

North Park University
School of Music, Art, and Theatre presents

THE FALLING AND THE RISING

A NEW OPERA

MUSIC BY
ZACH REDLER

LIBRETTO BY
JERRE DYE

THE EDGE THEATRE

April 22 | 7:30 | 2022

April 23 | 7:30 | 2022

NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY
PRESENTS

The Falling and the Rising

April 22 and 23, 2022

THE FALLING AND THE RISING IS 75 MINUTES, WITH
NO INTERMISSION, AND CONTAINS MILD PROFANITY

CAST

Soldier	Catherine Larson
Doctor 1	Madison Petrusevski
Doctor 2	Semajah Parker
Doctor 3 / Homecoming Soldier	Samuel Varghese
Doctor 4 / Colonel	Elisha Joy MacKal
Toledo	Amelia Harlovic
Jumper	Diana Monacelli

CAST BIOS

Catherine Larson | Soldier

Hometown: Highland, Indiana

Voice type: Soprano

Year in MMVP program: Second year

Madison Petrusevski | Doctor 1

Hometown: Orland Park, Illinois

Voice type: Soprano

Year in MMVP program: Second year

Semajah Parker | Doctor 2

Hometown: Portsmouth, Ohio

Voice type: Mezzo-Soprano

Year in MMVP program: First year

Samuel George Varghese | Doctor 3 / Homecoming Soldier

Hometown: Tamil Nadu, India

Voice type: Baritone

Year in MMVP program: First year

Elisha Joy MacKal | Doctor 4 / Colonel

Hometown: Neemuch, Madhya Pradesh,
India

Voice type: Bass-Baritone

Year in MMVP program: Third year

Amelia Harlovic | Toledo

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois

Voice type: Mezzo-Soprano

Year in MMVP program: Second year

Diana Monacelli | Jumper

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois

Voice type: Soprano

Year in MMVP program: Second year

Conductor	Tom Zelle
Stage Director	George Cederquist
Associate Conductor	Josh Quinn
Rehearsal Pianist	Paula Gelpi
Scenic Designer	Alan Schwanke
Costume Designer	Kate Setzer Kamphausen
Lighting Designer	Levert "Levi" Wilkins
Stage Manager	Rachel Campoli
Technical Director	Derik Marcussen

ORCHESTRA

Violin I	Paul Vanderwerf
Violin II	Mark Agnor
Viola	Azary Celis
Viola	Elaina Huang
Cello	Miles Link
Bass	Scott Bakshis
Clarinet	Barbara Drapcho
Clarinet	Thomas Schmidt
French Horn	Emma Sepmeier
Piano	Emma Gingham
Percussion	Eva Duvall

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Sergeant First Class
Benjamin Hilgert

North Park University
Physical Plant

North Park University
School of Nursing

Outskirts Vintage Clothing

The Falling and the Rising

Conceived by Sergeant First Class Benjamin Hilgert

Originally commissioned by the US Army Field Band and Soldiers Chorus,
Opera Memphis, Seattle Opera, San Diego Opera, Arizona Opera, and TCU.

Originally work-shopped at Seagle Music Colony.

The current orchestration of The Falling and The Rising was
commissioned by North Park University.

Special Thanks to Garnett Brooks for producing the New York
premiere at the Alvin Ailey Citigroup Theatre in January, 2018.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I reckon there are three groups in American culture that you simply can't go against. Three groups of people that you will support through thick and thin, whatever your opinion is of who they are as individuals and whatever they do collectively as a group. Three groups: public school teachers, the mail carriers, and veterans.

I believe that all theatre revolves around heroism. That the purpose of theatre is to tell stories about ordinary people who, despite being completely underprepared and woefully under-equipped to face overwhelming challenges, carry on regardless to try and achieve their goals. I think that stories like these might just inspire in our audiences the same brand of heroism that they see onstage. That in being entertained and moved by stories of heroism, audiences will think of the possibility they may each have to create moments of heroism in their own lives.

Are our veterans' heroes?

While we might want to see them that way, experience tells me that they don't see themselves that way.

My brother is an anesthesiologist at a Veterans Administration hospital.

His days are spent helping vets through everything from minor procedures to complex, life-saving operations. I asked him about some of his patients, and if they saw themselves as heroes. My brother answered very quickly and firmly: no veteran considers him or herself a hero. "How could they?" he asked me. His patients are the ones still here. They are the ones who survived.

Falling. Rising. The breath inside a child asleep. The ascent into the heavens and the drop to earth. Your pulse as you fight to stay alive. And wrapped up inside each beat, each breath, the idea that our task is to push past best to better. And that means sometimes just doing our jobs, whether we like it or not, whether we're ready or not. And if that's not heroism, I don't think I know what is.

ZACH REDLER (COMPOSER)

Zach Redler is a music theater composer whose work has been performed in concert halls, opera houses, and theaters around the world. In 2014, the American Theatre Wing awarded Zach and Sara Cooper the Jonathan Larson Grant for their work together (*The Memory Show*, *Loving Leo*, *Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner, and Windows*). Other favorite theater compositions include: *Movin' Up In The World* (Jerre Dye), *A Song for Susan Smith* (Mark Campbell), *Emily Sutton* (Jerre Dye), and, their American Prize award-winning piece, *The Falling and The Rising* (libretto by Jerre Dye).

Currently, Zach is working on a number of projects across various genres from children's music and jazz to opera and musical theater. Zach spent ten years as a music copyist and musicologist working with orchestras and Broadway shows in and out of town. Additionally, Zach teaches at NYU Tisch's Graduate Musical Theater Writing Program, Manhattan School of Music, and Molloy College; is working with a co-op based production company with fellow writers and actors (Midnight Oil Collective); mentors young opera writers for Seattle Opera's creation lab; teaches private music, yoga, and meditation; loves cooking plant-based meals for their family, and runs ultramarathons when time allows.

Love to their partner Brittney and two children, Skylar and Ellis.

www.zachredler.com

JERRE DYE (LIBRETTIST)

Jerre Dye is a director, opera librettist, playwright, and actor. He has spent the last three decades focusing primarily on the development of new works for both theatre and opera. Dye is the recipient of the Award for Dramatic Literature from the Fellowship of Southern Writers.

Opera commissions include an upcoming project for Opera Philadelphia with Pulitzer Prize and two-time Grammy Award-winning composer Jennifer Higdon, *Taking Up Serpents* for Washington National Opera with composer Kamala Sankaram, *The Transformation of Jane Doe* for Chicago Opera Theatre with composer Stacy Garrop, *The Falling and the Rising* for the U.S. Army Field Band with composer Zachary Redler, *Summer Place* for Chautauqua Opera, *Pretty Little Room* for Opera Memphis with composer Robert Patterson, *Parksville*, a filmed, episodic, VR opera for Opera On Tap/New York with composer Kamala Sankaram and *Ghosts of Crosstown* an opera cycle in collaboration with Opera Memphis. His plays include *Cicada*, *Distance*, *Short/Stories*, *Threads*, *The New Adventures of Hansel and Gretel*, *Wild Swans*, *Live Studio Audience*, and an adaptation of Stravinsky's *A Soldier's Tale* for Iris Orchestra. He is currently writing *Self Storage*, a new musical in collaboration with Zachary Redler.

TOM ZELLE (CONDUCTOR)

Tom Zelle directs the North Park University Orchestra and serves as music director at Chicago Sauganash Community Church. At North Park University, Mr. Zelle directs the Certificate in Music for Social Change and Human Values program, which is the first undergraduate program in the USA related to El Sistema philosophy and pedagogy. Within the General Education Curriculum, he teaches Meditation and Human Values. He specializes in non-dual and phenomenological applications to music and conducting.

GEORGE CEDERQUIST (STAGE DIRECTOR)

George is the Producing Artistic Director of Opera and Theatre at North Park University. Outside of NPU, he is the Artistic Director of Chicago Fringe Opera (called “the city’s alt-opera company” by the Chicago Tribune), which premieres experiential, immersive, and site-specific productions of operas composed in English. Directing credits include *Woyzeck*, *The Long Christmas Dinner*, and *The Great God Pan*, as well as the company’s long-running hit show *The Rosina Project*, a Hip-Hop adaptation of *The Barber of Seville*. Opera film work includes *Corsair*, *The Widow’s Will*, and *L’assassino*.

In addition, George has directed at Wolf Trap Opera, Chautauqua Opera, the Chicago Sinfonietta, Pittsburgh Opera, the Bay View Music Festival and Chicago Folks Operetta. Now in its seventh season, George hosts Opera Box Score, America’s Talk Radio Show About Opera.

A recipient of two American Prizes in Directing, George was one of ten Americans to receive the 2011 German Chancellor Fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, George served as a Regieassistent at the Staatstheater Darmstadt.

George’s training includes residencies with Pittsburgh Opera, the Merola Opera Program, and Wolf Trap Opera. He holds an MFA in Directing from Northwestern University and a BA in Theatre Studies and English from Yale University.

JOSH QUINN (ASSOCIATE CONDUCTOR)

Josh Quinn is currently the Music Director and Chorus Master for the Janiec Opera Company at the Brevard Music Center. He is also the Music Director and coach for the opera program at North Park University in Chicago, Illinois. He completed his second year as the young artist pianist, coach, and assistant conductor with Chicago Opera Theater in 2020, and has since joined the music staff with the company. He transitioned into coaching and conducting after several seasons singing with various companies: Merola Opera Program, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Prototype Festival, American Symphony Orchestra, Beth Morrison Projects, New Haven Symphony, Naples Philharmonic, Charleston Symphony, Opera Maine, Left Coast Ensemble, White Snake Projects, and West Edge Opera. He holds degrees in opera performance from the New England Conservatory and is an artist member of Music for Food, a musician-led initiative to fight hunger in our home communities.

ALAN SCHWANKE (SCENIC DESIGNER)

Alan is a Theatrical Scenic Designer, Conceptual Artist, Collaborator & Storyteller. Some of Alan's favorite recent collaborations of note include the world premiere of *Something In the Game* (American Music Theatre Project - Northwestern University) directed by David H. Bell, *The Little Foxes* (Asolo Repertory Theatre - Sarasota, FL) directed by Frank Galati and *Hair* (Northwestern University - Evanston, IL) directed by Matt Hawkins.

Alan earned his MFA in Scenic Design at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, and in 2008 was a participant in both the USITT Young Designer's Forum as well as Ming Cho Lee's Clambake Portfolio Review in New York City.

KATE SETZER KAMPHAUSEN (COSTUME DESIGNER)

Kate Setzer Kamphausen is delighted to return to North Park University to design costumes! Kate is a Jeff Award-winning costume designer & tailor based in Chicago, working in various Chicagoland theaters and schools. She also costumes indie films from time to time. Her recent designs include *The Rover* with Lakeside Shakespeare Festival; *Mary Poppins* with EDGE of Orion; the *Grelley Duvall Show* with performance artist Alex Grelle and friends; and most recently, co-owning vintage clothing store OUTSKIRTS Vintage on Chicago's north side. Kate has pink dreadlocks, five sewing machines, and several opinionated cats.

LEVERT WILKINS (LIGHTING DESIGNER)

Born and raised on the southwest side of Chicago, Lighting Designer, Levi J. Wilkins has been a member of the Chicago Theater community since the age of 6. He studied Theatre and Production at Lincoln College in Lincoln, Illinois. Currently, Levi is the lighting director at The Faith Community of St. Sabina. In addition, Levi is the go-to for many of Chicago's gospel music artists for stage lighting and stage design. His other past theater credits include *A Raisin In The Sun* with Indiana University Northwest, *Day of Absence* and *What to Send Up When it Goes Down* with Congo Square Theater, *White* with Definition Theater, *Ruined* with Invictus, *The Mountaintop* at Cardinal Stage Theater, and many other festivals, concerts, and dance performance design credits. He also owns and operates a luxury event design and decor company.

RACHEL CAMPOLI (STAGE MANAGER)

Rachel Campoli is a stage manager based in the Chicago area. She just finished stage managing a new work opera, *Pale Courage*, with CCPA. Her past works include Stage Managing *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *The Nutcracker Ballet*, *La Callisto*, *King Arthur*, *Mamma Mia*, *Newsies*, Offenbach's *Bagatelle* & von Suppe's *The Finishing School*, and various other plays, operas, musicals, and dance shows.

DERIK MARCUSSEN (TECHNICAL DIRECTOR)

Derik is an actor and technician who has been involved in the theatrical world for twenty years in various roles both onstage and off. He graduated from Rockford University where he learned how to build and sing, as well as conquered any fear of heights. In Chicago, he has built sets for *Steep*, *Griffin*, *Quest*, and *The Plagiarists*. He got into automated lighting maintenance and repair for *Frost* and has even built some scenery that has made it to the Super Bowl. Lately, he has enjoyed assisting his wife, Emma, in her costuming and props design endeavors. Derik is very happy to be involved in production after our collective two-year hiatus.



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