

**OPERA ON TAP +
CIRCUS 617**

present

ARIAS ALOFT

*Midsummer
Magic*

**New England
Botanic Garden
at Tower Hill**

Featuring

Erin Anderson – soprano
Jaime Korkos – mezzo-soprano
Kathryn McKellar – soprano
Arielle Rogers-Wilkey - mezzo-soprano
Sally Naredla – piano

Alissa Feller - circus artist
Rin Judith - circus artist
Sophie Kaufman - circus artist
Tori Markwalder - circus artist
Reece Matthews – circus artist

Co-created by:

Ellen Waylonis and Kathryn McKellar



CIRCUS 617



New England
Botanic Garden
AT TOWER HILL



Arias Aloft Midsummer Magic
New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill
August 17, 2025
rain date August 18, 2025
Sally Naredla, Piano

“Come now a roundel” from *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* by Benjamin Britten
Erin Anderson, Soprano
Reece Matthews, Hula Hoop

“Summertime” from *Porgy and Bess* by George Gershwin
Arielle Rogers, Mezzo-Soprano

“Si no fuera porque tus ojos” by Peter Lieberman
Jaime Korkos, Mezzo-Soprano
Alissa Feller, Single Point Trapeze

“Meine lippen, sie küssen so heiß” from *Giuditta* by Franz Lehár
Kathryn McKellar, Soprano

“Stride la vampa” from *Il Trovatore* by Giuseppe Verdi
Arielle Rogers, Mezzo-Soprano

“Nature boy” by eden ahbez
Erin Anderson, Soprano

“Song to the moon” from *Rusalka* by Antonín Dvořák
Jaime Korkos, Mezzo-Soprano
Sophie Kaufman, Aerial Silks

Intermission

“Der hölle rache” (Queen of the night aria) from *The Magic Flute* by W.A. Mozart
Erin Anderson, Soprano

“Witch’s aria” from *Hansel and Gretel* by Engelbert Humperdinck
Arielle Rogers, Mezzo-Soprano
Tori Markwalder, Aerial Hoop

“There are fairies at the bottom of our garden” by Liza Lehmann
Kathryn McKellar, Soprano

“Ain’t it a pretty night” from *Susannah* by Carlisle Floyd
Jaime Korkos, Mezzo-Soprano

“Youkali” by Kurt Weill
Kathryn McKellar, Soprano
Reece Matthews, Aerial Rope

“Last midnight” from *Into the Woods* by Stephen Sondheim
Erin Anderson, Soprano

“Enfin, je suis ici” from *Cendrillon* by Jules Massenet
Jaime Korkos, Mezzo-Soprano
Sophie Kaufman, Tightwire

“Loathing” and “For Good” from *Wicked* by Stephen Schwartz
Erin Anderson, Soprano and Arielle Rogers, Mezzo-Soprano
Rin Judith and Tori Markwalder, Duo Trapeze

Upcoming Performances:

www.circus617.com

www.operaontapboston.com

www.nebg.org

Get the Inside Scoop on all of the Arias Aloft Happenings!

Cast and Creatives



Erin Anderson

Erin Anderson (she/her) is a versatile performing artist, equally at home on Musical Theater, Opera, and Concert stages. She is known for her captivating stage presence, expressive musicianship, and brilliant high notes. Some favorite performances include: Phoebe D'Ysquith (*A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*) at Marblehead Little Theater, *The Witch* (*Into The Woods*) and *Adele* (*Die Fledermaus*) with NEMPAC Opera Project, Anne (*A Little Night Music*) with Arlington Friends of the Drama, Valencienne (*The Merry Widow*) with VOX New England, Cunegonde (*Candide*) and Sophie (*Der Rosenkavalier*) with Lowell House Opera, Despina (*Così fan tutte*), Mabel (*The Pirates of Penzance*), and Laurie (*Oklahoma!*) with Riverside Theater Works. Erin is a member of the professional choral ensemble at First Church in Boston, and a performing member of the board of Opera on Tap Boston.



Alissa Feller

Alissa Feller (she/her) is a Boston-based multidisciplinary circus artist, creating solo, duo, and collaborative pieces for the stage. Well-versed in both aerial and ground acrobatics, she blends powerful technique with her unique expression to deliver captivating performances. One of her favorite aspects of performing is creating a shared experience where we can connect through joy, pain, and everything in between. Alissa has performed widely—from street shows and busking festivals across the U.S. and Canada to theatrical productions and corporate events, including the World Expo in South Korea. She has collaborated with notable companies such as Nimble Arts, Boston Circus Guild, Aerial Experience, and Circus 617. In 2024, she was awarded a Next Steps for Boston Dance grant. Alissa is also a coach at the Commonwealth Circus Center and with Circus Up, a Boston-based social circus organization, where she shares her passion for circus arts with others.



Rin Judith

Rin Judith (any/all) is a multi-disciplinary circus artist working both in the air and on the ground. As a kid, Rin could often be found dancing or climbing trees, and eventually training and competing in taekwondo. Rin stumbled upon circus as a young adult and immediately found themselves head over heels – and heels over head! Over the course of their circus journey, Rin has performed with companies including The Boston Circus Guild, Esh Circus Arts, and Commonwealth Circus Center. They are also a co-founder of the queer, nerdy circus collective Changeling Circus. Rin is excited to be performing in the Arias Aloft Summer Series!



Sophie Kaufman

Sophie Kaufman (she/her) is an aerialist specializing in aerial rope, trapeze, and rings. Sophie grew up in Vermont, where she discovered circus at a young age. She studied at the New England Center for Circus Arts, and began teaching at Esh Circus Arts in 2014. She has enjoyed performing throughout New England with Circus 617, NECCA, and the Forest of Mystery.



Jaime Korkos

Acclaimed for her "winning and beautifully balanced voice" (San Francisco Classical Voice), and her "depth and sensitivity" (*Opera Wire*), mezzo-soprano **Jaime Korkos** (she/her) is equally at home in classic and contemporary repertoire. Her roles span the dramatic gamut, including title roles in Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice*, Offenbach's *La Périchole*, Massenet's *Cendrillon*, and Dvorak's *Rusalka*, and the principal roles of Hannah After (*As One*), Anezka (*The Two Widows*) and Donna Elvira (*Don Giovanni*). Ms. Korkos sings regularly with Boston companies, including Boston Lyric Opera, Odyssey Opera, Opera on Tap, Mass Opera, and Boston Opera Collaborative. Ms. Korkos has also sung with Pocket Opera, Hubbard Hall Opera Theatre, Bel Cantanti Opera, and Opera Theatre of St. Louis.

On the concert stage, Ms. Korkos sang Luciano Berio's *Folk Songs* in Boston's Jordan Hall with musicians from both the NEC faculty and the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Korkos had previously given a full solo recital in the hall, her repertoire including Peter Lieberson's *Neruda Songs* and Schumann's *Frauenliebe und -leben*. She has sung with Maestro Gil Rose and the Boston Modern Orchestra Project (Charles Fussell's song cycle *November Leaves*), as well as with organist Richard Clark and the St. Cecilia String Quartet (Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*).



Tori Markwalder

Tori Markwalder (she/her) got her start training in competitive gymnastics, acting, and dance throughout school, before finding her true passion for circus arts while attending the University of Central Florida. Specializing in duo static trapeze and aerial hoop, she has trained at The Orlando Circus School, The Irish Aerial Creation Centre in Limerick Ireland, and is a graduate of Esh Circus Arts' Professional Preparatory Program. Since 2012 she has performed both nationally and internationally with companies such as Universal Studios Orlando, Life in Color, The Space Coast Ballet Company, The Boston Circus Guild, Changeling Circus, and Circus 617. When she's not in the air, Tori can usually be found buried in books, working on cosplays, or gaming.



Reece Matthews

Reece Matthews (he/him) is a circus artist based in Boston and Montreal. While aerial rope was his first specialty, he developed a passion for hula hoop during his first of three years at the National Circus School in Montreal, which he just completed. When he's not training or performing, you can find him journaling, cooking, reading, walking his dogs, playing the guitar, playing chess, learning languages, and much more!



Kathryn McKellar

Kathryn McKellar (she/her) is a multifaceted operatic soprano, educator, and arts leader, widely recognized as a passionate interpreter of opera, concert and theatrical works ranging from Baroque to contemporary. Praised by The Boston Globe for her “elegant singing” and “polish,” she has performed with Boston Lyric Opera, The Boston Pops, Lyric Stage Company of Boston, and Boston Modern Orchestra Project. In 2024, she made her debut with Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, earning acclaim as a “vocal standout,” with critics describing her performance as “ethereal and captivating” and The Boston Globe calling her “jaw-droppingly talented.”

As an arts leader, Kathryn is the General Director of Opera on Tap Boston, driving the chapter's decade-long mission to integrate opera into the community. Since 2012, she has forged innovative partnerships, secured major grant funding, and expanded opera into unconventional spaces, dramatically increasing audience engagement. Kathryn holds a Master of Music from Boston Conservatory where she was a member of the Opera Studio and the winner of the Conservatory's Chamber Music Honors Competition. She serves on the Board of the Boston Opera Alliance. Originally from Dallas, Texas, Kathryn resides in Somerville with her husband and two children.

www.kathrynmckellar.com



Sally Naredla

Sally Naredla (she/her), collaborative pianist, enjoys performing with singers, opera companies and chamber musicians alike. After studying at the Boston Conservatory, she served as rehearsal pianist and vocal coach for a number of opera companies in the greater Boston area including The Boston Conservatory, Odyssey Opera, Boston Midsummer Opera, and NEMPAC, and spent a season on the music staff at Sarasota Opera in Sarasota, FL. Sally went on to pursue a career in nursing and is now working as a Family Nurse Practitioner with Mass General Brigham. She lives with her husband and their little boy in Portsmouth, NH.



Arielle Rogers-Wilkey

Mezzo-soprano **Arielle Rogers-Wilkey** (she/her) is a New England native and recent Boston University graduate. Opera credits include Kate, The Pirates of Penzance and Katisha, The Mikado, Opera Providence; La Ciesca, Gianni Schicchi and Ensemble, Madama Butterfly, Don Pasquale, and Le Nozze di Figaro, Salt Marsh Opera. Recently, Ms. Rogers was seen as Maurya in Riders to the Sea, Almeria in Dark Sisters, & La zia Principessa in Suor Angelica; Opera Institute, BU. She has done extensive work with Boston Lyric Opera as Mary, Omar; Gertrude, Romeo and Juliet; and Ensemble, Madama Butterfly, Champion, La bohème, Norma, Pagliacci, and A Handmaid's Tale. Ms. Rogers-Wilkey took part in Odyssey Opera's production and album recording of X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X, which received a Grammy Award nomination. With OperaHub in Boston, she was honored to portray Sissieretta Jones in the world premiere of DIVAS, an operatic play with an all-female cast. Oratorio and orchestral solo credits include Handel's Messiah, Schubert's Magnificat, and Vivaldi's Gloria; as well as Carmen, Narragansett Bay Symphony Orchestra's Operatic Highlights; a Juneteenth & Phyllis Wheatley concert work with Castle of Our Skins; and the participatory educational concert Link Up! with the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra. ariellerogerswilkey.com



Ellen Waylonis

Ellen Waylonis (she/her) is a Boston-based multi-disciplinary circus artist, choreographer, creative producer, and intimacy director, and is a founding member of Circus 617. She has toured nationally with Circus 617, Boston Circus Guild, Cirque Productions, and Nimble Arts. Locally, she has performed and completed choreographic commissions for organizations including Celebrity Series of Boston, the Peabody Essex Museum, and the Museum of Fine Arts Boston. She was a 2021 Live Arts Boston grantee with Circus 617, a 2024 Creative and Independent Producers Alliance Fellow, and is a 2025 Next Steps for Boston Dance grantee. As a movement artist, Ellen creates work that subverts gender roles in circus, uplifts queer identity, and reimagines a world where human interactions center kindness. Ellen is co-founder and CEO of the circus school Esh Circus Arts in Somerville, MA, and in 2017 she was a member of the founding team for Commonwealth Circus Center in Boston's Jamaica Plain neighborhood.

About the Artists

Circus 617 is a collective dedicated to highlighting Boston-area circus artists in new works of contemporary circus, created right here in the city we love. Circus 617 productions meld the spectacular, expressive physicality of circus with theatrical and musical methods of storytelling. Founded in 2020, Circus 617 has created three touring productions and two recurring performance series to date, including the Arias Aloft series in partnership with Opera on Tap Boston. Learn more at www.circus617.com.

Opera on Tap Boston is a Boston based organization dedicated to bringing opera and classical music to diverse audiences in unconventional and accessible spaces. Through innovative programming and engaging performances, Opera on Tap Boston strives to make classical music an inclusive and enjoyable experience for all. Learn more at www.operaontapboston.com.

Get the Inside Scoop on all of the Arias Aloft Happenings!

Donations go directly to artists - via Venmo @OOTBoston