

*Prairie Steam Collective  
&  
Colorado Chamber Orchestra*

*Presents  
Two Short Environmental Operas*

*Genesis: Adam and Eve Walk into a Bar...*

*&*

*Miracles: A Cricket, a Seagull, and a Mormon Walk into a Bar...*

*UW Visual Arts Lobby*

*Saturday April 23rd, 2022  
6:30-7:30pm*

## **Genesis: Adam and Eve Walk Into a Bar...**

Libretto by Jeffrey A. Lockwood

Music by Anne M. Guzzo

Music Director and Conductor: Thomas A. Blomster

Art and Stage Director: Ashley Hope Carlisle

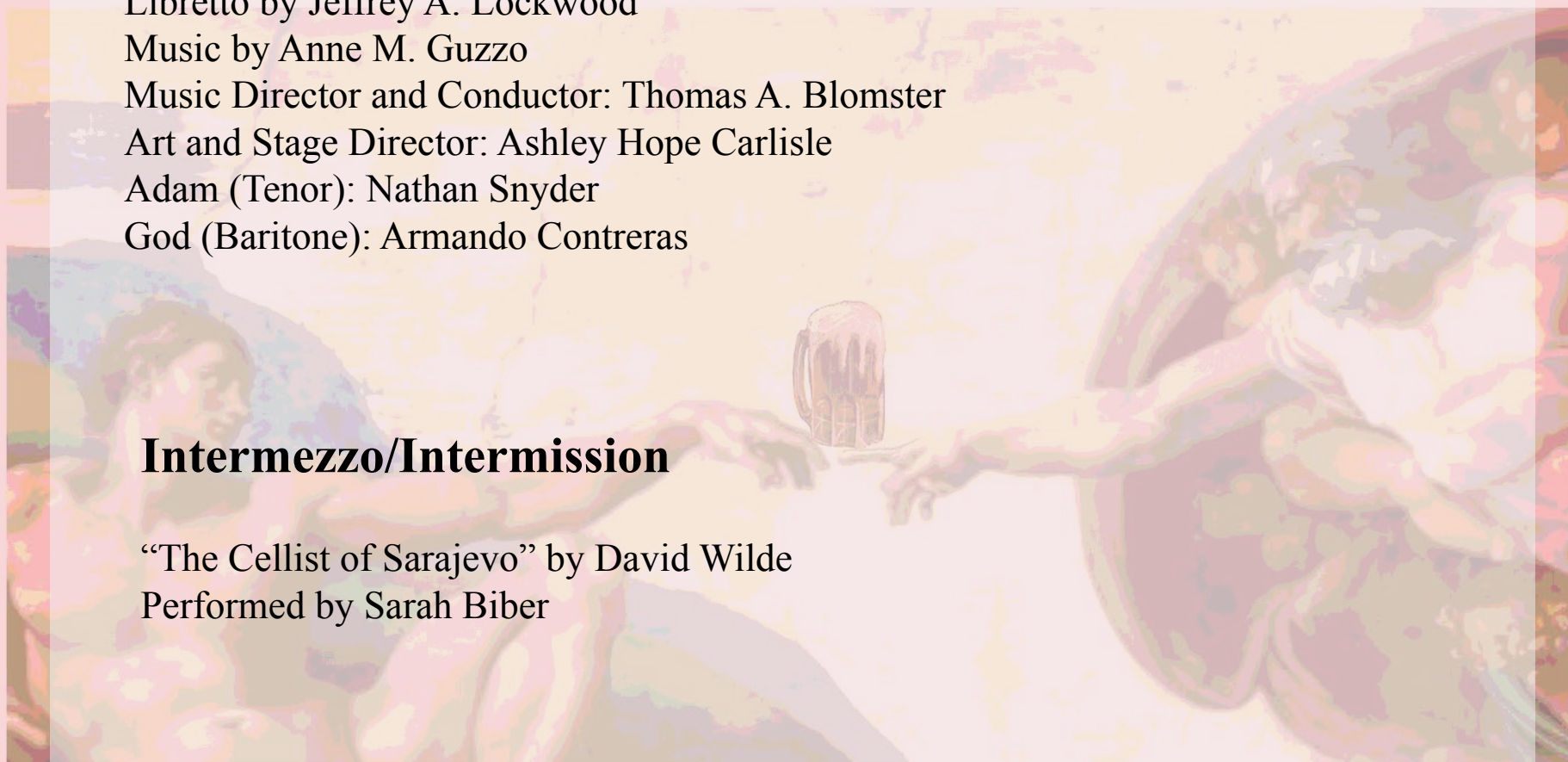
Adam (Tenor): Nathan Snyder

God (Baritone): Armando Contreras

### **Intermezzo/Intermission**

“The Cellist of Sarajevo” by David Wilde

Performed by Sarah Biber



## **Miracles: A Cricket, a Seagull, and a Mormon Walk Into a Bar...**

Libretto by Jeffrey A. Lockwood

Music by Thomas A. Blomster

Music Director and Conductor: Thomas A. Blomster

Art and Stage Director: Ashley Hope Carlisle

Seagull (Soprano): Liz Brooks

Mormon youth (Tenor): Nathan Snyder

Mormon cricket (Baritone): Armando Contreras

**Cello:** Sarah Biber

**Clarinet:** Elsbeth Williams

**Marimba:** Robert Jurksheit

**Audio Engineer:** Scott "Gusty" Christensen





***Anne M. Guzzo** is the composer of *Locust: The Opera*. She draws on science and nature, playful absurdism, and interdisciplinary collaboration to create music that has been described as alternately moving and humorous. Guzzo—an internationally performed composer and professor at the University of Wyoming—is passionate about new music. She founded and directs the Wyoming Festival in Grand Teton National Park. Her music has been heard on National Public Radio’s “Performance Today” and has been played by the AdZel Duo, Voices of Change, the Colorado Chamber Orchestra, Allégresse trio, the Empyrean Ensemble, the Divan Consort, Third Angle, and many others.*

For more about Guzzo, go to: [www.anneguzzo.com](http://www.anneguzzo.com)



***Jeffrey A. Lockwood** is the librettist for *Locust: The Opera*, which is based on his popular science book, *Locust: The devastating rise and mysterious disappearance of the insect that shaped the American frontier* (Basic, 2004). He earned a BS in biology and a PhD in entomology. He worked for 17 years as an insect ecologist at the University of Wyoming. In 2003, he metamorphosed into a Professor of Natural Sciences & Humanities in the departments of philosophy and creative writing. His writing has been honored with a Pushcart Prize, the John Burroughs award, and inclusion in the Best American Science and Nature Writing.*

For more about Lockwood, go to: [www.jeffreylockwoodauthor.com](http://www.jeffreylockwoodauthor.com)



Swiss-American **Thomas A. Blomster** has a BMus from Metropolitan State College of Denver and an MA from the University of Denver and he is the Music Director of the Colorado Chamber Orchestra. He has performed and studied throughout North America, Europe, and New Zealand. Blomster has worked with Aaron Copland (“the Dean of American Composers”), Krzysztof Penderecki (Poland’s greatest, living composer), and Karel Husa (Pulitzer Prize winner for Music) as well as members of the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, and the San Francisco Symphony. He has performed or conducted with several orchestras, including Theatre des Westens (Berlin), Orquesta Sinfonica de Mineria (Mexico City), and the Colorado Symphony Orchestra (Denver). Recently Maestro Blomster was awarded the Order of the Polar Star by the President of Mongolia.

For more about Blomster, go to: [www.cochamberorchestra.org/about-the-conductor/](http://www.cochamberorchestra.org/about-the-conductor/)



**Ashley Hope Carlisle** is the art director for *Locust: The Opera*. She creates art using drawing and sculptural processes to speak about how animals of all types disperse due to natural and environmental factors. Utilizing formal concerns, the sensitivity of touch, and luscious materiality, Carlisle produces works that provide visual guidance when confronting the uncomfortable, as well as reassurance when dealing with the inevitable. She has exhibited throughout the United States, Italy, and London. Originally from New Orleans, she received her MFA in sculpture from the University of Georgia and is Professor of Art in Sculpture at the University of Wyoming.

For more about Carlisle, go to: [www.ashleyhopecarlisle.com](http://www.ashleyhopecarlisle.com)



**Liz Brooks**

*Ms. Brooks is excited to be making her debut with the Colorado Chamber Orchestra! A graduate of Arizona State University with a master of music in opera and musical theatre she has had the amazing opportunity to pursue both styles of performance as well as teaching private voice lessons. Ms. Brooks has spent time performing for Disney Cruise Line, Prather Entertainment, Blue Gate Musicals, Bravo! Vail Opera Chorus, Opera Colorado Chorus, the Yuletide Carolers, as well as various venues in the Denver metro area.*

*Ms. Brooks' upcoming projects include: "For Love and for Laughs—a Cabaret for the Denver Theatre Community" at Vintage Theatre in Aurora, Colorado and "Nice Work If You Can Get It" as Estonia Dulworth with Performance Now Theatre in Lakewood, Colorado.*



**Armando Contreras**

*Praised for "the easy caramel syrup of his voice" (Opera Today), Mexican-American baritone Armando Contreras is quickly becoming a standout in the world of opera. In the 2020/2021 season, Mr. Contreras was seen as Ernesto in the US premiere of Bizet's Don Procopio with Pacific Opera Project, Il Conte in Le nozze di Figaro and Marcello in La bohème with Boulder Opera, and Diego Rivera in Frida and the Bravest Girl in the World with Opera Steamboat.*

*In the summer of 2021, he covered the role of Papageno in Mozart's The Magic Flute with The Glimmerglass Festival. In 2021, Mr. Contreras was a part of the world premiere of Aleksandra Vrebalov and Deborah Breevort's The Knock, singing the lead role Lt. Roberto Gonzales with The Glimmerglass Festival. Other highlights of his current season include his debut with Salt Marsh Opera as Moralès in Carmen, reprising the role of Diego Rivera in Frida and the Bravest Girl in the World with Central City Opera, joining Opera Steamboat in The Three Feathers as The King/Rat and making his Denver Philharmonic debut in L'elisir d'amore as Belcore.*

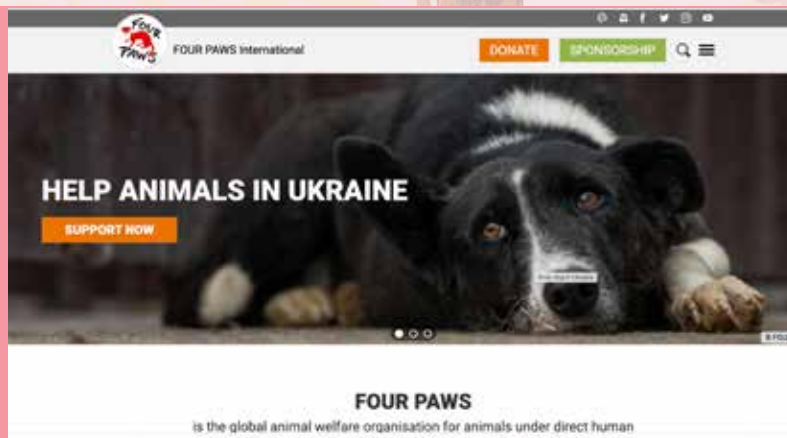
*This summer, Mr. Contreras will return to The Glimmerglass Festival to sing a lead role in the world premiere of the Rossini pastiche, Tenor Overboard, and cover Moralès in Carmen. In 2022-2023, Mr. Contreras will sing Marco in Gianni Schicchi and Council in Trial by Jury with Salt Marsh Opera. He will also make his company debut with Cincinnati Opera in the near future.*



### ***Nathan Snyder***

*Mr. Snyder sets himself apart with his energetic performances, commanding stage presence, and attentive musicianship. Praised for his “lovely” portrayal of Fenton in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and hailed as “riveting” in his performance of Don Jose in *Carmen*, Mr. Snyder attentively molds the music and characters together throughout the opera repertoire. Recently Mr. Snyder performed with Opera Kansas as Frederic in a sold-out production of *Pirates of Penzance*.*

*Amidst the pandemic, Mr. Snyder was able to perform in adaptive formats the role of Rodolfo in Puccini’s masterpiece *La Bohème* with Boulder Opera and Rodgers & Hammerstein’s *Jubilee* with Loveland Opera Theatre. Mr. Snyder has finally returned to the stage and is in the midst of a season of firsts, including *Trouble in Tahiti* with Opera Fort Collins, then singing William Royle, JB Turner, and Dewey Noyes in the world premiere of *Staggerwing* with Opera Kansas, *Prince Charming* in *Cendrillon* by Pauline Viardot with Loveland Opera Theatre, and *Manrico* in Verdi’s *Il Trovatore* with Boulder Opera.*



<https://www.four-paws.org>

*A Special Thank You to:*



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