

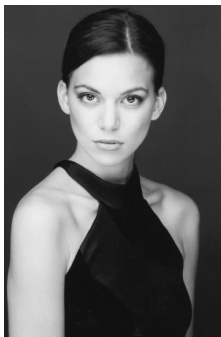


Meet the Cast of *Cinderella*



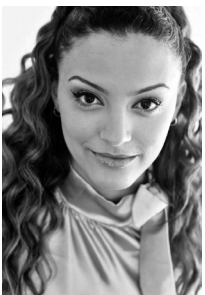
Michael Barrett – The Prince

Born in Newfoundland, tenor Michael Barrett is a former member of the COC Ensemble Studio. Mr. Barrett recently sang with the COC as an American and a Gondolier in *Death in Venice*, the High Priest of Neptune in the Ensemble Studio's presentation of *Idomeneo*, and Trojan Man 1 in both the mainstage and Ensemble performances of *Idomeneo*. Previous COC roles include Lieutenant Bonnet and Aide de Camp to General Compans in *War and Peace*, First Prisoner in *Fidelio*, the Gamekeeper in *Rusalka*, Captain of Archers in *Simon Boccanegra*, Parpignol in *La Bohème*, Snout in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Ferrando in the Ensemble Studio production of *Così fan tutte*. At the University of Toronto Opera School he performed Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus*, and regularly appears with the Aldeburgh Connection, where he performed in *Our Story* for the 25th anniversary celebrations.



Ambur Braid – *Clorinda*

Toronto-based soprano Ambur Braid is a new member of the COC Ensemble Studio. She holds her bachelor of music degree from The Glenn Gould School of The Royal Conservatory of Music and her master of music from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Ms Braid has performed the role of Diane in *Iphigénie en Tauride* with Opera Atelier; Konstanze in *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, Queen of the Night in *Die Zauberflöte*, *Princess/Fire in L'enfant et les sortilèges* and Peaseblossom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the San Francisco Conservatory; and, Hippolyta in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with The Glenn Gould School. Ms Braid has won the East Bay Opera Competition, the San Francisco Conservatory Concerto Competition, and the Palm Beach Opera Competition. With the COC this season she performs the Danish Lady in *Death in Venice*, the Queen of the Night in the Ensemble Studio production of *The Magic Flute*, and Amore in *Orfeo ed Euridice*. Ms Braid also understudies roles in *The Magic Flute*, *La Cenerentola*, and *Ariadne auf Naxos*.



Rihab Chaieb – *Cinderella*

Tunisian-born mezzo-soprano Rihab Chaieb is a new member of the Ensemble Studio. She graduated this year from the Schulich School of Music at McGill University with a bachelor of music in vocal performance, where she performed the title role in *Carmen*, Baba the Turk in *The Rake's Progress*, Sister Mathilde in *Les dialogues des Carmélites*, and Suzy in *La Rondine*. She recently performed Dido in *Dido* and Aeneas with the McGill Chamber Orchestra, and Third Spirit in *Die Zauberflöte* with Opéra de Montréal. Ms Chaieb has studied with Opera Nuova in Edmonton and the International Vocal Art Institute in Tel Aviv. In 2007, she received first prize and the most promising singer award at the National Association of Teachers of Singing. With the COC this season she performs the roles of the French Mother in *Death in Venice*, Third Lady in the Ensemble Studio production of *The Magic Flute*, Second Secretary to Mao in *Nixon in China*, and Tisbe in *La Cenerentola*. Ms Chaieb also understudies roles in *The Magic Flute* and *Ariadne auf Naxos*.



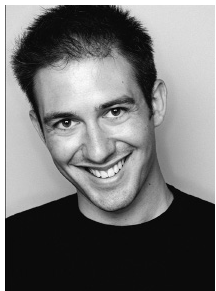
Neil Craighead – *The Beggar/The Page*

Bass-baritone Neil Craighead was born in Cape Town, South Africa, and raised in Calgary. Last season for the COC he sang the roles of the Oracle and the Trojan Man in *Idomeneo*, Japanese Envoy 2 in *The Nightingale and Other Short Fables*, and the Official Registrar in *Madama Butterfly*. Mr. Craighead graduated from the University of British Columbia in 2009 with a bachelor of music and was a member of the Vancouver Opera Chorus. He recently performed Don Alfonso in *Così fan tutte* and Sarastro in *Die Zauberflöte* with Opera NUOVA; the bass solo in St. John's Passion with Vancouver Voices; and Pistola in *Falstaff*, Dr. Furtwängler in *The Dream Healer* and Colline in *La Bohème* with University of British Columbia Opera Ensemble. He has received the Gordon S. Lumb Bursary, the UBC School of Music's 25th Anniversary Scholarship and the Ben Heppner Scholarship. This season, he performs the Russian Father in *Death in Venice*, The First Priest in *The Magic Flute*, The Speaker in the Ensemble Studio performance of *The Magic Flute*, and understudies roles in *Aida*, *The Magic Flute*, *La Cenerentola*, and *Ariadne auf Naxos*.



Heather Jewson – *Tisbe*

Mezzo-soprano Heather Jewson is making definitive performances throughout North America in her young career. In addition to a master's degree of music from the University of Toronto, Ms Jewson also holds a postgraduate diploma from the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, England, where she was a Major Scholar of the Peter Moores Foundation. Ms Jewson's operatic roles include; Tisbe (Aspen Summer Music Festival), Jessica in John Estacio's *Frobisher* (premiere at the Banff Centre for the Performing Arts); Prince Orlofsky in *Die Fledermaus*, Frau Reich in *Die Lustigen Weiber von Windsor* and Marcellina in *Le nozze di Figaro* all with the University of Toronto's Opera Division. She has also made appearances with the Sheffield Symphony Orchestra (U.K.), and Preston Opera. Recently Ms Jewson returned to the Aspen Summer Music Festival to sing the title role in Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia* with acclaimed conductor Jane Glover. She also made her debut with both the Jeunesses Musicales du Canada and Pacific Opera Victoria in the roles of Nicklausse (*The Tales of Hoffmann*), and Flora (*La Traviata*). Her upcoming concert performances include Duruflé's *Requiem*, and a concert of new music at the Alliance Francaise.



Michael Uloth – *The Beggar/The Page*

Born in Kitchener, bass Michael Uloth appeared last year with the COC as The Bonze in *The Nightingale and Other Short Fables* and the Imperial Commissioner in *Madama Butterfly*. Previous roles with the COC include Don Alfonso in the Ensemble Studio production of *Così fan tutte*, Snug in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Gavril in *War and Peace*. An alumnus of Glimmerglass Opera's 2007 Young American Artists Program, other operatic credits include Sarastro in *Die Zauberflöte*, Bartolo in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Il re di Scozia in *Ariodante*, Collatinus in *The Rape of Lucretia*, Superintendent Budd in *Albert Herring*, and Reverend John Hale in *The Crucible*. Mr. Uloth is a graduate of the University of Toronto with a master of music in opera, and also holds a bachelor of music and an opera diploma from Wilfrid Laurier University. This season, he appears as the Priest in St. Mark's in *Death in Venice*, Second Armed Man in *The Magic Flute*, Sarastro in the Ensemble Studio performance of *The Magic Flute*, and Truffaldino in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, as well as understudying roles in *The Magic Flute*.



Kate Carver – *Music Director*

Kate Carver is a much sought-after vocal coach, répétiteur and accompanist. She has been regularly employed by the Canadian Opera Company, the Opera Division at the University of Toronto, and Opera York. In addition Ms Carver has also been on the music staff in Marlena Malas' voice program at the Chautauqua Institute in Chautauqua, New York, at England's Britten Pears School, Broomhill Opera in Kent, British Youth Opera, the Banff Centre, University of Montreal, the Toronto Summer Music Academy and Stratford Summer Music. In addition she is highly in demand as a private vocal coach to professional and student singers in Toronto. Ms Carver was an apprentice with the Canadian Opera Company's Ensemble Studio and was sponsored by the Friends of Covent Garden Bursary to attend the prestigious National Opera Studio in London, England. She received a vocal coaching diploma from the Guildhall School of Music. While in England, Ms Carver studied Art Song with master coaches Martin Isepp and Graham Johnson. Ms Carver holds a bachelor and master's of music from McGill University, where she studied with Luba Zuk, Dale Bartlett, Michael McMahon and Dixie Ross Neill.



Andrea Grant – Music Director

Andrea Grant is a full time member of the music staff of the University of Toronto's Opera Division, a faculty member of the Banff Centre's *Opera as Theatre* program, and a member of the music staff of Wexford Festival Opera. She is active as a freelance collaborative pianist, and enjoys a variety of experiences encompassing recital, opera and musical theatre. Recent recital highlights include an evening of English song with British tenor Adrian Thompson, in Banff, and a lieder recital this March as part of the 2010 Hong Kong International Arts Festival with Canadian soprano, Simone Osborne. Ms Grant has been involved in the development and production of several new works with various North American companies, including Tapestry New Opera Works, Queen of Puddings Music Theatre, Soundstreams Canada, Calgary Opera, and Opera Omaha. She works regularly with Opera Atelier, Canada's Baroque Theatre Company, and also plays for Mirvish Productions, Toronto. Andrea received her honours bachelor of music in piano performance from Wilfrid Laurier University, and went on to complete a master of music degree in collaborative piano from the University of Western Ontario, and a diploma in operatic performance from the University of Toronto.



Anne Larlee – Music Director

Born in Campbellton, New Brunswick, Anne Larlee joins the COC Ensemble Studio program as an intern coach. She recently participated in the Opera Course at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London as a répétiteur. Upon completion of the course Ms Larlee was made an Artist Fellow, and as such she took on assistant conducting and coaching duties, along with accompanying recitals and chamber music. Ms Larlee holds an honours bachelor of music from the University of Windsor and a master of music in piano performance from Boston University. She has held accompanying positions at the Conservatoire National de Région de Nice, Boston University and the McGill Conservatory of Music, and has appeared on stages across Canada, the United States, France, Italy and the United Kingdom including London's Wigmore Hall. Operatic credits include work with the Centre for Opera Studies in Sulmona Italy, where she was the vocal coach for *Così fan tutte*; the British Youth Opera where she was the vocal coach and celeste player for *La rondine*; and, the Glyndebourne Festival.



Ashlie Corcoran – Director

A former Canadian Opera Company Ensemble Studio intern director, Ashlie Corcoran directed the COC's production of William Walton's *The Bear*, and apprentice directed the *Ring Cycle*, *Faust* and *La Traviata*. She has been the assistant director for *Tosca*, *Don Giovanni* and *Fidelio* at the COC, as well as assistant director for Opera North's production of *Roméo et Juliette*. Ms Corcoran is Artistic Producer of Theatre Smash for which she has directed *Tiny Dynamite*, *The Bus*, *Tijuana Cure* and produced *Norway.Today*. She was one of the Shaw Festival intern directors for the 2009 season, directing Sean O'Casey's *Bedtime Story*. Other directing credits include productions for Resurgence Theatre, Summerworks Festival, Luminato Festival, The Wrecking Ball and Alumnae Theatre. Ms Corcoran received an undergraduate degree from Queen's University and a master's in directing, awarded with distinction, from the University of London. She is a member of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab and participated in a directing residency at Berlin's Maxim Gorki Theater. Upcoming engagements include directing the world premiere of *A Boy Called Newfoundland* for Theatre Smash.



Robin Fisher – Designer

Robin Fisher makes her COC debut with this production. Ms Fisher graduated from the costume studies program at Dalhousie University and the scenography program at the National Theatre School of Canada. She has worked for many Canadian theatre companies including the Canadian Stage Company, the Great Canadian Theatre Company, the Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People and the Belfry Theatre, among others. Theatre credits include set and costume design for *The Syringa Tree*, *The Tempest*, *I, Claudia*, *The Ends of the Earth*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *My Fellow Creatures* and *The Danish Play*. Ms Fisher received a Dora Mavor Moore award in 2007 for Best Costume Design for *36 Views* with the Actors Repertory Company.

Michael Lewandowski – Stage Manager

Michael Lewandowski has worked with a large variety of Canada's foremost performing arts companies. Most recently, he worked as a Stage Manager for the Toronto Just For Laughs Festival. Other Stage Managing credits include *Dry Streak* (Grand Theatre), *Love Songs* (Queen Of Puddings), *Da Kink in My Hair* (UK Tour), and *Hansel & Gretel* (Canadian Opera Company: School Tour). Lewandoski has worked as an Assistant Stage Manager on such productions as *The Pillowman* (CanStage) and *They're Playing Our Song* (Welcome Wood Theatre). He has extensive Assistant Stage Managing experience with the Canadian Opera Company, having held the title for many productions, including *Maria Stuarda*, *Tosca*, *Elektra*, *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*, *Die Walküre*, *Carmen* and *The Nightingale and Other Short Fables*. Outside of live theatre, Lewandoski has also worked as the Floor Director for MTV Live (MTV), and Assistant Floor Director for CTV Fall Launch (CTV) and National Aboriginal Achievement Awards (Calgary, Vancouver for CBC; Saskatoon, Edmonton for Global TV).