

Dianela Acosta

Originally from Spain, Dianela received her M.M in Voice performance from Denver University, and her B.A in Music and Italian from Hunter College in NY. While in NY, she was a Resident Artist with Dicapo Opera where she performed the roles of Suzuki in *Madame Butterfly* and Angelina in *Cenerentola*. Other roles of note are Ariodante, Carmen and Annio from *La clemenza di Tito* with Opera Forum, Stephano from *Faust* with NYLOT, and Marcellina from *The Marriage of Figaro* and Maddalena from *Rigoletto* with Amato Opera. Dianela sings regionally with the Central City Touring Artists, Boulder Opera, Boulder Messiah's sing Along and Opera on Tap among others. Dianela founded the Boulder Opera Company in 2012 with the intention of developing new audiences and making opera accessible to diverse audiences. Boulder Opera has introduced thousands of Boulder residents of all ages to opera, bringing together music, dance, and art together with a fresh, vibrant approach to this ancient art.

Phoenix Gayles

Phoenix Gayles, Soprano, has been noted for her “transcendent” vocal quality and warm personality. Receiving her Bachelors and Masters degrees from the University of South Florida under the direction of Dr. Warren Jaworski and renowned soprano Stella Zambalis, Miss Gayles has been seen in a variety of leading roles across the nation. Most recently, Phoenix was last seen directing and performing in the role as Michaela in a Carmen Highlights concert with Boulder Opera and on Loveland Opera Theatres stage performing the role of Fiordiligi in *Così fan Tutte* and the title role in *The Merry Widow*. Last summer she debuted a new opera premiered in Gunnison, *Lottie Silks* in the role of Adele. Since moving to Colorado, Phoenix has become a touring artist for Central City Opera and has a very prominent voice and piano studio both privately and with Sollohub Music. Phoenix recently developed a musical theater camp for kids with Maestro Music Institute.

Jennifer Burks

Jennifer Burks has been performing in the Boulder area since 2015. She has performed with several choruses in the area including the Colorado Masterworks Chorale, the Boulder Bach Festival, and has performed in four operas with the Boulder Symphony Chorus. Jennifer was a finalist in the Denver Lyric Opera Guild Competition in 2018, where she was awarded Honorable Mention, and in the same year debuted her first role in opera as First Spirit in Mozart's The Magic Flute with the Arapahoe Philharmonic. "Puss in Boots" will be Jennifer's first performance with Boulder Opera! For the past 3 years Jennifer has taught private voice in Boulder, CO and in 2019 became an Alumni Teacher at Dana V Music in Louisville. She loves sharing healthy technique and beautiful music with her students. Jennifer is currently a student of Bjorn Arvidsson.

Brad Haag

Brad Haag is a teacher, collaborative pianist, soloist, and lecturer with a lifelong mission to create outstanding musical experiences for listeners, students, and colleagues. His academic career includes teaching positions on the faculties of Benedictine University (Lisle, IL), Santa Monica College (Santa Monica, CA), and Los Angeles City College, as well as years of experience maintaining a private lesson studio.

He presented a New York Debut Recital in January 1999, at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. In 2000, he appeared as soloist with two orchestras in St. Petersburg, Russia, performing concertos by Mozart and Beethoven. His collaborative career has included performances on three continents and recordings released on the Innova, Centaur, and Summit record labels. In addition to his classical performances, he was a drummer, keyboardist, and singer in various pop & rock projects in Chicago and Los Angeles. He's also a one-day *Jeopardy!* champion.

Brad holds a Master of Music degree from Manhattan School of Music, a Bachelor of Music from the University of Illinois, and an MBA from UCLA Anderson School of Management.