



# RIDERS

## TO THE SEA

the musical

MUSIC BY

Ralph Vaughan Williams

BASED ON THE PLAY BY

John Millington Synge

DIRECTED BY  
George Abud

ADAPTATION BY  
Phoebe Corde & Jake Landau

MUSIC DIRECTED BY  
Jake Landau

June 9 & 10 at 7:30pm | June 11 at 3pm

BROOKLYN ART HAUS  
24 MARCY AVE, BROOKLYN

# Off-Brand Opera

presents

## Riders to the Sea: The Musical

Music by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Based on the play by John Millington Synge

Adaptation by Phoebe Corde and Jake Landau

Orchestrations by Jake Landau

Directed by George Abud

Concieved & Music Directed by Jake Landau

Assistant Directed by Sadie Veach

Featuring Clarum Sonum, conducted by Rider R. Foster

### Cast (in alphabetical order):

Siobhan.....	Cecilia Carollo
Maurya.....	Christine Duncan
Bartley .....	Sam Hoffman
Ailbhe .....	Sydney Kamel
Nora .....	Michelle Pauker
Cathleen .....	Camille Umoff

### Clarum Sonum:

Christian Arencibia  
Katherine de Koninck  
Meredith Gleason  
Kimberlee Korzelius  
Jillana Kucey  
Zachary Morehouse  
Paige Porter  
Natasha Scheuble  
Veronica Shea  
Noah Stevens  
Richard Whitney

## Musical Numbers:

*Serenade to Music*  
presented by Clarum Sonum

### *Riders to the Sea: The Musical*

Overturetta – Full Fathom Five .....	Ensemble
Sigh No More, Ladies .....	Siobhan (with Bartley)
I Have Lived and Loved.....	Ailbhe
Home.....	Bartley & Nora
Twilight People.....	Maurya
The Waves .....	Ensemble
I Went Down to the Spring Well.....	Maurya
How Cold The Wind Doth Blow .....	Ailbhe
The Roadside Fire .....	Siobhan
Silent Noon .....	Nora
Youth and Love.....	Cathleen
They Are All Gone Now .....	Maurya (with Ensemble)
Full Fathom Five (Reprise).....	Ensemble

## Orchestra:

Piano .....	Jake Landau
Viola .....	Alexia DelGiudice
Cello .....	Anthime Miller
Guitar .....	Ravi Campbell
Piano cover.....	Eduardo de la Vega Garza

## SPECIAL THANKS

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Thank you to the people in our lives who have supported us throughout the all-consuming process of creating and putting together this show. Off-Brand Opera owes its existence to a tireless team of people donating their time, money, skills, rehearsal spaces, childcare, support, and creativity to make this show happen.

Thank you to: Oje Aisiku, Faisal Alam, Andrea DelGiudice, Hilary Detmold, Justin Kirck and The Adventurer's Supply Store, Daniel & Katrina Kennedy, Dr. William & Marla Kennedy, Elayne Landau, Lou Ann Salkin, and Brian Staufenbiel.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

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When I first explored *Riders to the Sea* I was met with an interesting artistic question: Where is “hope”? Or at least hope as it might be felt in the 21st century? As I dove further and further into the piece and its vivid, earthen characters, I came back with a new thought: Does a piece of art need to have hope? Or is hope something different than I thought it to be? Might hope in this story be something more akin to relief?

In our update of *Riders*, which might be called *Maurya and her daughters*, myself and the incredible adaptors, Phoebe Corde and Jake Landau, have expanded Maurya the mother’s deep sense of relief by having her eyes widened to those who have remained by her side regardless of her temperament and emotional insularity. This has also been helped by the addition of two new characters, Ailbhe and Siobhan, the wives of her two youngest sons. Maurya must not only share the love and grief over her sons with her own daughters, but now, also, her daughters-in-law.

In our story, and very much the mission of the Off-Brand Opera Company, we have used the traditional singing of Opera as a way that Maurya the mother has kept herself emotionally ostracized from the rest of her family. Her music here is not only an expression of her grief, but now functions as an almost unwillingness to speak clearly. The singing of the younger generation fits more into a traditional musical theatre structure where music comes from a need to express an unspeakable feeling. Through all this, we now see deeper into the inner lives of the younger generation through their own connection with singing, or in some cases, refusal to sing. Also, affording Maurya the opportunity to allow the younger generation in by musically uniting in their shared grief. The result, we hope, is something that expands the thought of the original play of Synge, as well as the work of Vaughan Williams, by bringing the hopefulness of the younger generation more into focus, and allowing the older generation to realize that all of us “left living in the world” must come together lest we squander the precious moments we are granted on this earth.

I am deeply grateful to Off-Brand, my heroic cast, my beautiful collaborators, and to the profound work of Synge and Vaughan Williams for the privilege of offering this familial story of love and grief that we all share in some way.

- George Abud

## MUSIC ADAPTOR'S NOTE

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Ralph Vaughan Williams's opera *Riders To The Sea*, which our show is an adaptation of, is a brilliant but challenging piece. There are moments of extraordinary beauty, but they are separated by long stretches of formless, trying recitative. For those familiar with Debussy's unique opera *Pelleas et Melisande*, Vaughan Williams took a similar approach: setting the playwright Synge's text word-for-word without cuts or any of the other adjustments typical of musicalizing a piece of theater. To speak "I love this weather we're having" takes two seconds; to sing it can take ten. And that adds up quickly.

The impetus for this project was the desire to make the original *Riders* opera's most beautiful moments able to be absorbed and enjoyed by all. This adaptation came from a place of deep study and even deeper love. That which held the opera back has been analyzed, mined for its value, and reworked through reverent reinvention to suit the expressive desires of our own production.

Too often are companies -- especially in the world of opera -- too strictly beholden to the perceived yet completely subjective "intent" of the composer. As a composer myself, I feel this goes against the very thing that makes live music and theater unique: the need for it to be realized afresh with every production, every performance. The dream is for skilled, creative hands reverent of the original material to take the best of what a composer has written and transform it for themselves, for their time, and for their own modes of expression. In turning *Riders To The Sea* into, essentially, "Vaughan Williams the musical", we believe we've done that here.

All the music in this show is composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Much comes from the opera on which this musical is based, but just as much has been interpolated from his diverse output of song cycles, choral pieces, and symphonies. My principal job from a purely musical perspective was basically to stay out of Vaughan Williams's way as much as possible -- and, indeed, to get him out of his own -- and point all in the direction of telling Synge and Phoebe Corde's beautiful story in this unique new way.

- Jake Landau

## ABOUT OUR ARTISTS

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**Cecilia Carollo** (Siobhan) [she/her] Hi! I'm Cecilia Carollo, but also go by Ceci! I'm 21 years old, born in Brazil, and have been with the performing arts since I was 3. I grew up singing, acting, and dancing on the stage. Being a storyteller artist, I came to New York to study Musical Theatre at The American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA), and share my views in my character work. Some of my work includes Helena from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Imelda Rivera in an adaptation of *COCO*, and The Queen of Hearts from *Alice In Wonderland*. My hobbies include: bursting into random songs, drawing, playing the piano, reading tarot cards, and drinking coffee.

**Christine Duncan** (Maurya) [she/her] has always been fascinated by the voice and all the different ways it can sound, convey emotion, and tell a story. Trained simultaneously in classical, world folk and musical theater, she has developed a passion for a diversity of vocal styles and projects that cross genre boundaries. Her pursuit of vocal performance has led Christine to work with companies such as Grammy-winning Odyssey Opera/Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Beth Morrison/White Snake Projects, New Amsterdam Opera, The Center for Contemporary Opera, Fresh Squeezed Opera, Astoria Music Festival and the Narnia Festival. Favorite recent roles include The Witch in *Into The Woods* (Off-Brand Opera), La Principessa in *Suor Angelica* (Narnia Festival) and Nemine in *Captain* (Susanna Payne-Passmore/University of Oregon). Christine is a founding member of Off-Brand Opera and thrilled to embark on another exciting project with this amazing musical family!

**Sam Hoffman** (Bartley) [he/him] is thrilled to make his NYC and Off-Brand Opera debut in *Riders to the Sea*. A recent graduate of Syracuse University (BFA MT), he performed last summer as a vocalist in the production cast of Norwegian's RSS Explorer cruise ship. In April, he played the role of "Logan Leibowitz" in Farmers Alley Theatre's comedy, *Chicken*

& *Biscuits*. Other credits include: *Grumpy Old Men: the Musical* (Onstage swing) at Plaza Theatricals, *A Grand Night for Singing* (Man 5) at SU Dept. of Drama, *Walmart Live* with TBA Global, and a chorus member in MCP's *Parade* and *The Secret Garden* at Lincoln Centre (conducted by Jason Robert Brown and Michael Kosarin, respectively). He is so grateful to bring Bartley to life in this wonderful adaptation! samhoffman7.com @samsteven.h

**Sydney Kamel** (Ailbhe) [she/her] is an actress, singer, dancer who has trained with the Syracuse University Department of Drama for her BFA in Musical Theater, and she has additionally spent time training at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London. She began story-telling at a young age, and since then, she has never been able to stop! During her time as a performer, Sydney has gained experience writing plays and writing original music for shows and albums, swinging and understudying, and she has gained experience in both on-stage and on-screen acting. Sydney is a huge believer in doing every small act with immense joy and love, and using the arts to lift others up and pursue the betterment of this world.

**Michelle Pauker** (Nora) [she/her] is an actress, singer-songwriter, and artist from Westport, CT. She was most recently seen performing her own tribute concert to Joni Mitchell, *The Gallery*, as part of Music at MoCA's concert series. Past credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Idaho Shakespeare Festival), *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Great Lakes Theatre Co.), *Into the Woods* (Forestburgh Playhouse). Michelle is grateful to the team at Off-Brand Opera for creating a space where artists can embrace their curiosity, explore, collaborate, and push boundaries! www.MichellePauker.com

**Camille Umoff** (Cathleen) [she/her] is so excited to be a part of such a unique musical work. Recently, Camille originated the role

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of Renia Spiegel in the world premiere cast of *Witnesses* at the California Center for the Arts Escondido and played Tanja Visser in developmental workshops of the new musical *Maiden Voyage*. Other select theater credits include: *How to Defend Yourself* (Lincoln Center Reading, Ojai Playwrights Conference), *Fun Home*, *Into the Woods*, and *She Loves Me* (Yale University). On screen, she can be seen in the upcoming *Mean Girls Musical* and *Cat Person*, which premiered at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival. She will be pursuing an MFA in Acting at The Juilliard School starting in Fall 2023.

**George Abud** (Director) [he/him] is an Arab-American actor and director. *Riders to the Sea* marks his New York directorial debut. As an actor, he was nominated for the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Featured Actor in a Musical for his role as Nerd Face in *Emojiland* at The Duke on 42nd Street. On Broadway, he has originated roles in *The Band's Visit* starring Katrina Lenk & Tony Shalhoub, for which he received a Daytime Emmy Award; as well as *The Visit* starring Chita Rivera & Roger Rees; featuring on both Original Broadway Cast Albums. Off-Broadway: *The Beautiful Lady* directed by Anne Bogart (La MaMa); *Cornelia Street* opposite Norbert Leo Butz, *The Band's Visit* directed by David Cromer (Atlantic Theater Company); *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* opposite Raúl Esparza, *Nathan The Wise* opposite F. Murray Abraham, Ibsen's *Peer Gynt*, Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Allegro* (Classic Stage Company); *Lolita, My Love* (York Theatre Company). Regional: *Lempicka* directed by Rachel Chavkin (Craig Noel Award nom., La Jolla Playhouse), *August Rush* directed by John Doyle (Paramount Theatre); *Annie Get Your Gun* directed by Sarna Lapine (Bay Street Theater); and Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Geva Theatre Center).

**Phoebe Corde** (Adaptor & Dramaturg) [she/her] is a dramaturg, writer, and illustrator from Westport, Connecticut, specializing in stories of the strange, magical, and otherworldly. She is currently Resident Dramaturg at The Civilians,

an investigative theater company based in Brooklyn, NY, where she is director of their artistic development group, the R&D Group. She was previously New Work Development Assistant at The Public Theater, where she provided dramaturgical notes and creative support to shows like *Ain't No Mo'*, *Wild Goose Dreams*, and Disney's *Hercules*. She has a BFA in Creative Writing from Connecticut College, where she was awarded the Sally Abrahms Prize in Fiction. <https://phoebecorde.wixsite.com/portfolio>

**Jake Landau** (Music Director & Adaptor) [he/him] b. 1995, is a composer and music director based in New York City. His works have been performed by the New York Philharmonic, Houston Grand Opera, and headlining Broadway stars in venues as diverse as Carnegie Hall, Birdland Jazz Club, and the Royal Palace of Amsterdam. Select works of his have been published by G. Schirmer (*Ayres*, for SA and piano) and Edition Peters (*Hardware Love*, for orchestra). Landau is the youngest-ever winner of the Walter Hinrichsen Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters; one of NYFOS'S (New York Festival of Song) "9 under 34" composers; a Clarendon Scholar of Oxford University; and an Extension-Division faculty member at Juilliard in New York, where he is based full-time. Landau is represented by UIA Talent Agency. [www.JakeLandau.com](http://www.JakeLandau.com)

**Sadie Veach** (Assistant Director) [she/her] is thrilled to be making her directorial debut alongside her sweet "big brother" George. TV: Young Shira in Harlan Coben's *Shelter* (Amazon Studios and MGM); Sienna Barton in *Law and Order* (S22 E18); Sadie can also be seen as Whitney in the feature film *Lucy and Whitney*, and various shorts. Theatre: Shay in *Fish in a Tree* (NYCCT); Cassius in *Julius Caesar*; Grusha in *Caucasian Chalk Circle*; Caroline Bingley in *Pride and Prejudice*; and Ralph in *Lord of the Flies* (Brigham Young University). Sadie also participated in developing work at New York Stage and Film

with George this past Summer.

**Rider R. Foster** (Conductor) [he/him] studied at Westminster Choir College, and has performed with myriad prominent conductors, choirs, and orchestras. As both a conductor and a soloist, his professional engagements have included all manner of civic ensembles, professional recordings, various opera companies including New York City Opera, and a multitude of sacred music ensembles in the New York Metropolitan area. He is the founding director and conductor of *Clarum Sonum*, which is an entirely volunteer choir dedicated to the performance of new music and collaboratively enriching local music programs both sacred and secular.

**Alexia DelGuidice** (Viola) [she/her] received her master's degree from Northwestern University, studying under the tutelage of renowned violist Helen Callus. She received her Bachelor of Music from the Juilliard School as a student of Misha Amory and Heidi Castleman. In February of 2017, Alexia debuted as viola soloist performing the Hoffmeister Viola Concerto with the Northwestern University Baroque Orchestra. In 2018 and 2019, Alexia performed with New York City Opera Orchestra in their productions of Donizetti and Rameau's *Pigmalione*, and their 2019 world premiere production of *Stonewall*. She currently plays with dell'Arte Opera Ensemble, MidAtlantic Orchestra, and New Amsterdam Opera. In 2019, Alexia performed the Elgar Cello Concerto with the Narnia Festival Orchestra in Amelia, Italy. In 2020, Alexia was featured as a soloist in the award winning NYC film

premiere of a new one-act opera, *Pietà*, written by Jake Landau, and in 2021, performed as a soloist in the European premiere of *Pietà* in Narni, Italy.

**Anthime Miller** (Cello) [they/them] is an internationally acclaimed composer, cellist and teaching artist based in Brooklyn, NY. Anthime is the composer-in-residence for The Circle Theater of New York and SMPL MCHN and a regular composer and actor with the National Theater of Luxembourg. Anthime is the Principal Cellist of the Regina Opera Company and Protestra and regularly plays with New Amsterdam Opera, City Lyric Opera, Greenwich Village Orchestra as well as many other orchestras and chamber ensembles throughout the Eastern United States and Western Europe. They are always excited to join their Off-Brand Opera family on their unique creative journeys! For more information visit: [@anthimemillermusic](http://www.anthimemiller.com)

**Ravi Campbell** (Guitar) [he/him] is a multi-instrumentalist and composer based in New York City. He has performed at jazz venues and festivals around the world, recently including the historic Birdland, 54 below, as well as the Java jazz festival. He has also worked as an accompanist and music director for rising star Broadway artists Sam Gravitte, Solea Pfeiffer, and Liisi Lafontaine. He played in the pit orchestra for Jake Landau's new musical *Psyche*, which aired in fall '22 at the DiMenna center. In his playing and compositions, he brings a melodistic voice to the music, one with roots in the tradition of jazz music as well as classical art song.



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## ABOUT OFF-BRAND OPERA

In a world where brand definition rules, three singers found themselves longing for a space to play around with something different—something off-brand. Tradition told them that's not *how it's done*. But what if it could be?

**Off-Brand Opera** strives to push and blur the boundaries of genre and performance practice, bringing musical communities together in the service of telling a story. We encourage cross-disciplinary collaboration in order to foster fresh, relatable, and relevant interpretations of beloved works.

### Off-Brand Opera is committed to:

- Creating a safe space for artists to take risks when it comes to performance practice and genre.
- Performing in intimate, non-traditional venues to foster audience connection, communication, and immersion.
- Hiring musicians from a diverse set of musical backgrounds, including opera, musical theater, jazz, folk, hip-hop/R&B, and pop/rock.
- Welcoming project ideas from audience members, friends, and donors.

## OFF-BRAND OPERA BOARD

Christine Duncan • Erin Kennedy • Veronica Shea  
Phoebe Corde • Brendan Hartnett • Jake Landau • Leslie Andrea Williams

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