

APRIL 2022

# PROMPTER



**RAISE YOUR  
VOICE**

*Louder Than Words*

**Ensign-Darling Vocal Fellowship  
presents Ensign-Darling New Voices**

THE ENSIGN-DARLING VOCAL FELLOWSHIP PRESENTS  
**THE ENSIGN-DARLING NEW VOICES**  
**“RAISE YOUR VOICE LOUDER THAN WORDS”**

*A SPRING CONCERT - Saturday, April 30, 2022 - 6:30PM*



Amelia Duval  
she/her



Arielle Sussman  
she/they



Avery Woods Weber  
she/her



Eleanor Mund  
she/her



Ellie Kelly  
they/she



Emily Vandal  
she/her



Jude Reagan  
he/him



Lara Cruzado  
she/her



Lillian Peng  
she/her



Margarita Rivera  
she/her



Mercedes Roussos  
she/her



Nyelle Gogarty  
she/they



Sebastian Gates-Graceson  
he/him



Skylin Foster  
she/her



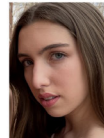
Sydney Caso  
she/her



Amelia Cieslik  
she/her



Chloe Weathers  
they/she



Emily Massicotte  
she/her



Greta Loesel  
she/her

Ensign-Darling New Voices - Young Artists

AMELIA DUVAL, ARIELLE SUSSMAN, AVERY WOODS WEBER, ELEANOR MUND, ELLIE KELLY  
 EMILY VANDAL, JUDE REAGAN, LARA CRUZADO, LILLIAN PENG, MARGARITA RIVERA  
 MERCEDES ROUSSOS, NYELLE GOGARTY, SEBASTIAN GATES-GRACESON, SKYLIN FOSTER, SYDNEY CASO

Ensign-Darling New Voices - Auditor Vocal Ensemble

AMELIA CIESLIK, CHLOE WEATHERS, EMILY MASSICOTTE, GRETA LOESEL

Artistic Director  
 Ensign-Darling New Voices  
**ARIANA VALDES**

Production Stage Manager  
**KATE J. CUDWORTH**

Music Director | Piano Accompanist  
**MAX BENNETT-PARKER**

Assistant Director  
**DANIEL BARRETT**

Keyboard | Guitar  
**EVAN SWANSON**

Drums  
**ELENA BONOMO**

Bass  
**ALEXANDRA ECKHARDT**

Guitar  
**SYDNEY CASO**  
**ELEANOR MUND**  
**ARIELLE SUSSMAN**

Saxophone  
**ARIELLE SUSSMAN**

Oboe  
**GRETA LOESEL**

Violin  
**LILLIAN PENG**

Piano  
**MERCEDES ROUSSOS**

Master Teaching Artists

**ELLIE ELLSWORTH, JAMES RUSHIN, LIAM FORDE, MARY JOHNSTON LETELLIER**

Private Vocal Instructors

**ABIGAIL WINKLER, ARIANA VALDES, BRIAN CHENEY, JANELLE ROBINSON, MAGGI HEILWEIL**  
**MICHELLE FIERTEK, NANCY ANDERSEN, PATRICK MCGILL, ROCHELLE BARD, SUSAN MARDINLY**

Director | Vocal Music Director | Choreographer  
**ARIANA VALDES**



SKYLIN FOSTER [she|her] is from Vernon, CT and is a junior obtaining an honors diploma through Excel High School. Skylin currently serves as a member of Crossroads Youth worship team and is involved in numerous community and church performances. Skylin is a seasoned dancer and has appeared on stage and television (Justin Bieber/Disney Channel). Vocal accomplishments include The National Anthem (Monster Jam/Harlem Globetrotters/USA Gymnastics). She currently studies voice with Janelle Robinson.



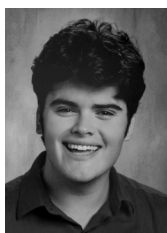
EMILY VANDAL [she|her] is a senior at Enfield High School and the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts where she studies voice with Abigail Winkler and Elizabeth Drevits. Emily has performed in many Enfield public school and community shows. She is very grateful for this opportunity and is so excited to see what the future holds!



ARIELLE SUSSMAN [she|they] is a senior at Farmington High School. She studies privately with Dr. Michelle Fiertek at the Hartt Community Division and is a Junior Cabaret Fellow at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center (4 years). With roots in jazz performance, they play the saxophone and sing jazz and continue to develop their love for songwriting. Arielle is so grateful to EDNV for helping her hone her skills as a multi-hyphenate artist. Arielle will pursue a BFA in Musical Theatre at University of Miami.



AVERY WOODS WEBER [she|her] is a senior at Hall High School and studies voice with Janelle Robinson at the University of Hartford. She is a senior Vocal Honors Artist and Connecticut Children's Chorus member at the Hartt School Community Division. Avery recently performed as The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Olive Ostrovsky) at Hall High School and interned at the Heartbeat Ensemble Youth Play Institute.



JUDE REAGAN [he|him] is a junior at Tolland High School and studies voice with Rochelle Bard. Jude has been participating in the Eastern Regionals Music Festival for six years and has participated in the All-State Music Festival and the All-National Honors Ensemble. At school he participates in the audition-only chamber choir. He looks forward to seeing all the wonderful places music will take him!



SEBASTIAN GATES-GRACESON [he|him] is a sophomore at East Lyme High School. Originally, Sebastian was a multi-sport athlete who loosely participated in theater, however after productions of *Mary Poppins Jr* (Bert) and *The Little Mermaid* (Sebastian), he switched to performing in fall of 2021. Sebastian has studied voice with Scott Mayfield and recently began studying privately with Brian Cheney. He plans to pursue Musical Theater wherever it takes him and will next play Prince Topher in Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* and Chad Danforth in *High School Musical*.



LARA CRUZADO [she|her] is originally from Puerto Rico and is currently based in Bethel, CT, where she is a junior at Bethel High School. She is part of NYU's Future Theater Artists Program and has recently been seen in *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Trix The Aviatrix) at Bethel High School and *Into The Woods Jr. (The Witch)* at ACT of CT. Lara studies voice with Maggi Heilweil. @laracruzadofficial



SYDNEY CASO [she|her] is a singer, songwriter, and guitarist from Avon, CT, where she is a sophomore at Avon High School. She is the treasurer of the school's charity through music club: Avon Music Service Society, and she plays open mic nights and gigs around neighboring towns. Sydney has played roles in *Annie* (Miss Hannigan) and *Mary Poppins* (Winifred Banks) and also won a 2021 Seven Angels Theatre Halo Award for her performance in Avon High's Virtual Showcase.



MERCEDES ROUSSOS [she|her] is a singer/songwriter and junior at Hall High School. She has studied voice with Nancy Andersen at the University of Hartford for six years. Mercedes is a member of the Hall High Choraliers Select Ensemble and recently performed in the Hall's annual Pops N Jazz performance in March. She has also been singing with the St. Peter Claver Church Choir over the past five years, while cantoring on occasion. She hopes to continue inspiring and guiding others through the universal language of music.



LILLIAN PENG [she|her] is a sophomore at Avon High School in Avon, CT. Lillian has played violin since third grade, has been in Connecticut Children's Chorus since fifth grade, and currently studies voice with Dr. Susan Mardinly. She serves as the FAME Liaison for her school's Music Service Society. Lillian is incredibly grateful for everyone who has touched her life through music and hopes one day to do the same for others.



ELLIE KELLY [they|she] is homeschooled and is a junior in the Greater Hartford Academy of The Arts Half Day Program. They live in New Britain, CT. They've been fortunate to work with organizations such as NBYT, Broadway Unlimited, Goodspeed, The Hartford Stage, CTC, Shakesperience Productions, Oddfellows Playhouse, Hole In The Wall, and are honored to now include EDNV. Ellie currently studies private voice with Ariana Valdes.



ELEANOR MUND [she|her] is a senior at East Catholic High School in her hometown of Manchester, Connecticut. She studies voice with Janelle Robinson with the Hartt Community Division and has studied dance for the past three years at the Manchester School of Dance Arts. Eleanor has been involved with both school and community theatre, most notably the Backyard Shakespeare Company and Stage East, where she recently appeared in *Where's Charley?* (Kitty Verdun). Eleanor plans to pursue a degree in musical theatre in college.



NYELLE GOGARTY [she|they] is a sophomore at Brien McMahon High School. Nyelle studies voice with Patrick McGill and trains at Crystal Theatre in Norwalk, CT where she is part of the company pre-professional program with classes in acting, singing, dancing and musicianship. She is ecstatic to be covering Ruth in *Pirates of Penzance* this spring. Other credits include *Frozen Jr.* (Pabbie) and *Cleopatra, A Life Unparalleled* (Pothinus).



AMELIA DUVAL [she|her] is a senior at The Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts in the Musical Theater department where she studies private voice with Abigail Winkler. Amelia grew up in Manchester, CT, where she spent most of childhood performing in shows at CAST Children's Theatre. She recently performed as Calista in *Anon(ymous)* at GHAA. Amelia will be attending Emerson College in the fall to pursue a BFA in Musical Theatre.



MARGARITA RIVERA [she|her] is from New Britain, CT and is a freshman at Central Connecticut State University. She currently studies voice with Nancy Anderson at the University of Hartford. Margarita has had experience in performing in High School as she participated in the music department quite a bit.



AMELIA CIESLIK [she|her] is a sophomore at Southington High School and Greater Hartford Academy of The Arts. Amelia takes voice lessons with Heather Pytel at The Music Shop. Credits include Oliver, School of Rock, Frozen, and Schoolhouse Rock. Amelia has performed in various musical festivals such as the Northern Region Middle School Festival (CMEA). Amelia has been singing in her Polish school performing group in New Britain for the past 7 years.



CHLOE WEATHERS [she|they] is from Andover, CT and is a junior at RHAM High School and Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts where she studies musical theatre. At GHAA, they take classes in dance, acting, and voice and also take private voice lessons with Danny Brevik. They have been participating in musicals for ten years and have a huge passion for music.



EMILY MASSICOTTE [she|her] is a junior at Rocky Hill High School and the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts. Emily has studied voice with Nancy Andersen at the Hartt School since 2019. Theatrical credits include Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Narrator), Frozen Jr. (Elsa), Mary Poppins Jr. (Mary), Peter Pan (Wendy), and Annie KIDS (Annie). Emily is looking forward to performing Upon the Fragile Shore at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe with her GHAA classmates in August 2022.



GRETA LOESEL [she|her] is 19 years old and lives in Cromwell, CT. She has taken private voice lessons with Sabrina Post and has performed with her school theatre departments, as well as with Middletown Stage Company. Greta is also an accomplished Oboe player. She is happy to be part of EDNV!



ARIANA VALDES [she|they] first began their formal vocal training with the inaugural class of the Ensign-Darling Vocal Fellowship in 2002 and was invited to return to The Bushnell as a Guest Teaching Artist in 2020. She went on to conceptualize and direct the 2020-2021 EDVF virtual concert *Time, Dreams, and the Changes Between* available on YouTube. Ariana was honored to be appointed Artistic Director of The Ensign-Darling New Voices in the fall of 2021. In

addition to directing this year's concert, Ariana has served as a Private Voice and Music Skills Coach for all 15 EDNV Young Artists throughout the school year. Ariana studied Vocal Performance with an Opera Emphasis at The Boston Conservatory and currently maintains the Ariana Valdes Voice Studio based in NYC. She has enjoyed an active career as a Vocalist, Voice Teacher, Director, and Actor, having performed nationally and internationally with Broadway Tours of *My Fair Lady* and *The Sound of Music*, as well as in productions with the John W. Engeman Theatre, The Gateway Playhouse, The Palace Theatre, Arts Center of Coastal Carolina, SpeakEasy Stage Company, Arizona Broadway Theatre, Gallery Players, Forestburgh Playhouse, Scranton Shakespeare Festival, *Feinstein's/54 Below*, TheaterWorksUSA, and Westchester Broadway Theatre. In 2019, she was an honoree in the NYC edition of Chicago's *Negocios Now Latinos 40 under 40* and also made her Off-Broadway debut in *The Green Room* at the American Theatre of Actors. This summer, Ariana will join the company of Paper Mill Playhouse's *Sister Act* and then play Daniela in *In the Heights* with STAGES St. Louis. How lucky we are to discover and use our voices to make the world a better place! [www.ArianaValdes.com](http://www.ArianaValdes.com) @arianavaldiva



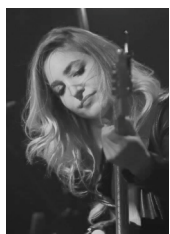
#### MAX BENNETT-PARKER

Music direction credits include *Assassins*, *Urinetown*, *42nd Street*, *Little Shop* among others. He arranged and orchestrated the new musicals *Escaping Queens* and *David Copperfield*. He's composed incidental music for plays including *Touch*, *The Nether*, *Quality of Life*, *In the Next Room*, and *The Crucible*. He co-wrote the book and lyrics and composed the music for the children's musicals *Baba Yaga*,

*Hui Liang* and the *Magic Brush* and *The Hungry Thing*.

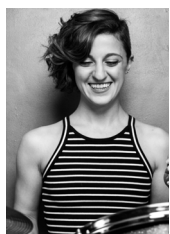


EVAN SWANSON is so excited to be joining EDNV for the first time! Off Broadway: *Brilliance*. Regional: *Freaky Friday*, *Emma A Pop Musical*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Ring of Fire*, *Home for the Holidays*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Guys and Dolls*, *First Date*, *A Christmas Survival Guide*, [title of show] and *Tenderly*.

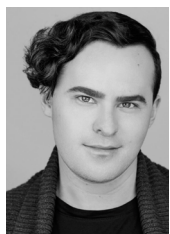


ALEXANDRA ECKHARDT is a Bassist and Music Supervisor. She has worked across the entertainment industry contributing her skills to feature films, Broadway shows, live performances, and recordings. Between playing with Sara Bareilles on Late Night with Stephen Colbert, holding the bass chair on numerous Broadway shows including Tony, Grammy & Emmy Award-winning The Band's Visit, performing on NPR's Tiny Desk web series, and

being an in-demand session musician, Alex has cultivated a multifaceted career as a professional bass player. Additionally, she has used her experiences as a musician to add Music Supervision for film to her arsenal, having worked on both independent and big-budgeted films. These include Rebecca Hall's critically acclaimed directing debut *Passing* (Netflix) starring Tessa Thompson, and *Spirited* (Apple TV+ 2022) a Christmas musical film starring Will Ferrell and Ryan Reynolds, with music by Pasek & Paul (*The Greatest Showman*).

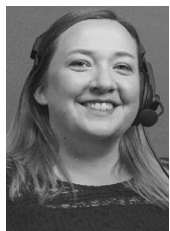


ELENA BONOMO is a drummer, percussionist and music educator and holds a B.M. from Berklee College of Music. She most recently originated the drum chair for *SIX* on Broadway. Other credits include: *Waitress* (1st National Tour), *A Strange Loop* (2020 Pulitzer Prize Winner) and *The Hello Girls* (Off Broadway). Elena is currently accepting new students at her virtual drum studio. IG: Chickscandrum2



DANIEL BARRETT(he|they) is thrilled to be back at the Bushnell! Daniel is a New York based actor, director, producer, and teaching artist. Daniel is represented by Bret Adams, LTD. Artists Agency. Daniel received his Masters in Educational Theatre at NYU and is a graduate of the University of Miami, where he earned his BFA in Musical Theatre. Directing credits include *The Laramie Project*, *Bad Auditions... On Camera*, and (Assistant Dir.) *Ensign Darling Vocal Fellowship Concert 21' and 22'*.

KATE J. CUDWORTH (Stage Manager) has been with TheaterWorks Hartford since 2013, nine years as Production Stage Manager, and currently enjoying her new venture as Producing Associate. Off-Broadway: *Freud's Last Session*, [title of show]. NY/Regional: Barrington Stage Company (8 seasons including *Freud's Last Session*; Joe Iconis' *The Black Suits*), Atlantic Stage Company, Hartford Stage, Manhattan School of Music (4 seasons), Yale Opera, York Theatre Company, Bronx Opera Company, Fringe NYC, NYMF.





**SPECIAL THANKS TO  
ROBERT ENSIGN DARLING, JR.**

[1937-2009]

Founded the Ensign-Darling Vocal Fellowship at The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, Hartford, CT, a scholarship vocal program for select talented and highly motivated high school aged singers interested in classical and theatrical music, in 2002.

THE DARLING FAMILY  
ELLIE ELLSWORTH  
and  
DONNA MERCIER, RiRiPURPOSE, EMILY SHUFRIN

**Producer** YOLANDE N. SPEARS  
**Associate Producer** KRISTIN DAVIS  
**Producing Coordinator** XIQIAN (SISSI) CHEN  
**Technical Director** MIKE SIVO  
**Production Coordinator** DANI O'CALLAHAN  
**Events Coordinator** LISA MOSCARITOLO  
**Marketing Director** ALEX PAGE-HATLEY  
**Education Support:** MARJI FINKEL, RYAN ERICKSON

**Masterclass and Private Voice Lessons Provided by the Ensign-Darling Vocal Fellowship**

ELLIE ELLSWORTH, JAMES RUSHIN, LIAM FORDE, MARY JOHNSTON LETELLIER  
ABIGAIL WINKLER, ARIANA VALDES, BRIAN CHENEY,  
JANELLE ROBINSON, MAGGI HEILWEIL  
MICHELLE FIERTEK, NANCY ANDERSEN, PATRICK MCGILL,  
ROCHELLE BARD, SUSAN MARDINLY



Scan the QR code to read more  
about the students in the show!

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