Family Opera Company presents
Springtime for Haman

Music and Libretto by NCFO Founder David Bass

Directed by David Bass and Kathy Lindsay

Choreography by Rachel Zimmerman

Presented at the Peabody School, Cambridge, MA March 25 and 26, April 1 and 2, 2017
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Feel free to talk to cast member Julie McKinney about this!
(Dancer, Chamberlain, and real-life mom of the King)
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Springtime for Haman
Music and Libretto by David Bass
Directed by David Bass and Kathy Lindsay
Choreography by Rachel Zimmerman
Produced by Sue Hall

Technical Director
Chris Edel

Lighting Design
David Silber

Costumes
Kathy Lindsay
Carla Procaskey

Props
Jeannine Mosely

Stage Management
Sue Hall
Kathy Lindsay

Publicity
Hadar Agam
Claudette Beit-Aharon
Carla Procaskey

Art/Logo Design
A.J. Liuba

General Manager
Claudette Beit-Aharon

Assistant General Manager
Emilija Baksys

Original Set Design
Dale Senechal

Additional Sets by
Chris Edel

Makeup
Elizabeth R. Stone
Columbine Phoenix
David Rabkin

Vocal Instruction
Carmen Denyes
Jennifer Dhanjee
Bethany Worrell

Associate Producer
Carla Procaskey

Assistant Director
Jonathan Gilbert

Assistant Choreographer
Julia Teller

Sound Design
Davis Thurston

Program
Sue Hall
Tammy McKanan

IT Support
Nick Aiuto
Phil Budne

Rehearsal Management
Heather Hoffman

March 25 and 26, April 1 and 2, 2017
The Peabody School, Cambridge, MA

Special thanks to Beanfields Bean and Rice Chips for their sponsorship of this production.
Congratulations

to all our friends and neighbors participating in North Cambridge Family Opera!

You are one of the local treasures that make this area a great place to live.

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We are dedicated to representing our buyer and seller clients with integrity and professionalism. We are also committed to giving back to our community. Our agents donate $250 to a non-profit in honor of each transaction and Thalia Tringo & Associates Real Estate Inc. also gives $250 to a pre-selected group of local charities for each transaction. Visit us at 128 Willow Ave in Davis Square.
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Song List for Springtime for Haman by David Bass

ACT I, Scene 1
Around the King’s Gate, in early morning
1. Prelude (Dancers)
2. King’s Gate (Mordechai)
3. The News (Farouk, Zethar, Soraya, and Chorus)
4. Heeeere’s Haman (Bizzetha)
5. You Must Bow (Haman)
6. King’s Gate Chorus 1 (Mordechai, Roshan, Bahaar, and Chorus)
7. If I Perish 1 (Mordechai)
8. The Eyes of God 1 (Mordechai)
9. Haman’s Rage 1 (Mordechai, Bigtha, Haman, Azarmik, and Chorus)

ACT I, Scene 2
At the King’s Gate, the next morning
10. The Strangest Night (Abagtha and Meidan)
11. The Edict (Farzad, Sherban, Ramin, Kaveh, Mihrab, Amir, Dara, Nasrin, and Nastaran)
12. The End of the Jews (Mordechai and Hathach)
13. Tryst (Esther and Mordechai)
14. If I Perish 2 (Esther)
15. Time To Be Heard (Esther and Mordechai)

ACT I, Scene 3
In the King’s chamber and at the King’s Gate, in the evening three days later
16. Like Iraq (Ahashveros, Samireh, Concubines, and Chorus)
17. Look at Her (Carshena and Ahashveros)
18. Half My Kingdom 1 (Ahashveros and Esther)
19. A Feast for Us 1 (Ahashveros, Haman, and Princes)
20. Inside Lookin’ Out 1 (Haman, Shethar, Admatha, and Princes)
21. Haman’s Rage 2 (Mordechai, Mehrdad, Haman, Hadi, Karim, Fazlollah, and Chorus)
22. Inside Lookin’ Out 2 (Haman’s Friends)

ACT II, Scene 1
In the King’s chamber, much later that night
23. Sleepless in Shushan (Ahashveros and Carcas)
24. Haman’s Wisdom (Ahashveros and Haman)
25. Brilliant (Ahashveros and Haman)

ACT II, Scene 2
At the King’s Gate and at Haman’s home, the next day
26. Haman’s Nightmare (Chorus and Dancers)
27. The Spat (Haman and Zeresh)
28. You Cannot Win (Zeresh)
29. If I Perish 3 (Zeresh and Haman)

ACT II, Scene 3
In Esther’s chambers, that evening
30. Esther’s Party (Suhrab, Zenda, and Chorus)
31. How Can I Tell Him? (Esther and Chorus)
32. A Feast for Us 2 (Mehuman, Ahashveros, Haman, Golpar, and Chorus)
33. Half My Kingdom 2 (Ahashveros and Esther)
34. The Confrontation (Ahashveros, Esther, Haman, and Chorus)
35. The Sentence (Ahashveros and Harbona)
36. Aftermath (Esther, Ahashveros, and Mordechai)
37. The Eyes of God 2 (Mordechai, Esther, and Chorus)
38. Encore: King’s Gate Chorus 2 (Company)
Act 1  
King Ahashveros of Persia has chosen the beautiful Jewess Esther to be his Queen. Esther has not revealed her Jewish heritage, on instruction from her ambitious cousin Mordechai. The King has also named Haman, a wealthy Agagite, to be Grand Vizier, replacing the indecisive Memucan. The conceited Haman commands that all citizens bow down to him, but Mordechai refuses, citing Jewish law. Haman is enraged by this insult and vows the annihilation of all Jews, who are traditional enemies of the Agagites.

Haman dupes the King into approving an order that all Jews in the Persian empire be killed on a specific date the following spring. Mordechai grieves publicly upon seeing Haman’s order, and he is chastised for doing so by Hathach, one of Queen Esther’s servants. When Esther hears of Mordechai’s despair, she meets with him clandestinely. Mordechai convinces Esther to intercede on behalf of the Jews.

Despite the danger to herself, Esther enters the King’s chambers uninvited (an act punishable by death) to ask that the King and Haman attend a banquet at her residence. The King stays the automatic death sentence and accepts Esther’s invitation. Haman is flattered to be invited to an exclusive feast with the King and Queen, but when he leaves the palace, his elation turns once more to rage when Mordechai again refuses to bow. Haman decides that he cannot wait until spring to be rid of Mordechai, and at the suggestion of his friends, he resolves to ask the King for permission to hang Mordechai from a 75-foot gallows immediately. Haman returns to the palace to wait for morning, when he can next see the King.

Act 2  
Meanwhile, the King cannot sleep and asks a servant to read to him from the chronicles of his own reign. The servant randomly selects a passage from many years back, which happens to describe an incident in which Mordechai saved the King’s life by foiling an assassination attempt. When the King learns that Mordechai was never rewarded for his service, he calls Haman in to ask how best to honor a man whom the King favors. Haman, thinking the King must be planning to honor him, advises the King to have the honoree be led through the capital city wearing the King’s robes, riding the King’s horse, led by the King’s noblest prince. The King then orders Haman to lead Mordechai through the city exactly as he described.

After honoring Mordechai, Haman makes his way home through the city, feeling disgraced, and beset by demons. Once home, Haman seeks comfort from his wife Zeresh. Zeresh tells Haman his pursuit of vengeance against Mordechai and the Jews will only lead to his downfall and begs him to stop, but Haman instead chooses to go with the King’s servants to Esther’s feast.

At the banquet, Esther reveals her Jewish heritage to the King for the first time and accuses Haman of plotting to kill her and her people. The King is enraged and storms out of the room while Haman pleads with Esther for mercy. When he returns, the King misinterprets Haman’s pleas as a physical assault on Esther and sentences Haman to death. The King gives Haman’s property to Esther and names Mordechai to replace Haman as Grand Vizier. Mordechai issues an edict which counteracts Haman’s order, and the Jews of Persia are saved.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lead Performers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mordechai: Emilija Baksys</td>
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<tr>
<td>Queen Esther: Lisa Racolta-Danielyan</td>
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<td>Carcas (Sleepless in Shushan)</td>
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<td>Suhrab (Esther’s Party)</td>
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<td>Golpar (Feast for Us 2)</td>
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<td>Habbona (The Sentence)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adira Balzac, Ilan Balzac, Heather Barney, Kate Berelowitch, Melanie Cohn-Hopwood, Nathan Gilbert, Patricia Hawkins, Sophie Hopwood, Walter Hopwood, Ella Lehrich, Katie Leiserson, Wendy Leiserson, Kathy Lindsay, David Gordon Mitten, Edan Nachtigal, Sophia Nilsson, Katya Sacharow, Stephanie Sacharow, Tyler Sacharow, Aimee Yermish</td>
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<td>Jessica Cashdan, Dina Gorelik, Liz Morse, Lia Nachtigal, Rosemary Park, Masha Sten-Clanton, Laura van Melle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alex Aminoff, Annelise Aminoff, Adira Balzac, Ilan Balzac, Abbe Cohen Dvornik, Bert Dvornik, Katarina Dvornik, Erin Gast, Meredith Gast, Leetka Katzenblickstein, Mindy Koyanis, Kathy Lindsay, Davide Pettenuzzo, Leo Pettenuzzo, Sara Verrilli, Aimee Yermish</td>
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<th>Dancers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Maya Agam, Kate Berelowitch, Jessica Cashdan, Jonathan Gilbert, Dina Gorelik, Julie McKinney, Liz Morse</td>
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Because it’s

Springtime in North Cambridge
(and that *counts*!)

Thanks and Congratulations to the

**North Cambridge Family Opera Company**

for another great year and for
18 years of great performances.
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Craig A. Kelley
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**Lead Performers**

**Mordechai:** Addie Kelsey  
**Queen Esther:** Sophia Teller  
**King Ahashveros:** Riley McKinney  
**Zeresh, Haman’s Wife:** Nicole McElhoe

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**The Citizens of Shushan**

<table>
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<td>Izy Laskin</td>
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<td>Suji Han</td>
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<td>Farzad (The Edict)</td>
<td>Eliza Weinberger</td>
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<td>Sherban (The Edict)</td>
<td>Joanne Nicklas</td>
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<td>Jace Jewett</td>
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<td>Danny Scibelli</td>
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<td>Hadi (Haman’s Rage 2)</td>
<td>Jack Ramde</td>
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<td>Karim (Haman’s Rage 2)</td>
<td>Rachel Cooper</td>
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<td>Aytan Hamill</td>
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**The Palace Courtiers**

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<td>Zethar (The News)</td>
<td>Oriana McKanan</td>
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<td>Kerry LaRose</td>
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<td>Mark Bildman</td>
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<td>Alec McKinney</td>
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**The Citizens**

Constance Chung, Lynn Colletti, Chris Edel, Esther Fu, Jacey Jewett, Matthew Jewett, Merilee Jewett, Birakti Khashai, Zayaan Mamun, Glenn McElhoe, Nicole McElhoe, Julie McKinney, Alice Merrill Hunter, Anastasia Miller, Lindsey Miller, Sylvie Miller, Sara St. Antoine, Nicci Stamos

**Haman’s Friends**

Rachel Cooper, Sue Hall, Aytan Hamill, Katie Hamill, Tom Hamill, Hope Kelley, John Kernochan, Bill Laskin, Izy Laskin, Maia Levitt, Anya Miller, Fiona O’Loughlin, Mary Penniston, Jack Ramde, Tricia Saxler, Danny Scibelli

**Dancers**

Chloe Duggan, Katie Hamill, Anneliese Mattox, Julie McKinney, Anya Miller, Julia Teller, Rachel Zimmerman

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**The Chamberlains**

Juli Berndt, Chloe Duggan, Tom Gould, Sue Hall, Suji Han, Hope Kelley, Theo Koo, Susan LaRose, Maia Levitt, Zayaan Mamun, Anneliese Mattox, Chanda McCreary, Oriana McKanan, Tammy McKanan, Julie McKinney, Alice Merrill Hunter, Lindsey Miller, Sylvie Miller, Joanne Nicklas, Farzana Nipa, Fiona O’Loughlin, Nicci Stamos, Eliza Weinberger

**The Concubines**

Eloise Botka, Laura Gill, Kerry LaRose, Ruth Rogers, Sara St. Antoine, Laura van Melle

**The Princes**

Mark Bildman, Chris Edel, Sue Holcomb (fiddle), Glenn McElhoe, Dan McKanan, Alec McKinney, Eoin Rogers, Julia Teller, Rachel Zimmerman
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**Lead Performers**

- Mordechai: Emilija Baksys
- Queen Esther: Lisa Racolta-Danielyan
- King Ahashveros: Jeff Moore
- Zeresh, Haman’s Wife: Jill Singer

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<td>Rhea Kokkinogenis</td>
<td>Marin Manoach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Davide Pettenuzzo</td>
<td>Katarina Dvornik</td>
</tr>
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**The Citizens**

- Gal Agam, Hadar Agam, Maya Agam, Kate Berelowitch, Justice Brooks, Jessica Cashdan, Linnea Fried, Lena Gorelik, Ayla Kobi, Lia Kobi, Popi Kokkinogenis, Rhea Kokkinogenis, Tal Shalom-Kobi, Jill Singer, Julia Teller, Kara Wong

**Haman’s Friends**

- Alex Aminoff, Annelise Aminoff, Adira Balzac, Ilan Balzac, Abbe Cohen Dvornik, Bert Dvornik, Katarina Dvornik, Erin Gast, Meredith Gast, Leetka Katzenblickstein, Mindy Koyanis, Kathy Lindsay, Davide Pettenuzzo, Leo Pettenuzzo, Sara Verrilli, Aimee Yermish

**Dancers**

- Maya Agam, Kate Berelowitch, Jessica Cashdan, Jonathan Gilbert, Dina Gorelik, Julie McKinney, Liz Morse

**The Palace Courtiers**

- Zethar *(The News)*  Ruth Hertzman-Miller
- Bizzetha *(Heeeere’s Haman)*  Lia Nachtigal
- Bigtha *(Haman’s Rage 1)*  Marin Manoach
- Abagtha *(Strangest Night)*  Katya Sacharow
- Meidan *(Strangest Night)*  Stephanie Sacharow
- Hatwach *(End of the Jews)*  Leetka Katzenblickstein
- Samireh *(Like Iraq)*  Masha Sten-Clanton
- Carshena *(Look at Her)*  Heather Barney
- Shethar *(Inside Lookin’ Out 1)*  Jonathan Gilbert
- Admatha *(Inside Lookin’ Out 1)*  Charles Leiserson
- Carcas *(Sleepless in Shushan)*  Ilan Balzac
- Suhrab *(Esther’s Party)*  Tyler Sacharow
- Zenda *(Esther’s Party)*  Edan Nachtigal
- Mehuman *(Feast for Us 2)*  Patricia Hawkins
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- Harbena *(The Sentence)*  Katarina Dvornik

**The Chamberlains**

- Adira Balzac, Ilan Balzac, Heather Barney, Kate Berelowitch, Melanie Cohn-Hopwood, Nathan Gilbert, Patricia Hawkins, Sophie Hopwood, Walter Hopwood, Ella Lehrich, Katie Leiserson, Wendy Leiserson, Kathy Lindsay, David Gordon Mitten, Edan Nachtigal, Sophia Nilsson, Katya Sacharow, Stephanie Sacharow, Tyler Sacharow, Aimee Yermish

**The Concubines**

- Jessica Cashdan, Dina Gorelik, Marin Manoach, Liz Morse, Lia Nachtigal, Rosemary Park, Masha Sten-Clanton

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Queen Esther: Sophia Teller
Haman: Jason Merrill
King Ahashveros: Riley McKinney
Zeresh, Haman's Wife: Nicole McElhoe

The Citizens of Shushan

Farouk (The News)  Esther Fu
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Roshan (King's Gate Chorus)  Biriki Kahsai
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Hathach (End of the Jews)  Laura Gill
Samireh (Like Iraq)  Eloise Botka
Carshena (Look at Her)  Glenn McElhoe
Shethar (Inside Lookin' Out 1)  Mark Bildman
Admatha  Alec McKinney
(caracter: Inside Lookin' Out 1)

The Citizens

Constance Chung, Lynn Colletti, Chris Edel,
Esther Fu, Jacey Jewett, Matthew Jewett,
Merilee Jewett, Biriki Kahsai, Zayaan Mamun,
Glenn McElhoe, Nicole McElhoe,
Julie McKinney, Alice Merrill Hunter,
Anastasia Miller, Lindsey Miller, Sylvie Miller,
Sara St. Antoine, Nicci Stamos

Haman's Friends

Rachel Cooper, Sue Hall, Aytan Hamill,
Katie Hamill, Tom Hamill, Hope Kelley, John
Kernochan, Bill Laskin, Izzy Laskin, Maia Levitt,
Anya Miller, Fiona O'Loughlin, Mary Penniston,
Jack Ramde, Tricia Saxler, Danny Scibelli

Dancers

Chloe Duggan, Katie Hamill, Anneliese Mattox,
Julie McKinney, Anya Miller, Julia Teller,
Rachel Zimmerman

The Chamberlains

Juli Berndt, Chloe Duggan, Tom Gould,
Sue Hall, Suji Han, Hope Kelley, Theo Koo,
Susan LaRose, Maia Levitt, Zayaan Mamun,
Anneliese Mattox, Chanda McCready, Oriana
McKanan, Tammy McKanan, Julie McKinney,
Alice Merrill Hunter, Lindsey Miller, Sylvie Miller,
Joanne Nicklas, Farzana Nipa, Fiona
O'Loughlin, Nicci Stamos, Eliza Weinberger

The Concubines

Emma Adler, Eloise Botka, Laura Gill,
Kerry LaRose, Ruth Rogers,
Sara St. Antoine, Laura van Melle

The Princes

Mark Bildman, Chris Edel,
Sue Holcomb (fiddle), Glenn McElhoe,
Dan McKanan, Alec McKinney, Eoin Rogers,
Julia Teller, Rachel Zimmerman
Eloise, we know you’ll be a mighty fine concubine!
Love, Mom, Dad, & Imogene

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Carshena (Look at Her)  Glenn McElhoe
Shethar (Inside Lookin' Out 1)  Mark Bildman
Admatha  Alec McKinney
(Hide and Seek in Haman's Fortune 1)

The Chamberlains

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Queen Esther: Lisa Racolet-Danielyan
Zeresh, Haman's Wife: Jill Singer

Haman: Jeff Fried
King Ahashveros: Jeff Moore

The Citizens of Shushan

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Roshan (King's Gate Chorus) Rhea Kokkinogenis
Bahaar (King's Gate Chorus) Lia Kobi
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The Princes


The Citizens


Haman's Friends

Alex Aminoff, Anneliese Aminoff, Adira Balzac, Ilan Balzac, Abbe Cohen Dvornik, Bert Dvornik, Katarina Dvornik, Erin Gast, Meredith Gast, Leetka Katzenblickstein, Mindy Koyanis, Kathy Lindsay, Davide Pettenuzzo, Leo Pettenuzzo, Sara Verrilli, Aimee Yermish

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Jessica Cashdan, Dina Gorelik, Marin Manoach, Liz Morse, Lia Nachtigal, Rosemary Park, Masha Sten-Clanton

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Hail, Mordechai!

You’ve come a long way, baby!
Love, Mom, Dad, & Margot
### Lead Performers

**Mordechai:** Addie Kelsey  
**Haman:** Jason Merrill  
**Queen Esther:** Sophia Teller  
**King Ahashveros:** Riley McKinney  
**Zeresh, Haman’s Wife:** Nicole McElhoe

### The Citizens of Shushan

<table>
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### The Chamberlains

- Juli Berndt, Chloe Duggan, Tom Gould, Sue Hall, Suji Han, Hope Kelley, Theo Koo, Susan LaRose, Maia Levitt, Zayaan Mamun, Anneliese Mattox, Chanda McCready, Oriana McKanan, Tammy McKanan, Julie McKinney, Alice Merrill Hunter, Lindsey Miller, Sylvie Miller, Joanne Nicklas, Farzana Nipa, Fiona O’Loughlin, Nicci Stamos, Eliza Weinberger

### The Concubines

- Emma Adler, Eloise Botka, Laura Gill, Kerry LaRose, Ruth Rogers, Sara St. Antoine, Laura van Melle

### The Princes

- Mark Bildman, Chris Edel, Sue Holcomb (fiddle), Matthew Jewett, Glenn McElhoe, Alec McKinney, Eoin Rogers, Julia Teller, Rachel Zimmerman

### Dancers

- Chloe Duggan, Katie Hamill, Anneliese Mattox, Julie McKinney, Anya Miller, Julia Teller, Rachel Zimmerman

---

**Cast - Sunday, April 2, 1:00pm**
To Abbe, Bert, and Katarina:
Good Luck, put on a great show,
and try and stay clear of
Haman

Love from all your family in Florida!

To our favorite
chamberlain!

★

Love,
Grandma & Grandpa
Lead Performers

Mordechai: Emilija Baksys
Haman: Jeff Fried
Queen Esther: Lisa Racolta-Danielyan
King Ahashveros: Jeff Moore
Zeresh, Haman’s Wife: Jill Singer

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Sherban (The Edict)  Leo Pettenuzzo
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Kaveh (The Edict)  Sophia Nilsson
Mihrab (The Edict)  Justice Brooks
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Fazlollah  Davide Pettenuzzo
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Dancers

Maya Agam, Kate Berelowitch, Jessica Cashdan, Jonathan Gilbert, Dina Gorelik, Liz Morse, Rachel Zimmerman
Each NCFO production would not be possible without an outpouring of generosity from myriad sources, and this year’s presentation of *Springtime for Haman* is no exception. First and foremost, we must thank our hosts, the Peabody School and the co-resident Rindge Avenue Upper School, their respective principals, Jennifer Ford and Julie Craven, and the teachers whose stage and classrooms we’ve been sharing: Josh DeWitte, Summar Elguindy, and Patrick Wroge. And custodians Chris, Bobby, Todd, and José have, as usual, made our stay here easy and pleasant.

The stunning sets you see date back in large part to our original production in 2004 and were designed by Dale Senechal, whose association with NCFO dates back even further and whose friendship with David and Sue is approaching Paleolithic. When not gracing the Peabody stage, our sets live a quiet existence in a clean and spacious barn generously donated by David Sandberg and Dina Mardell, who became part of the NCFO family almost as long ago as Dale. Some of the set pieces were designed by another NCFO veteran, Chris Edel, who built and painted them in space kindly provided by The Artists in Studio 12 at 6 Vernon St Studios, including Marcia Ahearn, Christine Edel, Maureen O’Keefe, Stephanie Snyder and Susan Wetherall.

We would like to thank Iggy’s Bread of the World, as well as Mark Bildman’s Cambridge Cookie Company, both of whom donate their wares to our rehearsals and performances: check them out at intermission, along with many other delectable concessions generously donated by sponsor Whole Foods, and of course our perennial preeminent sponsor, Beanfields Family-Owned Bean and Rice Chips. We have two new sponsors this year, Exceptional Lives and JSI. They, along with perennial sponsors, CIC, Porter Square Books, and Thalia Tringo Real Estate, have provided non-comestible but invaluable support, for which we are grateful. A very special thank you to the Robbins/de Beaumont Foundation, who, in addition to giving us a very generous grant, also provided us with some valued advice about non-profit fundraising.

Thanks to Median Mordechai’s parents, Sandy Nortier and Vytas Baksys, who cheerfully went many extra miles (literally) to provide transportation to rehearsals and performances for a talented young first-year cast member. A special thank you to Carla Procaskey, who, though she officially retired last year as our General Manager, has been unofficially giving us countless hours of her wisdom and her help. And as always, thank you, too, to our past and current members for volunteering their time, donating their money, and creating this very special community.

Finally, thank you to our own David Bass, who wrote this amazing show in 2003, about a time thousands of years ago when a tyrant with almost unlimited power could condemn an entire race or religion. Fortunately, those times are long past...
BRAVO!

to NCFOC for its 2017 production of “Springtime for Haman!”

from

EMILY DEXTER & FAMILY

NCFOC Alumnus, 2015 & 2017 Science Chorus Member, 1st Term Cambridge School Committee Member

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Hadar Agam
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Claudette Beit-Aharon
Kate Berelowitch
Evie Berne
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Jessica Cashdan
Constance Chung
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Katarina Dvornik
Luka Dvornik
Esther Fu
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Lena Gorelik
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Elizabeth Hunter
Mary Ellen Kasak-Saxler
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Margot Kelsey
Robin Kelsey
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Hayim Kobi
Kerry LaRose
Susan LaRose
Charles Leiserson
Dara Manoach
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Front of House, cont’d.

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Tammy McKanan
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Glenn McElhoe
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Carla Procaskey
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Nicci Stamos
Sandy Sutherland

Music/Movement, cont’d.

Adira Balzac
Ilan Balzac
Meg Boeni
Laura Bigler
Eloise Botka
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Chloe Duggan
Esther Fu
Laura Gill
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Bert Dvornik
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Todd came to real estate after his first career as an elementary school teacher, including 8 years at Cambridge Friends School. While staying home with his newborn twin boys, Todd fell in love with real estate during the process of searching for a larger home. He made it his new profession. Todd’s passion for architecture, design, and local history are contagious. Still a teacher at heart, in his new role, he enjoys educating his clients about the process of buying and selling homes.

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If you know about NCFOC and you live in Cambridge, you’re an engaged Cantabrigian. Here’s another way to engage in the life of our city: Follow local issues and vote in the next municipal election, this November, 2017.

[Cambridge politics 101: Two elected bodies--a City Council of nine members (one gets chosen to serve as the Mayor), and a School Committee (aka school board in other parts of the country) of six members plus the Mayor. All candidates run at-large, elections are every two years in the odd years.]

How to learn about local issues and candidates:

• Word of mouth—always the best place to start!
• If you’re a public school parent, join the always-lively online discussion group: CPSparents@yahoogroups.com
• Cambridge Day, an INVALUABLE online newspaper about all-things Cambridge: www.cambridgeday.com
• Cambridge Chronicle, comprehensive online and in-print newspaper: www.cambridge.wickedlocal.com
• Cambridge Civic Journal, online, written by longtime expert on local politics, Robert Winters: rwinters.com
• Cambridge Comm. Television (CCTV): www.cctvcambridge.org
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Hope to see you at the polls!

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Younger daughter Leah
2015 election
Great work, Maia. Love Everyone

To Ayla K: Dear Ayla, my little star! break a leg!

Nathan and Jonathan, you are our stars! Your talent just cannot be gauged. It mustn’t be cloistered, or locked up in jars -- No no! We want you on the stage!

Mary and David

To Meredith, Erin, Sara, Katarina, Abbe, Bert, and the rest of Haman’s friends, I’m sure the show will be good. So sit back and relax and enjoy it! --Luka.

Break a leg, Anastasia! We love you and are very proud of you! Love, mom and dad

Dear Julia, My twirling, cartwheeling, singing, dancing daughter, I love you madly and am so proud of everything you do -- and how you do it. With gratitude for your amazing spirit, Mom

Riley, We are so proud of you. Your tenure as a King might be short-lived in NCFO terms but you’ll always be a King to us.

To Kathy, Carla, Jonathan, Rachel, Julia, Liz, Chris, Jenny, David S, and Davis: Thank you all for helping us create such a beautiful and moving production. Every year seems to exceed the previous! On to 2018 - Sue and David

Sue Holcomb - Thanks for suggesting and encouraging me to join this production! ..JB

“Yiayia, Yiayia, whatcha gonna do? Gonna tolerate your grandchildren dissin’ you?” Z and Marina

Emilija B sings from the heart. Grandparents B hark from afar.

Congratulations to the singers of our family - Davide and Leo - from mamma and Totti!! Keep it going, we love watching your performances.

Carla - Much I have learned, thankful I am. Nice vacation you will have... eventually. -Leia

To a very talented family: Abbe, Bert, Katarina, and Luka! Have a wonderful time at all your performances! Looking forward to the video. Love, Grandma

Justice - You’re going to rise up, slay and annihilate your solo! Shine like the star you are! -Emilija and Sandy

With lots of love and good luck to Ella and the full cast and crew from the Fichter-Lehrich-Sternman Family!

Liz - Thank you for being Samireh’s loyal best friend. Much happiness whenever I pass you on stage. -K

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Elo - You are a shining star! I’m proud of your performances, on-stage and off! xoxo Aunt Lizzy

Carla - I am so glad you have not cured your addiction for cloth. I couldn’t have done it without you. - K

Matthew, Merilee and Jacey, I’m SO proud of you! It’s been so much fun to watch you become part of the show!

Father and Daughter, Great talent and dedication to singing. Bravo Glenn and Nicole! Love, the Abus.

Heather, thank you SO MUCH for your cheerful attention to all things cast, rehearsal, and pizza! They are VERY (and too often silently) appreciated. - Sue/David

Claudette and Emilia, welcome to the team! We so appreciate your cheerfulness and patience in the face of an impossibly steep learning curve! - Sue and David

Fiona Eve, you are such a star, on stage and off! You are always in our hearts. Love you so, meme and grandpa

Julie, your kind-spirit, good nature, general enthusiasm and love of music shines through all of the time but is never more bright than when you are on stage with NCFO. You are awesome!!!!

Congratulations Katie Leiserson! We are proud of your hard work on your solo and we’re delighted to share the performance with you! Love, Mama and Daddy

Good Luck Sylvie, Love Mom, Dad and the boys!

From 8 to 17 (and certainly beyond), we delight in witnessing Laura (G.) present her song with gentle beauty. Congrats/L’Chaim!

Hope: It is great having my own in-house Chamberlain. BUNCHES!!!

Bert - What kind of man is he? A star performer! It’s insane how well you sing. We can assure we will adore your solo. Your (and Haman’s) friends, K, A, & L

David, Sue and all the other many people who make NCFO happen: You are AMAZING and WONDERFUL. From all the Jewett’s, Thank You!!!

Congratulations to all performers!

LeelandCheung
CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCILLOR

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Leeland Cheung.
David, Sue, Kathy, Rachel, Carla, Claudette, and the rest of the production team: thanks for all your work! You really make Shushan shine on. -- Steve & Aimee

David B, I love this show, and I love performing in it. Thank you for writing it and sharing it with all of us. Love, Sue

Hey Ilan, congratulations! It’s not often you get to Terash talk the King. You’ve made the Bigthan. Love Mom and Dad.

Congratulations, Emilia! Remember, if you sing in my face, I will still swat you, even if you tempt me with catnip! Love, Roland

To Lia K: Lia, today we’re singing with you! - Yoni Shalom

Alec, Julie and Riley: I would say you guys rock, but more accurately you Opera. And we love how you do it! Thanks for helping make it all happen. Craig

Mordechai! Haven’t I already done enough for you? Now I have to write you a star note too? Channel your evil witch! -Mumu

To Glenn and Nicole, Thank you for sharing NCFO with us and tying up our Sunday afternoons for 5 months! The Jewett’s

Dearest Rachel, Sophia and Julia, L’Chaim! Love, Bonna

Congratulations on a great show! Many different jobs go into producing a play, with the players on stage supported by many behind the scenes! We thank you all! Your fans, Sarah Gould Kagan & Family

To the Median Princes: You are a marvelous group of talented people. It has been a wonderful experience working with you all!

Carla, obviously we would not have survived this year without your gentle reminders, your patient advice, and your jumping into the fray to help out all so frequently. Somehow this doesn’t sound like retirement! Thanks for everything. - Sue and David

Ruth- a Concubine?! Is that what life with Sean has driven you to? No matter, you vamp with the best and it’s great to see you on stage. Congratulations! Craig

The OPENAIR Circus congratulates North Cambridge Family Opera and all involved on another great show!

www.openaircircus.org
“Hey-man! Es-there anything more-da-chai-light about this joyous event? Have a great Purim Opera! Hooray for the Goulds!

To a fine cast of Persians and especially Eliza, Chloe, Juli, Biriki and Izzy. Congratulations 6th-graders!

Sherban

Dear Walter: BREAK A LEG! It’s been really fun to perform together. We are very proud of you! Love, Papa and Mama

To Lia K: Dear Lia, my little star! break a leg! - Nira Shalom

Adira, what shall we write for the girl we desire to embarrass? We don’t have a horse or a crown, but we’re really proud of all your hard work. Love Mom & Dad

Cheers to the Laskin Family Players: Bill and Izzy, and tech man Peter. Love your commitment and enthusiasm, can’t wait to see the show! Love, Lisa/Mom

Sue ... gentle and demure ... more than beautiful ... everything a man could ever want ... I chose you out of thousands (ok, maybe not that one). Love, David

Constance: Thanks David Bass & Sue Hall providing such a wonderful experience for us. Thanks BTCC, HKU ALumi members, JL, Son-mei and NCFO.

EstherEnochKW - proud of you. Thank for the friendships from Angie, Debbie, Tatfong, Anson, Jenna, Prof. Siu, Saufong, Judy, Ann and friends we meet in Boston.
Good Luck Lindsey! Love Mom, Dad and the boys!

Glenn and Nicole: Springtime is your time to shine, and we love seeing you on stage! Love, The co-presidents of your fan club

To Mom (aka Sara): You’re an inspiration! I love being in NCFO with you, whether we’re insects or courtiers. I couldn’t do it without you. Love, Addie

Dear Sophia, You are truly the embodiment of love. I am so very proud of you. Sing On, Queen! With love, Mom

Hadar, Gal & Maya - Great job! Maya - Your solos keep getting better! From your fans Y & Y.

Congratulations & Best Wishes to our TWO STARS - Eliza and Joanne. Keep up the good work!

Dear Sophie H: BREAK A LEG! We are so proud of you. Thanks for inspiring your mom and brother to join Family Opera - it’s been fun! Love, Papa and Mama

Congratulations Marin on another stellar performance! With much love, as always, from your biggest fan.

Congratulations, Wendy Leiserson, on performing in your first opera. From Katie and Charles Leiserson.

Sue and David- Once more you’ve shown us how lucky we are to have two visionary musicians and community builders in our lives. Thanks so much for it all. Craig
Jeff and Linnea you are always our stars! Love Evie, Caleb and Jackson

To Ayla K: Ayla, today we’re singing with you! - Yoni Shalom

Congratulations Eloise! You are the best concubine parents could wish for! Love, mom and dad

Chris, thanks for your help in this incredibly challenging year for sets! Your talent, artistry, and good humor are all appreciated! - Sue and David

To the Sacharow family: It’s been great fun to perform with family! Thanks for encouraging us to join you. BREAK A LEG! Love, the Hopwoods

Ella, I’m very proud of you. Congratulations on your success as Best Golpar Ever. Love, Dad

Jonathan - You are a Prince among assistants. Maybe even the King of assistants! For all your work you deserve to be a guest at Esther’s party, not just kitchen help. (No, wait, that could end badly) -K

Ruth Hertzman-Miller: You are always our Super Star with all your many talents! We love you always. Mom and Dad

Carla- your skill with costumes brings the Old Testament to life in the most unlikely of places- a North Cambridge school stage. Thank you so much. Craig

Oh, we have news That you would never guess: Oriana’s paid her dues And done her very best! Love, Mama & Papa

Jennifer, Bethany, and Carmen, thank you for helping our singers of all ages excel! - Sue and David

Kathy, wow! Another amazing production under our belts! It’s been a great year, especially fun sharing the stage and backstage with you! - Sue and David

Have a wonderful time, Anya! We know you’ll do a great job!

To Seth, For discovering Haman and NCFO we are eternally grateful. We miss you every day and love you always. Rachel, Sophia, Julia

To Anneliese Mattox: Anneliese’s family wishes her all the best for a great series of Springtime for Haman performances. We are proud of her hard work and commitment to the North Cambridge Family Opera program!

Jacey and Merilee, Congratulations on your first NCFO performance! Keep on shining, great to see you on stage! Nicole, Alex, Glenn, Lili

Congratulations Aytan!!! We’re all very proud of you!!
Leo, it always fills my heart to hear your voice as you sing around the house. Now I can’t wait for your first solo performance! With lots of love, mamma.

Tricia you are a constant source of amazement and joy on stage and off! Love you to the moon and back, your mama and pop

Jennifer- your music lessons are the gift that keeps on giving in the most wonderful ways. Thanks for helping make this opera a joy to the ears. Craig

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Cast Biographies

Emma Adler (Concubine Chorus) is an 11th-grader at Cambridge Rindge and Latin. She enjoys reading, eating chocolate, making puns, and participating in stage crew for CRLS theater productions, where she does set and lighting design. This is Emma’s tenth year in the North Cambridge Family Opera.

Gal Agam (Citizen Chorus) is making his seventh appearance with the NCFO after playing a Myna bird in last year’s production of Weaver’s Wedding, a kid in Kids Court, a Zebra in Rain Dance, a Worker Ant in Antiphony, a Film Crew member in Flying High (2012), and a Jawal/Rebel/Aliden in Space Opera (2011). Gal is 13 years old and attends Brown Middle School in Newton. He loves skiing, ice skating, swimming, Legos and puzzles. Gal is looking forward to a great season with NCFO.

Hadar Agam (Citizen Chorus) is delighted to share the stage with two of her kids (and some wonderful friends). Hadar works from home as a consulting engineer, mom, travel-planner and family cheerleader, and is looking forward to another great season with NCFO.

Maya Agam (Nasrin, Dancer, Citizen Chorus) is enjoying her third season with NCFO after having enjoyed it from the audience for many years prior to that. Maya is 9 years old, and she attends Country-side Elementary School in Newton. Maya loves Harry Potter, art, ballet, and her friends.

Alex Aminoff (Haman’s Friends Chorus) last did theatre in the previous millennium. He is very happy to have moved back to North Cambridge after some years of exile on the North Shore. Alex occasionally shows up to shape note singings, which are a great way to scratch the singing itch when you are a parent with limited time and ability to commit to a schedule.

Annelise Aminoff (Haman’s Friends Chorus) is a 13-year-old who prefers to be called Annie. This is her first time in NCFO, but she has been participating in theater for several years.

Emilija Baksys (Mordechai, Assistant General Manager) proclaims that the citizens of Persia should arm themselves with light sabers in preparation for upcoming events – though she does suspect that they would never contemplate such a privilege. Now in her 8th season with NCFO, Emilija notes that her attire and behavior have improved since the last Springtime for Haman in 2010. Emilija has played a queen, an evil witch, two princesses, a pushy stage mother, a pushy servant, and a pushy puzzle piece. She graduated Wheaton College MA in 2016, is working three part time jobs, and is always looking for a fourth! Emilija would like to thank the entire production team and all the parents for their excellent work!

Adira Balzac (Farzad, Haman’s Friends/Chamberlain Chorus) is in 12th grade at the Nashoba Regional High School. She played a politically active zebra in Rain Dance, an ever-helpful stagehand in Kids Court, and a threatening Jackal and industrious Weaver in Weaver’s Wedding. This year, she is again practicing her quick costume changes as a member of the company. She also co-wrote and acted in Miles of Hope through her high school. She is planning to study mechanical engineering and materials science at a college to be named later. She enjoys making things, especially dangerous and incendiary crafts such as blacksmithing and glassblowing.

Ilan Balzac (Carcas, Haman’s Friends/Chamberlain Chorus) is in 6th grade at the Hale Middle School in Stow. He has been typecast in the past as a highly energetic meerkat in Rain Dance, an annoying Jury Kid in Kids Court, and one of the obnoxious kids hearing the story of The Weaver’s Wedding. He also played the lead surfer dude in Hang Ten, a locally-produced children’s musical, and Cogsworth in his school production of Beauty and the Beast. This year, he has been cast against type, as a soporific servant, as well as a general member of the company. In his spare time, he likes to read, write fiction, do archery, play complicated board and card games, and pester both his cats and his sister.

Heather Barney (Carshena, Chamberlain Chorus) returns to NCFO in her ninth performance. Heather also sings with the Revels Singers and has had roles in past Revels productions: a Québécois village matron in Christmas Revels (2004) and a festive celebrant with Spring Revels (2012, 2013) at Perkins School in Watertown. She is very happy to be performing once again with her partner David Mitten. Since November 9, Heather has decided to work daily for the Resistance and the future of democratic process across our country.

David Bass (Composer and Librettist, Founder and Artistic Director) As a teenager, David was a prolific composer of pretentious music, but during his college studies, he became discouraged with pursuing music professionally. Instead, he received a BS in chemistry from Yale and a doctorate in chemical engineering from MIT, during which time he arranged dozens of songs for the a cappella groups at these institutions. After a 20-year hiatus from musical composition, David wrote the distinctly unpretentious Space Opera for the enjoyment of his three young children, their friends, and their families. He directed productions of Space Opera in the spring of 1999, 2000, 2005, and 2011. His second opera, The Coronation of Esther, was performed in 2001; its sequel, Springtime for Haman, in 2004 and 2010 (and of course this year); and Kids Court, his first collaboration, with

Anat Beck-Nachtigal (Citizen/Prince Chorus) is delighted to be back singing with her friends at NCFO as a Prince in the Median cast. This will be her fifth year. Anat is an architect and a designer and in her free time she likes to tend her garden and go to her folk dancing and pottery classes. She loves traveling with her family and wants to thank her husband Dani for coming to see all our performances.

Claudette Beit-Aharon (General Manager) has been hovering on the periphery of NCFO for many years. While her children took roles as stormtroopers in Space Opera (2000), Darth Vader in Space Opera (2005), and the Red Queen in Antiphony (2006), Claudette worked as the concessions captain or frolicked backstage on stage crew. This year, she will be stepping out of the shadows as the new General Manager. Claudette’s passion for NCFO remains despite her entire family (sons, daughter, AND husband) being turned into eunuchs for The Coronation of Esther (2001)!

Jerry Bellows (Prince Chorus) “My affection for the live musical theater stems from my early childhood, seeing Mary Martin live as Peter Pan. I then resolved to never grow up.” He first appeared onstage in 7th grade as the Pirate King of Pirates of Penzance, and later played Mr. Sowerby in Oliver! and Peter in J.C. Superstar. He has sung in church choirs for many years. He is a recorder teacher, a founding member of the Worcester Hills Recorder Society and performs frequently with the Seele Musicales Chamber Ensemble. He arranges and engraves music in his home studio and is raising two teen-age sons.

Sophie Berelowitch (Samireh, Concubine Chorus) is a 16-year-old, 10th-grader at the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. She dances with MDC, her school dance company, as well as The School of Classical Ballet. She loves reading, writing and hanging out with her friends. Eloise is pleased to be participating in her tenth North Cambridge Family Opera production. Her previous performances with NCFO have been The Puzzle Jigs (2008), Weaver’s Wedding (2009), Springtime for Haman (2010), Space Opera (2011), Flying High (2012), Antiphony (2013), Rain Dance (2014), Kids Court (2015) and Weaver’s Wedding (2016). Eloise would like to thank her entire family for supporting her throughout the year and all of her friends at opera.

Kate Berelowitch (Dancer, Citizen/Chamberlain Chorus), a 4th-grader at the Peabody School, loves to sing, dance, and build things with sewing, hammering, taping, drawing, sawing, and gluing. This is her second NCFO show. She has danced for years, studies piano, and performs at school music concerts. She also performs in plays at her afterschool program, including in the annual Agassiz Afterschool Flying Zucchini Cafe. In addition, Kate performs with the Early Bird Singers chorus at venues across Boston, and this year, in Philadelphia.

Juli Berndt (Amir, Chamberlain Chorus) This is Juli’s second year with NCFO and she is very happy to be an insider now with the troupe. Juli is in the 6th grade at Vassal Lane Upper School. In her spare time she loves to draw, sing and play the violin. She has debuted several solo performances on Musical.ly when she thinks her parents are not looking, so they are looking forward to her performances on a real stage, in Springtime for Haman.

Mark Bildman (Shethar, Prince Chorus) Contrary to popular belief, there are just two seasons: Opera and July 4th. As much as I resist, there must be something in the water that keeps me coming back for the harmonies and camaraderie. It’s my seventh opera season and I’ve yet to do the same show twice. Sit back, relax, and let us entertain you.

Jessica Cashdan (Dancer, Citizen/Concubine Chorus) had wandered far from the stage, where she
Kate, she participated in NCFO's college years. At the urging of her youngest daughter, dabbled in acting during her high school and college years. Though rarely seen on stage, Jessica can regularly be found singing somewhat loudly in the car, at community protests, and around the campfire.

Constance Chiu Fai Chung (Citizen Chorus) is a Chinese language teacher. She is the proud mother of her son Enoch Fu and daughter Esther Fu. This is her first appearance in NCFO and also her first attempt in singing publicly. She will also sing with her daughter Esther Fu in NCFO's Science Festival Chorus 2017. Constance is a Cambridge newcomer and has been in this beautiful city since August 2016. Constance's husband King Wa is a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at MIT. Constance was a journalist in print and broadcasting media, then turned to teaching Chinese as a second language in Hong Kong. This is a wonderful program. She hopes to participate for many years. She works from home as a mother, part-time Mandarin and Cantonese teacher, and Chinese painting artist. She would like to thank her incredible daughter Esther for singing with her, and the cast, the crew and the vocal teachers Jennifer and Carmen, and David and Sue for putting it all together and for making this year so special.

Abbe Cohen Dvornik (Haman's Friends Chorus) is playing a friend to Haman, but in real life she prefers to fight oppressive despots rather than befriend them. She usually makes clever topical jokes in her bio, but not this year. She has performed in several NCFO operas (Antiphony 2013, Kids Court 2015, Weaver's Wedding 2016) and in Science Festival choruses since 2011.

Melanie Joy Cohn-Hopwood (Chamberlain Chorus) is a social worker and mom of two with a remote background in musical theater. She is excited to be in her first NCFO production, which is made extra fun by performing with her kids as well as her sister, niece and nephew. Melanie would like to thank the NCFO crew for creating such a welcoming environment for everyone, and for - well - everything.

Lynn Colletti (Citizen Chorus) has a BS in Architectural Engineering from Wentworth Institute of Technology and a Telecommunications stamp from BICSI. Currently Lynn is active in her hometown on School Committee, singing with Women of Note and has just published her first book. This is Lynn’s second season with NCFO. Last year she participated in Weaver’s Wedding as a weaver and jackal and did lighting.

Rachel Cooper (Karim, Haman’s Friends Chorus) was in three productions with NCFO from 2002-2004: the Worker Queen in Antiphony (2002), Puzzle Jigs (2003), a concubine in a Springtime for Haman (2004). She rejoined in 2014 (with her son Jack) as the Old Zebra in Rain Dance, and in 2016 as a Farmer in Weaver’s Wedding. Rachel is an ELL Teacher with Cambridge Public Schools, and other interests include reading and swimming.

Jennifer Dhanjee (Director of Vocal Instruction), soprano, vocal instructor and entrepreneur, is thrilled to complete another season teaching at NCFO with Springtime for Haman. This 2017 season marks Jennifer’s ninth year teaching at NCFO and she couldn’t be more grateful to continue being a part of this incredible community! Outside of NCFO, Jennifer enjoys teaching voice and basic musicianship as a private vocal instructor to ages 10+ within Cambridge and Greater Boston. She is also excited to share her passion for the art of teaching voice through the start-up, Lift Up Your Voice, which helps residents of Greater Boston to discover professional voice instructors who match their goals. Currently, Jennifer holds a cantor position at St. Joseph Parish and Immaculate Conception Parish both in Malden, MA where she sings for regular masses, funerals, and weddings. Jennifer holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Voice Performance from the University of Akron and a Master’s degree, also in Voice Performance, from the Longy School of Music. Jennifer would like to thank David & Sue for being the amazing force of love and encouragement behind all that we do here at NCFO!

Chloe Duggan (Dara, Dancer, Chamberlain Chorus) is in sixth grade, and goes to Vassal Lane Upper School. This is her second year in the opera. Chloe loves candy, unicorns, pugs, la tapatia (inside joke), and fishes on a pole (also an inside joke). She also enjoys writing about herself in the third person.

Albert Dvornik (Azarmik, Haman’s Friends Chorus) rose from an oppressed brute (Water Buffalo in Rain Dance (2014)) to a ye-a-saying top bureaucrat (Dep-uty’3 Prime Minister in Weaver’s Wedding (2016)), only to be relegated back to a regular Citizen sucking up to the rich and powerful. His ambition is to stop
repeating his solo line (“This is insanity! What kind of man is he?”).

**Katarina Dvornik** *(Harbona, Haman’s Friends Chorus)* is eleven years old, which means that she has been participating in NCFO activities for more than half her life. She was a worker ant in *Antiphony* (2013), a meerkat in *Rain Dance* (2014), a Jury Kid in *Kids Court* (2015) and a Prime Minister in *Weaver’s Wedding* (2016). She also has performed in the NCFO Science Chorus since 2011. Katarina is in 5th grade at the Healey School, and enjoys doodling a variety of things, reading, and writing. She would like to thank the NCFO team for being the NCFO team, and her family for always being supportive and kind.

**Chris Edel** *(Mehuman, Citizen/Prince Chorus, Set Design and Technical Director)* is in his 10th year of performing with the Family Opera. He enjoys the change from the world of the very small to the land of the big. In the outside world he is a restorer of fine violins and is grateful to have this musical outlet.

**Jeff Fried** *(Haman)* is grateful for the chance to be evil, or at least play at being evil (thank you, David Bass, life will never quite be the same). This is Jeff’s eighth year with NCFO, which has included playing a loud, hairy, clumsy Chewbacca in *Space Opera*; a belligerent dung beetle in *Antiphony*; a slow, overweight but bigharted Hobo the Hippo in *Rain Dance*; and a clueless constable in *Kids Court*. Perfect typecasting in all cases. Jeff has sung in many a cappella groups and choruses, and also plays low brass (trombone & tuba). He sends a big thank you to his lovely wife Evie for supporting the NCFO habit. In his spare time, Jeff develops search software and then writes and lectures about it.

**Linnea Fried** *(Farouk, Citizen Chorus)* returns to NCFO for her seventh year; she was Laura in last year’s *Weaver’s Wedding*, a thoughtful jury member in *Kids Court*, a dancing Zebra in *Rain Dance*, a scarrab beetle in the war cabinet for *Antiphony*, a timid child star in *Flying High*. and a rabble-rousing rebel in 2011’s *Space Opera*. Linnea is twelve years old and attends seventh grade at Brown Middle School in Newton. She studies flute, and enjoys cats, drawing, reading, and baking.

**Esther Fu** *(Farouk, Citizen Chorus)* is eleven years old and a sixth-grade grader at the Rindge Avenue Upper Campus in Cambridge. This is her first year taking part in NCFO. She enjoys chorus at her school and participates in the Cambridge All-City Chorus. She performed different main characters in Cantonese Opera on stage since she was 4 years old, including acting as the Princess in *The Princess in Distress*, White Snake and Green Snake in *The Legend of the White Snake*, Princess in *My Wife is a Princess*, Xi Shi (one of the renowned Four Beauties of ancient China) in *Romance in the West Lake*. She sang and danced in *Music Man Junior* with Opera Hong Kong when she was five. She also sang in children’s chorus in *Turandot* with Hong Kong Opera Society in 2014. She plays the violin and yangqin. She would like to thank her incredible mother Constance for singing with her on the stage, and the cast, the crew and the vocal teachers Jennifer and Carmen, and David and Sue for putting it all together and for making this year so special.

**Erin Gast** *(Hadi, Haman’s Friends Chorus)* is a fourth-grader at Hardy Elementary, and this is her third NCFO opera. Erin likes being silly, spinning in circles, swimming, singing, bunny rabbits, and teasing her sister, in no particular order.

**Meredith Gast** *(Mehrdad, Haman’s Friends Chorus)* is a sixth-grader at Ottoson Middle School, and is enjoying being in her fourth NCFO production. Besides singing, she loves playing games, circus arts, and reading books. Especially reading books.

**Jonathan Gilbert** *(Shethar, Dancer, Prince Chorus, Assistant Dramatic Director)* has been involved in music, dance, or theater pretty much continuously since childhood, but has mostly resisted trying to do it for a living. As a young adult he danced with the Mandala Folk Dance Ensemble and sang in *The Christmas Revels*. He has performed as a folk musician, a choral singer, and an orchestral violist, and done bits of music directing, theatrical writing, and show choreography as well. His closest brush with fame was briefly appearing as a Lithuanian wedding dancer in the 1991 movie *Once Around*, and his own biggest theatrical lead so far was in 7th grade as Linus in a school production of *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. He will be 50 years old when *Springtime for Haman* opens, and these days he thinks he probably wants to be a composer when he grows up. This is his and his son’s fourth year participating in NCFO.

**Nathan Gilbert** *(Chamberlain Chorus)* is doing his fourth family opera running (his fourth at all), as he started with the 2014 show *Rain Dance*, and has not missed one since. He used to do other theater, and sometimes wishes that he could get back into it. Other times, he remembers that it would just be yet another thing in an already crowded week. He is 11 years, or 11 years 1 month 14 hours 13 minutes old, at the time of typing that. It is now 6:45 Post Meridian, as three minutes have now passed, making it 6:46, on February Eleventh, 2017 (Or, as he likes to call it, @)&)). He is in fifth grade, second semester, at Peirce Elementary School, Arlington, Massachusetts, The United States of America, North America. He is in the fifth grade orchestra and Chamber Or-
chestra on Viola, and is also in the Brackett Recorder Club, on Soprano and Alto Recorders. He is also, separately, a musician and dancer on Banbury Cross Morris Team (again, the Viola). He still likes to have his name spelled Naþan! That’s all for now! Let’s see what he’s doing next year……next year!

Laura Gill (Hathach, Concubine Chorus) is 17 and a junior at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. This is her seventh show since she first performed with NCFO in Weaver’s Wedding in 2009. She was last seen as the talent agent in Kids Court in 2015. She also performed in Beyond the Fourth Wall’s production of Sweeney Todd in 2015. Outside of musical theater, she rows for the CRLS crew team. She would like to thank her mother, who forced her to try the opera eight years ago and has supported her all the way through.

Dina Gorelik (Dancer, Concubine Chorus) is a freshman at Newton North. There, she participated in her school musical, Fiddler on the Roof, this past month. Dina likes singing Hamilton with her friends, and biking. She would like to thank her friends at NCFO for always being there, as well as David for not getting mad at her for doing homework during rehearsal.

Lena Gorelik (Citizen/Prince Chorus) is thrilled to be promoted to a Prince from a Concubine since the last performance of this opera. It has been Lena’s ninth year performing with her daughter Dina in NCFO. Lena thanks David and Sue for their continuous effort in bringing joy to the Opera families.

Adam Gould (Stage Crew) is in 6th grade, and has worked tech for the past two NCFO productions. He is returning for Springtime for Haman despite having landed a drop on the head of the queen in Weaver’s Wedding (2016). While not working backstage he enjoys Minecraft, Pokémon Go, and little league baseball.

Tom Gould (Chamberlain Chorus) is singing for the eighth time in an NCFO production, and in Springtime for Haman the second time. He thanks his children Aviva and Adam for allowing him to sing. When his family’s dogs run away, they go to visit David and Sue’s dogs. So far David has resisted the temptation to organize them into an all-barking chorus. Tom dedicates his performance to his wife Maura for her support and encouragement.

Sue Hall (Haman’s Friends/Chamberlain Chorus, Producer, Co-Stage Manager) is trying to keep her head above water this year while juggling singing and dancing (quite the image), stage management, and taking on many of the production roles that used to be performed so (seemingly) effortlessly by the newly-retired Caria! Luckily (though sadly), her (non-canine) kids are now all out of the house, making this all barely possible. She thanks David for writing this funny, clever, beautiful, and moving opera.

Aytan Hamill (Fazlollah, Haman’s Friends Chorus) can name that tune in one note. His encyclopedic knowledge of popular music continues to amaze his family and his friends at the TEC High School in Westwood. Aytan is an avid cross-country skier and also enjoys swimming and ice skating. Aytan would like to thank his brother Yona for introducing him to NCFO.

Katie Hamill (Meidan, Dancer, Haman’s Friends Chorus) is delighted to be performing in her eighth opera with NCFO, along with her daughter Anya Miller, her brother Tom Hamill, and her nephew Aytan. Previously, she played the Storyteller in The Weaver’s Wedding (2016), a Stagehand in Kids Court (2015), Lamia the Lioness in Rain Dance (2014), a Ladybug in Antiphony (2013), a Stage Parent in Flying High (2012), a pointy-eared Alien in Space Opera (2011), and a Chamberlain in Springtime for Haman (2010). When she is not singing and dancing onstage, she can usually be found singing and dancing offstage (often while solving a puzzle or practicing law).

Tom Hamill (Haman’s Friends Chorus) is appearing in his 15th NCFO production — dating back to the 2003 production of The Puzzle Jigs. Tom has played a vast array of animals, insects, and the occasional human in his time with NCFO and enjoyed every minute of it. Tom is very grateful that the NCFO gives him a break from everyday life and allows him to pursue his real passion — shushing children.

Suji Han (Azarmik, Chamberlain Chorus) who is a mother, a wife, and a graduate student, is delighted to be a part of this wonderful team. She is also a professionally trained soprano and has performed in a number of musical productions. However, this spring is uniquely special for her as it is her first time to stand on the same stage with her son, Theo!

Patricia Hawkins (Mehuman, Chamberlain Chorus) is happy to be performing again with NCFO, with a solo as the chamberlain Mehuman. She appeared as a Brain Fever Bird soloist in NCFO’s Weaver’s Wedding, and as a Zebra soloist in NCFO’s production of Rain Dance in 2014, which was her first theatrical performance since a high school production of A Midsummer Night’s Dream. She appeared last year in NCFO Science Festival Chorus’s production of Giants of Science, and sings high soprano in First Parish UU of Arlington’s choir.

Ruth Hertzman-Miller (Zethar, Prince Chorus) was last seen on the NCFO stage in Weaver’s Wedding as a Deputy Deputy Prime Minister. Around that time,
she started a new job as a Deputy (sadly, not Deputy Deputy) Editor. Coincidence? You decide! Regardless, she now spends a good part of her week riding the commuter rail back and forth from Newton to her workplace at DynaMed Plus in Ipswich, when she’s not caring for centenarians and near-centenarians at Hebrew SeniorLife or composing pieces for NCFO. She thanks her husband David and kids Sarah, Lonne, and Rachel for all their support.

Heather Hoffman (Rehearsal Manager) has been happily anonymous since *Antiphony* (2006), basking in the glow of her daughter, Erica Jaquith’s, performances on stage and her husband, Mark Jaquith’s, stage crewing, while keeping an eye on her knitting and the pizza order. Now that the rest of her family is otherwise engaged with work and college, she still enjoys being serenaded at rehearsals and telling people where to go. Thanks to everyone who makes this possible, on stage and off.

Sue Holcomb (Fiddle, Prince Chorus) is a violin teacher and longtime participant in NCFO. Right now she lives in Framingham with her cat and puppy.

Sophie Rose Cohn Hopwood (Chamberlain Chorus), age 9, is in the 3rd grade at King Open School in Cambridge. She sings in the KO Choir and in the Children’s Choir at First Parish UU in Arlington, where she also played a Cratchett child in the Children’s Choir at First Parish UU in Arlington, age 9, is in the 3rd grade at King Open School. She loves to play all kinds of sports!

Jacey Jewett (Nastaran, Citizen Chorus) Hi! I am 10 years old and go to the Galvin Middle School in Wakefield. This is my first time being in this opera! I thank Nicole and Glenn McElhoe for inviting us to be in it this year.

Matthew Jewett (Citizen/Prince Chorus), a longtime NCFO fan/audience member for numerous productions, is a first time onstage citizen and sometime prince. Thanks and admiration to the NCFO team who manage the logistics of putting it all together. Matthew is thrilled to be participating with both daughters, Merilee and Jacey, aka the Keyser Chix, who are rocking their Haman parts. Big thanks to wife/mom Julie Keyser for her very supporting role of Sunday afternoon management ranging from Soprano to Bass, Beggars to Prince...... What cha gonna do?

Merilee Jewett (Nasrin, Citizen Chorus) Hi guys! It’s my first year with North Cambridge Family Opera era. I LOVE to sing, dance, and act. But more than anything I love my sister, Jacey (even though I don’t show it). I’m so excited to be sharing a duet with her! I hope you enjoy the show!

Biriki Kahasai (Roshan, Citizen Chorus) is a 6th-grader at the Vassal Lane Upper School. This is her first time performing with NCFO, and she’s really enjoying it!

Leektka Katzenblickstein (Hathach, Haman’s Friends Chorus) has been with North Cambridge Family Opera for four years and five shows, going from playing a lowly DescAnt to a noble eunuch. When she’s not singing, she can be found playing cello or protesting.

Hope Kelley (Haman’s Friends/Chamberlain Chorus) has been in the annual Cambridge Science Festival Choruses and NCFO operas since 2007, enjoying a variety of roles (Earth Jig, Child, Mosquito, Villager, Stormtrooper, Red Ant, Cameraman, Water Buffalo, Security Guard, Weaver, and Jackal) and happily performing with her two sons until last year the draw of college and CRLS’s spring Drama Festival pulled them away. Thankfully she is enjoying the camaraderie of all of the members of the two casts. She highly recommends coming back to see the other cast. Both casts are great and it is fun to see the show more than once!

Addie Kelsey (Mordechai) is an eighth-grader at Vassal Lane Upper School who enjoys singing, dancing, reading, hiking, and spending time with her amazing friends. She’s been in almost 20 theatrical productions, and in past NCFO productions has played the part of a worker ant, a leveret, and a prime minister. She wants to thank David for entrusting her with the part of Mordechai, and the amazing Jennifer Dhanjee for helping her learn it!

John Kernochan (Haman’s Friends Chorus) Yo ho ho, it’s off from work I go! Ho ho ho ho ho ho ho ho! Ayla Kobi (Amir, Citizen Chorus), an 11-year-old 5th grader at the Franklin School in Newton, loves music. She has enjoyed playing the piano for the past six years and the clarinet for a couple of years. Ayla has appeared as Snoopy in the musical *You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown* in All Newton Summer camp, and carried the lead roles in her Broadway class as Cinderella (*Cinderella*) and as Simba (*Lion King*). Ayla is currently playing in an ensemble program learning different kinds of music. This is her 2nd time with NCFO and she is thrilled to be part of *Springtime For Haman*.

Lia Kobi (Bahaar, Citizen Chorus) is 8 years old and a 2nd-grader at the Franklin School in Newton. She’s
been playing piano for 3 years (she likes anything with stripes on it) and has performed in several drama shows, including Zazu (Lion King) and a puppy (101 Dalmatians). When Lia isn’t making music she likes to draw, read, and play with Lego. This is Lia’s first time performing with NCFO and she is looking forward to her role as Bahar in this coming performance.

Popi Kokkinogenis (Ramin, Citizen Chorus) is a 14-year-old, game-playing, anime-drawing, terrible-pun-making, martial-arts-practicing, roller-derby-playing, stilt-walking, unicycle-riding, cookie-baking homeschooler in her fifth year with NCFO. She has enjoyed playing a beleaguered worker ant (2013), a brutish baboon (2014), a commercialing stage hand (2015), and a wise(ish) village elder (2016). She is always grateful to NCFO for the chance to grow on stage.

Rhea Kokkinogenis (Roshan, Citizen Chorus) is a 12-year-old homeschooler who loves angsty (or danceable) music, shopping, painting, and performing. She has played a worker ant in Antiphony (2013), a baboon in Rain Dance (2014), and a juror in Kids Court (2015). She enjoyed being back stage last year, learning stage crew and lighting, and is enjoying being back on stage this year. She is always grateful to NCFO for the chance to grow on stage.

Theo Koo (Golpar, Chamberlain Chorus), a kindergartner at Haggerty School, is extremely excited to make his debut in opera with NCFO. He gives special thanks to his mom and dad for supporting him on and below the stage. He will hold the unforgettable memory that he stood on the stage with this amazing team until his dream comes true — being a “well-known” actor and appearing on Odd Squad his favorite television show.

Mindy Koyanis (Haman’s Friends Chorus) is taking part in NCFO for the first time. She lives in Cambridge and has had a lifelong interest in arts and education. Recent affiliations include: Revels, Cambridge School Volunteers/Art & Science in One, Bow & Arrow Press, Harvard Bridge Program. Now retired, after decades of licensing creative works at Houghton Mifflin Company and Harvard University Press, Mindy is grateful to everyone who has encouraged her passionate exploration in the performing and visual arts.

Kerry LaRose (Bizzetha, Concubine Chorus) is a 12-year-old homeschooler from small-town Maynard, Massachusetts. She is an MTN (Musical Theater Nut), a competitive horse rider, a 4H dog trainer, and a proud almost-vegan. She also considers herself an elite “Gilmore Girler”. This is her third production with NCFO.

Susan LaRose (Chamberlain Chorus) is a… well it’s best not to tell you her age. She is the proud Mom of Kerry LaRose and the General Manager for Plus One
at Harvard Business School. She is excited for her second production with NCFO. “GO SOX!”

Bill Laskin (Haman’s Friends Chorus) I am thrilled to be in my fifth NCFO production with my daughter, Izzy. We must be having a good time if we’re willing to spend Sunday afternoons in rehearsal rather than watching the Packers (Patriots, Schmatriots). I’m looking forward to standing with the other dads in the back row of the chorus, singing, dancing, and watching the short people steal the show. Thanks to David, Sue, Kathy, and Rachel for making it all possible.

Isabel Laskin (Bahaar, Haman’s Friends Chorus) I am excited to be in my fifth NCFO production with my Dad. I am in the 6th grade at Vassal Lane Upper School in Cambridge. Thanks to classmates Eliza, Chloe, Juli, and Birikti for joining with me in the fun. I love to tap dance, sing, play hockey and electric bass, and read. Thanks for coming for coming!

Ella Lehrich (Golpar, Chamberlain Chorus) I am in 5th grade at the Peabody School and this is my first time in NCFO. I love to sing, act, read, and draw. I play the cello and do chorus at my school. I have a lovely family and a cat named Skyla.

Charles E. Leiserson (Admatha, Prince Chorus) is performing in the North Cambridge Family Opera for the second time, having debuted last year as a Frog in Weaver’s Wedding. Sometime between then and now, he must have been kissed, because this year he is a Prince. The most likely suspects are his wife Wendy and his daughter Katie, both of whom are also performing in Springtime for Haman this year. In his spare time, Charles teaches algorithms and parallel computing at MIT.

Katherine (Katie) Leiserson (Dara, Chamberlain Chorus) age 9, is a 3rd-grader at Shady Hill School and is performing in the North Cambridge Family Opera for the second time. She had a brief solo as part of the American Band in the First Church in Belmont, Unitarian-Universalist Youth Choir’s presentation of Bye Bye Birdie in 2014, and she was a Frog in last year’s NCFO production of Weaver’s Wedding. She loves her cat, Tigger, her American Girl dolls, and cooking. She also likes piano and wants to thank Daddy and Mama for participating in Springtime for Haman with her.

Wendy Leiserson (Chamberlain Chorus) is performing in NCFO for the first time. She helped out behind the scenes with costuming for Weaver’s Wedding last year, but opted to join the chorus on stage this year. Her participation has delighted her husband Charles and daughter Katie. Prior to NCFO and becoming a mom, Wendy performed in the courtroom as an attorney, a role she found less daunting than being on stage. In her spare time, she writes children’s books and nonfiction essays.

Maia Levitt (Ramin, Haman’s Friends/Chamberlain Chorus) is a freshman at the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School where she is a member of Project 10 East, FIRST Robotics Club, and participated in the tech program for the musical this past fall. Maia enjoys reading, playing with fidget toys, and eating cake. This is Maia’s seventh North Cambridge Family Opera production. Maia would like to thank her parents for driving her to rehearsal during snowstorms, and Fiona O’Loughlin for telling her what rehearsal she was supposed to be in.

Kathy Lindsay (Haman’s Friends/Chamberlain Chorus, Dramatic Director, Costume Designer, Co-Stage Manager) It’s very clear the ‘directeer’ of both the Persians and Medians, Behaves a lot like she has got free time for dressing up the peons.

Not getting tired, instead inspired for a third season of this opera. And she’s singing a lot too! It seems that I’ve been down this road before. North Cambridge Operas- more than half a score. A fly, a jackal, a princess and a queen, A shiny robot, and ensemble parts I’ve been.

Zayaan Mamun (Zenda, Citizen/Chamberlain Chorus) is a 4th-grader at the Graham and Parks School. This is her first time performing with NCFO, and she’s really enjoying it! She loves reading, ice-skating, swimming and camping. She also performs with the Cambridge Children’s Chorus.

Marin Manoach (Bigtha, Concubine Chorus) is 12 years old and in the 6th grade at Rindge Avenue Upper Campus, in Cambridge. It is my 5th year at NCFO. In past performances I was a Worker Ant on the Management Committee in Antiphony (2013), a Leveret in Rain Dance (2014), a Stagehand - the part, not an actual stagehand - in Kids Court (2015) and a Kid in Weaver’s Wedding (2016). I like Art and Music and I play piano. I’d like to thank my mom and my piano teacher.

Anneliese S. Mattox (Suhrab, Dancer, Chamberlain Chorus) is 10 years old and in fifth grade at Shady Hill School. Anneliese has performed in school plays and What the Dickens?, a holiday show that Deborah Mason School of Dance puts on each year. She enjoys singing in her school chorus. She would like to thank her mom for taking her to and from rehearsals, North Cambridge Family Opera for giving her an opportunity to be part of the show, and finally she would like to thank Elke Bentley, her friend, for introducing her to this program!
Chanda McCreary (Chamberlain Chorus) is the other proud Mom of Kerry LaRose and head chef at her house. She is an aspiring writer and a lover of pomegranates, picture books, and dark chocolate. This is her third production with NCFO.

Glenn McElhoe (Carshena, Citizen/Prince Chorus) can't believe this is his eighth year! Haman was his first show and he is really happy to have a chance to do it again as it is one of his favorites. Outside of the opera, he sings barbershop with the Vocal Revolution chorus and recently won Sing That Thing!, but NCFO is very special because he gets the opportunity to sing with his daughter Nicole, and is encouraged to do a hoe-down right in the middle of an opera. He works at VMware in Burlington, and thanks his family for all of their support.

Nicole McElhoe (Zeresh, Citizen Chorus) is a seventeen-year-old junior at Arlington High School. This is her ninth year performing with NCFO. Outside of opera, Nicole rows for Arlington Belmont Crew and is part of their varsity girls squad. She has been part of her school’s student-directed one-acts, along with productions with Alexander Children’s Theater and Long Lake Camp for the Arts. Additionally, Nicole takes lessons with her lovely vocal coach, Marie McCarville, outside of opera. Over the years Nicole has enjoyed all of her roles from her first one-word solo to her more recent lead roles. She would love to send a big thanks to David and Sue for all their hard work for this company, and special thanks to her dad, Glenn McElhoe, for taking part in this with her!

Dan McKanan (Prince Chorus) teaches at Harvard Divinity School, where he and his students explore the ways religious communities can resist tyranny and oppression.

Oriana McKanan (Zethar, Chamberlain Chorus) is 13 years old and homeschooled. She likes to read, write, draw, sew, cook, sing, act, hang out with her friends and many other things. This is her 5th year in the opera. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Tammy McKanan (Chamberlain Chorus) is a homeschooling mama whose previous career, counseling ex-cult members; her wariness of the current U.S. administration; and her reading of the antagonist of this opera, give her a profound appreciation for the value to the world of parenting securely attached, non-competitive children who can take in love and metabolize it into kindness.

Alec McKinney (Admatha, Prince Chorus) has been participating in NCFO shows and Science Choruses since 2006 but has been yearning for royal blood all his life. He loves his princely role and being a fellow courtier with his wonderful wife Julie. He is not so ex-
cited about having to bow to his son, the King, but for-
tunately this is a short-lived role for Riley. Alec lives in
Cambridge with his wife, Julie and sons Casey, Tyler,
and Riley. He wants to thank his wonderful extended
family and friends for their support, all his other ador-
ing fans, and most importantly and sincerely NCFO
for all they have given to Cambridge and beyond for
nearly 20 years. Go Riley, I am very proud of you.

Julie McKinney (Dancer, Citizen/Chamberlain Chorus) has enjoyed being part of several NCFO shows and Science Choruses, but the real thrill has been watching her kids progress from little rebels and tree jigs to jaded rock stars and eventually...well, the
King! (She really loves him like a teenage son!) Not to
mention watching her prince of a husband do a
fabulous hoe-down dance! It’s a priceless thing for
the whole family to have this as a typical part of our
Spring routine. Many thanks to the whole opera team
for grooming us all so patiently, and to Tyler for letting
us spend this time on opera every Sunday.

Riley McKinney (King) is a human male with 2 eyes,
1 mouth, 2 ears, and a nose. He is playing King
Ahashveros in the show, and he loves having the au-
thority over his parents on stage, who are also in the
show. He has been doing the North Cambridge Fam-
ily Opera for a very long time, since Space Opera in
2011. He has been in numerous shows in and out of
opera over the years, and is currently playing another
king in Beyond the 4th Wall’s production of The Lion
King. He loves theater and singing, and drinking diet
coke. His favorite food is buffalo wings, his favorite
song is “Drift Away” by Dobie Gray, his favorite TV
show is Breaking Bad and his favorite movie is The Big Lebowski.

Tianna McToggart (Stage Crew) is a junior at New-
ton North High School. She is very involved in film
making, and hopes to find a career behind the cam-
era. This is her first year participating in NCFO. She
enjoys the technical work and for now, is behind the
scenes, but next year? Who knows?

Alice Merrill Hunter (Carcas, Citizen/Chamberlain Chorus) is excited to be back for her third NCFO show. Alice is in the fourth grade and drama club (with Anastasia Miller a.k.a. Pinkie Pie) at JFK El-
ementary in Somerville, studies piano at Yamaha Music School, and sings with the children’s choir at First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Arlington. She recently performed as Moth in Theatre@First’s pro-
duction of Love’s Labor’s Lost IN SPACE.

Jason Merrill (Haman) thinks it’s about time he fi-
nally got the recognition he deserves. You must bow!
He’s often seen on stage with Theatre@First in Davis Square, and has been singing in choirs and the oc-
casional musical or opera since age 10. By day he
works on the GNU C++ compiler for Red Hat.

Anastasia Miller (Citizen Chorus) is 10 years old
and loves singing, writing, and making new friends.
She participates in the drama club at her school the
John F. Kennedy Elementary School in Somerville
where she is in 4th grade. She is also very excited to
be in NCFO for the very first time.

Anya Miller (Abagtha, Dancer, Haman’s Friends Chorus) is enjoying her eighth year with NCFO. She
played a Peacock and Courtier in Weaver’s Wedding (2016), a Stagehand in Kids Court (2015), a Ga-
zelle in Rain Dance (2014), Worker Ant in Antiphony (2013), Stacie in Flying High (2012), a Jawa, Rebel,
and Alien in Space Opera (2011), and a Chamberlain in Springtime for Haman (2010). She also takes bal-
et classes and is a fan of J-pop and cosplay. She is
14 years old and in the 9th grade at Arlington High
School. Thanks to her uncle Tom Hamill, her cousin
Aytan, and her mom and dad!

Lindsey Miller (Citizen/Chamberlain Chorus) is a 5th-grade student at Quinn Middle School in Hudson.
She plays the ukulele and likes to sing at open mikes
near her house. She also loves to sing Karaoke. She
is involved in gymnastics and loves arts and crafts.

Sylvie Miller (Citizen/Chamberlain Chorus) is a 4th-

Best of luck to the cast and crew
of Springtime for Haman!

FRED FANTINI
Cambridge School Committee
grade student at Farley Elementary in Hudson. She plays the violin and likes to show her skills at open mikes near her house. She is involved in gymnastics and loves arts and crafts.

David Gordon Mitten (Chamberlain Chorus) is pleased to return to NCFO after being a proud water buffalo in Rain Dance (2014), a grumpy security guard in Kids Court (2015), and a weaver and jackal in Weaver's Wedding (2016). Theatrically, he played Theodore Roosevelt in Arsenic and Old Lace in 1953. He sang with the Oberlin College Choir from 1954-57 and in community church choirs throughout his youth. David is presently the James Loeb Professor of Classical Art and Archeology Emeritus at Harvard University. He wants to thank his partner, Heather Barney, and David and Sue for the opportunity to sing with NCFO.

Jeff Moore (King) is grateful for the extended vocal warmup provided by his fifteen previous NCFO roles, as Darth in '99, '00, and '11; Memucan in '01; dung beetle in '02; SJS in '03; Haman in '04; soldier in '06; floor manager in '07; tree in '08; storyteller in '09; prince in '10; Tau in '14; lawyer in '15; and DDDPM in '16.

Liz Morse (Dancer, Concubine Chorus) is a special education teacher and a dancer. She is currently studying behavior analysis at Simmons. She is so happy to be in her 6th performance with NCFO. Previous roles include Peacock (Weaver's Wedding, 2016), Stagehand (Kids Court, 2015), Jackie the Jackal (Rain Dance, 2014), Scorpion (Antiphony, 2013) and Stage Parent (Flying High, 2012). She has had so much fun this year being part of such a wonderful community. She would like to thank all her family and friends for the love and support they have shown her all year long.

Jeannine Mosely (Props Designer) has designed props for every NCFO production since 2001 and has performed in the chorus for The Coronation of Esther (2001), Antiphony (2002), The Puzzle Jigs (2003), Springtime for Haman (2004), Space Opera (2005), Weaver's Wedding (2009) and Antiphony (2013). She is an origami artist, known internationally for her original designs made from business cards, and for her work in the mathematical theory of curved origami. Her works have exhibited at the Mingei International Museum in San Diego, the Peabody-Essex Museum in Salem, the Worcester Art Museum and the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles.

Edan Nachtigal (Zenda, Chamberlain Chorus) is a 4th-grader at the Baker School in Brookline. This will be his second year with NCFO, this time as a Chamberlain in the Median cast. Edan loves to play with his friends, rock climbing, tennis and Roblox. He is also a great artist.

Lia Nachtigal (Bizzetha, Concubine Chorus) is a 9th-grader at Brookline High School. This will be Lia’s fifth year at the opera and she is delighted to be back as Bizzetha in the Median cast. She loves horse riding, going to plays and Anime. She makes the best cupcakes!

Joanne Nicklas (Sherban, Chamberlain Chorus) is delighted to be performing for her fourth year in the opera. As a giraffe, jury kid, dove/village elder, and now a chamberlain, she continues to cherish the moments of music, dance, and drama with her daughter, Eliza, and friends.

Richard Nilsson (Prince Chorus) is delighted to sing again with NCFO and to have the chance to sing and dance alongside his daughter, Sophia Nilsson! Long may these father-and-daughter days last! Richard is an architect in private practice at Nilsson Architects of Somerville. He is delighted to have very nearly mastered his songs, dances, harmonies and choruses and does hope that this year’s opera goers will have as much fun watching, as Richard is having in the show.
Sophia Nilsson (Kaveh, Chamberlain Chorus), a Boston native and life-long Somerville resident, is thrilled to sing again with NCFO, and delighted to be an Edict Soloist! She is an accomplished song-and-dance woman, having thrice performed with Deborah Mason School of Dance at Hancock Hall and sung publicly for municipal dedications in Somerville. Sophia was a Frog Soloist in the NCFO production of Weaver’s Wedding in 2016. Sophia enjoys soccer, futsal, climbing, and arts and crafts. She is a mathematics enthusiast currently enrolled in the 3rd-grade of Unidos, Somerville’s Spanish language immersion program.

Farzana Nipa (Chamberlain Chorus) is happy to support her daughter, Zayaan, by being in their first NCFO production together. She works in Boston Medical Center as a researcher. She would like to thank the entire NCFO casts, crews and her family for all their support.

Fiona O’Loughlin (Kaveh, Haman’s Friends/Chamberlain Chorus) is a 16-year-old Sophomore at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. She is thrilled to be participating in her sixth NCFO production this year, after various hilarious animal and human roles in Flying High, Antiphony, Rain Dance, Kids Court, and Weaver’s Wedding. She has also loved performing in many fantastic Beyond the Fourth Wall musicals. When she isn’t acting, building sets, or helping teach drama to very young actors, Fiona enjoys reading, writing, games, travel, and playing with her puppy.

Rosemary Park (Concubine Chorus) is an architect at HMFH Architects in Cambridge. While the majority of her musical and theatrical experiences occurred in high school and in college, she has always had a passion for singing and found herself longing to perform again. This is her first year with NCFO and is excited to be a part of a singing community again. In addition to architecture and performing, Rosemary enjoys art, cooking and all forms of design. Rosemary would like to thank her husband, Levi, for watching over their rambunctious two year old, Shoshi, while Rosemary has been rehearsing for these past few months. And she’d like to thank Shoshi for being a good kid for Dad to watch over!

Mary Penniston (Haman’s Friends Chorus) is back plotting another nefarious set of deeds along with Haman. She’s done past roles of evil intent in the last few operas, as well as in her evil theatrical history!

Davide Pettenuzzo (Fazlollah, Haman’s Friends Chorus) is excited to be singing with NCFO for the second year in a row. He can’t wait for the opening night to be on stage again with his 9-year-old son Leo! He would like to thank his wife Valentina for her support during the long Sunday afternoon rehearsals and his little son Tommaso (aka Totti) for all the singing done together in the car while driving back and forth to school every day for the last 3 months.

Leonardo Pettenuzzo (Sherban, Haman’s Friends Chorus) is a 3rd-grader at Williams School in Newton. This is Leo’s second year with NCFO, after an exciting debut in Weaver’s Wedding in 2016, and he is excited to be back as an Edict Soloist! Leo is a great swimmer, loves reading and likes sports, particularly football and baseball. He would like to thank his teacher, Jocelyn Limmer, for sharing with him her passion for singing and playing piano.

Columbina Phoenix (Makeup) is celebrating her fourth year with NCFO! She lives in Waltham, works at Amazon, and makes and sells jewelry at Sunspot Designs. She is grateful to Elizabeth Stone for roping her into this fun community and for all of her brilliant makeup knowledge, and in love with Jenny the cat.

Carla Procaskey (Assistant General Manager, Costume Designer) officially retired from NCFO last year, but like the cat, it seems she came back ‘cause she couldn’t stay away. She likes being retired and she also likes family opera. And she loves the snow!

David Rabkin (Makeup, Photography) This season marks David’s tenth year on NCFO’s makeup team. Both of his children have been in past operas, and his professional experience writing software, managing tech companies, and directing programs at the Museum of Science seems as good a background as any for his role coaching NCFO’s many make-up volunteers and painting a lot of faces himself.

Lisa Racolta-Danielyan (Esther) has been an active soloist in NCFO since 2013. Her previous roles were a Soldier Ant (Antiphony, 2013) Bello the Meerkat (Rain Dance, 2014) the Stepmother (Kids Court, 2015), and the Queen (Weaver’s Wedding, 2016). Lisa is a Harvard Extension School student; she plans to continue her education in conservatory starting Fall 2018. Lisa studied acting with drama masters Remo Airaldi (American Repertory Theater) and Thomas Derrah. She played roles from Shakespeare to Meredith Wilson to Leonard Bernstein in Boston area youth theaters. Among her favorite roles are Hermione in Winter’s Tale, Silvia in Two Gentlemen of Verona, Rosalina in West Side Story. Lisa, a mezzo-soprano classical singer, is a winner of multiple international voice competitions. She performed in Carnegie Hall four times winning early acclaim at International Music, Vocal and Concerto competitions in 2014-2016. Lisa participates in international concert tours in Portugal, France and Russia, frequents open mics and is a major soloist in popular local
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operas. She sings in five languages, plus Latin. Lisa also enjoys music theory, piano, world history, marine biology and volunteering. She would like to thank her friends, family, teachers and the entire NCFO cast for their love and support!

**Jack Ramde (Hadi, Haman's Friends Chorus)** is a 5th-grader at Fayerweather Street School in Cambridge. This is Jack’s third opera with NCFO. In past productions, he was a Meerkat in *Rain Dance*, and a Farmer in *Weaver’s Wedding*. His interests include football, basketball, baseball, hip hop, piano and playing chess. He has enjoyed making new friends at NCFO.

**Eoin Rogers (Prince Chorus)** is a 10th-grader at CRLS High School. This is his fourth year with NCFO and he additionally sings with the Boston City Singers. Eoin plays ice hockey on the CRLS team as well as baseball in the summer.

**Ruth Rogers (Concubine Chorus)** has been singing with NCFO for 7 years and she is enjoying dancing and singing in the Concubine chorus. She started as a rebel in *Space Opera*, and since then has been a Stage Mom, a Soldier Ant, a Hippo, a Stage Hand, and a Jackal: usually joined by one or both of her sons. This year her son Eoin is also onstage in the Prince Chorus. Ruth sings in the Science Oratorio as well and highly recommends it to anyone who loves music and science. When not singing or with her family, she works as an architect and practices kung fu. As always, Ruth would like to thank her husband Sean for his enthusiastic support.

**Katya Sacharow (Abagtha, Chamberlain Chorus)** is a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-a 6th-grader at Baker School and is thrilled to make her NCFO debut! Her favorite roles include Big-

**Stephanie Sacharow (Meidan, Chamberlain Chorus)** is happy to be performing with her brother, twin cousins, mom and aunt!

**Carmen Savarino (Vocal Coach)**, Soprano and voice teacher, is pleased to be joining NCFO in her 5th production. Carmen has been teaching and performing for the last ten years, and enjoys continuing to learn about the voice and teaching students to have a lifelong love of music. In addition to teaching students of all ages in her private studio, she is a voice teacher at Lift Up Your Voice. Carmen enjoys teaching others about opera and has served as a teaching artist with the Boston Lyric Opera. Ms. Savarino holds a Masters in vocal performance from the Longy School of Music of Bard College, and received her Bachelors of Music from the Cleveland Institute of Music. She is a certified level III teacher in Somatic VoiceWork, The LoVetri Method, as well as an active member of The Voice Foundation and NATS.

**Tricia Saxler (Haman’s Friends Chorus)** is delighted to be returning to NCFO for her fifth opera, after reluctantly sitting last year’s out to finish her dissertation. Since starting as camera crew in *Flying High*, each opera has been as enjoyable as the last, and Tricia would like to thank David and Sue for their amazing clever talent and hard work in making NCFO the unique experience that it is. Thanks too to daughter Fiona for inspiring my singing and tolerating my dancing all these years.

**Daniel Scibelli (Mehrdad, Haman’s Friends Chorus)** is 13 years old and in his fourth performance with NCFO. In previous years, he performed in *Rain Dance*, *Kids Court* and *Weaver’s Wedding*. He is in the 7th Grade at the John D. O’Bryant School of Math and Science, a Boston Public School. Danny loves singing; he also sings with the Trinity Church A Cappella. He plays trombone and is in his seventh year of soccer. He is a video game enthusiast and is learning how to program and design his own games. He is happy to be in NCFO with his cousins, Walter and Sophie, his friend Edan, and his sister, mom and aunt!

**Dale Senechal (Set Design)** has been the Technical Director for NCFO from 1999-2010, responsible for overseeing and implementing all technical aspects of company productions. Since 2010, he has been a technical advisor to the company. Prior to that he has been Technical Director for the Kentucky Shakespeare Festival, the Opera Company of Boston, and...
Wellesley College Theatre. He was Scenic Designer/Master Carpenter for Turtle Lane Players, and Master Carpenter at the Castle Hill Festival. This year marks the 45th anniversary of his first involvement in the world of theater when he played the role of Oliver in the musical of the same name.

Tal Shalom-Kobi (Soraya, Citizen Chorus), a mother of Ayla and Lia, is a professional bass player and a music educator. An alumna of Berklee College of Music and New England Conservatory, Tal loves to listen to and play jazz and world music, and has been involved in the multicultural music scene in Boston for many years. In addition to bass, Tal teaches piano and conducts a youth ensemble program out of her studio in West Newton. While having extensive performing experience as an instrumentalist, this is only the second time Tal will be going on stage as a vocalist without any instrument to take cover behind. She is enjoying the various challenges she’s facing with NCFO, like memorizing all the lyrics, and is excited about celebrating Purim with the Springtime for Ha-man show! She’d like to thank Ayla, Lia, Hayim, and Laurie for supporting her through this wild adventure.

David H. Silber (Lighting Designer) has lit many shows for NCFO: Flying High (2012), Antiphony (2013), Rain Dance (2014), and Weaver’s Wedding (2016). He is interested in pursuing further theater and software projects and maintains a collection of theatrical gear (including lights, effects, practicals, and intercom) which can be made available to local productions. He can be contacted at davidhsilber@gmail.com

Jill Singer (Zeresh, Citizen Chorus) is thrilled to play Haman’s wife up on stage. This is her third NCFO production, last year she was the StoryTeller (Weaver’s Wedding, 2016), and in Kids Court, was a stagehand with strong pinkies. Previous to NCFO, she was in 5 musicals as part of the orchestra pit. She is a software engineer by day, making the web easier to use, and by night is a knitter, sewer, sailor, swimmer, and flute player in the Red Herring Morris Dance Team. Jill has been singing ever since she can remember and is having fun up on the stage. She lives at home in Cambridge with her 2 cats and an amazing boyfriend.

Nicolette (Nicci) Stamos (Mihrab, Citizen/Chamberlain Chorus) is in the 6th grade at the Hale Middle School, where she actively participates in Band (clarinet), Jazz Band (Bass Clarinet), Chorus and Drama (Beauty and the Beast Fall, 2016 and Alice in Wonderland, Spring 2017). Nicci also plays Major league softball with AVLL, and cheers when she can. This is

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her second season with NCFO. She performed in last year’s *Weaver’s Wedding*, where she performed her first solo as a weaver.

**Sara St. Antoine (Soraya, Citizen/Concubine Chorus)** spends her days writing fiction and consulting to environmental organizations. While it has been more than 30 years since she last swooned over a 15-year-old, she has greatly enjoyed the dramatic demands of this, her 4th NCFO production and her first without wings, horns, or exoskeleton. Sara is especially happy to be sharing the stage with her wonderful daughter Addie.

**Masha Sten-Clanton (Samireh, Concubine Chorus)** is a part-time proofreader/editor living in Dorchester. Besides singing and acting, she enjoys science-fiction fandom, taking courses for fun, and occasional live-action role playing. But her very favorite pastime is deep conversation with her husband or friends over coffee, tea, or a good craft beer.

**Elizabeth R. Stone (Makeup Designer)** has been designing and applying makeup for NCFO since 2002, and has no intention of stopping anytime soon! She has also worked with Theatre@First, the MIT Gilbert and Sullivan Players, the Post Meridien Radio Players, the MIT Musical Theatre Guild, and other groups in the greater Boston area. She is also a professional facepainter (see Zing! Facepainting elsewhere in the program book...). Elizabeth plays recorder and pennywhistle for Red Herring Morris, reads constantly, and is otherwise supervised by her cats Morticia and Greta Garbo. Heartfelt thanks to David Rabkin, Col-umbine Phoenix, and the makeup crew, for efforts above and beyond.

**Julia Teller (Harbona, Dancer, Prince Chorus, Assistant Choreographer)** is an 11-year-old 5th-grader at Shady Hill School. *Springtime for Haman* is her 5th opera with NCFO. In previous years Julia has performed as a kid in *Weaver’s Wedding* (2016), the Production Assistant in *Kids Court* (2015), a Leveret in *Rain Dance* (2014) and Non-Exist Ant in *Antiphony* (2013). When she’s not on stage, Julia does gymnastics all the time, she reads and dances. This year Julia has stepped up to the job of assistant choreographer. She would like to thank her sister Sophia, her mom, David and Sue for all their hard work.

**Sophia Teller (Esther)** is currently an 8th-grader at Shady Hill School. This is her seventh year with NCFO, and she is proud to be singing in a tower with the ever-fabulous Mordechai. In previous years, Sophia has played many parts, including, but not limited to, Hansel in *Kids Court* (2015), Balosi in *Rain Dance* (2014), Cigale in *Antiphony* (2013), and a Rebel in *Space Opera* (2011). She loves running, reading, Taekwondo and anything musical-theatre related. She would like to give a huge thank you to the production team, her fellow cast-mates, and above all, Julia and Mom, for making the NCFO experience truly magical.

**Laura van Melle (Bigtha, Concubine Chorus)** is a young woman in her mid-twenties who, in a period of thirteen years, has gone from being a common citizen of Persia to being a member of the king’s harem. She is not sure how accomplished she is of her status, but music-wise, she has achieved much within the fifteen and a half years in which she has been singing. This is Laura’s seventh opera and her second time doing *Springtime for Haman* (2004 and 2016). She has also sung in two *Antiphony’s* (2002 and 2013), *Puzzle Jigs* (2003), *Flying High* (2012), and *Rain Dance* (2014). After *Rain Dance*, she moved on to Worcester State University, where she obtained her Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology and sang with choruses that inspired her passion for classical music. In spring of 2016, she sang in the Fauré *Requiem* with the Worcester State University Chorus, the Worcester State University Chorale, and the Alumni Chorale. Besides singing, Laura enjoys filing papers, sealing envelopes, and stocking inventory at the hospital she works at - no sarcasm intended. Last, she would like to thank David and Sue, Shellie Leger, Christie Nigro, and Julie Krugman for everything she has learned.

**Sara Verrilli (Karim, Haman’s Friends Chorus)** is delighted to be accompanying her daughters on stage again.

**Eliza Weinberger (Farzad, Chamberlain Chorus)** is very bad at writing bios. She apologizes in sort-of advance for how bad this bio is/will be. She also has trouble deciding whether the last sentence should be in past or present tense. When she is not writing awful bios or doing her piles of homework, she enjoys snacking on dried mango, falling at piano, and chatting with her many friends. Hopfully this bad bio has no large typos (she was very worried about that). The end?: P

**Kara Wong (Citizen Chorus)** is so excited to take part in *Springtime for Haman!* She is thirteen years old, and attends seventh grade at Charles E. Brown Middle School. She loves reading and doing math. This is her first time participating in the North Cambridge Family Opera, and she’s glad she did. The entire company has worked hard to put on this production. She hopes you enjoy it!

**Bethany Worrell (Vocal Coach)** Praised by Opera News for her “gleaming tone,” soprano Bethany Worrell has performed in Boston, Pittsburgh, Chicago, and Salzburg. Bethany is pleased to be coaching the NCFO singers once again for a third season and loves the excitement the cast brings to each
rehearsal! As a performer, Bethany recently made her Boston Symphony Orchestra soloist debut as the High Priestess in *Aida* under the baton of Maestro Andris Nelsons. Operationally, Bethany has sung with Opera Theater of Pittsburgh, the North End Music and Performing Arts Center in Faneuil Hall, Boston Opera Collaborative, Opera del West, Longwood Opera, and MetroWest Opera. She frequently sings as a recitalist and soloist, performing with the Metropolitan Chorale, Atlantic Symphony, and the Boston Art Song Society. Bethany is a native of Macomb, Illinois and currently resides in Boston, MA. www.bethany-worrell.com

Aimee Yermish (*Haman’s Friends/Chamberlain Chorus*) is delighted to be returning to the NCFO cast with her children, Ilan and Adira Balzac. In *Rain Dance*, she played the role of a politically-active zebra, mapping out the complex devolution of the face paint after performances; in *Kids Court*, she played a helpful stagehand, pitching Irish food and Beanfields chips; in *Weaver’s Wedding*, she was typecast as a fiberista Weaver/Jackal, spinning and knitting through rehearsals and onstage. This year, she is enjoying the many costume changes as a member of the company. She has a long and varied history in music, including classical piano and singing in a wide variety of contexts. In real life, she is a clinical psychologist specializing in work with people who are gifted or twice-exceptional. She enjoys many kinds of handcrafts, endurance sports, photography, and being in the natural world. Spare time is what she keeps in the spice cabinet.

Rachel Zimmerman (*Dancer, Prince Chorus, Choreographer*) is performing in her seventh opera with NCFO. Previously, she’s been a Rebel (*Space Opera*, 2011), Stage Mom (*Flying High*, 2012), Ladybug (*Antiphony*, 2013), Gazelle (*Rain Dance*, 2014); Stagehand (*Kids Court*, 2015); and a Peacock (*Weaver’s Wedding*, 2016). In real life she’s a health reporter at WBUR. She would like to thank her amazing, inspiring daughters, as well as the ever patient and visionary David, Sue and Kathy.
North Cambridge Family Opera Mission
The North Cambridge Family Opera (NCFO) provides an opportunity for children and adults to experience and enjoy telling a story through song by performing original, high-quality, fully-sung operas and choral works for audiences of all ages. Our casts of children and adults come from Cambridge and other communities in the greater Boston area. We encourage participation by multiple family members. Solo and chorus roles varying widely in difficulty are assigned to both children and adults, so that everyone is both challenged and given an opportunity to succeed. To the extent possible, productions are financed through donations and volunteerism.

NCFO began as participants in the second North Cambridge (NoCa) All Arts Open Studios weekend in May 1999, and has since incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit and produced a family opera every spring. Since 2007, NCFO has also presented a concert of science songs every year as part of the Cambridge Science Festival.

www.familyopera.org
Directed by Laura Backley

At this 11th annual Cambridge Science Festival, we present songs on the theme of weather and climate, covering topics as diverse as rain (including weird weather, like raining frogs!), tornadoes, the ozone hole, the original climate change scientists (Fourier, Arrhenius, and Keeling), and the distinction between weather and climate.

Singin’ of the Rain comprises 20 songs by several contemporary composers who have written for us before, plus newcomers Molly Ruggles and Stanley Sagov. There is a medley of songs written by Cambridge Public School students working with Powers of Ten composer David Haines. The entire program includes an accompanying slideshow of song lyrics and children’s artwork.

THREE FREE PERFORMANCES:
Saturday April 15, 3:00pm, Peabody School
Saturday April 22, 3:00pm, Broad Institute
Sunday April 23, 4:00pm, Museum of Science

Visit www.familyopera.org for more information or email festival2017@familyopera.org
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