

Lake Mahkeenac Radio Theater

November 5, 2022

Thank you so much for joining us this evening! In addition to the performers listed below, we would like to thank our sound and video technician Will Curtiss, **APPLAUSE** signkeeper JoAnn Levitt, box officers Patty Strauch and Ronnie Cunningham, chief facilitator and all-around cool head Will Garrison, pie wranglers Don and Holland Brown Eaton, and all the other church members for the chores that go into an undertaking like this. We hope you enjoy the show!

A special note of thanks: In past years, our artists graciously offered their services free of charge for this fundraising event. But the pandemic has been hard on performers, and we felt we could not ask them to donate their services after such lean years. So we solicited donations in advance from a small group of angels to support a real paycheck for tonight's actors and musicians. We recognize those angels for their warm embrace of the performing arts: Linda Colvin, Mary Hoeltzel, Laura and Doug Wilkins, John and Janet Canning, Paul and Lenore Sundberg, Cris Raymond, Gary Scheineman, Michael Deegan and Sarah Conly, Sibylle Baier, Jean Stackhouse, Jay and Terry Wise, Michael and Susan Lynch, Cathy Clark and Ed Ivas, Liza Catino, and the men of Quintessential...as well as a few donors who wish to remain anonymous.

Christopher Brophy is very pleased to be back at Lake Mahkeenac! Born in Pittsfield, Chris has appeared in many shows in Boston and on Martha's Vineyard before returning home to the Berkshires. Since then he has worked with Shakespeare and Company, appeared in "Good People" for the Theater Barn, co-founded the Whidiots Comedy Improv Troupe, and has performed with Pittsfield Shakespeare in the Park since its inception. In the upcoming winter, he will be working on a one-man show. Many thanks and gratitude to David Anderegg for creating this wonderful experience. Now, let's have some pie!

Rikke Borge lives happily with her daughter, granddaughter, three horses, two ponies, two dogs, three cats, eleven chickens and one Guinea hen. It's been 47 years of Berkshire bliss and it ain't gonna change any time soon. Rikke gleefully accepts acting jobs when offered, and is thrilled to once again appear on the incomparable Lake Mahkeenac Radio Theater. Yep, she's a lucky gal!

A gut-level honesty connects **JoAnne Redding** with her audiences. She has lit up stages from New Orleans to New England, sharing the bill with major acts including The Mavericks, Asleep at the Wheel, and Hank Williams Jr. She has showcased at the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, selected from over 400 applicants. Her *How It Is* CD spent three months in the Top Ten of *Roots Music Report's* Blues Chart. Redding's first CD, *Run With It*, recorded in Nashville, and her follow-up albums, *The Running Kind* and *How It Is* have been played on more than 250 radio stations worldwide. In recent years, from sultry to swinging, JoAnne has enjoyed singing jazz and blues, mixing it up from time to time as the mood beckons. She looks forward to her return to Lake Mahkeenac!

Erin Kathleen Casey's voice has been called "consistent, well-balanced, and beautiful..."(Michael Miller, *The Berkshire Review for the Arts*). She is a frequent soloist with the Williams Chamber Players and The Greylock Opera Collective of New England, most recently in the titular role of the world premiere of *The Weeping Woman* by Michael Dilthey. She made her Berkshire Symphony debut in 2019 with Barber's "Knoxville: Summer of 1915," along with her debut at Ozawa Hall in Schubert's Mass in G. She received First Prize in the Aspen Music Festival's Vocal Concerto Competition and was the recipient of the Francesco and Hilda Riggio Award in the New England Regional Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. She is currently the co-director of the Williams Opera Workshop. This past summer she was invited to direct a production of *La Boheme* with the Mediterranean Opera Studio and Festival in Caltagirone, Sicily, and this summer she looks forward to teaching voice at the Winter Harbor Music Festival in Maine.

Nellie Rustick is a young dramatic soprano whose voice has been praised as "*exquisite*" and "*simply delicious*". Recently, she has been seen in Brattleboro Vermont, singing the role of Wellgunde in Wagner's *Das Rheingold*, covering the role of Sieglinde in *Die Walküre*, and working as an actor in HBO's *The Guilded Age*. Ms. Rustick has sung with Tundi Productions, Connecticut Lyric Opera, City Chamber Opera, Capitol Opera Albany, Mosaic - Arts Opera, Hubbard Hall Opera Theater, and Berkshire Opera Festival. As a passionate recitalist, Ms. Rustick has given recitals throughout New York and New England. Favorite performances include Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder* and Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* (in recital), The Mother in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, the role of Roseofsharon in *The Grapes of Wrath*, and being a soloist for the 50th Anniversary of Berkshire Lyric Chorus at Tanglewood's Ozawa Hall.

David Anderegg is a psychologist, fiction writer and composer. For several years, he wrote a novel in monthly installments entitled *Aux Pioneers*, published in *Berkshire HomeStyle* magazine. He has published poetry and short stories in *The Berkshire Review* and in *upstreet*; his short story "Heretics" was nominated for the Pushcart Prize by *upstreet* magazine in 2006. He also wrote the libretto and music for two chamber operas, *What Owls Do* and *The Beasts*. He has written pop songs in a wide variety of styles for his a cappella group Quintessential, as well as hymns, art songs, choral anthems and tons of Christmas carols. His most recent work is "Songs from a bad year" for soprano and piano, written during the recent pandemic.

Tracy Wilson served as Executive Director of the Berkshire Music School and retired in 2020 after 17 years. She earned a Masters of Music and Arts Administration degree from the University of Nebraska, with additional studies at Catholic University in Washington D.C. and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. She is an active musician as a collaborative pianist, conductor of the Stockbridge Festival Chorus and Music Director of the Stockbridge Sinfonia since 2018. Tracy has also been actively involved with the First Congregational Church's music program, frequently serving as its Minister of Music or being ready to serve when needed.