

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute & Opera Saratoga

The Other Side of Silence

In partnership with ISATMA 2024: Voice and Identity

WORKSHOP PRESENTATION

October 16, 2024 at 7 PM

COMPOSER

Robert Whalen

LIBRETTISTS

Katherine Skovira and Mark Steidl

The Other Side of Silence

Workshop Presentation

Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 7 pm

EMPAC Concert Hall

Presented by Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Opera Saratoga, in partnership with ISATMA 2024: Voice and Identity, a program of EMPAC Research.

The Other Side of Silence is a new opera for synthetic and acoustic voice. The story draws direct inspiration from the life of Mark Steidl, a gender nonbinary person who uses an Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) device to talk with the world.

SPECIAL THANKS

Opera Saratoga's Board of Directors, NYSCA, Judy and Allen Freedman, Tionna Simmons and Christina Galia, Jonas Braasch, Nielsen Foundation, EMPAC staff, and Melissa Colasesseno.

SUPPORTED BY THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

The International Symposium on Assistive Technology for Music and Art (ISATMA) and ISATMA 2024 are supported by the Craig H. Nielsen Foundation.



OPERA
SARATOGA™



PRESENTERS

FUNDERS

ACT ONE

Prelude Lichtttanz

Scene 1 Morning Light Aria and Scene

Scene 2 "Forever Yours" Aria

Scene 3 Argumentum Quartet

Scene 4 Travel to Omni House Scene

Scene 5 Infringed On (Late Ripeness) Trio

List of Characters

ZARI, a 21-year-old nonspeaking, gender nonbinary person

GRACE, Zari's mother: *soprano*

HELEN, Zari's caretaker: *soprano*

DIEGO, Zari's best friend: *baritone / bass-baritone*

CHIMERA, Omni House voice, nicknamed "Kim":
hybrid instrument/high mezzo-soprano

Cast

Zari - Mark Steidl

Grace - Meghan Kasanders

Helen - Jennifer Zetlan

Diego - Isaiah Musik-Ayala

Chimera - Theo Hayes

Bergamot Quartet

Ledah Finck, violin

Sarah Thomas, violin

Amy Huimei Tan, viola

Irène Han, cello

Creative Team

Composer - Robert Whalen

Librettist - Mark Steidl

Librettist - Katherine Skovira

Director - Mary Birnbaum

Projection Designer - Camilla Tassi

Rehearsal Pianist - Laurie Rogers

Opera Saratoga Producer - Amanda Robie

