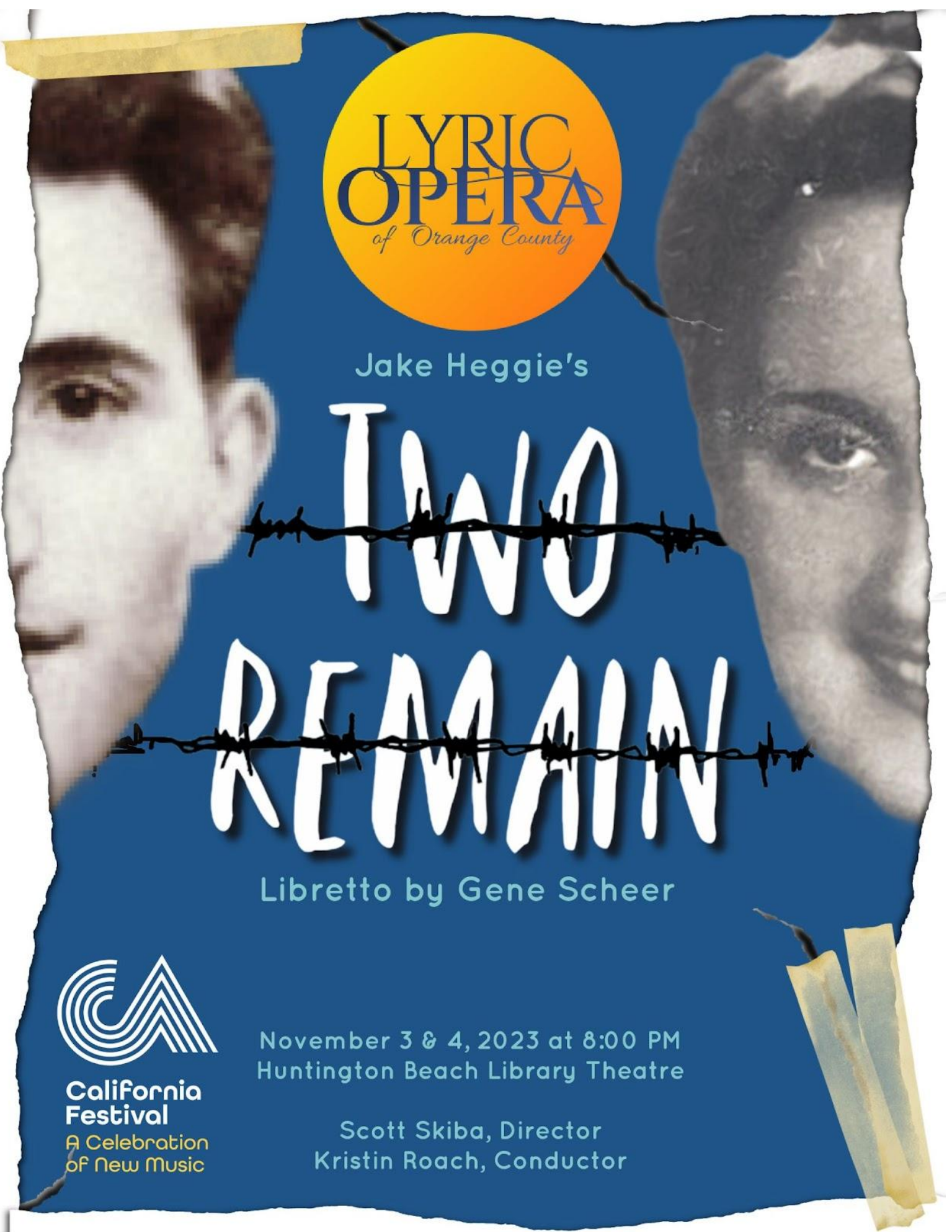




LYRIC  
OPERA  
*of Orange County*

Jake Heggie's



TWO  
REMAIN

Libretto by Gene Scheer



California  
Festival

A Celebration  
of New Music

November 3 & 4, 2023 at 8:00 PM  
Huntington Beach Library Theatre

Scott Skiba, Director  
Kristin Roach, Conductor

## **Background**

Her Jewish identity hidden, Krystyna Zywulska was a political prisoner at Auschwitz-Birkenau. In secret, she composed lyrics to inspire fellow prisoners, even as she carried out her harrowing job in the Effektenkammer: cataloging the personal effects of thousands of women and children before they were murdered in the ovens next door. She told her story in the book *I Survived Auschwitz*, published in 1946. Krystyna and her friend Zosia were on the same Polish transport to Auschwitz.

Gad Beck's story illuminates the Nazi persecution of homosexuals during the Holocaust. Beck's first true love, the poet Manfred Lewin, was 19 when he and his entire family were murdered in Auschwitz. It is estimated that more than 100,000 men and women were imprisoned for homosexuality during the Holocaust; it is not known how many thousands were killed. Even after the war was over, Paragraph 175, the German law prohibiting homosexuality, remained in effect until 1969.

## **Cast**

### Act 1

*1988, Dusseldorf*

Krystyna Zywulska - Diana Farrell

*1944, Auschwitz*

Mariola - Alexandria Burdick

Kryisia, the younger Krystyna Zywulska - Ella Yoon

Zosia - Kiana Hamzehi

Edka - Katherine Krasovec

### Act 2

*1988, Berlin*

Gad Beck - Phil Meyer

*From 1942*

Manfred Lewin - Michael O'Halloran

Featuring Leah McCall, Madeline McMillin, Ally Helman

## **Orchestra**

Conductor - Kristin Roach

Johanna Borenstein, flute

Erin Breene, cello

David Chang, clarinet

Chris Kollgaard, bass

Robert Schumitzky, violin

John-Micah Braswell, piano

## **Production**

Stage Director – Scott Skiba  
Assistant Director – Molly Noori  
Assistant conductor, pianist – John-Micah Braswell  
Choreographer – Ally Helman  
Stage Manager – Sara Blanton  
Technical Director – Dave Mancini  
Spanish Translation – Cesar Ballardo  
Supertitles Operator – Andi Dana

## **Special Thanks to...**

Jake Heggie, California Festival, Arts OC, Culture OC,  
City of Huntington Beach, OC Music & Dance, Taxel Creative,  
California Arts Council, Connie George, American Express, OPERA America,  
Arts OC, Ballet Project OC

## **Lyric Opera OC Board of Directors**

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## Meet LOOC

Lyric Opera of Orange County's mission is to engage with a modern and diverse audience by offering meaningful musical experiences that honor the operatic repertoire, feature artistic excellence, and present timely showcases of a traditional art form.

Our vision is to impact our community by bringing world class artistry, ideas, and programming to Orange County. We strive to entertain and educate our community by weaving traditional and innovative offerings into the rich cultural tapestry of our region as the premier organization for operatic excellence in Orange County.

## What's Next?

Visit [LyricOperaOC.org](http://LyricOperaOC.org) or call 949-854-4646



**Smyth's Fête Galante**  
March 8-10, 2024  
Chance Theatre  
Anaheim, CA



**Hansel & Gretel**  
May 11 & 12, 2024  
Yost Theatre  
Santa Ana, CA

**John-Micah Braswell** is a pianist, collaborator, and vocal coach who has been making music as a coach at UCLA since 2021. His productions there include Henry Purcell's Dido and Aeneas, Igor Stravinsky's The Rake's Progress, Kay Rhie's Quake, and Richard Danielpour's The Grand Hotel Tartarus. In 2023, he began work with USC for Douglas Moore's Gallantry, a world premiere of Uljas Pulkiss's All The Truths We Cannot See: A Chernobyl Story and a production of Christoph Gluck's Orfeo ed Euridice. He has worked with Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, Lyric Opera of Orange County, and Opera Buffs. John-Micah made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2019, performing Liszt's La Campanella after winning the Semper Pro Musica competition.



Other honors include receiving 1st place at the Baylor Rising Stars, MTNA, Steinway, Loveland Orchestra, Denver Philharmonic Orchestra, Greeley Chamber Orchestra, and Baylor Summer Piano Institute competitions, 2nd place at the CSMTA competition, 3rd place at the Kawai, Yamaha, and Schmitt Music competitions, and being selected as a finalist in the Baylor Concerto Competition, Colorado Piano Festival, and Arthur Frasier International Piano Competition. John-Micah has performed as a featured soloist with eight orchestras including the Colorado Symphony.

**Alexandria Burdick** is a soprano born and raised in Bakersfield, CA. She comes from a very musical family and grew up as a performer both in choirs and musical theater, where she found a true calling to music and performance. She then moved to Orange County and recently received her Bachelors in Music with an emphasis in Vocal Performance from California State University, Fullerton. Since graduating, Alexandria has been working as a staff singer for the Grammy-Award winning Pacific Chorale and performing in operas locally in Orange County, most recently with Pacific Symphony. She has recently performed as a soloist on Einhorn's Voice of Light, and Allegri's Miserere. She has performed at the Hollywood Bowl, Honda Center, Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Carnegie Hall, and Anaheim convention center with artists such as Andrea Bocelli, John Williams, Deborah Voight, and Kathleen Battle.

Hailed for her "golden voice," **Diana Farrell's** role highlights include the titular role of Puccini's Tosca, Magda in Menotti's The Consul, and Verdi's Lady Macbeth, for which her "passionate intensity..." earned high praise as she "consistently sang with beauty and sensitivity." She has also appeared as Rosalinda (Die Fledermaus), Contessa Almaviva (Le nozze di Figaro), Micaëla (Carmen), Anna Maurant (Street Scene), Berta (Il barbiere di Siviglia), Miriam (Lee Hoiby's The Scarf), and the title role of Amelia Goes to the Ball. In 2023, she made stage debuts with Pacific Opera Project, Pacific Symphony, and San Diego Opera and was a winner of the American Prize for Women in Opera. She is a staff singer with the Grammy award winning Pacific Chorale. She is librettist and producer for the Assyrian Arts Institute's new work, *Gilgamesh*.

**Kiana Hamzehi** holds degrees in both Vocal Performance and Theatre Arts from California State University, Fullerton. Her studies there culminated in the role of Zita in the school's double billing of Gianni Schicchi and Buoso's Ghost. She was seen on stage most recently as the Witch in Pacific Symphony's Family Musical Mornings' production of Hansel and Gretel earlier this year. Other favorite roles from the stage include: The Sorceress (Dido and Aeneas), Reno Sweeney (Anything Goes), Mimi (RENT), and the Witch (Into the Woods). Kiana also records and releases her own music and teaches voice and piano all over the LA metropolitan area.

**Katherine Krasovec**, mezzo soprano, is a graduate of The Juilliard Opera Center and San Francisco Opera's Merola Young Artist Program. She has performed at The Metropolitan Opera, Spoleto Festival USA, Weill Hall/Carnegie Hall, National Theater of Prague and Theater Bremen, Germany. Her career spans engagements throughout

Europe, North America, and the Middle East. After becoming a MET winner, she made her debut at The Metropolitan Opera as a Woodsprite in *Rusalka*, among other roles. Ms. Krasovec's more recent performances include a world premiere of a one-woman monodrama *The Echo Drift* by Mikael Karlsson with The Prototype Festival in NYC. She recently debuted with Jacaranda Music in Los Angeles in *The Bakkhai* by Dylan Mattingly. She returned to Jacaranda Music in early 2023 performing the world premiere of three arias from *The Exterminating Angel* by Thomas Adès. She was engaged for five seasons in Germany and Czech Republic, notably the debut of Frid's *Das Tagebuch der Anne Frank* in the title role. She made her Spoleto USA debut in Philip Glass's *Kepler*. Additionally, she was the first American to sing the title role in Janacek's *The Cunning Little Vixen*, and the British *Dancing Girl* in John Adams' *The Death of Klinghoffer* at The National Theater of Prague. While at the Juilliard Opera Center, Ms. Krasovec was the recipient of the prestigious Juilliard DeRosa Grant. She earned her Bachelor of Music Degree from the University of Denver Lamont School of Music and her Master of Music Degree from the Indiana University, Jacob School of Music.

**Phil Meyer** is delighted to be debuting with Lyric Opera of Orange County as Gad. He has sung leading and supporting roles as Old Guys, Bad Guys and Funny Guys for many California companies including the Mendocino Music Festival, Center Stage Opera, Vox Vicalis, Repertory Opera Company, Mission Opera, LA Metropolitan Opera, Celestial Opera and Angel City Opera. He is most proud of his work with the Pacific Opera Project, where he is a founding member, most recently playing the Narrator/Mysterious Man in *Into the Woods*.

**Michael O'Halloran** has recently been seen as Sharpless in Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*, Marcello in Puccini's *La bohème*, Mizgir' in the West Coast premiere of Rimsky-Korsakov's *Снегурочка*, Guglielmo in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Mercutio in Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*, Don Annibale in Donizetti's *Il Campanello*, Dancaïro in Bizet's *Carmen*, King Melchior in Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, Peter in *Hansel and Gretel*, and Lysander in Purcell's *The Fairy Queen*. He workshopped the role of Tenorio in Armienta's *Bless Me*, Ultima with Opera Southwest, and performed the role of the Policeman, as well as covered *Orphée* in Philip Glass' *Orphée* as an Emerging Artist at Virginia Opera. While at Manhattan School of Music, he was seen as Pisandre in Fauré's *Pénélope*, and Vernon in *Summer and Smoke*, having the honor of being a part of the world premiere recording, which was hailed as one of the "Top Ten New Recordings" by Opera News. He is proud to be the first American vocalist to be a Junger Künstler Bayreuth at the Bayreuther Festspiele. He has performed as a featured soloist with the Aspen Festival Orchestra, the Marina del Rey Symphony, and the Lucca Festival Symphony Orchestra.

**Kristin Roach** is a Grammy-nominated pianist and international conductor with 37 new operas and 21 world premieres under her baton. Kristin Roach is committed to the ongoing evolution of opera in the 21st century by leading newly composed works,

championing underrepresented artists and creators, and training the next generation of performers.

Recently completed projects include Thumbprint for Chautauqua Opera Theater, Suor Angelica, Curlew River, and The Nefarious, Immoral but Highly Profitable Adventures of Mr. Burke and Mr. Hare for Lawrence Opera Theater, La Cenerentola for Pacific Opera Project, and Prima la musica poi la parola for Vocal Academy of Opera in Bodrum, Turkey.

Ms. Roach serves as Assistant Professor of Opera at Lawrence University, and Conductor at Chautauqua Opera Company and Conservatory. Previous positions include Founding Music Director of Alamo City Opera, where she conducted seventeen productions including many South Texas premieres, and Music Director of Spotlight on Opera. Ms. Roach has prepared productions for the San Francisco Opera, San Diego Opera, Tulsa Opera, Utah Opera, Opera San Antonio and many others.

Award-winning Stage Director **Scott Skiba** has led more than 70 new productions, earning recognition for his imaginative stage direction and dynamic physical approach to storytelling that is “masterful... ingenious... first-rate...vivid and emotionally charged.” Scott serves as Executive Artistic Director of Cleveland Opera Theater, where his recent production of La Traviata was named “the best professional opera production Cleveland has seen in years.” Scott has made multiple company debuts in recent years including Pensacola Opera, Opera Tampa, Toledo Opera, Natchez Festival of Music, Opera Grand Rapids, Opera Western Reserve, Mobile Opera, and Hawaii Performing Arts Festival. Scott is the recently appointed Production Director for Opera Western Reserve. A proponent of new opera, Scott launched {NOW} Fest, Cleveland Opera Theater’s annual event to create, develop, and produce new opera works, and he serves on the Chamber Opera Composition Committee for the National Opera Association. Scott serves as Assistant Artistic Director for the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, and Movement & Acting Instructor for Music Across the Pond. Previous appointments include: Executive Director of the Oberlin in Italy opera training program, Instructor of Voice and Opera Theater, Interlochen Arts Academy; Production Designer, East Carolina University Opera Theater, and Associate Instructor of Voice, Indiana University Jacobs School of Music.

Soprano **Ella Yoon** is a native of Seoul, Korea whose operatic credits include Violetta in Verdi’s La Traviata, Mimi in Puccini’s La bohème, Gilda in Verdi’s Rigoletto, Le Fée in L’enfant et les Sortilèges (Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra), Servilia from La clemenza di Tito (CCM), and Erste Dame in Die Zauberflöte (Incheon Symphony Orchestra in Korea). Ms. Yoon earned the First prize in the Three Arts Competition in Cincinnati and was a finalist of Korea National Opera Competition.



## Lyric Opera OC has been offered a 2:1 Match for a \$50,000 fundraising goal

We are so grateful to the Gonzales Family, who has offered \$20,000 worth of matching funds for our end of the year fundraising campaign - BUT, it gets even better! The Graulich family will add an ADDITIONAL match to the first \$10,000 raised! That means your \$100 donation becomes \$300. This gives us the chance to raise \$50,000 or more! Your support is more crucial now than ever before. Please consider making your year-end, tax deductible donation early this year. The fundraising window ends midnight, December 31, 2023. You can also choose to Fund-A-Need by mentioning one of the suggested items below in your donation notes. Give today at [www.lyricoperaoc.org/donate](http://www.lyricoperaoc.org/donate)



### Fund a Need:

- \$179 Prime Membership
- \$220 Monthly Storage Rental
- \$350 Insurance Premium
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- \$500 Scenes Program Scholarship
- \$600 Monthly Rent
- \$650 Professional Memberships
- \$750 1 Day Audition Expense
- \$1,000 Online Presence
- \$1,500 Sponsor an Artist
- \$1,680 Annual Phone Costs
- \$1,900 CPA/Bookkeeper Yearly
- \$2,000 Guest Educator Accommodations
- \$2,500 Sponsor a Classroom
- \$3,000 Annual Scholarship Prizes

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