

student news and profiles

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

SPRING 2008

Meet the Talented Vocalists Performing in Colorado State Opera Theatre's production of Verdi's Comic Opera *Falstaff*

Role	Feb. 29 & Mar. 9 Cast	Mar. 1 & 7 Cast	Chorus	
Falstaff	Bradley Thompson	Bradley Thompson	Danielle Burton	Nina DelPiccolo
Ford	Graham Anduri	Deven Shaff	Kathryn Costanza	Nellie Stisser
Fenton	James Baumgardner	John Lindsey	Mary Beth Eversole	Cameron K.
Bardolpho	William Ostendorff	Andrew Diesner	Arriane Jenkins	Chaazi Munyanya
Pistola	Joshua Savage	Shane Miles	Crystal Philips	Sam Easterwood
Dr. Cajus	Cody Laun	Cody Laun	Alexander Trospen	Jane Burghardt
Alice Ford	Ashley Baker	Nichelle Stewart	Stephanie Smith	Casey Levinger
Meg Page	Laura Begley	Tracy Kaufman	Liz Mattox	Todd Resseguie
Dame Quickly	Christie Connolley	Belinda Purdum	Jessica Helms	William Balan
Nannetta	Sarah Wigley	Rebekah Gray	Maria Hall	

Understudies

Alice Ford – Stephanie Smith; Meg Page – Chaazy Munyanya; Dame Quickly – Jane Burghardt; Nannetta – Liz Mattox



JOHN LINDSEY (Fenton - March 1 & 7)

John Lindsey is a senior Vocal Performance major at Colorado State University and has studied with Todd Queen for the past six years. Past roles include Nanki Poo in *The Mikado*, Ferrando in *Così fan tutte*, Camille in *The Merry Widow*, Azael in *L'Enfant Prodigue*, and Male Chorus in *The Rape of Lucretia*. Mr. Lindsey has placed in the top three for the past two years in the NATS Classical division, and is a frequent soloist with Opera Fort Collins and on student and departmental recitals at CSU.

Why are you excited to be performing in *Falstaff*? I love the work of Giuseppe Verdi. Both the music and setting of the Shakespearean text are beautiful.

What do you think the audience will most enjoy about *Falstaff*? The audience will enjoy the combination of gorgeous music and comic circumstance in the opera, as well as Brad Thompson in the title role - he's very funny and talented.



BELINDA PURDHAM (Dame Quickly - March 1 & 7)

Belinda Purdum is a Junio Vocal Performance Major from Fort Collins whose other opera roles include Cherubino in *Le Nozze di Figaro* and *The Mother in Amahl and the Night Visitors* at CSU.

Why are you excited to be performing in *Falstaff*? I am excited to play Mistress Quickly, the meddling drama queen who takes immense pleasure in stirring things up!



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MARY BETH EVERSOLE (Chorus)

Mary Beth Eversole has performed across the United States in Kansas City, San Francisco, Bethesda MD, and Colorado and she has also performed in Graz, Austria with the American Institute of Musical Studies. Her previous opera roles include Giannetta in *The Gondoliers*, Adele in *Die Fledermaus*, Prima Sorella Cercatrice and Una Novizia in *Suor Angelica*, and Lakme and Lucia in scenes for *Lakme* and *Lucia di Lammermoor*. She maintains a voice and piano studio out of her home in Fort Collins.

Why are you excited to be performing in *Falstaff*? I am excited to be in CSU's production of *Falstaff* because it is my first ever at CSU!

What do you think the audience will most enjoy about *Falstaff*? They will truly enjoy the music that Verdi has created in this opera, particularly the incredible fugue at the end of Act III.



SARAH WIGLEY (Nanetta - Feb. 29 & March 9)

Sarah Wigley holds a BM in Voice Performance from the University of Minnesota and is currently an MM Voice Performance candidate at Colorado State University. From tap-dancing in Cole Porter's *Anything Goes* to singing favorite arias in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Sarah is well-known for her effortless cross-over abilities and insatiable love for collaboration. While residing in Minneapolis, Wigley performed leading roles with the U of M while working professionally with regional companies such as the North Star Opera, the Mystery Cafe, the Minnesota Centennial Showboat, and the Minnesota Opera. In 2007 Sarah had the privilege of performing in the Minnesota Opera's world premiere of "The Grapes of Wrath" by Ricky Ian Gordon, also contributing to the original cast recording of this breakthrough piece. As an Iowa native, Wigley has an extensive and dynamic background in musical theater, performing such roles as Maria in *West Side Story*, Sarah Brown in *Guys and Dolls*, Ado Annie in *Oklahoma*, and Carlotta in *Phantom of the Opera*. Sarah recently appeared in CSU's production of "The Rape of Lucretia" as Lucia, and will be playing the role of Nannetta in CSU's upcoming production of "Falstaff."

Why are you excited to be performing in *Falstaff*? Being a part of *Falstaff* is a thrill! This Verdi work is an enormous undertaking for a university of any size due to the amount of Italian, the large cast size, and the challenge of staging three full acts! Each rehearsal brings a new level of humor, chemistry, and energy to the overall cast dynamic, and I truly feel that wouldn't be possible if it were not for the positive, encouraging environment that our Opera Theater department is so fortunate to uphold. There are so many fantastic moments of "playing" in this work- the comedic timing will never be exactly the same, so each character definitely has to keep his/her wits about them while dealing with props and set as well as a full orchestra. *Falstaff* gives each role a shining moment, and differentiates so that the spotlight is dispersed in unique ways throughout the production.

What do you think the audience will most enjoy about *Falstaff*? I think that the audience is going to fall in love with our *Falstaff* (Bradley), and be shocked by how hilarious OPERA really can be!!



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TRACY KAUFMAN (Meg Page - March 1 & 7)

Tracy Kaufman graduated magna cum laude from Boston University, where she attended on a vocal performance scholarship, with a Bachelor of Music degree in Voice Performance and Music Education, and is a first year Master of Music student at Colorado State University. Earlier this season, Kaufman sang the title role in *The Rape of Lucretia* with Colorado State Opera Theatre, was a guest soloist with the Edison Symphony Orchestra in New Jersey, and appeared with Opera Fort Collins as Lola in *Cavalleria Rusticana* and Berta in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. She will sing Musetta in *La Boheme* with Opera Fort Collins as an Apprentice Artist in August 2008. A native of Edison, New Jersey, Kaufman has sung with such companies as New Jersey Opera Theater, Light Opera of Oklahoma, New Jersey Repertory Opera, Liederkrantz Opera, Amato Opera, and Natchez Opera Festival. In 2007, she added the role of Suzuki in *Madama Butterfly* to her repertoire, originated the role of Louise Crane in *Celebrating the Life of Ellabelle Davis*, a new production for New Rochelle Opera, and appeared with New Jersey Opera Theater in the title role of a children's production of *Carmen*. Other roles include Nicklausse (*Les Contes d'Hoffmann*); Cherubino (*Le Nozze di Figaro*); Siebel (*Faust*); Nancy (*Albert Herring*), Hansel (*Hansel and Gretel*); Countess Ceprano (*Rigoletto*); Gianetta (*L'Elisir d'amore*); and Mercedes (*Carmen*). Theatrical roles include: Vi Petty (*The Buddy Holly Story*, national tour); Pitti-Sing (*The Mikado*); Hodel (*Fiddler on the Roof*); Viola (*Twelfth Night*); Kathy Selden (*Singin' in the Rain*); Petra (*A Little Night Music*); and Laurie (*Oklahoma!*). [READ MORE](#)

What do you think the audience will most enjoy about *Falstaff*? This production will certainly be delightful, musically and visually. The costumes are due to be newly designed and built for our production. The humor is so masterfully set in Verdi's writing that it will undoubtedly be lots of fun.



JAMES BAUMGARDNER (Fenton - Feb. 29 & March 9)

James Baumgardner, tenor, is currently working toward his Bachelor's of Music Degree in Music Education from CSU. He has attained many accomplishments during his time there, including winning the Singer of the Year vocal competition in 2006, receiving the Charles Edwin Taylor Scholarship Award in 2007, and most currently winning the prestigious Wendel Diebel Music Performance Award. This award is given every semester to the one student who in the department Chairman's estimation "has been the outstanding and most consistent performing musician on concerts sponsored by Colorado State University Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance." Along with his awards, James has also had leading roles in many Colorado State Opera Theatre productions including: Tarquinius in Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia*, Count Almaviva in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Simeon in Debussy's *L'enfant prodigue*, and Guglielmo in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. In the summer of 2007, James was selected to participate in Operafestival di Roma's young artist program, and received the role of Masetto in their production of *Don Giovanni*. Since then, his recent and very successful transition to the tenor repertoire has landed him opportunities with both Opera Fort Collins, singing the role of Pong in Puccini's *Turandot*, and Central City's Studio Artist Program. James will be making his tenor debut with as Fenton in Verdi's beloved *Falstaff*.

Why are you excited to be performing in *Falstaff*? I am very excited to be part of one of Giuseppe Verdi's



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most beloved works, Falstaff. The role of Fenton is a very fun role to play, and for once I am not the bad guy of the show!

What do you think the audience will most enjoy about Falstaff? I believe the audience will very much enjoy this production because of its wit and the wonderful, funny direction of Dr. Todd Queen. After all, how can you go wrong with the mix of Verdi and Shakespeare?



JOSHUA SAVAGE (Pistola - Feb. 29 & March 9)

Joshua Savage is a freshman vocal performance/music education major. He's performed in All-State Choir in both 2006 and 2007, All-State Band in 2005, 2006, and 2007, and Western States Honor Orchestra in 2007. His first role with CSU was that of King Melchior in Gian-Carlo's *Amahl and the Night Visitors*.

Why are you excited to be performing in Falstaff? I am extremely excited to be in Falstaff! It will be my first main stage role at CSU, and the first role I've ever sung with orchestra!

What do you think the audience will most enjoy about Falstaff? The comic story of Falstaff should be an exciting, fun story for our audience! It will entertain, confuse, and jest with their eyes and ears!



DEVEN SHAFF (Ford - March 1 & 7)

A native of Idaho, Deven Shaff is a graduate of The College of Idaho where he received his Bachelor of Arts in vocal performance and secondary music education. Upcoming performances include Ping in *Turandot* and *Schaunard* in La Boheme with Opera Fort Collins. In addition, he is a member of Central City Opera Ensemble and Opera Fort Collins Apprentice Artist Program. After receiving high praise for his internship with Central City Opera in 2007, Deven will be the Production Coordinator/Scheduler with during Central City Opera's 2008 summer festival.

Previous roles include Junius in *The Rape of Lucretia*, Figaro in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Bob in *The Old Maid and the Thief*, Mr. Gobineau in *The Medium*, Mr. Lindquist in *A Little Night Music*, St. Brioche in *The Merry Widow*, Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, Top in *The Tender Land*, Saint Peter in *Too Many Sopranos*, Papageno in *The Magic Flute*. In 2006, he won first place in the Colorado/Wyoming Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing Competition. Deven is currently earning his Master in Music at Colorado State University.

Why are you excited to be performing in Falstaff? When I first heard that Colorado State Opera Theater was doing Verdi's Falstaff, I was very skeptical if we could honor Verdi and his music. After rehearsing it and getting closer to performance dates, it has been proven to me that Colorado State Opera Theater is a great program and is capable of tackling this level of composition, but our true secret weapon is our amazing undergraduate class (proven by the excellent showing at Singer of the Year).

What do you think the audience will most enjoy about Falstaff? You will be uplifted with the humor and comedy in this production.



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MEET THE DIRECTOR

Dr. Todd Queen

Tenor, Todd Queen performs regularly as a soloist with national and regional opera companies, orchestras, choruses, and concert series. Recent engagements include the role of Steuermann in *Der fliegende Holländer* with Opera Fort Collins and tenor soloist in *Carmina Burana* with the Cheyenne Symphony and with Colorado State University. Dr. Queen earned the DMA and MM degrees from the prestigious Eastman School of Music after completing his undergraduate degree at Brigham Young University in Utah. He is an active member of College Music Society and the National Association of Teachers of Singing. In 2001 Dr. Queen was one of 12 outstanding young voice teachers selected from Canada and the US to participate in the NATS Summer Intern Program. [READ MORE](#)

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