



# Puss in Boots Cast Bios

## English Cast

### **Winona Martin, Puss**

Winona Martin is a Boulder based mezzo-soprano, recognized for her rich voice both stateside and abroad. Most recently, she was awarded a merit based grant from Denver's The Allied Arts Inc. for her performance as Cherubino with Prague Summer Nights, performed in the famed Estates Theatre. She was a recipient of the Colburn Fellowship at the prestigious SongFest Young Artist Program, placed 3rd in the national level NATS Competition, and is a winner of the Anderson Undergraduate Voice Competition. Ms. Martin's credits include Cherubino in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*; Polinesso in Handel's *Ariodante*; and Olga & Praskowia in Franz Léhar's *The Merry Widow*. She makes her Boulder Opera debut as Puss in Boots in Xavier Montsalvatge's *Puss in Boots*.

### **Jennifer Burks, Princess**

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.

### **Steven Groth, King**

Baritone **Steven Groth** hails from Delafield WI. Steven holds two bachelor's degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Choral Music Education and French and two Master of Music degrees from the University of Missouri-Columbia in Vocal Performance and Collaborative Piano. He is currently finishing his Doctorate in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy at the University of Colorado-Boulder where he studies with Dr. John Seesholtz. This past summer Steven performed the title role in *Rigoletto* with the summer festival, *Voci di Novafeltro*, in Novafeltro, Italy. Other recent credits include Alfio in *Cavalleria Rusticana* with Boulder Opera, Don Alfonso in *Così fan tutte for Kids!* with Loveland Opera-Theater, and Polinesso in Eklund Opera's production of Handel's *Ariodante*.

### **Nathan Snyder, Miller**

Nathan Snyder, 2015 UNC Alumnus, sets himself apart with his energetic performances, commanding stage presence, and attentive musicianship. Praised by Jernigan's Opera Journal as "lovely" in his performance of Fenton in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and "riveting" in his portrayal of Don Jose in *Carmen*, Nathan attentively molds the music and characters together throughout the opera repertoire.

Nathan frequently performs the music of Mozart including Ferrando in (*Così Fan Tutti*), Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*), Belmonte (*Die Entführung aus dem Serail*), Tamino (*Die Zauberflöte*), and the Tenor Soloist for Mozart's *Requiem*, which he is reprising in April of 2020. Outside of Mozart's wonderful music, Nathan has performed a variety of roles in the operatic repertoire. Ranging from Ruggiero in Puccini's *La Rondine* and Nemorino in Donizetti's *L'elisir D'amore*, to more modern operas, including Martin in Aaron Copland's *The Tender Land* and the title in Britten's *Albert Herring*. Nathan is a two-time finalist in the Denver Lyric Opera Guild Competition, as well as a semi finalist in the James M. Collier Young Artist Competition.



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## **Allen Adair, Ogre**

ALLEN ADAIR, Bass-Baritone, Recently graduated with a Bachelor of Music in Vocal and Tuba Performance from the University of Northern Colorado. In the summers of 2018 and 2019, Mr. Adair sang as a young artist with Opera Fort Collins and Opera Steamboat. In addition to opera performances, Mr. Adair regularly performs in concert as a bass soloist with groups such as the Longmont Chorale, Denver Young Artists Orchestra, and the Seicento Baroque Ensemble. His most recent performances were singing in the chorus of Tosca at the Bravo! Vail Music Festival and covering Vodnik in Rusalka with Opera Steamboat. Mr. Adair's upcoming engagements include singing in the chorus of Il Barbiere di Siviglia with Opera Colorado, King Balthazar in Amahl and the Night Visitors with Loveland Opera Theatre, and singing in the chorus of the Messiah with the Colorado Bach Ensemble.

## **Sophia Dove, Puss Cover & extra**

A recent graduate of CU Boulder, Sophia Dove has enjoyed taking a few years off from school to teach and perform. In addition to several operatic outreach performances since graduating, Ms. Dove has performed with Denver Immersive Opera and Parlando School of Musical Arts.

While at CU, she earned bachelor's degrees in both Vocal Performance and Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences. Meanwhile, Ms. Dove performed in numerous Eklund Opera Program productions including a role in a CU New Opera Workshop premiere. Her other notable credits include the role of Despina in *Così fan tutte*, the Sandman in *Hänsel und Gretel*, *La Virtù* in *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, and a nun in *Dialogues des Carmélites*. She was a 2014 Anderson Voice Competition winner.

## **Spanish Cast**

### **Daniela Guzmán-Égüez, Princesa**

Ms. Guzmán-Égüez is originally from Quito, Ecuador where she made her professional debut at the Teatro Nacional Sucre with the role of Gianetta in Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore* in 2010. Alongside the company, she performed other supporting and lead roles including Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte* and Nella in *Gianni Schicchi*. Other roles in her repertoire include Micaela in *Carmen*, Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*, and the Countess in *Le nozze di Figaro*, the title role of Suor Angelica and Giorgetta in Puccini's *Il Tabarro*. Ms. Guzmán-Égüez is an alumna of the Teatro Nacional Sucre Young Artist Program in Ecuador. She holds a Master of Music from Texas Christian University and Bachelor of Music from the University of Denver, where she is currently pursuing an Artist Diploma.

### **Dianela Acosta, Gato**

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.

## **Thomas Erik Angerhofer, Rey**

Thomas Erik Angerhofer has been praised for his “powerful and sweet baritone...” (Citizen-Times) and “compelling” (Daily Camera) performances for nearly 3 decades. He made his European debut at the age of 18, performing as a soloist in a tour that visited major cities in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, France, and England. His repertoire includes opera, concert, and song literature that spans every major time period, as well as many golden age musical theatre classics. Favorite roles include Joseph DeRocher in *Dead Man Walking*, Figaro in *Le Nozze di Figaro* and *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Giorgio Germont in *La Traviata*, Enrico Ashton in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Aeneas in *Dido and Aeneas*, Schlendrian in *The Coffee Cantata*, Lancelot in *Camelot*, El Gallo in *The Fantasticks*, Emile DeBecque in *South Pacific*, and Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls*. His concert performances, including *Carmina Burana*, *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, and Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 9*, have been broadcast on public radio and television, and have taken him beyond North America and Europe to places like Morocco and Lebanon.

As a teacher, Erik has helped numerous students to go on to professional careers in opera and musical theatre. He is frequently asked to consult with contemporary recording artists and studios. His passion is to help every singer improve ease and efficiency, clarifying intention and action to deliver the most authentic and communicative performance. He was selected for the prestigious NATS Intern Program in 2017 at the University of Toronto, where he was mentored by a panel of internationally renowned voice teachers. He has taught at MSUD, CU Boulder, MWSU, Ithaca College, CSU, Emerald City Opera, and many other prestigious summer programs. Erik holds degrees from the State University of New York College at Fredonia and the University of Colorado at Boulder, where he is currently completing is DMA in Voice Performance and Pedagogy.

## **Oliver Poveda, Ogro**

Oliver Poveda is a South American bass from Quito, Ecuador. In April of 2019, Mr. Poveda debuted the roles of Simone and Talpa from Puccini’s *Gianni Schicchi* and *Il Tabarro* with the Lamont Opera Theatre conducted by maestro Lawrence Golan. Mr. Poveda has performed with the Denver Immersive Opera company as Duke Bluebeard in Bartok’s *Bluebeard’s Castle* in March of 2019, and as Mr. Gobineau in Menotti’s *The Medium* in October of 2017. In November of 2018, Mr. Poveda was Banco from Verdi’s *Macbeth* and Theseus from Britten’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* in a scenes gala concert at the Newman Center for the Performing Arts under the baton of maestro Ari Pelto, with whom he had the pleasure of working again as a chorus member for Opera Colorado’s 2019 fall production of *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. In June of 2018, Mr. Poveda debuted the role of Sarastro in Mozart’s *Die Zauberflöte* at the Teatro Nacional Sucre in Ecuador. Mr. Poveda will be reprising his role as Sarastro in April of 2020 as part of the Lamont Opera Theatre’s spring production of *Die Zauberflöte*.

## **Santiago Herrera, Molinero**

Santiago Gutierrez Herrera, tenor, received his undergraduate degree in Voice Performance from the University of North Texas in the Spring of 2017. During his studies there he performed with UNT Opera in roles such as Goro, in Puccini’s *Madama Butterfly*, Remendado in Bizet’s *Carmen*, Don Curzio in Mozart’s *Marriage of Figaro*, Liberto in Monteverdi’s *L’incoronazione di Poppea*, and Hermann in Offenbach’s *Tales of Hoffmann*, among others. He also participated as a soloist with the UNT Symphony Orchestra in Mozart’s *Coronation Mass* in C major, and Jakub Jan Ryba’s *Czech Christmas Mass*. Currently, he is pursuing a Master’s degree in Voice Performance from Colorado State University, where he has performed the role of Pierre in Holst’s *The Wandering Scholar*; Giuseppe Palmieri in Gilbert & Sullivan’s *The Gondoliers*; and Mr. Vogelsang in Opera Fort Collins’ production of Mozart’s *Impresario*.