

The Champaign-Urbana Theatre Company

and

J. Barry Howell

present

The Sound of Music

Aug 1-4, 2024 - The Virginia Theatre

Cast and Crew Bios

Pete Barrett (Herr Zeller) is finally getting to do a show at the Virginia! Since coming to C-U in 2015, he has performed all over the area, most recently as Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird* (about as far from Herr Zeller as possible). Other prominent roles locally include Bill Austin in The Station Theatre's production of *Mamma Mia*, Mr. Simmons in Parkland College's production of *Memphis*, and Big Julie in CUTC's production of *Guys and Dolls*. He is a teacher at DACC. Thanks, Sheila!

Grace Beumler (Sister Sophia, u/s Maria) is delighted to make her CUTC debut in this production. No stranger to the stage, she has performed in roles such as Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*, Kate in *Kiss Me Kate*, and Missy in *The Marvelous Wonderettes*. She hopes you enjoy this beautiful score and story!

Sean Camp (Rolf) is a student and researcher under PhD candidate Megan Ringling at the University of Illinois pursuing a degree in biochemistry. CUTC: *The Music Man* (Tommy Djilas). Lincoln-Way East High School: *Into the Woods* (Steward) and *Sweeney Todd* (Ensemble). He would like to thank his family, friends, Larry David, and the amazing cast and creative team for allowing him to keep his love of theatre. He dedicates all shows to Joannie Kelly.

Kari Croop (Sister Berthe, Elsa u/s) is thrilled to be performing with her daughter, Nora, again on the Virginia Theatre stage! Kari last appeared as Eulalie Mackecknie Shinn in CUTC's *The Music Man* (2023). Other CUTC credits include Madame de la Grande Bouche in *Beauty and the Beast* (2007), Cinderella in *Into the Woods* (2011), Aunt Em/Glinda in *The Wizard of Oz* (2019), and the title role in *Mary Poppins* (2014). Big love to "the boys" at home — Andrew, Connor, Cameron and Baxter!

Nora Croop (Louisa) is entering 7th grade at Edison Middle School and is an apprentice with the Champaign Urbana Ballet. Past credits include Amaryllis in *The Music Man* (CUTC), Young Fiona in *Shrek: The Musical* (Illinois High School Theatre Fest/All-State), Young Merida in *Brave* (Champaign Ballet Academy), the Little Dutch Girl in *Miracle on 34th Street* (Three Brothers Theatre) and featured roles in CUB's *The Nutcracker*, *The Little Mermaid*, *The Sleeping Beauty* and *Swan Lake*. Enjoy the show!

Jeff Dare (Producer) is a long-time member of CUTC. He is a director (Parkland's *Sweeney Todd* and *Memphis*, CUTC's *Wizard of Oz* and others), actor (Harold Hill in CUTC's *Music Man 2011*, Jud Fry in *Oklahoma!*, Rev. Shaw in *Footloose*), vocal director (*Music Man 2023*, *Into the Woods*), and producer (*Shrek The Musical*). Jeff teaches music at Edison Middle School in Champaign. Much love to his kids, Rachael, and Dad.

Jacob Deters (Captain Von Trapp) is glad to be back on the Virginia stage. He was last seen on stage in *Falsettos* in the understudy cast as Marvin. His favorite roles include Robert (*Bridges of Madison Co.*, DLO) and Alex More (*Buyer & Cellar*, Spencer Theatre Company). Recently he directed *First Date* (Springfield Theatre Centre) and *Zombie Prom* (Parkland Theatre). He will be directing *Wedding Singer* at Parkland Spring 2025. Jacob sends his love to his partner, Jaime!

Jackson Diedrich (Max Detweiler) cannot believe how fortunate he is to be making his local theatre debut performing alongside his amazing fiancée Caitlin, after nearly a decade long hiatus from acting. Jack has enjoyed stepping into Uncle Max's shoes having previously performed roles like Conrad Birdie (*Bye Bye Birdie*), The King (*Cinderella*), and Pluto (*Orpheus in the Underworld*) to name a few from over the years. He hopes you enjoy the show!

Becky Forsythe (Frau Schmidt) is happy to be part of her first CUTC performance. She am delighted to be a part of the best musical ever and hopes to continue with CUTC.

Brian Hagy (Lighting Designer) is smiling ear to ear, because he can't stop singing every song in this show! And he is looking forward to singing these songs with you, the audience, as we all know we will be singing along, even if silently. Oh, and when he's not singing, he's doing his other favorite things: composing, filmmaking, and being goofy. Brian's delighted to be part of this show, his 5th on the tech crew for CUTC (100th something on tech overall). Thanks for supporting local arts!

Cindy Havice (Properties Designer/Set Decorator) has acted as properties designer/set decorator for 68+ productions in the C-U area. She has served in the capacity predominantly for the Champaign-Urbana Theater Company, but also for the Champaign Park District and the Virginia Theatre, Parkland College Theater, Station Theatre, among others. She has acted as floral decorator for many special events held in the area over the years. Cindy wishes to thank Autumn for her constant support and assistance, and her daughter, Whitney.

Whitney Havice (Director) has directed, choreographed, and/or appeared in over seventy productions. Recent directing credits include *Shrek the Musical* (CUTC), and recent choreography credits include *The Music Man* (CUTC) and *Zombie Prom* (Parkland College). She has also served as Dance Rehearsal Director for the Lyric Theatre @ Illinois and is the musical theatre dance instructor for CPD. A Champaign native, Whitney works at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts and is the Artistic Director for CUTC.

Claire Hege (Brigitta) is excited to be in this show with her sisters and her Dad. She has performed in shows with CPD and UPD, but this is her first show with CUTC. She has been a featured Oompa Loompa in *Willy Wonka*, a Silly Girl in *Beauty & the Beast*, a Nun/Ensemble member in *Newsies*, and played Cinderella in *Character Matters II*. She, and the whole cast, have worked hard this summer, and she is excited to perform for you! Enjoy the show!

Mark Hege (Baron Eberfield/Admiral von Schreiber/Ensemble) is grateful to be in this production with such a talented cast and crew. He is no stranger to CUTC and the Virginia, but has been on a two-decade break to raise a family, so he is especially happy and proud to be here on stage with his amazing daughters, with an additional shout out to his marvelous wife who runs the box office. He would like to thank the cast and crew for each time they put the "community" in community theater.

Sarah Hege (Ensemble) is very happy to do her second CUTC show of the summer, only this time she will be performing alongside most of her family. She has performed in many shows, including *Legally Blonde*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Amelie*, and many more with different companies across the Champaign-Urbana area. This year Sarah will be a freshman at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin where she will be majoring in Musical Theatre. She hopes you enjoy the show.

Theresa Hege (Ensemble) is excited to be in a CUTC Show with her family and friends. She has been doing shows with her sister, Sarah, for a while and now gets a chance to do it along with her little sister and father as well. She has performed in multiple shows with programs including UPD, CPD, and of course, CUTC. She really enjoyed performing in *Legally Blonde* with CUTC and is excited to do another show with this program.

Addie Hoegberg (Scenic Designer) is a recent graduate from UIUC with a BFA in Theatre: Arts and Entertainment Technology. Previous designs for CUTC include *The Music Man* and *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Her work has also been seen at the Station Theatre for *Describe the Night* (Lighting Design), *Usual Girls* (Scenic Design), and *Tick, Tick... Boom!* (Scenic Design). She would like to thank the whole team for working with her remotely and hopes you enjoy the show!

Emily Hogan (Maria) is delighted to be back with CUTC playing one of her dream roles! Previous roles include *Falsettos* (Trina u/s) and *Zombie Prom* (Delilah Strict). Emily thanks everyone involved in creating *Sound of Music*, in particular Whitney Havice, who makes every show spectacular. Special love and thanks to Emily's husband Adam, who managed building the beautiful set, and who never misses a single show she's in. Thank you all for coming and please enjoy this beloved musical.

Dave Ivy (Orchestra Director) is a veteran music theatre orchestra musician (38 different shows, 13 with CUTC, 53 productions total), an active low brass musician and Bass Guitarist in C-U and Danville, and a former band and choir director for 14 years. Since 2016, he has conducted four other CUTC productions - *Oklahoma!*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *The Music Man*. He appreciates being on the podium again for CUTC, and thanks everyone involved in the show.

Grace Kreps (Nun/Party Guest) is a rising junior in the Lyric Theatre program at the University of Illinois studying voice under the guidance of Professor Lara Brooks. She has been a part of dozens of shows in the Champaign area including *The Music Man* and *The Wizard of Oz* with CUTC, as well as *Newsies* with UPDYT. She has also performed in Lyric Theatre's Carnival and as a soloist in the Lyric Theatre with Marching Illini Halftime Show at a U of I Football Game. Break a leg to cast and crew!

Craig Krukewitt (Franz/Ensemble) is a charter CUTC cast member and he believes this now makes 25 productions total throughout the years (26 if you count his dog Paige's appearance in *Legally Blonde* very recently). Beyond the performing arts, his other great love is travel. And yes, he has been on THAT tour in Salzburg.

Brandi Lowe (Ensemble/Mother Abbess U/S) is thankful to be coming back to the stage. She was last seen in a musical in high school, but has been actively singing in the community in choirs ever since. She can't wait to join her "sisters" on stage in one of her favorite musicals of all time.

Braedan McDuffie (Friedrich) is a rising seventh grader at Franklin Steam Academy in Champaign. His love for musical theater has been developed by playing Bruce in Champaign Park District's *Matilda* and (as a last minute debut) Winthrop in Champaign-Urbana Theatre Company's *The Music Man*. Last spring, he played Charlie Brown in Franklin's *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. In the future, Braedan aspires to be a *Hamilton* cast member. For now, he enjoys playing video games with friends.

Michael Miller (Sound Designer) Born and raised in the Washington D.C. area, Michael received his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Montana and his Master of Music degree from The Ohio State University. He has performed throughout the midwest with regional theatre companies in a wide variety of shows. He has designed sound for productions of *Oklahoma!*, *Annie*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Sweeney Todd* among others.

Miranda Molina (Ensemble) is elated to perform with CUTC for the second time! For more than 20 years, Miranda has performed in community theater productions around Illinois. Some of her previous roles include Anne Shirley in *Anne of Green Gables*, Oliver Twist in *Oliver!*, and Maud Dunlop in *The Music Man*. She has also been in other productions such as *Seussical*, *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Gypsy*, and more. Miranda thanks her friends and family who came to see the show and the cast for the memories!

Nicole Morgan (Mother Abbess/Asst. Vocal Director) is excited to sing another summer show on the Virginia stage! Some recent credits include Mrs. Paroo in *The Music Man* (CUTC), Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd* (Parkland), Mamie Eisenhower in *First Lady Suite* (Parkland). Nicole has a fun business called Mama's Little Shop where she makes sensory friendly clothing and crocheted figures. She is also a busy mother to her 3 kiddos. She is dedicating these performances to her mom who has always wanted to see her sing this role.

Tina Radi (Liesl) would like to extend huge "thank you"s to Whitney, Nicole, Simon, Yen Vi, the cast, crew, and orchestra, and her family and friends. Tina's recent roles include Johanna in *Sweeney Todd* and Toffee in *Zombie Prom*. She hopes that you enjoy tonight's sounds of music and continue to support all forms of local art.

Caitlin Richardson (Elsa Schraeder) is thrilled to be making her CUTC debut this summer! She is particularly excited to share this production with her dad (Verlin Richardson, trumpet) and fiancé (Jackson Diedrich, Max). She looks forward to joining Illinois Wesleyan University's School of Theatre Arts as a voice instructor this fall. She would like to thank everyone who volunteered to help with this show, especially our incredible director (& more), Whitney.

Emily Ritter (Ensemble/Liesl u/s) is a junior studying Vocal Music Ed and Theatre here at EIU. Most recently she performed in EIU's production of *Children of Eden*. In February, she joined her cast and others worldwide to perform with the Manhattan Concert Productions, directed by Tony Yazbeck, in a professional performance of *Children of Eden* on the Lincoln Center Stage in NYC. Emily has greatly enjoyed this experience and would like to thank Whitney for giving her this opportunity to perform.

Coraline Ruud (Gretl) will soon be in 2nd grade and loves unicorns, cats, the color pink, rainbows, her family, and her friends. She is so excited to be in her first musical ever with CUTC! She has been dancing at Urbana Fine Arts Center for several years and was in CU Ballet's *The Nutcracker* last year. She wants to thank her Mom, Dad, and older siblings (Colton, Lydia, and Liam) for helping her prepare for the musical and her four cats for being cute and snuggly.

Sierra Smith (Ensemble) is very excited to be performing in CUTC's *Sound of Music*! A rising senior at Champaign Central High School, Sierra has been involved in theatre both locally and at her high school over the past seven years. Some favorite past productions include Central's *Matilda*, Central's *Little Women*, and Champaign Urbana Drama Makers' *Carrie: The Musical*. She would like to thank her friends and family for all of their support and she hopes you enjoy the show!

Noelle Song (Ensemble, Louisa/Brigitta u/s) is thrilled to be a part of this production! Some of her favorite past roles include Little Red Riding Hood in *Into the Woods*, Frieda in *Carrie*, and Young Amelie in *Amelie*. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support and her vocal coach, Janet Robb, for her guidance. Enjoy the show!

DJ Trinkle-Hague (Kurt) is glad to be in his first CUTC production. He has been in CU Ballet's *The Nutcracker* for the past three years, and last summer was a featured dancer and wolf in Urbana Park District's *Beauty and the Beast*. He is entering the 4th grade at University Primary School, and has had fun with the cast and crew. DJ thanks his family, teachers, directors, and choreographers for their support and hopes you enjoy the show!

Ila Trout (Marta Von Trapp) is thrilled to participate in her debut CUTC production. A dancer at the Champaign Ballet Academy, she has performed as a cow and mouse in *The Nutcracker*. She recently played a flying monkey in CU Ballet's production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Ila's first role in musical theater was as part of the ensemble in UPD's *Beauty and the Beast*. Ila wants to thank her singing teacher, Mr. Bill, as well as Ms. Jacki for their invaluable support during her audition preparation!

Karin Vermillion (Baroness Elberfeld/nun) is thrilled to be on stage in her third CUTC musical after many years of playing oboe in pit orchestras. She had a blast dancing in last year's production of *The Music Man*. Off stage, she works for the UIC College of Nursing and enjoys spending time with her daughter Cecilia who performed with her in CUTC's *Annie*. Enjoy the show!