

# MUSIC

2025 - 2026



**SONOMA  
STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

# FALL 2025 CONCERTS

All concerts are held at the Green Music Center

|           |            |                                                        |                             |
|-----------|------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| SEP 26    | 7:30 p.m.  | Symphonic Wind Ensemble & Chabot College Wind Symphony | Schroeder Hall              |
| SEP 27    | 7:30 p.m.  | Symphony Orchestra                                     | Weill Hall                  |
| SEP 30    | 7:30 p.m.  | Concert Band & Analy High School Symphonic Band        | Weill Hall                  |
| OCT 2     | 7:30 p.m.  | Jazz Orchestra, Jazz Ensembles, & Latin Band           | Weill Hall                  |
| OCT 4     | 1:00 p.m.  | SSU Day of Strings                                     | Schroeder Hall              |
| OCT 6     | 1:00 p.m.  | Department Repertory Recital                           | Schroeder Hall              |
| OCT 19    | 12:00 p.m. | SSU Saxophone Day                                      | Schroeder Hall              |
| OCT 21-22 | All Day    | Sonoma Invitational Choral Festival                    | Weill Hall & Schroeder Hall |
| OCT 25    | 7:30 p.m.  | Symphonic Wind Ensemble & Orchestra Chamber Ensembles  | Schroeder Hall              |
| OCT 30    | 7:30 p.m.  | Faculty Recital: Dan Norris & Yvonne Wormer            | Schroeder Hall              |
| NOV 1     | 10:00 a.m. | Music Department Entrance Auditions                    | Schroeder Hall              |
| NOV 14    | 7:30 p.m.  | Concert Choir & SonoVoce                               | Schroeder Hall              |
| NOV 15    | 7:30 p.m.  | Rock Collegium                                         | Schroeder Hall              |
| NOV 17    | 1:00 p.m.  | Department Repertory Recital                           | Schroeder Hall              |
| NOV 18    | 7:30 p.m.  | Guitar Ensemble                                        | Schroeder Hall              |
| NOV 20    | 7:30 p.m.  | Concert Jazz Ensembles & Latin Band                    | Schroeder Hall              |
| NOV 21    | 7:30 p.m.  | Symphony Orchestra & Jazz Orchestra                    | Weill Hall                  |
| NOV 22    | 7:30 p.m.  | Musical Theatre - Opera Scenes                         | Schroeder Hall              |
| NOV 23    | 2:00 p.m.  | Brass Ensemble                                         | Schroeder Hall              |
| NOV 24    | 12:00 p.m. | Instrumental Juries Jazz                               | Schroeder Hall              |
| DEC 3     | 7:30 p.m.  | Chamber Music Ensembles                                | Schroeder Hall              |
| DEC 5     | 7:30 p.m.  | Symphonic Wind Ensemble & Diablo Valley College        | Weill Hall                  |
| DEC 10    | 1:00 p.m.  | Vocal Repertory Recital                                | Schroeder Hall              |
| DEC 10    | 7:30 p.m.  | Concert Band & Noma Winds                              | Weill Hall                  |

## Tickets:

\$20 General

\$8 Students / Youth

\$12 Seniors

FREE for SSU Students, Staff and Faculty

## Box Office:

707-664-4246

[tickets.sonoma.edu](https://tickets.sonoma.edu)

Sonoma State University Department of Music  
presents

# ***Speed Dating Tonight!***

## **A One-Act Opera**

*Conceived by: Dean Anthony*

*Words and Music by: Michael Ching*

Saturday, November 22, 2025

7:30 p.m.

Schroeder Hall, Green Music Center

# MUSICAL NUMBERS

|                                                                   |                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <i>Opening</i>                                                    | Quinn, Stephanie,<br>Kaylee & Tutti         |
| <i>Shirt!</i>                                                     | Diana                                       |
| <i>Checklist</i>                                                  | Aaron                                       |
| <i>Pat the Bassoonist</i>                                         | Pat                                         |
| <i>Love Me, Love My Cats</i>                                      | Mia                                         |
| <i>I Shouldn't Have Come Here/<br/>Glad That You've Come Here</i> | Pat & Kaylee                                |
| <i>The Love of My Life</i>                                        | Billie                                      |
| <i>Crush Apples With Me</i>                                       | Nick                                        |
| <i>Fragile Heart/Waiting For Too Long</i>                         | Aaron & Billie                              |
| <i>You-Know-Who</i>                                               | Stephanie                                   |
| <i>Bartholomew</i>                                                | Zeb                                         |
| <i>Order Up!</i>                                                  | Quinn & Stephanie                           |
| <i>I've Always Liked This Bar</i>                                 | Kaylee                                      |
| <i>Singlewide</i>                                                 | Quinn                                       |
| <i>If Not Now, When</i>                                           | Tutti                                       |
| <i>Toaster</i>                                                    | Diana                                       |
| <i>The Dilemma of Daters</i>                                      | Stephanie & Tutti                           |
| <i>Textual Chemistry</i>                                          | Zeb & Mia                                   |
| <i>Closing</i>                                                    | Kaylee, Aaron, Billie,<br>Quinn & Stephanie |

## CAST (in order of appearance)

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**Luke Gibson (Nick, busboy)** is new to opera, but nonetheless happy to be here. He is a jazz guitarist, and was the recipient of the Sonoma Valley Jazz Society Scholarship in the Fall of 2024. He is a transfer student from Cuesta College in his hometown of San Luis Obispo, California. He is currently pursuing his BM in Jazz Studies at SSU. Special thanks to his teachers, Douglass Leibinger and Randy Vincent. And extra special thanks to his fiancée, Gillian Piper, whose support he couldn't do without.



**Vinny Stallone (Quinn, bartender)** is thrilled to play a part in this amazing show and start a new chapter at SSU! Recent credits include Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables* and Moonface Martin in *Anything Goes*. He has participated as a nominee for both the "Rita Moreno Awards" for supporting actor and the "Sara Bareilles Awards" for leading actor. Up until now, he has spent his career at Marin School of the Arts in Novato High School under the guidance of his directors Rodney Franz and Scott DeTurk, as well as his vocal coach Alissa Deeter. He would like to thank the MSA program and its teachers, his friends, and his family for always being there for him.



**Sierra Reid (Stephanie, waitress)** is thrilled to make their Music Department debut in this production of *Speed Dating Tonight!* After two dedicated years encapsulating eight different performances within the Theater Arts & Dance Department, notable *Fall Dance* (2024) and *Perfect Arrangement* (Jim, 2025), they are overjoyed at getting the chance to explore another kind of live performance. A special thanks to professors Danielle Caine, Kristen Daly, Doyle Ott and Christine Cali for getting me where I am today, and my friends and family for always supporting me.



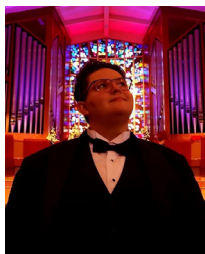
**Clarice Perez (Kaylee, dating coordinator)** is thrilled to be making her opera debut at Sonoma State University. Clarice is a first semester transfer to Sonoma State and is so excited for her journey as a Vocal Performance major. When she's not rehearsing for class or studying music theory, she can be found making Musical Theater content on social media (@itsreeseperetz). Training: San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts, Tulane University, Sonoma State Music Department. Special thanks to her family, friends, department, and sorority (ADPI)!



**Sam Martin (Diana)** is thrilled to be included in this semester's Scenes performance. Her most notable previous roles are Harry Witherspoon from *Lucky Stiff* and Sky Masterson from *Guys and Dolls*. She was a finalist in the local NATS singing festival and performed in the All-Stars concert in October. Sam has been singing in choirs since middle school, and doesn't plan on stopping any time soon. Sam would like to thank Mark Kratz and Dan Cromeenes for helping her improve as a singer.



**Corwin James Wilson (Billie)** is delighted to present *Speed Dating Tonight!* alongside some of his greatest friends and colleagues from his four years at Sonoma State University. Recent credits include *Pins & Needles* with Mercury Theater in Petaluma. Special thanks to voice teacher Mark Kratz, supportive friends Dave & Leah Volk, and director Mary Evelyn Hangley for personally inspiring him to join the show.



**August Perez (Aaron)** is thrilled to be a part of this amazing opera! His theatrical credits include ensemble/Spongebob understudy in *The Spongebob Squarepants Musical* (Santa Rosa Junior College), Hanschen Rilow in *Spring Awakening* (Sonoma State University), and Tobias Ragg in *Sweeney Todd* (Sonoma State University). He has trained under Zachary Gordin and Dr. Justin Montigne, and is currently training under Mary Evelyn Hangley. Special thanks to his friends for all of their support!



**Luke Ruddell (Zeb)** is an actor and musician from Port Angeles, Washington. He began acting in his sophomore year of high school with *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood* and soon after played Gaston in *Beauty and the Beast*. Other roles include Prince Eric in *The Little Mermaid* and Aaron in the Broadway hit *Mean Girls*.

Luke is currently pursuing a degree in Vocal Performance at Sonoma State University. He looks forward to releasing his own music this year and sharing his passion with the world.



**Eleanora Bezhenar (Mia)** is thrilled to be making her SSU debut in *Speed Dating Tonight!* She previously appeared in a final project production at Santa Rosa Junior College, where she studied theatre for several years. Eleanora would like to thank her teachers, Leslie McCauley and Elizabeth Dale, for their encouragement and guidance, as well as her family for their constant support. And, of course her three cats, who have patiently listened to every line rehearsal and offered the best stress relief.



**Dan Cromeenes (pianist)** is a versatile musician who has performed as collaborative pianist, countertenor soloist, and choral singer. He first moved to San Francisco to perform with the vocal ensemble Chanticleer, and has since flourished in the Bay Area's music scene. He has played for various opera and musical theater organizations, including West Bay Opera, Livermore Valley Opera, and Lamplighters Music Theatre, and accompanied for educational programs such as Young Musicians Program and Chanticleer's Skills LAB. Just before the world shut down for the pandemic, he performed a program of Beethoven's music with Dashon Burton

and the Alexander String Quartet for SF Performances. Dan is a staff accompanist for Sonoma State University, Santa Clara University, and the Santa Clara Chorale, and works as a freelance accompanist and vocal coach. When not onstage or behind a piano, he can usually be found on a hike in the mountains or at home baking gourmet goodies.



**Yvonne Wormer (rehearsal pianist)** has been the staff collaborative pianist at Sonoma State University since Spring 2003. In addition she is the rehearsal pianist for the Sonoma Bach choir, and the liturgical pianist at the Reform synagogue in Santa Rosa, Congregation Shomrei Torah, playing regularly for services and for choir rehearsals in preparation for extra music throughout the year but especially in preparation for the high holy days. She studied with Ellen Wasserman at Cal State University Hayward (now known as CSU Eastbay), and then with Ms. Barbara Wilkins in Palo Alto. She would like to give special

thanks in particular to our director, Professor Mary Evelyn Hangley, for her guidance and direction in this class production.



**Mary Evelyn Hangley (director)** is a recent addition to the SSU voice faculty and is overjoyed to be making her directorial debut. Since being a member of the world premiere of *Speed Dating Tonight!* in 2013, Mary has been featured on operatic and symphonic stages across the US, most notably during her time as an Adler Fellow with San Francisco Opera. Love and thanks to Will, Hughie and Ivy!



**Michael Ching (composer)** An opera composer/librettist, conductor, and songwriter, Michael Ching is the composer/librettist of the opera *SPEED DATING TONIGHT!* With over one hundred fifty productions since its 2013 premiere at the Janiec Opera of the Brevard Music Center, *SPEED DATING TONIGHT!* is one of the most popular operas of the 21st century. A similarly structured opera is his *RSBE*. His new opera, *NOTES ON VIARDOT* had its premiere at University of South Dakota-Vermillion in 2024. Another new opera, *HAZEL MINER* premiered at Northern State University in 2025. Michael's other well-

known opera is *BUOSO'S GHOST*. *BUOSO* is a comic sequel to *GIANNI SCHICCHI*. *BUOSO* has been performed at the Florida Grand Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre and OperaDelaware, as well

as at California State University-Fullerton and Montclair State University. During the pandemic, he created ALL DRESSED UP (No Place to Go) for L'arietta Productions in Singapore, a series of nine quarantine-related songs which are now part of SPEED DATING TONIGHT!. In 2018-2019, two new one-act operas had their premieres, THRIVERS, at Palm Springs Opera Guild, and EIGHT WOODS AND A VAN, at the Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre.

Michael is the former Composer-in-Residence at Savannah Voice Festival, a position he now holds at the Taos Opera Institute. He is Opera and Art Song consultant at EC Schirmer Classical and the former Artistic Director of Opera Memphis. He is serving his second term on the board of the National Opera Institute. Michael studied composition with Robert Ward at Duke University and Carlisle Floyd at the Houston Opera Studio.

With a lifelong devotion to the craft of operatic composition learned through the success and failure of over a dozen operas, through composition study, and through years of conducting the standard operatic repertoire; and with a strong interest in folk and country music, Michael is a somewhat of an outlier in the world of new music. Michael lives in St. Paul, Minnesota.

## ***What is Speed Dating Tonight!?***

SpDT! Is THE 21st century opera. Conceived on the back porch of a cabin at the Brevard Music Center, Dean Anthony and Michael Ching sought to create a brand new kind of opera, specifically for colleges.

Often the biggest challenge when programming operatic repertoire for the academic environment is finding something that will fit everyone. Sometimes you have the perfect Mimi but no Rodolfo for a 50-mile radius...sometimes you have fifteen sopranos and half a baritone.

Enter: *Speed Dating Tonight!* This piece has over 100 different daters and ensembles to choose from with nearly each piece coming in high, medium, and low keys. Before you had to force young singers into a box. With *Speed Dating Tonight!*, young singers can find a perfect vocal match and explore a nearly endless supply of characters to play.

The most beautiful aspect of our *Speed Dating Tonight!* Production at Sonoma State is that the piece was cast entirely by the performers. I am endlessly proud of their work and know you will be too.

Mary Evelyn Hangley

# DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

## FACULTY

**R. Anderson Collinworth**, Department Chair, Director of Bands

**Jenny Bent**, Director of Choral Activities and Voice Program

**Alexander Kahn**, Director of Orchestral Activities

**Doug Leibinger**, Director of Jazz Studies

**Thom Limbert**, Composition Program

**Kim Mieder**, Music Teacher Preparation

**John R. Palmer**, Musicology, Musicianship, Rock Collegium

**Marilyn Thompson**, Piano and Chamber Music Director

**Brian S. Wilson**, Music Theory Program

## STRINGS

**Eric Cabalo**, Classical Guitar

**Gail Hernandez Rosa**, Violin & Viola

**Jill Rachuay Brindel**, Cello

**Mark Wallace**, Classical Bass

**Aaron Westman**, Violin & Viola

## WOODWINDS

**Andrew Harrison**, Classical Saxophone

**Victoria Hauk**, Flute

**Laura Reynolds**, Oboe & English Horn

**Jeff Robinson**, Bassoon

**Roy Zajac**, Clarinet

## BRASS

**Alicia Mastromonaco**, Horn

**Daniel Norris**, Trumpet

**David Ridge**, Trombone

**Jonathan Seiberlich**, Tuba and Euphonium

## PERCUSSION AND PIANO

**Marilyn Thompson**, Piano

**Jennifer Wilsey**, Percussion

## VOICE

**Mary Evelyn Hangley**

**Mark Kratz**

## JAZZ

**Ian Carey**, Trumpet

**Ken Cook**, Piano

**Andrew Emer**, Bass

**Kendrick Freeman**, Latin Band

**Raffi Garabedian**, Saxophone

**Doug Leibinger**, Trombone

**George Marsh**, Drums

**Randy Vincent**, Guitar

## PERFORMING ENSEMBLES

### Choral/Vocal

Concert Choir

Symphonic Chorus

SonoVoce

Music Theater/Opera Scenes

### Instrumental

Concert Band

Symphonic Wind Ensemble

Symphony Orchestra

Brass Ensemble

Percussion Ensemble

Guitar Ensemble

Chamber Music Ensembles

Saxophone Quartet

Rock Collegium

### Jazz

Jazz Orchestra

Latin Jazz Band

Concert Jazz Ensemble

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**Thank you for your continued support of the SSU Music Department!**



## 2025 - 2026 AUDITION DATES

November 1 (Early Action)

January 31

February 28

March 1



## DEGREE PROGRAMS

### Bachelor of Music

Music Teacher Preparation, Instrumental

Music Teacher Preparation, Choral

Music Teacher Preparation, Jazz

Performance, Instrumental

Performance, Vocal

Jazz Studies

Composition

### Bachelor of Arts, Music

Minor in Music

Minor in Jazz Studies

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