical.



Marcus Dilliard (Lighting Designer) THEATER LATTÉ DA: A Little Night Music, Assassins, Man of La Mancha, Peter and the

Starcatcher, C., All is Calm, Our Town, Cabaret, Steerage Song, Aida, Song of Extinction, Violet, The Full Monty, Old Wicked Songs, Susannah; THEATER: Guthrie Theater, Minnesota Opera, The Jungle Theatre, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, Children's Theatre Company, Ordway Music Theater; AWARDS: Sage Award, Vey Award, McKnight Foundation Theater Artist Fellowship (2); TRAINING: Professor at University of Minnesota department of Theatre Arts and Dance.



Nicholas Tranby (Sound Designer) THEATER LATTÉ DA: Man of La Mancha, Peter and the Starcatcher, Ragtime, Gypsy, Assassins,

Five Points, Underneath the Lintel, A
Little Night Music. THEATER: Children's
Theatre Company: Shrek: The Musical,
Pinocchio, Alice in Wonderland, Robin
Hood, The Wedding Singer, The Wizard
of Oz; Guthrie Theater, Williamstown
Theatre Festival, and Cincinnati
Playhouse in the Park.

Katharine Horowitz (Live Sound Effects Designer)

THEATER: Guthrie Theater, Jungle
Theater, Great River Shakespeare Festival,
History Theatre, Mixed Blood Theatre,
Park Square Theatre, Pillsbury House
Theatre, Mu Performing Arts, Gremlin
Theatre. 2017 McKnight Theatre Artist
Fellow at the Playwrights' Center.



Chris A. Code (Stage Manager) THEATER: Guthrie Theater: Stage Manager, More than 80

productions, including

H.M.S. Pinafore, My Fair Lady, The Music Man, Sunday in the Park with George; Mixed Blood Theatre, Illusion Theater, Ordway Center, Jungle

BIOGRAPHIES

Theater, Cricket Theater, Theater Garage; VENUES: Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome: Manager: 1991 Super Bowl XXVI Halftime Spectacular "Winter Magic" with Gloria Estefan, Brian Boitano and Dorothy Hamill; U.S. Bank Stadium: Coordinating, rehearsing, and calling the cues for the Minnesota Viking's 2016 Season Opener Halftime show with a crew of hundreds, a tribute to Minneapolis music legend Prince with performances by the Minnesota Orchestra & gospel group The Steeles

Laura Topham

(Assistant Stage Manager)

THEATER LATTÉ DA: Beautiful Thing; Park Square Theatre: Over 20 productions including Baskerville, A Raisin in the Sun, Hamlet, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Diary of Anne Frank; Artistry: Follies

VOCALESSENCE ENSEMBLE SINGERS



Minnesota is home to an international choral music gem—the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers. Declared by the *Oxford Times* (UK) as having "a blend that could—and should—be the envy of every choir in the business," this 32-voice professional chorus is enjoyed by millions from Duluth, Minnesota to Shanghai, China. The VocalEssence Ensemble Singers are equally at ease premiering music by Pulitzer Prize winning composers as well as teen moms in our Lullaby Project. www.vocalessence.org/what-we-do/performing-ensembles/vocalessence-ensemble-singers/

SOPRANO

Jennifer Bevington JoAnna Johnson Chloe Johnson Myrtle Lemon Meghan Lowe Natalia Romero Margaret Sabin Mari Scott

ALTO

Robin Joy Helgen*
Marita J. Link
Anna George Meek
Judith McClain Melander
Sadie Nelson
Erin Peters
Kristina Rodel Sorum

TENOR

Eli Baumgartner Anders Eckman Michael Fairbairn Robert J. Graham William Pederson Kyle Schwartz

BASS

Joshua Conroy Ben Dyleuth Joseph Ellickson David Gindra Erik Krohg A.J. Lund Nicholas R. Mattsson Nathan Petersen-Kindem

VOCALESSENCE CHAMBER CHORUS

Comprised of members of the VocalEssence Chorus, the VocalEssence Chamber Chorus is a select group of exceptional and committed singers from many walks of life. This newly formed smaller group of singers is collectively taking the stage for the first time to share their musical gifts.

SOPRANO

AnnaLisa Anderson
Jessica Belt
Jennica Date
Judy Drobeck
Kristina Guiffre
Tommie Hollingsworth
Sally Jaffray
Shira Rabkin
Susan Scofield
Jennifer Vickerman*†
Hilary Wiek
Dannika Wright

ALTO

Jo Beld Becky Gaunt Autumn Gurgel Yvonne Grover[†] Marjorie Hakala Meghan Hanna Kristi Mueller Ana Lucía Piedrahita Fernandez

Marty Raymond Miriam Sahouani Forrest Schrader Allie Wigley

TENOR

Steve Aggergaard Larry Brandts Blake Downing Ryan Coopergard Jason Kaiser Reagan Lee Andrew Leshovsky Jonathan Posthuma Rabindra Tambyraja Barry Tikalsky

BASS

Robert Atendido
David Erickson
Matthew Ferguson
Ben Kucera
Nick Mroczek†
Brian Ruhl
Trent Stenoien
Matthew Terhaar
Dave Toht
Brady Toone
Liam Vance
Chris Wallace

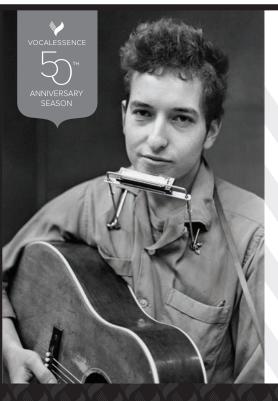
*Board liaison †Section leader

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

lan Snyder^, violin
Alastair Brown^, viola
Laura Sewell^, cello
Greg Hippen^, bass
Aaron Hedenstron^, clarinet, flute, piccolo
Rena Kraut^, clarinet
Sarah Carmack^, English horn, oboe, oboe d'amore
Bruce Thorton^, clarinet, bass clarinet, flute
Emma Piehal^, bassoon
Marty Hodel^, trumpet
Neal Bolter^, horn
Larry Zimmerman^, trombone
Erik Barsness^, percussion
Mary Jo Gothmann^, keyboard
Chris Volpe^, contractor

^ Member of Twin Cities Musicians Union, American Federation of Musicians







THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'

The words and music of Bob Dylan in a rock venue

SAT, APR 27, 2019 | 8-10 PM

Palace Theatre, St. Paul

VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers Philip Brunelle and G. Phillip Shoultz, III, conductors

Join VocalEssence and special guests as they reimagine Dylan in the Midwest premiere of *The Times They Are A-Changin': The Words and Music of Bob Dylan*, commissioned in honor of his 2016 Nobel Prize in Literature and arranged by Steve Hackman. Kick back, grab a drink, and hear Dylan's music like it's the first time all over again.

TICKETS: \$30-\$40 vocalessence.org | 1-800-514-3849

THEATER LATTÉ DA AND VOCALESSENCE: A PARTNERSHIP

Theater Latté Da's Peter Rothstein and Philip Brunelle of VocalEssence find a reason to act on mutual admiration and bring Leonard Bernstein's famous operetta, Candide, to life

How did this partnership come about?

"I have admired the work of Theater Latté Da for years," says Brunelle, "and especially Peter Rothstein. He worked with VocalEssence on one of our Cocktails & Cabaret programs and I was determined that, when and if we performed Leonard Bernstein's *Candide*, Peter would direct it!"

Did Peter need any convincing to take this on?

"When Philip approached me about collaborating on a semi-staged production, I jumped at the opportunity," says Rothstein. "I've had great respect for Philip and the dynamic work of VocalEssence for many years. One of the many highlights was hearing Dave Brubeck's "La Fiesta de la Posada" a few years back. Bernstein's *Candide* is a demanding work, both musically and theatrically. It wants an epic chorus. The idea presented a unique opportunity for Theater Latté Da audience to experience a rarely-produced masterpiece."

"We share an adventurous spirit while bringing together our respective expertise." -Peter Rothstein

Why choose this particular work?

"This year," says Brunelle, "we celebrate the centennial birthday of Leonard Bernstein. VocalEssence has performed other Bernstein works—his Kaddish (Symphony No. 3) as well as his *A White House Cantata*—and the Ensemble Singers have taken some shorter works on tour. *Candide* had to be next!"

How do the two artistic groups complement each other?

"Latté Da has been recognized for breathing new life into work from the canon," says Rothstein, "often finding innovative ways to produce large-scale musicals on a smaller scale, and in intimate spaces. VocalEssence has been doing innovative work in the world of choral music for half a century. We share an adventurous spirit while bringing together our respective expertise."

"Both organizations are led by creative people who think outside the box."

-Philip Brunelle

"Both organizations are led by creative people who think outside the box," adds Brunelle, "both have staff that understand the importance of creativity at the highest level and support their artistic teams completely, and both organizations have a history of working with others, searching for the best talent available for a specific production. I am very pleased that the cast for *Candide* is an all-Minnesota cast!"



Bradley Greenwald, Liv Redpath, Phinehas Bynum, Philip Brunelle

VOCALESSENCE HISTORY OF THEATRICAL WORK

Theatrical works add drama of storytelling to VocalEssence season

Philip Brunelle explains how elements like staging, movement, and special guests dial up the excitement for both chorus and audience

Choral music has a stronger association with the world of religion than the world of theater—so how did VocalEssence start incorporating theatrical works into its repertoire?

With a powerful, talented chorus like ours, there's no reason for limits on artistry. We've performed theatrical works our entire 50-year history. We began with the works of the Baroque composer George Frideric Handel. When he wrote his oratorios he thought of them as operas, so the choruses are dramatic and exciting.

Eventually, I turned to Broadway, too, pulling songs from some of the wonderful Broadway shows that have significant chorus parts—again, to let the chorus become part of the action and enjoy the drama. Musicals like Frank Loesser's *The Most Happy Fella*, John Phillip Sousa's *El Capitan*, and Kurt Weill's *Lady in the Dark* would be nothing without the choral writing!



What does the performance of theatrical work offer the chorus members—and the audience—compared to a regular choral performance?

Our performances are thought of as 'semi-staged' which means you have contact between the soloists, but you don't need to have elaborate sets and costumes, and the orchestra can perform onstage. This was a concept that Vern Sutton masterfully brought to us 30 years ago.

What guides VocalEssence as it seeks out collaborators for theatrical work?

When we see a talented performer, of course we think about how fantastic it would be to have him or her onstage with us—and over the years we have been fortunate to have one success after another!



What are some of your favorite memories of VocalEssence theatrical work, and why?

Among the many works I fondly remember are Benjamin Britten's *Paul Bunyan*, which we performed at the Aldeburgh Music Festival in England; Aaron Copland's *The Tender Land*, which we recorded and traveled to England to perform; and *Kristina från Duvemåla* by ABBA founders Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus, which had its U.S. premiere with us. All three were unique because of their connections with VocalEssence—Paul Bunyan being a Minnesota legend, *The Tender Land* because of my longtime association with Aaron Copland, and *Kristina* because of Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus's desire to bring the work to Minnesota, where the action of the story takes place.





THEATER MUSICALLY

MISSION

Theater Latté Da seeks to create new connections between story, music, artist, and audience by exploring and expanding the art of musical theater.

VALUES

We believe in work that is bold and collaborative; we act with integrity and gratitude.

BOLD We make bold choices in support of our mission and vision, both on and off stage. By illuminating the unseen, giving voice to the unheard, and empathizing with the unknown, we open eyes, ears and hearts.

COLLABORATIVE We believe musical theater to be the most collaborative of art forms, incorporating music, drama, poetry, dance and design. We are inspired and strengthened through inclusive partnerships with artists, organizations and our diverse community, and embody a collaborative spirit in all we do.

INTEGRITY We hold ourselves to the highest standards of artistic and fiscal integrity. We are committed to honesty, equality and transparency in all aspects of our administration and art.

GRATITUDE We are grateful for our artists, audiences, donors, board and staff. We recognize that each individual plays an important role in this organization's success, and we actively seek out opportunities to acknowledge each person's contribution.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS:

Nancy Jones, Chair Bill Venne, Vice Chair Jay Harkness, Secretary Carolee Lindsey, Treasurer

DIRECTORS:

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STAFF

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VocalEssence champions choral music of all genres, celebrating the vocal experience through innovative performances, commissioning of new music, and engaging with diverse constituencies.

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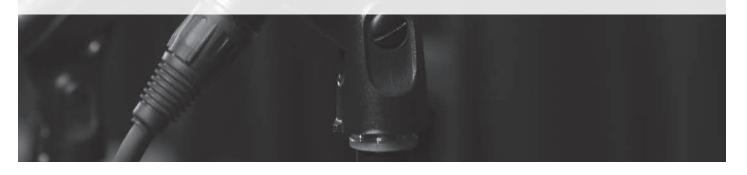
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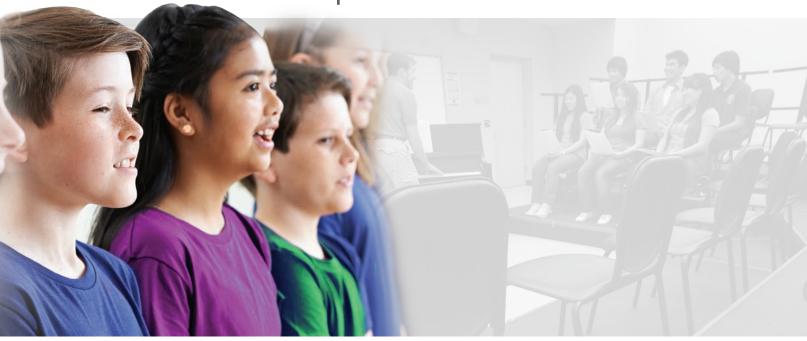
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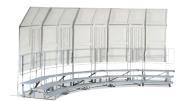


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