Opera on the Point

Into the Dark

SCRIPT BY FRANK CAIN

DIRECTED BY
DR. MELANIE CAIN

CAST

CLARISSE TOBIA
DANA CARLSON-KOTTKE
KIMBERLY GREZ
ERIN SURA
JESSE HARRISON
MELANIE CAIN

SAMUEL ALVAREZ AS GIDEON

PIANO

STACY FEHR REGHER

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Witches' Chorus from Macbeth
Full Ensemble

Afraid. Am I Afraid? From The Medium by Menotti
Erin Sura

D'oreste D'jace from Idomeneo by Mozart
Jesse Harrison

Alone from Poe's Requiem by Clarisse Tobia
Clarisse Tobia and Ensemble

I Have Dreamt from Wuthering Heights by Floyd
Melanie Cain

Danse Macabre by Saint SAëns
Samuel Alvarez and Ensemble

The Willow Song from Ballad of Baby Doe by Moore
Kimberly Grez

Sandman Aria and Evening prayer from Hansel and Gretel by Humperdinck
Dana Carlson-Kottke and Full Ensemble

Song to the Moon from Dvořák's Rusalka
Full Ensemble

Translations

D'oreste D'Jace

Orestes, and Ajax,
Their torments I hold
in my breast.
Alecto's torch
Already brings me death.
Tear open my heart,
Horned vipers, serpents,
Or with sword my sorrows
End.

Cast Bios

Melanie Cain, Soprano and Artistic Director

Dr. Melanie Cain is founder and Artistic Director of Fresco Opera and holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Vocal Performance and Opera Production and a Masters of Music from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. A native of Carroll, Iowa, she received her BA in both Music and Art from Luther College in Decorah, IA. Melanie is the Vice President of Board of Directors of the National Association of Teachers of Singing , former Co-Director of The Metropolitan National Council Auditions Wisconsin District. Dr. Cain owns and operates Maven Vocal Arts in Madison.

Dana Carlson-Kottke, Soprano

Dana Carlson-Kottke, soprano, has had the opportunity to sing in productions and concerts both in the United States and abroad including Spain, Portugal, Italy, and Prague. Recent engagements include outreach performances with Fresco Opera in Madison, Wisconsin. Other operatic highlights include Mother (Hansel &Gretel) Belinda (Dido & Aeneas), Kate (Sweets by Kate), First Lady (Queen of the Night, world premiere), Adele and Rosalinde (Die Fledermaus), Susanna (Le Nozze di Figaro), and Adina (L'Elisir d'Amore). As a recitalist, Carlson-Kottke is known to present performances with unique and thought-provoking themes intended to invite audiences to consider new perspectives.

Dr. Carlson-Kottke completed her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Voice Performance specializing in Singing Health and College and University Teaching from The Ohio State University. She received a Master of Music from the University of South Dakota (Vocal Performance), and a Bachelor of Music from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (Choral Music Education and Vocal Performance).

Kimberly Grez, Soprano

Soprano Kimberly Grez holds a M.M. degree in Voice Performance from Belmont University. Her most recent roles include Ensemble in María de Buenos Aires. Other prior engagements include Edith in Madison Savoyard's production of Pirates of Penzance, Fresco Opera's Garage Opera: Sconnie Street and Opera at Olbrich 2026, Orpah in Belmont's production of Ruth, the title role in Belmont's production of Serse, and Wendy Jo in Parkway Playhouse's production of Footloose.

Jesse Harrison, Soprano

jesse Harrison graduated with a BM in Vocal Performance from UW-Madison in 2009, and has spent the last decade performing in and around Madison. She has a passion for acting and theater as well as singing, and has performed with groups such as Sun Prairie Civic Theatre, Madison Savoyards, Pile of Cats Theatre, and soon in Fresco Opera's garage opera. A few of her favorite roles include Princess Fiona in Shrek, Pippi in The Great American Trailer Park Musical, Wednesday Addams from The Addams Family Musical, and Rapunzel in Into the Woods.

Stacy Fehr Regher, Accompanist

Stacy Fehr Regehr, pianist, is an active collaborative artist in the Madison area and performs regularly as a member of both Oakwood Chamber Players and Madison New Music Ensemble. She is also the pianist for Fresco Opera's Garage Opera series, Opera at Olbrich, and Opera on the Point. For almost two decades, she enjoyed the role of staff accompanist at the School of Madison Ballet. Stacy holds degrees in piano performance with a pedagogy emphasis from Kansas State University and Emporia State University, and has served in adjunct teaching positions at both universities.

Clarisse Tobia, Soprano

Clarisse Tobia is a vocalist, pianist, and composer currently based out of Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. She began playing piano and composing music at age 3, while her formal training as a singer began when she was 12 years old. She is a versatile performer with skill sets in improvisation, classical music, and modern music. She graduated with a B.M. in Vocal Performance from Illinois Wesleyan University where she had the honor of learning with Dr. Sam Scifres (voice), Dr. David Vayo (music composition), and touring all 4 years with Collegiate Choir under the direction of Dr. Scott Ferguson. After graduating, she developed a close working relationship with Fresco Opera Theatre in Madison, WI, as both a performer and a composer. She also began performing for city events, and restaurants around the Sun Prairie area, along with starting her own private music studio to teach voice, piano, and composition students. These endeavors have only grown through the years as she continues to thrive with all of the above 10 years later.

Erin Sura, Mezzo Soprano

Mezzo -Soprano Erin Sura recently performed the roles of Orfeo (Orfeo ed Euridice) and the Mother (Hansel and Gretel) with Brew City Opera; Tisbe (Cenerentola) with Opera Vermont; Schwertleite (Die Walkure) TUNDI Productions; Second Wood Sprite (Rusalka 2023/2025) Milwaukee Opera Theatre; Madam Garcia (Notes on VIARDOT) Music On Site; Fricka (Das Rheingold) and 2nd Norn (Götterdämerung-cover performance) TUNDI productions; Mrs. Fairfax (Jane Eyre) Lake Country Playhouse; Ruth (Pirates of Penzance) Madison Savoyards; and solo animal/ensemble (L'Enfant et les sortilege) Florentine Opera. Other notable roles include the title role in Carmen, Mother (Amahl and the Night Visitors); Mad Margaret (Ruddigore), Prince Orlofsky (Die Fledermaus), 2nd Lady (Magic Flute), Jo (Little Women), and Dido (Dido and Aeneas.) Active in concert work as well Ms. Sura has performed as a soloist in Handel's Messiah, Beethoven's 9th Symphony; the Verdi Requiem; as well as many other concert works and oratorios. Upcoming performances include La Traviata, with Florentine Opera Company.

Samuel Alvarez, Gideon

A student of Dr. Cain for the past seven years, Samuel has performed around the Madison area with Children's Theater of Madison, Broom Street Theater, Groundlings Theater, Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, and of course, Fresco Opera. He has also worked onscreen with Meter Studio and Children's Film Academy of Madison. Originally from Guatemala, Samuel lives in Middleton, WI where he is a homeschooled high school junior who enjoys card games, cooking, and community service. With unending gratitude to Dr. Cain for her mentorship, his parents for their driver's licenses, and the members of the UW Children's Hospital Hematology/Oncology team for their life-saving care, Samuel is thrilled to be here to help bring you all...Into the Dark

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