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*presents*

# MASTER CLASS

by Terrence McNally



**August 13 - 21, 2021**

**Directed By:  
Keri Boe**

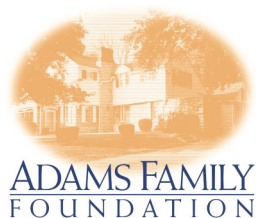


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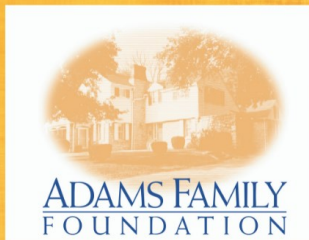


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Center for the Arts will enhance the quality of life in our community by providing cultural and economic enrichment through the arts.

### **Staff**

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Mark Williams—Artistic Director  
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Keri Boe— Front of House Manager  
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## **The MARVELous World of Musical Theater**

**Ages 9-18**

**Mondays 4:30-6:30**

**Fee: \$175 or \$25 weekly**

**September 13 - November 1**

**\*Act Up is included in Musical Theater**

## **Act Up**

**Ages 9-18**

**Mondays 5:30-6:30**

**Fee: \$125 or \$20 Weekly**

**September 13 - November 1**

## **Mini Performers** *Little Voyagers*

**Ages 5-8**

**Mondays OR Wednesdays**

**Mondays: 4:30-5:15**

**Wednesdays: 5:30-6:15**

**Fee: \$125 or \$20 weekly**

## **Seascapes and Creatures of the Deep Visual Art Class**

**Ages 9-18**

**Tuesdays 5:30-6:30**

**Fee: \$150 or \$25 Weekly**

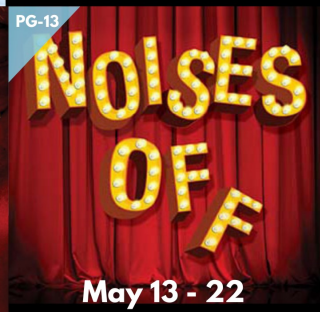
**September 14 - November 2**

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## Director's Note

**Master Class** was inspired by a series of master classes Maria Callas conducted at Juilliard toward the end of her career, this drama puts the great diva at center stage again as she coaxes, prods, and inspires students—"victims" as she calls them—into giving the performances of their lives while revealing her own. As she slips off into memories, we experience her days at La Scala, her marriage to Meneghini, and her great doomed love for Aristotle Onassis. But the dazzling theatricality comes from Callas's emotional explosions, her cutting wit, and the soaring music as each student sings an aria that exposes La Divina's vulnerabilities ... and her genius. As an artist or someone who has never experienced performance, there is something in this piece of work each of us can relate to. It will touch each of you in very different ways.

As with any production, this one wouldn't have come to fruition without the hard work of so many. Love to my husband, Adam, without the support of whom I could not do what I love, to my son Adison and daughter Aurora who has been understanding of my time away from home during this process. And mostly, Thank you to my cast. I could not have asked for a better group of people to support me and collaborate with to make this show and characters come to life. After all, "Art is Collaboration." Surround yourself with people you enjoy working with, and it won't seem like work at all. I hope you all know how much I value your talent, efforts, imagination and friendship.

Sincerely,

Keri Boe



THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

presents

# MASTER CLASS

by Terrence McNally



August 13 - 22, 2021

Maria Callas is teaching a master class in front of an audience: us. She's glamorous, commanding, larger than life—and drop-dead funny. Callas' first “victim” is Sophie, a ridiculous, overly perky soprano. Sophie chooses to sing one of the most difficult arias, the sleepwalking scene from *La sonnambula*—an aria that Callas made famous. Before the girl sings a note, Callas stops her—and now what has started out as a class becomes a platform for Callas. She glories in her own career, dabbles in opera dish, and flat-out seduces the audience. But with that, there are plenty of laughs going on, especially between Callas and the audience. The next two sessions repeat the same dynamic: The middle session is with a tenor, who moves Callas to tears. She again enters her memories, and we learn about Callas' affair with Aristotle Onassis with unintended consequences; her first elderly husband whom she left; her early days as an ugly duckling; the fierce hatred of her rivals; and the unforgiving press that savaged her at first. Finally, we meet Sharon, another soprano—the young singer has talent, but Callas tells her to stick to flimsy roles. Sharon is devastated and rushes out of the hall, and Callas brings the class to a close by acknowledging the sacrifices we must make in the name of art.

YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE:



**The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited.**

This event has been made possible with generous support from the Tennessee Arts Commission, The City of Murfreesboro, and The Community Foundation. The Center for the Arts is a member of the American Association of Community Theatre, the Center for Nonprofit Management, Downtown Business Merchant Association, Main Street Murfreesboro, Murfreesboro Art Committee, The Rutherford Chamber of Commerce,

**The Center for the Arts is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.**

# CAST OF *Master Class*

## Cast

Maria Callas.....	Connie Downer
Sophie (First Soprano).....	Lindsey Wortham
Sharon (Second Soprano).....	Miya Nicole Burt
Tony (Tenor).....	Mark David Williams
Manny (Accompanist).....	Royce Phillips
Stagehand.....	Mitchell Belusko

## Production and Crew

Director.....	Keri Boe
Stage Manager/ Prop Master.....	Mitchell Belusko
Sound & Light Design.....	Adam Boe
Sound & Light Operation.....	Keri Boe
Set Construction.....	George Downer
Set Design/ Dressing.....	Keri Boe
Costumes.....	The Cast

## Special Thanks

Don Henry, George & Sam Downer, Jimmy Crowley, Keith  
Wortham, Leah & Jude Williams, Linda Phillips, Amy & Katie  
Massengil, Aurora Boe, Denise Parton, Karisha Glover

## The Who's Who of Master Class



**Mitch Belusko (Stagehand)** was most recently on the CFTA stage as Lumiere in *Beauty and the Beast*. He has also worked backstage for the CFTA in *Aida*. In other theatres, he has performed in *The Music Man*, *Oliver*, *The Pajama Game*, *Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?*, and *The Last Five Years*.



**Keri Boe (Director)** is happy the Center for The Arts is open again. In addition to many excursions as an actress on stage, Keri has choreographed and costumed many shows and her production credits include directing *Aida*, co-directing *The Fantasticks*, assistant directing *Footloose the Musical* and stage managing *Les Misérables School Edition*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Disney's Newsies*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Heathers the Musical* with CFTA, *The Who's Tommy*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Rock of Ages* with Phoenix Theater, and producing *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Rock of Ages*.



**Miya Nicole Burt (Sharon)** is ecstatic to be back on stage at the Center for the Arts. She previously performed in "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" (Mary), Tim Rice and Elton John's "Aida" (Aida) and "The Wiz" (Winkie/Ensemble) at the CFTA. She is currently a junior studying Vocal Performance at Middle Tennessee State University. She wants to thank her mother, and the rest of her family for supporting her passions, as well as everyone coming to support the show!



**Connie Downer (Maria Callas)** is thrilled beyond words to be a part of CFTA's first mainstage production of 2021! Connie has been involved at CFTA for the last 5 years doing a little bit of everything. She's tried her hand at set dressing, set design, costume design, stage management and script writing. Connie directed CFTA's productions of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Shakespeare in Love". And you may have seen her on stage as Annie in "Calendar Girls" or as Mrs Cratchit in the 2019 production of "A Christmas Carol". Connie is grateful to CFTA's Artistic Director Mark David Williams and Director Keri Boe for giving her the opportunity to bring this amazing character to life and to share the stage with such a talented cast. She hopes you enjoy the show and that you'll return to CFTA to enjoy many of the incredible shows coming up in their exciting 2021-2022 season! As Maria Callas would say, "This is the theatre darling! We wear our hearts on our sleeves here."

## The Who's Who of Master Class



**Royce Phillips (Manny)**, the Staff Pianist for Center For The Arts, is very pleased to welcome all of you back to **LIVE THEATRE!** Royce has a Bachelor of Music (BM) degree in Vocal and Instrumental Music Education from Millikin University (Decatur, IL). Being cast as Manny the accompanist brings back fond memories of him playing piano for voice lessons and master classes in college. Royce has enjoyed the challenge of learning these beautiful operatic works and has reveled in working with these talented musicians to bring these works to life! Royce, who last appeared on the CFTA stage as Pharoah in "Aida" will step behind the podium to conduct the orchestra and play piano for CFTA's 2021-2022 Season Opener, "Little Women". He thanks his family and friends for their support, and he is especially grateful to everyone at CFTA for their incredible efforts during these last 17 months to keep the Arts alive in Murfreesboro! Enjoy the show!



**Mark David Williams (Tony)** is a graduate of Belmont University with a degree in Commercial Voice and is also a session singer, worship leader and vocal coach. For 8 years he recorded and travelled the world with the tenor trio, TENORE, in which he wrote and recorded a song with Grammy and Tony Winner, Heather Headley. Mark is currently the Artistic Director at Center for the Arts in Murfreesboro and the Director of Center Stage Voice Academy. He is also an adjunct Voice Professor at Lipscomb University and on staff as a worship leader at World Outreach Church in Murfreesboro, TN. He has directed such shows as *Newsies*, *The Little Mermaid* and *Beauty and the Beast*. On stage he has had lead roles in *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *Catch Me if You Can*, and *The Secret Garden*. He's had the honor of performing in Germany, China, Uganda, Italy and in such places as Carnegie Hall, Vatican City, and the Crystal Cathedral. He has recorded for Disney, Sea World, Yamaha, and the TV show, Fargo. He is passionate about sharing his experience and love of music with others.



**Lindsey Wortham (Sophie DePalma)** cannot contain her excitement to finally be back on this stage again! She considers the Center for the Arts her second home and is frequently around to perform, teach voice lessons, and music direct various shows. Her past acting adventures at CFTA include *The Secret Garden* (Lily), *Aida* (Music Director), *Newsies* (Hannah), *Footloose* (Music Director), *Jekyll & Hyde* (Emma), and *The Little Mermaid* (Aquata). She would like to thank Dr. Diane Pulte for teaching her all she knows and trying so hard to get her to breathe correctly, darnit!



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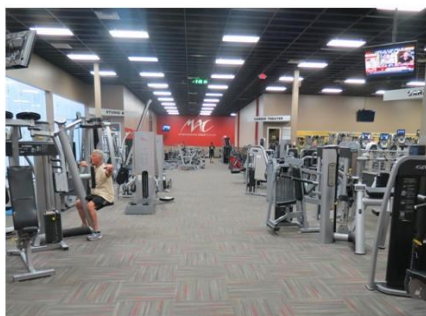


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September 13 @ 6:30 PM

Callbacks

September 14 @ 6:30 PM

Show Dates

December 3-19



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October 9 @ 6:30 PM

October 10 @ 6:30 PM

Callbacks

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Show Dates

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## A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR, DON O. HENRY...

I am delighted that you are here at the Center for the Arts as we resume in-person productions for audiences after 18 months of pandemic-dictated shutdown. This preseason bonus show, "Masterclass", treats you to the talents of an awesome cast, plus an exceptional tour de force by the lead performer in the role of Maria Callas.

The Center for the Arts has been valiant in staying alive during the long dark months of Covid. Clearly, theatre has been missed in this community, as is evidenced by the fact that 70 people turned out recently to audition for an upcoming show, and it is evident by your attendance at this and future performances.

As Maria Callas says in the play, theatre "...has made the world a better place, ...richer, ... wiser." Hurray for us! Hurray for you!

Theatre is back!