presents our
20th Anniversary
Revival Production

SPACE
OPERA
2019

by NCFO Founder
DAVID BASS

Directed by
DAVID BASS and KATHY LINDSAY

Choreography by
RACHEL ZIMMERMAN

March 30 and 31, April 6 and 7, 2019
The Peabody School, Cambridge, MA
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Space Opera

Music & Libretto by David Bass
Directed by David Bass & Kathy Lindsay
Choreography by Rachel Zimmerman
Technical Direction by Chris Edel
Produced by Sue Hall

Set and Lighting Design
Dale Senechal

Additional Set Design
Chris Edel
Linda Senechal

Stage Managers
Peter Laskin
Rosemary Lindsay

Stage Combat Director
Peter Jehlen

Publicity
Hadar Agam
Emilija Baksys
Claudette Beit-Aharon

Rehearsal Manager
Heather Hoffman

Costume Design and Management
Kathy Lindsay
Carla Procaskey

Properties Design
Abbe Cohen Dvornik

Makeup
Elizabeth R. Stone
Columbine Phoenix
David Rabkin

Vocal Instruction
Sarah Eastman
Jessica Trainor

General Management
Claudette Beit-Aharon
Emilija Baksys

IT and Website
Nick Aiuto
Phil Budne

Sound Design
Davis Thurston

Doer of Things
Mike Ames

Assistant Director
Glenn McElhoe

Assistant Choreographers
Katie Hamill
Julie McKinney
Anya Miller
Liz Morse
Julia Teller

Program
Steve Balzac
Sue Hall
Ruth Hertzman-Miller

House Manager
Nancy Gilman

March 30 and 31, April 6 and 7, 2019
The Peabody School, Cambridge, MA

WARNING: Please note that as part of this story, some brightly colored toy guns and super soakers are used as “blasters”. 
INCONCEIVABLE!

A Princess Bride Story

Heroes, villains, true love... Lightsabers? Jedi Master Buttercup has been captured by a motley crew of mercenaries! Chasing them are the mysterious figures in black...

But are they friend or foe?

Saturday May 4, 2019
Somerville Library       Brookline Library
10:30am                   2pm & 3pm

bostonlightsaber.com
facebook.com/BostonLightsaber
SPACE OPERA SONG LIST

ACT I, Scene 1
The Bridge of the Rebel Blockade Runner
1. Overture/Rebels Are We 1 (Rebels 1-2, Princess Leia, Rebel Chorus)
2. Dear Obi-Wan 1 (Leia, Rebel A)
3. Oh Dear 1 (C-3PO)
4. Rebels Are We 2 (Rebels 3-4, Rebel and Stormtrooper Choruses)
5. The Interrogation (Leia, Darth Vader, Rebel and Stormtrooper Choruses)
6. Our Darkest Hour (Rebel 5, Leia, Rebel and Stormtrooper Choruses)

ACT I, Scene 2
The Home of Luke Skywalker on Tatooine
7. Tatooine (Droid Quartet, Luke Skywalker, Droid Chorus)
8. The Purchase (Uncle Owen, Jawas 1-2, Luke, Jawa Chorus)
9. Dreadful (C-3PO, R2-D2, Droid 1, Owen)
10. Good Morning (Luke)
11. Oh Dear 2 (C-3PO, Luke, Droid Chorus)
12. Vader’s Orders 1 (Vader, Stormtroopers 1-4, Stormtrooper Chorus)

ACT I, Scene 3
The Desert, Near the Home of Obi-Wan Kenobi on Tatooine
13. In the Wilderness (R2-D2, Sandperson 1, Sandpeople Chorus)
14. To the Rescue (C-3PO, Luke, R2-D2, Obi-Wan Kenobi, Sandpeople Chorus)
17. Anakin (Obi-Wan, Sandpeople Chorus)
18. Destiny 1 (Luke, Sandpeople Chorus)

ACT I, Scene 4
Mos Eisley Spaceport
19. At the Spaceport (Obi-Wan, Stormtroopers 5-6, Luke, Chewbacca)
20. I’m the Best (Biths 1-2, Han Solo, Alien Chorus)
21. It’s a Deal (Obi-Wan, Han)
22. Jabba Jive (Jabba the Hutt, Alien Chorus)
23. The Little Chat (Jabba, Han)
24. Vader’s Orders 2 (Vader, Stormtroopers 7-10, Stormtrooper Chorus)

INTERMISSION

ACT II, Scene 1
The Bridge of the Millennium Falcon
25. Light Speed 1 (Han, Luke)
26. Use the Force (Obi-Wan)
27. Something Terrible (Obi-Wan, Ghosts of Alderaan Chorus)
28. Alderaan (Han, Luke, Obi-Wan, Chewbacca, R2-D2, C-3PO)

ACT II, Scene 2
The Hangar Bay of the Death Star
29. What Do We Do? (Stormtroopers 11-14, Stormtrooper Chorus)
30. Secret Compartments (Han, Obi-Wan, R2-D2, C-3PO, Luke)
32. He Found Her (R2-D2, C-3PO)
33. The Plan (Luke, Han)

ACT II, Scene 3
In and Around the Detention Cells of the Death Star
34. Prisoner’s Lament (Chewbacca, Stormtrooper Chorus)
35. Prisoner Transfer (Stormtroopers 15-16, Luke, Han, Chewbacca, Rebel Prisoner Chorus)
36. Destiny 2 (Leia, Luke, Prisoner Chorus)
37. Some Rescue (Han, Leia, Luke, Prisoner and Stormtrooper Choruses)

ACT II, Scene 4
In the Corridors of the Death Star
38. Waiting for Obi-Wan (Obi-Wan, Vader)
39. The Dark Side (Vader, Stormtrooper Chorus)
40. The Titans (Vader, Obi-Wan, Han, Luke)

ACT II, Scene 5
The War Room on Yavin Four
41. Rebels Are We 3 (General Dodonna, Scientist, Admiral Ackbar, Leia, Rebel Chorus)
42. Take Care of Yourself (Luke, Han)
43. The Battle 1 (Rebels 6-8, C-3PO, Rebel Chorus)
44. The Battle 2 (Luke, Vader, Han)
45. The Battle 3 (Luke, Leia, Obi-Wan, Han, Rebel Chorus)
46. Grand Finale (Leia, C-3PO, R2-D2, Chewbacca, Han, Luke, Company)
Thanks to the North Cambridge Family Opera for giving the Galactic Resistance a local home and putting our efforts to music.

Opera really does count! And Resistance counts, too!

Craig A. Kelley
Cambridge City Council
www.CraigKelley.org
ACT I, Scene 1: Princess Leia, leader of the Rebellion against the evil Galactic Empire, is on a secret mission to the planet Alderaan to deliver stolen plans for the Empire’s ultimate weapon, the Death Star. When her ship is intercepted and captured by an Imperial star destroyer manned by Darth Vader and his Stormtroopers, Leia loads the plans into a robot (“droid”), R2-D2. R2-D2 and another droid, C-3PO, escape in a pod to the remote planet Tatooine.

ACT I, Scene 2: The droids are found by a band of Jawas, who sell them to Owen Lars, a farmer on Tatooine, and his young nephew, Luke Skywalker.

ACT I, Scene 3: The droids lead Luke to the mysterious old Jedi knight, Obi-Wan Kenobi.

ACT I, Scene 4: Luke, Obi-Wan, and the two droids travel to Mos Eisley Spaceport, where they meet a pair of smugglers, Han Solo and Chewbacca, who agree to take them to Alderaan to complete Leia’s mission.

ACT II, Scene 1: When they arrive at Alderaan, they find the planet has been destroyed by the Death Star, a giant space station built by the Empire. Their ship is taken aboard the Death Star.

ACT II, Scene 2: Obi-Wan leaves to deactivate the Death Star’s tractor beam. The others discover that Princess Leia is held prisoner on the Death Star.

ACT II, Scene 3: Han, Luke and Chewbacca rescue Leia.

ACT II, Scene 4: Obi-Wan does battle with the evil dark lord, Darth Vader. Obi-Wan is struck down as the others escape in their ship and head for the secret Rebel base on Yavin 4.

ACT II, Scene 5: The Death Star follows them to Yavin 4, but the Rebels are waiting for them and in the ensuing battle, Luke destroys the Death Star, with the assistance of Han Solo and the spirit of Obi-Wan Kenobi.
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GALLUCCIO & WATSON, LLP is a full-service General Law firm. We combine decades of public and private sector experience to provide client-friendly legal services.

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WWW.GALLUCCIOWATSONLAW.COM
Rebels are we, born to be free, just like the fish in the sea...

You just can’t beat the power of the Dark Side of the Force...

CAST

Sat 3/30 2pm, Sun 3/31 1pm, Sat 4/6 7pm, Sun 4/7 5:30pm

Princess Leia ................................................................. Kerry LaRose
R2-D2 ............................................................................. Maya Agam
C-3PO ............................................................................. Fiona O’Loughlin
Darth Vader .................................................................. Jason Merrill
Luke Skywalker ....................................................... Katarina Dvornik
Obi-Wan Kenobi ................................................................. Jeff Bigler
Chewbacca ..................................................................... Bert Dvornik
Han Solo............................................................................. Nyx Bigler
Uncle Owen ............. Ilan Balzac
Rebel 1 ...................... Keiara Hunter
Rebel 2 ...................... Susan Lane
Rebel A .......................... Karis Galea
Rebel 3 ........................ Popi Kokkinogenis
Rebel 4 ........................ Rozi Galea
Rebel 5 ........................ Nicci Stamos
Droid Quartet .............. Emilija Baksys
Ruth Hertzman-Miller
Aimee Yermish
Jeff Moore
Jawa 1 .............................. Luka Dvornik
Jawa 2 ......................... Autumn Lane
Droid 1 .......................... Beth Hocking
Stormtrooper 1 ... Melanie Cohn-Hopwood
Stormtrooper 2 ... Marleigh Norton
Stormtrooper 3 ............... Yifei Sun
Stormtrooper 4 .............. Yongting Wang
Sandperson 1 ............... Sue Holcomb
Stormtrooper 5 ........ Walter Hopwood
Stormtrooper 6 ............. Sophie Hopwood

Cantina Band:
A.J. Liuba, Keyboards
Joe Klompus, Bass
Marlon Beram, Drums
Sue Holcomb, Fiddle
Jill Pelavin, Flute

Swing Dancers:
Katie Hamill
Anya Miller
Tom Hamill
Liz Morse

“Anakin” Tableau:
Emilija Baksys
Keiara Hunter
Tricia Saxler

GA = Ghost of Alderaan in “Something Terrible”

Stormtroopers/ Honored Rebel Dead:
Melanie Cohn-Hopwood
Erin Gast
Meredith Gast
Pete Gast
Verity Gould
Baruch Gurwitz
Aytan Hamill GA
Tom Hamill GA
Sophie Hopwood
Walter Hopwood
David Krikorian
Sebastian Krikorian
Alice Merrill Hunter
Anastasia Miller
Marleigh Norton
Jill Pelavin
Yifei Sun
Sara Verrillii
Yongting Wang
Razi Youmans

Stormtroopers 7 ............. Tom Hamill
Stormtrooper 8 .................. Aytan Hamill
Stormtrooper 9 ................. Anastasia Miller
Stormtrooper 10 ............. Alice Merrill Hunter
Stormtrooper 11 ........ Alice Merrill Hunter
Stormtrooper 12 .......... Verity Gould
Stormtrooper 13 ............. Meredith Gast
Stormtrooper 14 ........... Sara Verrilli
Stormtrooper 15 .......... Eric Gast
Stormtrooper 16 ......... Razi Yozumans
General Dodonna .......... Rachel Cooper
Scientist .................... Mary Penniston
Admiral Ackbar ........... John Kernochan
Rebel 6a ........................ Anya Miller
Rebel 6b ..................... Katie Hamill
Rebel 7 ........................ Liz Morse
Rebel 8 ........................ Tricia Saxler

Rebels/Aliens:
GA = Galaxy
Lynn Colletti GA
Karis Galea GA
Rozi Galea GA
Popi Kokkinogenis
Susan Lane
Heather Terran Lane
Susan LaRose
A.J. Liuba GA
Chanda McCreary
Anne Moore GA
Liz Morse GA

Rebels/Sandpeople/Aliens:
Gal Agam
Hadar Agam
Ilan Balzac
Marlon Beram
Nell Beram
Craig Burkett GA
Sue Hall GA
Katie Hamill
Sue Holcomb
Bean Karbiner
Joe Klompus
Anya Miller

Droids/Aliens/ Rebels:
Emilija Baksys GA
Ruth Hertzman-Miller GA
Beth Hocking GA
John Kernochan
Kathy Lindsay GA
Jeff Moore GA
Mary Penniston
Aimee Yermish GA

Rebels/Jawas/Aliens:
Gal Agam
Hadar Agam
Robin Chen GA
Abbe Cohen Dvornik
Rachel Cooper
Luka Dvornik
Keiara Hunter
Autumn Lane
Margery Meadow GA
Tricia Saxler
Nicci Stamos GA
Laura van Melle
Fiona Zambuto

CAST
To the Space Opera cast & crew from Exceptional Lives, Inc:

MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU!

Local disability resources at your fingertips.

Personalized Guides and Topics including:
- What to Do When Your Child Has Autism
- Special Education Services
- Transition to Adulthood

Online Resource Directory of disability service providers in your community

Call, Chat, Email or Text our team for support
844-354-1212

For free.

Start using our free resources at:
exceptionallives.org/ma

Feel free to talk to cast member Julie McKinney about this!
(Rebel and alien swing dancer)
You just can’t beat the power of the Dark Side of the Force...

Rebels are we, born to be free, just like the fish in the sea...

**CAST**

Princess Leia ...............................................................Hanna Carney
R2-D2 ...........................................................Leetka Katzenblickstein
C-3PO ..........................................................Eloise Botka
Darth Vader ...............................................................Glenn McElhoe
Luke Skywalker ...................................................... Hannah Erickson
Obi-Wan Kenobi ..............................................................Rob Carney
Chewbacca ........................................................................Chris Edel
Han Solo............................................................................Tess Carney
Uncle Owen ........Eoin Rogers
Rebel 1 .............................Danny Scibelli
Rebel 2 ..........................Caitlin Anderson
Rebel A ..........................Grace Gillig
Rebel 3 ...............Vivianna Jones Tandon
Rebel 4 ...............Louis Jones Tandon
Rebel 5 ..................Oriana McKanan
Droid Quartet ..............Emma Adler
Addie Kelsey
Sara St. Antoine
Megan Morse
Jawa 1 ................Julianna Jones Tandon
Jawa 2 .........................Lorraine Erickson
Droid 1 ..............................Margot Kelsey
Stormtrooper 1...............Tom Gould
Stormtrooper 2 ..............Theo Gillig
Stormtrooper 3...........Eliza Weinberger
Stormtrooper 4 ..........Joanne Nicklas
Sandperson 1 ..................Ayumi Batra
Stormtrooper 5 ...........Ben Jerome
Stormtrooper 6 ...........Kostas Jerome

**Cantina Band:**
A.J. Liuba, Keyboards
Joe Klompus, Bass
Henry Rogers, Drums

**Swing Dancers:**
Alec McKinney
Julie McKinney
Eoin Rogers
Rachel Zimmerman

**“Anakin” Tableau:**
Tom Gould
Addie Kelsey
Sara St. Antoine

**GA = Ghost of Alderaan in “Something Terrible”**

**Stormtroopers/ Honored Rebel Dead:**

- Andy Adler
- Jill Crittenden
- Sylvia Crittenden
- Chloe Duggan
- Nathan Gilbert
- Bob Gillig
- Theo Gillig
- Tom Gould
- Sue Hall
- Ben Jerome
- Kostas Jerome
- Laima Jerome
- Biriki Kahsai
- Bill Laskin
- Charles Leiserson
- Katie Leiserson
- Joanne Nicklas
- Darius Silva
- Eliza Weinberger

**Rebels/Aliens:**

- Donna Jones
- Louis Jones Tandon
- Dan McKanan
- Oriana McKanan
- Geneva Popper-Keizer
- Eoin Rogers
- Danny Scibelli
- David Weinstein
- Noah Weinstein
- Brontë Wohlbeklen
- Kai Wohlbeklen

**Stormtroopers/ Honored Rebel Dead:**

- Andy Adler
- Jill Crittenden
- Sylvia Crittenden
- Chloe Duggan
- Nathan Gilbert
- Bob Gillig
- Theo Gillig
- Tom Gould
- Sue Hall
- Ben Jerome
- Kostas Jerome
- Laima Jerome
- Biriki Kahsai
- Bill Laskin
- Charles Leiserson
- Katie Leiserson
- Joanne Nicklas
- Darius Silva
- Eliza Weinberger

**Rebels/Jawas/Aliens:**

- Caitlin Anderson
- Lorraine Erickson
- Sue Hall
- Julianna Jones Tandon
- Vivianna Jones Tandon
- Kathy Lindsay
- Patty Nolan
- Julia Teller
- Rachel Zimmerman

**Rebels/Sandpeople/ Aliens:**

- Ayumi Batra
- Chris Cuttitta
- Grace Gillig
- Eli Grigsby
- Craig Kelley
- Hope Kelley
- Kathy Lindsay
- Alec McKinney
- Julie McKinney
- Julie Viens

**Droids/Aliens/ Rebels:**

- Emma Adler
- Heather Barney
- Addie Kelsey
- Margot Kelsey
- David Gordon Mitten
- Megan Morse
- Henry Rogers
- Ruth Rogers
- Sara St. Antoine

**Stormtroopers/ Honored Rebel Dead:**

- Andy Adler
- Jill Crittenden
- Sylvia Crittenden
- Chloe Duggan
- Nathan Gilbert
- Bob Gillig
- Theo Gillig
- Tom Gould
- Sue Hall
- Ben Jerome
- Kostas Jerome
- Laima Jerome
- Biriki Kahsai
- Bill Laskin
- Charles Leiserson
- Katie Leiserson
- Joanne Nicklas
- Darius Silva
- Eliza Weinberger

*Stormtrooper 14 sung by Sara Verrilli at the March 31 at 5:30pm performance*

**Swing Dancers:**
Alec McKinney
Julie McKinney
Eoin Rogers
Rachel Zimmerman

**“Anakin” Tableau:**
Tom Gould
Addie Kelsey
Sara St. Antoine

**GA = Ghost of Alderaan in “Something Terrible”**

**Rebels/Aliens:**

- Donna Jones
- Louis Jones Tandon
- Dan McKanan
- Oriana McKanan
- Geneva Popper-Keizer
- Eoin Rogers
- Danny Scibelli
- David Weinstein
- Noah Weinstein
- Brontë Wohlbeklen
- Kai Wohlbeklen

**Stormtroopers/ Honored Rebel Dead:**

- Andy Adler
- Jill Crittenden
- Sylvia Crittenden
- Chloe Duggan
- Nathan Gilbert
- Bob Gillig
- Theo Gillig
- Tom Gould
- Sue Hall
- Ben Jerome
- Kostas Jerome
- Laima Jerome
- Biriki Kahsai
- Bill Laskin
- Charles Leiserson
- Katie Leiserson
- Joanne Nicklas
- Darius Silva
- Eliza Weinberger

*Stormtrooper 14 sung by Sara Verrilli at the March 31 at 5:30pm performance*
One Whole Step for Man:

Songs of Space Travel

Directed by Sarah Eastman

A concert of songs about space travel sung by an inter-generational chorus with an accompanying slideshow of song lyrics and children’s artwork.

THREE FREE PERFORMANCES:
Saturday April 13, 3:00pm, Broad Institute
Sunday April 14, 3:00pm, Cambridge Main Library
Saturday April 20, 3:00pm, Peabody School

Visit www.familyopera.org for more information or email festival2019@familyopera.org
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This is North Cambridge Family Opera’s 20th Anniversary season, and it has been a true delight to produce the fifth (and most elaborate yet) version of our very first production, Space Opera. It’s hard to believe that when we sang Act I in this very building 20 years ago, our entire “set” for the planet of Tatooine comprised a cheap plastic cactus (which we still have, of course).

The Peabody School is once again our most gracious host, for which we thank its principal, Jennifer Ford, as well as Julie Craven, the principal of the co-resident Rindge Avenue Upper School. We also owe thanks to Josh DeWitte, Summar Elguindy, and Patrick Wroge, the teachers who share their space with us; and to custodians John, Joe, Todd, and Bobby, who have been immensely helpful, efficient, and cheerful. Todd is also part of our 20th Anniversary, as he was working at what was then the Fitzgerald School when we performed our first incarnation of Space Opera here in 1999!

There are many other people to thank, of course. When our regular lighting designer was unavailable this year, Dale Senechal, our original and longtime technical director (and first General Dodonna) came to the rescue by stepping in to do our lighting design and implementation as well as to remind us how those darn lighting panels worked, anyway! And another longtime friend, Mike Ames (whose wife and daughter were in the chorus in 1999), has helped out in so many different ways with the technical aspects of the show that we have designated him “Doer of Things.” The Artists in Studio 12 at 6 Vernon St Studios, including Marcia Ahearn, Christine Edel, Kirsten Moran, Stephanie Snyder and Susan Wetherall, were most generous in sharing their studio space for our set construction work. Many thanks to them all. And our ongoing gratitude is extended to David Sandberg and Dina Mardell, who cheerfully store our ever-burgeoning supplies of sets, costumes, and props in their New Hampshire barn.

Thank you to Thalia Tringo Real Estate for again sponsoring NCFO and to Iggy’s Bread of the World for their continued donations. We are also extremely grateful to the Robbins/de Beaumont Foundation for their ongoing generous support of our company. And of course many, many thanks to all of our volunteers who donate countless hours to this endeavor.

Finally, a huge thank you to our beloved Composer, Librettist, Founder, and Artistic Director, David Bass, who just never stops creating when it comes to this opera. (An a cappella droid quartet? Who knew!) And one final thank you to George Lucas, without whom there would have been no Space Opera in the first place. May the Force be with you all!

North Cambridge Family Opera remembers
Leonid Blickstein: our friend, Worker Ant, and
Leetka’s dad
Thanks to our Production Volunteers!

Audio
Emilija Baksy
David Bass
Sue Hall
Fiona O’Loughlin
Jamie Sabino
Tricia Saxler
Davis Thurston
Cindy Woolworth

Costumes/Wardrobe
Heather Barney
Ela Ben-Ur
Lynn Colletti
Karis Galea
Rozi Galea
Wendy Leiserson
Kathy Lindsay
Rosemary Lindsay
Arrin Katz
Dalia Katz
Maia Katz
Carla Procaskey

Front of House, cont’d.
Susan LaRose
Charles Leiserson
Katie Leiserson
Dan McKeen
Oriana McKeen
Julie McKinney
Margery Meadow
Anya Miller
Patty Nolan
Sandy Nortier
Chris Norton
Parisa Parsa
Ruth Rogers
Pasqua Scibelli
Sophia Teller

House Managers/Concessions
Claudette
Beit-Aharon
Nancy Gilman
Kevonna
Jones-Tandon
Pasqua Scibelli

Lighting Crew
Emma Adler
Lynn Colletti
Karis Galea
Adam Gould
Nicci Stamos

Makeup
Caitlin Anderson
Nyx Bigler
Eloise Botka
Tess Carney
Joshua Cohen
Emily Curtin
Christine Cutitta
Chloe Duggan
Katarina Dvornik
Meredith Gast
Katie Hamill
Nina Katz

Music/Movement
David Bass
Sarah Eastman
Meredith Gast
Jonathan Gilbert
Sue Hall
Katie Hamill
Ruth Hertzman-Miller
Kathy Lindsay
Glenn McElhoe
Julie McKinney
Anya Miller
Liz Morse
Jill Pelavin
Julia Teller
Jessica Trainor
Aimee Yermish
Rachel Zimmerman

Program
Caitlin Anderson
Steve Balzac
Nell Beram
Jeff Bigler
Robin Chen
Melanie
Cohn-Hopwood
Sue Hall
Ruth Hertzman-Miller
Bean Karbiner
Kerry Kokkinogenis
Jeanne LaForgia
Heather Terran Lane
Bill Laskin
Thanks to our Production Volunteers!

Program, cont’d.
Oriana McKanan
Margery Meadow
Megan Morse
Marleigh Norton
Geneva Popper-Keizer
Sara St. Antoine
Pasqua Scibelli
Sara Verrilli
Julie Viens
David Weinstein

Sets/Painting/Lights, cont’d.
Mike Ames
Ilan Balzac
Steve Balzac
Heather Barney
David Bass
Abbe Cohen Dvornik
Lynn Colletti
Jill Crittenden
Sylvia Crittenden
Katarina Dvornik
Chris Edel
Karis Galea
Rozi Galea
Lowell Gilbert
Adam Gould
Tom Gould
Eli Grigsby
Sue Hall
Beth Hocking
Heather Hoffman
Keiara Hunter
Mark Jaquith
Ben Jerome
Craig Kelley
Hope Kelley
Addie Kelsey
John Kernochan
Joe Klompus
Heather Terran Lane
Peter Laskin
Charles Leiserson
Kathy Lindsay
Rosemary Lindsay
A.J. Liuba
Glenn McElhoe
Alec McKinney
Julie McKinney
Jason Merrill
Anne Moore

Sets/Painting/Lights, cont’d.
Jeff Moore
Fiona O’Loughlin
Carla Procaskey
Jack Ramde
Naima Saini
Tricia Saxler
David Sandberg
Dale Senechal
Nicci Stamos
Dapeng Sun
Ellen Sun
Yifei Sun
Yongting Wang
Eliza Weinberger
Aimee Yermish
Jim Zambuto
Lior Zipursky

Props
Ela Ben-Ur
Abbe Cohen Dvornik
Arrin Katz
Dalia Katz
Maia Katz
Robin Parlee

Publicity
Hadar Agam
Emilija Baksys
David Bass
Claudette Beit-Aharon
Sue Hall

Rehearsal/Performance Support
Sue Hall
Tom Hamill
Heather Hoffman

Stage Crew
Mike Ames
Rozi Galea
Adam Gould
Sue Hall
Mark Jaquith
Nina Katz
Kerry Kokkinogenis
Rhea Kokkinogenis
Peter Laskin
Kathy Lindsay
Rosemary Lindsay
Jack Ramde
Lior Zipursky

Sets/Painting/Lights, cont’d.
Emma Adler
Hadar Agam
Harry Ames

Video
Lynn Weissman
of Weisswoman Productions

Thanks to our board:
Andy Adler, David Bass, Phil Budne, Chris Edel, Sue Hall, Tom Hamill, Mark Jaquith, Hope Kelley, Kathy Lindsay, Carla Procaskey, David Rabkin, David Sandberg, Aimee Yermish
Rachel and Julia, when you feed your enemies to Rancors down in caves it is so well-choreographed. Break a leg (or whatever limbs you’ve got) – The Carneys

To Julia/Jabba — You are my local Demi-God and you light up the stage, and my world. With so much love, Mom

Dear Katarina/Luke Skywalker, you are in luck. You recently acquired such a role! Love, Luka/Jawa1

Congratulations Noah and David! WE LOVE YOU - Grandma and Grandpa Weinstein

May the Force be with you, Fia! Congratulations! Love, Mom and Dad

Congratulations to my fellow Stormtroopers, especially 8th graders: Eliza, Chloe and Biriki. ...

Dear Maya: Oo ee da da bee da bee da, doo bee oo ee oo ee!

Congratulations to my opera stars Katarina, and Luka and Abbe and Bert! Miss you. Love, Grandma Ora.

May the Force be with you, Cousin Katie and Uncle Charles! The Dark Side is more powerful than the Light!

Dear Lorraine, Best of luck to our favorite little Jawa! Have a great show - Love, Grandma Susan and Grandpa Dick

The singing of the opera will cause your voice to flower and bring joy to our family in this our brightest hour. Keep looking sad, Oriana! Love, Mama and Papa

Keiara, my feisty Rebel 1, I’m proud to fight, sing, and dance for freedom with you, just like the fish in the sea! xoxo Mama

To Katarina and Luka, Make it a super Space Opera, and enjoy performing! Love, Aunt Perrin

Sophie & Walter! We are so proud of you. We wish we could see your performance, but know you’ll be amazing. Sending lots of hugs! Auntie, Uncle Simon, & Oliver

Fruition Vegan Kitchen
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Cheers to Bill Laskin who is a real (storm) trooper with NCFO and Peter Laskin on his meteoric rise through the backstage ranks to Stage Manager!

KT and CEL, May the force be with you! I bet everyone says that!!! Love, Aunt Pi & Uncle B-li

Ilan, you may be a gangster, but avoid gratuitous use of Force. That way leads to the Dark Side. Mom & Dad.

McKinneys, we are so glad Alec is susceptible to Jedi mind tricks and you both agreed to be a part of this. We love the time together! Obi-wan, Leia, and Han

GO AYUMI GO! I am so excited and proud to see you perform in an opera. Lots of love, Obaachan

I am delighted that my son Andy Adler and granddaughter Emma, are part of NCFOC. To them, the entire cast, David and Sue, best wishes for success. Esther Adler

Dear Hadar and Gal: As seasoned rebels, I am confident you will be able to beat the dark side easily. Good luck!

Way to go Noah and David! You rock! Love, your biggest fans (the wannabe rebels, Ava and Dawn)

Dale - Thank you for returning with your plans and helping our daydream come true. -K
David and Sebastian: Friends, you are somewhat bizarre, so I hope that the dark side of NCFO has seduced you and you will continue to sing with us next year! -K

Congratulations Noah! I’m so glad you and I got to be Rebels together! It’s been so much fun! May the Force Be With You – Always! Love, Dad

Nyxius heading to the stars! Excellent! We are cheering for you. Love from Auntie Anne and your climbing cousin.

Congratulations to our shining stars, Eliza and Joanne, from your earthbound admirers Oma and Opa!

Congratulations Luka dear, your solo was a wise one, we can tell! We don’t know what we would do without you. I love you, you droid overpricing Jawa! -Katarina

Peter and Rosemary: Our stage managers have been working on plans, my wildest hopes are exceeded! A heartfelt analysis eases my mind, chaos will be defeated. -K

Robbie: I miss seeing you on stage but I am proud to be following in your footsteps. Thanks for being one of my musical inspirations. Dad

Sue and Dave: You two are the best! No doubt about it. We do trust it all to you and we are all really in awe of you. Thanks so much for everything you do.

Dear Lorraine, You’re my favorite Jawa! I love watching you perform. Love, Dad

Chris, you’re amazing! Your creativity and dedication and skills are hard to match. Thanks for all your hard work! - Sue and David

Katie, I love doing Family Opera with you! Thank you for helping me not to flub my lines. You are the best Bith a father could have! Love, Dad

Ponosni smo na naše drage unuke Katarinu i Luku, te njihove roditelje Abbe i Alberta, koji s puno volje i ljubavi sudjeluju u ovoj operi. Dragi naši, svima Vama i cijelom ansamblu najljepše čestitamo iz daleke Hrvatske. Velika Vam pusa! Vaši, baka Nena i dida Josip

Fi, Ki, + T - We R2 proud of you! Sad we can’t rebel scum to C-3PO the show but you deserve praise in over 6 million forms of communication! Love C+C+V

Craig and Hope Kelley, we love you man!! – Rob, Doreen, Tess, and Hanna

Kathy and Rachel, what a blast this has been! Congratulations and thanks to both of you for helping to create a fantastic show! Love, Sue and David

In a show long ago, Megan Morse joined NCFO. Now in her 10th season, the universe hangs in the balance...I can’t wait to watch adroidingly, Megan! Love, Rachel
Luke: don’t go to the dark side, and the Force will always be with you. We are sending you good energy and luck from Florida headquarters! Have fun Dvorniks

Congratulations Emilija on your 2nd Space Opera! May it be as rewarding as your first. Work that bucket and check it off your bucket list! Love, S, V, and R.

C-3PO, we love you a heapio! Love, Mom, Dad and Imogenio

Hip hip hooray for Uncle Jeff! With lots of love from the NY Capital District.

Chris - Thanks for all the work you’ve done creating our own little universe. Chewy would be proud! Craig and Hope

Keiara Hunter, Your star shines brightly as does your smile. So lucky to be a part of your life! Shine on, Meme and Grandpa

Anne M - it’s been great reconnecting and having you back with us this year--just like old times! Love, Sue and David

Dale, welcome home! It’s been great having you and your amazing expertise among us again. Thanks to you and to Linda! - Sue and David

J: we started with SO, and we have come full cycle! I love doing this with you. -R

Fia - You’ll be great! “I KNOW!!” Love, Katie & Paul

Congratulations Eloise. Your last one! Right? Love, Uncle Jeff and Aunt Michelle

Carla and Heather, thanks to both of you for all of your various mad skills without which NCFO would melt away. You’re the best! - Sue and David

Fiona, You are one amazing young woman! You fill our hearts with joy, on stage and off. Love you so, Meme and Grandpa

Darius, Abu & Aba send you their love & are proud to know a star Stormtrooper!

Break a leg, Hannah! Love, Pete and Zoey

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Liz M & Jeff M (no relation) for helping me stay goofy. - Aimee Y.

Mark and Heather - You two are the oil that greases this well-run machine. Thanks so much for making it so easy to be a rebel. Craig and Hope

Dear Hannah, We’ve always known the Force was strong with this one! Knock ‘em dead! Love Grandma Susan and Grandpa Dick

Eloise - Congratulations on a fantastic opera career! I can’t wait to see what comes next! xo, Lizzy

Dear Hannah and Lorraine, You guys are intergalactic rock stars! You’re definitely not in Kansas any more. Love, your own Auntie Em(ily)

Glenn, you’ve always been a star in my book, son. I’ll enjoy your stardom with you in spirit! So proud.

David: From Space Opera to “Droids in Space”, I’d say you’ve come pretty much full circle! And I’ve loved traveling it with you! Itg

Shout-out to Marlon, Nell, and Joe for being the best! I’m so lucky to be able to see and hear all of your talents not only at home, but onstage, too! —Eva
Eloise: I’m proud of you. I love you. Grandma

Rob, Tess, & Hanna A “force” to be reckoned with! Way to go. Your Nebraska fan club

Being a wise mentor to the young comes as naturally as music to our Jeff Bigler. Obi-Wan is the right role for you! Love, Grammy and Judy

Dear Yifei, You are the Star! You are a blessing to our family and we are very proud of you. May the force be with you.

Darius we are so proud of you & love watching you sing & act. Keep shining!! Love, Mommy, Papi & Kian

Hannah and Lorraine, have a wonderful performance! We wish we could be there and can’t wait to see the recording! Love Grandma Sharon and Grandpa Leif

Congratulations Katie Leiserson! I’m so proud of you for developing your voice and your courage to express yourself both on stage and off! Love, Mama

For Leetka: A star you are And so much more, Smart/funny/wise With talent galore! Much Love, Nana

David and Noah: “May the Force be with you” Good Luck! Grammy and PaPa
Uncle Rob, Cousin Tess, and Cousin Hanna, Good job! We love you! Xo Ryan, Abby, & Charley

Darius! Grandma Sue sends her love & wishes she could see you perform!

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Glenn......we are your daughters. And we are so proud of you, love you!!

Peter & Rosemary, it’s SO great having two people backstage whom we can REALLY count on. Thanks for joining the Dark...er, the Stage Management team. - Sue

Congratulations Abbe, Bert, Luka and Katarina! May the Force be with you! Love Grandpa Michael and Leann

Coops-Thanks for showing me the power of the good side of just about everything. You may be in a galaxy far, far away in VT, but you’re always near my heart. Dad

Jeff M, Megan M, Sara St-A, Ruth H-M, Addie K, Emilija B, Emma A: Thanks for working so hard on the Droid Quartet and thanks to David B for writing it and letting us get away with it. - Aimee Y.

Kerry, your hard work really shows! We love to hear you sing and watch you act! We’ll always cherish the memories of being in NCFO! We love you! M and M

Emilija, thanks for ALL you do (today microphones, tomorrow?) in helping to make my life a little easier! And always with a smile! Great job--Sue

Hope: You are my wildest dream and you have never been exceeded. Thanks for being part of my universe and putting up with all of my many rebellious actions.

Luke - I mean Hannah- I am your father! And I am glad and proud every minute of it. Break a leg! Love, Dad

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From the far, far away galaxy of Chambersburg, Grammy and I send a beam of pride and love to our multi-talented Nyx Bigler. Keep that Falcon flying high! Oma

Литик, ты - наша звезда навсегда. Я тебя люблю. Мама

Ayumi: pew pew pew! pew pew pew! pew pew pew! pew pew pew! pew pew pew! pew pew pew! pew pew pew! pew pew pew! pew pew pew! clack-clack-clack Shinji and Papa

Katie and Charles Leiserson, we expect to see you in Hollywood soon. Love from the Hollmans

Eoin & Henry: I am SO happy to be performing with you both. I love watching you on stage. Love, Mom

BRAVO Kerry! Love you!!! Nana

To our beloved stars, Laura and Jeff, We are SO proud of you and love you so much! Break a leg! Much love, Aunt Pam, Uncle Chris, Jon and Ben

Nathan: What do we do? Be strong and brave. You will come through, tho Death Star’s a grave.

Congratulations Noah and Uncle Dave! We hope you have a great time and can’t wait to hear about the show! Love, Uncle Josh, Aunt Hallie, Gavi, & Mendy

Claudette, thanks for everything! You’ve managed to juggle so many balls this year, it’s amazing! On with the show! - Sue and David

Walter & Sophie, it’s been great fun seeing you “storm” though the rehearsals. Both of you are a real “trooper!” Love, Mama and Papa

Fi-3PO, you’ve always been my leading droid! Oh dear, whatever shall I do when you’re on the far side of the galaxy next year? I love you so! xo Mama

Julia and Rachel — Forever, you are my stars! Love always, Bana

Robert, Lonnie, and Reina, thanks for starting it all. Love, Mom & :Da

Sylvia ST16 - Thank you for ordering up a performance in Space Opera. It’s been fun to be your side-kick, despite your suspicious dedication to the Dark Side.

Well done, Charles L! Your dedication and joyful practice infuse our home with music from the first rehearsal to the last performance! Love, Wendy

Jeff Bigler: Wait, disclosing the mysteries of the universe? Isn’t that your DAY job? -Al

Glenn, you’re a star that shines even in the dark side!

You Go, Nyx -- solo, or I’ll follow! -FaFa

Megan! So wonderful to be seeing you again in Space Opera! Love, Mom and Dad

Rob, Tess, & Hanna, Bravo! Can’t wait to hear all about it at The Highland! Love, Papa Eddie & Kathleen
“work, live, play, eat”

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within the heart of Kendall Square

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To David and Sue and too many others to name:
We are so grateful for your hard work in creating this incredibly special community.

Thank you for the years of bringing us together with the magic of music.

Rob, Doreen, Tess, and Hanna
Andy Adler (Stormtrooper Chorus) has been (reluctantly) on stage and off for over a decade, mostly as a way to maximize his time to kvell over his daughter, Emma. This year as a Stormtrooper he hopes to develop an iron will.

Emma Adler (Droid Quartet, Droid / Alien / Rebel Chorus) is 19 and trying to figure out what to do with her life. This is Emma’s twelfth opera and thirteenth year performing with NCFO. From puzzle piece to rebel to bird to English teacher to droid, Emma has come full circle and is once again playing an inanimate object. This somehow seems fitting for her final season with NCFO (for now). Emma would like to thank her whole Family Opera extended family for a wonderful thirteen years.

Gal Agam (Jawa / Sandpeople / Alien / Rebel Chorus) is making his ninth appearance with NCFO and closing a full circle since his first appearance in Space Opera 2011. Gal is 15 years old and attends Brown Middle School in Newton. He loves skiing, ice skating, swimming, singing and puzzles. Gal is looking forward to a great season with NCFO.

Hadar Agam (Jawa / Sandpeople / Alien / Rebel Chorus) is delighted to share the stage with two of her kids (and some wonderful friends). Other than working at the Mathworks, Hadar is also a mom, travel-planner and family cheerleader, and is looking forward to another great season with NCFO.

Maya Agam (R2-D2) is enjoying her fifth season with NCFO after having enjoyed it from the audience for many years prior to that. Maya is 11 years old, and she attends Countryside Elementary School in Newton. Maya loves animals, books, dancing, and her friends.

Caitlin Anderson (Rebel 2, Jawa / Alien / Rebel Chorus) is briefly wishing she had the same last name as her daughters, Hannah and Lorraine, because she is so proud of them and wants everyone to know it. Heartfelt thanks to David, Sue, and the rest of the NCFO family for making the show happen every year – it is such a gift to the community. This is her fourth NCFO performance.

Emilija Baksys (Droid Quartet, Droid / Alien / Rebel Chorus, Assistant General Manager) is celebrating her tenth year performing with NCFO! She started as the Sky Jig Soloist in The Puzzle Jigs (2008) and recently has sung the roles of Princess Leia (2011), Mordechai (2017), and evil diva Barbara Strother.
A recent college graduate, Emilija also enjoys experimental photography. Although she is glad to be out of her “horrible cell” for this version of *Space Opera*, Emilija is sentimentally searching for a way to incorporate bagel buns into her costume.

**Ilan Balzac (Uncle Owen, Sandpeople / Alien / Rebel Chorus)** is in 8th grade at the Hale Middle School in Stow. This is his sixth year in NCFO. He has played an array of annoying and hyperactive children (meerkat in *Rain Dance* (2014), jury kid in *Kids Court* (2015), kid hearing the story in *Weaver’s Wedding* (2016)), free-spirited but good-hearted young men (lead surfer dude in school production of *Hang Ten*, Willy in *Weedpatch* 2018), and boring grownup fuddy-duddies (Cogsworth in school production of *Beauty and the Beast* (2016), soporific servant in *Springtime for Haman* (2017)). This year’s primary role, as Uncle Owen, is in the “boring grownup” category, but you’ll also hear his voice in some fun and challenging small-chorus roles. He has enjoyed helping with light saber choreography practice, and is most pleased to have the opportunity to assault his mother outside the cantina. He also sings in his school chorus (2016-2019) and in the Massachusetts Central Junior District chorus (2018, 2019). He would like to thank his voice teachers, Renée Tatum and Philip Schneider, for their kind and expert guidance. In his spare time, he likes to read, write fiction, do woodworking and metalworking, play complicated board and card games, and spend time with his friends.

**Heather Barney** (*Droid / Alien / Rebel Chorus*) returns to NCFO in her eleventh performance. Heather also sings with Sharing a New Song and Revels Singers and is a frequent Reveler with the spring production at Perkins School for the Blind.

**David Bass** (*Composer, 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 this year’s production, the distinctly unpretentious *Space Opera*, for the enjoyment of his three young children, their friends, and their families. He directed previous 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.
2010, and 2017; and Kids Court (in collaboration with John Kane) in 2007 and 2015. David has also adapted and directed several operas for NCFO, including Antiphony, The Puzzle Jigs, The Weaver’s Wedding, Flying High, Rain Dance, and Weedpatch. In 2007, he founded the Science Festival Chorus, which performs a concert of songs about science annually at the Cambridge Science Festival. He plans to continue writing and directing music for as long as he can avoid taking himself too seriously.

**Ayumi Batra** (Sandperson 1, Sandpeople / Alien / Rebel Chorus) turned 8 on Thanksgiving of last year, and this is her first time performing with NCFO. She’s a 2nd grader at the Martin Luther King, Jr., School and loves reading, writing, drawing, and Friday night movie night. This is her first time performing onstage, but she really enjoyed doing summer camp at Wheelock Family Theatre last year.

Claudette Beit-Aharon (General Manager) is enjoying her third year as General Manager, 19 years since first joining the NCFO family, when the show was also **Space Opera**. Over those years, Claudette has been in the cast and served on stage crew and as concessions captain. She is nostalgic for the good old days of the Empire, when her children were young Stormtroopers. In 2005, her son Noah played Darth Vader, inspiring her devotion to the Empire. The whole family were eunuchs (including her husband) in **The Coronation of Esther** (2001), yet her love for NCFO burns on. Enjoy the show!

**Marlon Beram** (Sandpeople / Alien / Rebel Chorus, Cantina Drums) is 9 years old and a 4th grader at the Amigos School in Cambridge. This is his first NCFO production. He enjoys playing soccer and basketball, and he has been a student at Boston Drum Lessons for two-plus years. He would like to thank his family, for telling him about NCFO, and his drum teacher, Blaize Collard.

**Nell Beram** (Sandpeople / Alien / Rebel Chorus) is a freelance writer who lives in Cambridge. She hasn’t been in an NCFO production since 2009, when she did **Weaver’s Wedding** while pregnant with her son, Marlon Beram. Nell would like to thank Marlon’s big sister, Eva Beram, for introducing her to the opera many years ago, and of course she thanks Marlon for doing the opera with her in 2019.

**Jeff Bigler** (Obi-Wan Kenobi) has been involved in the performing arts for over half a century in numerous capacities, including singer, actor, dancer, instrumentalist, set designer, tech crew, tech director, dance instructor, lead musician, composer, business manager, event planner, board member, donor, and audience member. He has been with NCFO since 2010. Offstage, Jeff is a proud parent, nerd, and physics teacher. He would especially like to thank his daughter Nyx for sharing the stage with him, and his wife and greatest supporter, Nancy Gilman. May the (mass × acceleration) be with you!

**Nyx Bigler** (Han Solo) is an artist, an aerialist, a singer, a dancer, a nerd, and a loyal friend, though she has always been a performer at heart. She loves performing in any capacity, including acting, singing, dancing, and instrumental. She has been with NCFO since **Springtime for Haman** in 2010. Besides NCFO, Nyx also enjoys live-action roleplaying (LARPing), art, aerial silks, lyra, morris dancing, and acting her

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Cast Biographies

Eloise Botka (C-3PO) is a senior at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. She enjoys dancing with the CRLS Modern Dance Company and at The School of Classical Ballet. She also likes to row crew at Community Rowing Inc. This is Eloise’s twelfth year participating in NCFO productions, starting with Puzzle Jigs (2008) as an Earth Jig. Eloise would like to thank her parents for driving her to rehearsals and her younger sister for supporting her.

Craig Burket (Sandpeople / Alien / Rebel Chorus) has been a software developer for more decades than he cares to remember and a fervent sci-fi fan and opera zealot since he was a wee teen. This will be his 13th season with NCFO, with previous roles as sentient entities both protoplasmic and cybernetic. He lives in the moment and works to free all the galaxy from this long night.

Hanna Carney (Princess Leia) is an 18-year-old senior at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. During high school, she has sung for the CRLS World Jazz Ensemble and Big Band and been a member/leader of the girls a cappella group Sassafras. She’s spent two years at Berklee doing jazz and sprinkles of bluegrass and Balkan music. She is forever grateful for David, Sue, and the whole NCFO community for being the reason she started singing back in 2007. Hanna is so happy to be back with NCFO after Space Opera 2019 but fears that she peaked as Jabba the Hutt in 2011.

Robin Chen (Jawa / Alien / Rebel Chorus) works as a mother to three young children and reformer with Represent MA Children 2020. Last year, she was an Okie in Weedpatch. During the NCFO off-season, she gardens at Sacramento Street Community Garden. She enjoys following her curiosity into libraries, museums, and parks. She would like to thank Zewei for being supportive.

Abbe Cohen Dvornik (Bith 2, Jawa / Alien / Rebel Chorus, Props Director) is Luka’s mother. And Luke’s mother. And Chewy’s wife. (Boy, this is even more confusing than all that stuff with Anakin and Padme and Leia!) Abbe has been performing with Family Opera in science festival choruses since 2011 and operas since Antiphony 2013. Watching Space Opera in 2005 was her introduction to this very special group, and now she’s here on stage performing in it with her entire family including one child who first heard it in utero, and one who was but a twinkle in her eyes.

Melanie Cohn-Hopwood (Stormtrooper 1, Stormtrooper Chorus) is thrilled to be on stage with NCFO for the third time! When she’s not “storming” the castle, she likes to “troop” around with her amazing kids Walter and Sophie and her spouse.
Cast Bios

Ruben. Aside from working for the dark lord, she has a side gig as a social worker. If Melanie could send a secret message, all her code would be in Morse: .-.-.-.-.-

Lynn Colletti (Alien / Rebel Chorus) is from Stow, MA, and this is her fourth year with NCFO. When not at NCFO, she is a member of the Nashoba Regional School Committee, Skipper of Sea Scout Ship 5, and a member of an a cappella chorus, Women of Note. This year Ship 5 is building a John Welsford Pathfinder, which will keep everyone busy this spring.

Rachel Cooper (General Dodonna, Jawa / Alien / Rebel Chorus) is an ESL Teacher at Cambridge Public Schools. Apart from her love of working with young students and singing, her other passions are reading and swimming, but she mostly only has time to pursue these in the summer. She joined NCFO in 2002 as Queen Antonomasia in Antiphony. In 2003, she was a puzzle piece in Puzzle Jigs, and in 2004 a Concubine in Springtime for Haman. She returned to NCFO in 2014 when her son Jack Ramde was old enough to join her as (alas) the Old Zebra in Rain Dance. In 2015 she was a Farmer in Weaver’s Wedding, in 2017 Haman’s Friend in Springtime for Haman, and a Town Chorus member in Weedpatch in 2018. She is excited to finally perform in Space Opera, with her son Jack Ramde as a Stage Crew Assistant, and thanks her family for their patience during this busy time!

Sylvia Crittenden (Stormtrooper 16, Stormtrooper Chorus) didn’t hesitate in joining the dark side for the opportunity to wrestle Chewbacca. Besides wrestling, Sylvia enjoys playing with Legos, cooking, and kung-fu-ing. She is a 3rd grader at the Maria Baldwin School. She would like to thank her friend and neighbor Pete for being really into Space Opera.

Jill Crittenden, (Stormtrooper Chorus) long-time listener/first-time singer, plays a deplorable stormtrooper alongside her daughter Sylvia. Jill would like to thank Sue and David for their warm welcome to the NCFO stage, where she unswervingly does their bidding. When she’s not spacing out, Jill works as a neuroscientist at MIT.

Chris Cuttitta (Sandpeople / Alien / Rebel Chorus) has enjoyed being in the past NCFO productions of Space Opera 2011, Antiphony 2013, Rain Dance 2014, and Weedpatch 2018 with various different combinations of her family. She would like to thank her whole family for performing with her in the thrilling Space Opera 2019!
Cast Biographies

Chloe Duggan (Stormtrooper 11, Stormtrooper Chorus) is a 14-year-old. She attends Vassal Lane Upper School. She has been in Weaver’s Wedding (2016), Springtime for Haman (2017), and Weedpatch (2018). She likes to sleep, eat, and write bios.


Katarina Dvornik (Luke Skywalker) is 3 years old and in 7th grade at the Healey School. She appeared as a worker ant in 2013’s Antiphony, in Rain Dance 2014 as a meerkat, in 2015’s Kids Court as a Jury Kid, a Prime Minister in Weaver’s Wedding 2016, Harbona in Springtime for Haman 2017, and Abby in Weedpatch 2018. She has also sung in the NCFO Science chorus since 2011 and played Aladdin in the Somerville Arts Council production of Aladdin. When not singing or acting, she fills up her time with drawing, writing, reading, interesting math, listening to music, and dreaming about getting off Tatooine. She would like to thank the NCFO team for their hard work and trusting her with her first lead, and her family for being the best (perhaps better than Han Solo).

Luka Dvornik (Jawa 1, Jawa / Alien / Rebel Chorus) is a 2nd-grader at the Healey School in Somerville. This is his second time in the opera and his first solo. He is excited to share a solo with his friend Autumn, who joined the opera this year! He was in Weedpatch last year as an Okie kid and he has been singing in the science chorus for a few years. He hopes you enjoy the show!

Sarah Eastman, (Vocal Coach) soprano and voice teacher, is a Maryland native currently based in Boston. Ms. Eastman is active in art song, oratorio, opera, early music, and choral repertoire. She has performed at many venues, including Symphony Hall, Jordan Hall, and Carnegie Hall. In addition to her performing career, she also teaches at the All Newton Music School and is the Music Director both for the Scandinavian Living Center Community Chorus and for the Jamaica Plain Training Chorus of Boston City Singers. Ms. Eastman holds a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance with a minor in Italian from Towson University and a Masters of Music in Vocal Pedagogy from The Boston Conservatory. In addition to Vocal Coaching with NCFO, Sarah is also the Music Director for NCFO’s 2019 Science Festival Chorus. For more information about her studio please visit her website: www.saraheastmansoprano.com.

Chris Edel (Chewbacca, Technical Director and Additional Set Design) Over my twelve years in the Opera I have played several beasts - hippo, jackal, frog, Rock Star, thug - but having grown up tall and furry in a stinking onion swamp with a long history of underworld connections, some may say this is the role I was born to play! Trivia question - What major American city is named after the stinky onion swamp it was built on? RAAAAHR!

Hannah Erickson (Luke Skywalker) is an 11-year-old and 6th grader at Rindge Ave. Upper Campus. Besides singing, she enjoys swimming, reading, and hiking. Her goal is to climb all 48 4,000-foot peaks in NH by the time she starts college. Hannah sings with the Boston Symphony Children’s Chorus and performed with the Boston Pops this winter. She is very glad to be where she is and would like to thank David and Sue for all their hard work to make the shows happen. This is her fourth NCFO production.

Lorraine Erickson (Jawa 2, Jawa / Alien / Rebel Chorus) is 7 years old and attends the Peabody
Cast Biographies

School. She sings with the Cambridge Children’s Chorus and plays the violin. She enjoys reading, Legos, and torturing her older sister. She loves performing with NCFO. This is her second production.

**Karis Galea (Rebel A, Alien / Rebel Chorus)** is making her debut with NCFO. She first appeared on stage in Measure for Measure, playing the one kid part in an all-adult ensemble. After appearing and working backstage in several other productions, with her friend Nicci, she has written and is directing and producing Deserving: A Cinderella Retelling, which will go on at Hale Middle School on May 31 / June 1.

**Rozi Galea (Rebel 4, Alien / Rebel Chorus)** has been in nearly fifty productions, but this is her first opera, because when your kid says “Hey, let’s do this together,” you do.

**Erin Gast (Stormtrooper 15, Stormtrooper Chorus)** is 11 years old and a 6th-grade student at Gibbs Middle School. This is her fourth performance with NCFO. Previously she has been a myna bird in Weaver’s Wedding, a jury member in Kids Court, and a chorus member in Springtime for Haman. She sings in the Gibbs School Chorus under the amazing Mr. Ham.

**Meredith Gast (Stormtrooper 13, Stormtrooper Chorus)** is 14 years old. This is her sixth year with NCFO. She was a black ant in Antiphony, a kid in Kids Court, a myna bird in Weaver’s Wedding, one of Haman’s friends in Springtime for Haman and a juggler and an Okie in Weedpatch. She currently goes to the Ottoson Middle School in Arlington.

**Peter Gast (Stormtrooper Chorus)** has once again been pulled into NCFO by his enthusiastic daughters and wife. This is his second performance with NCFO; previously he was a security guard in Kids Court. In real life, he is a manager and computer engineer at CarGurus.

**Nathan Gilbert (Stormtrooper Chorus)** is in his fifth NCFO production, having started with Rain Dance in 2014. He is in seventh grade and is learning to play viola. He enjoys reading, and he has been told that he does so very quickly. He is currently thirteen (13) years old, which is not an exact measurement but does not need to be. This number is provided in decimal. In school, he takes Latin. It is currently the month of February. When this is being read, this will most likely no longer be the case.

**Bob Gillig (Stormtrooper Chorus)** is performing in his first NCFO production but has been an appreciative audience member since 2011.

**Grace Gillig, (Rebel A, Sandpeople / Alien / Rebel Chorus)** 13, is a student in Cambridge, MA. Grace has been in the past NCFO productions of Antiphony 2013 and Rain Dance 2014.

**Theo Gillig, (Stormtrooper 2, Stormtrooper 8, Stormtrooper Chorus)** 11, is a student in Cambridge, MA. Theo was in the NCFO production of Weedpatch in 2018.

**Adam Gould (Lighting and Stage Crew)** is in 8th grade and has worked lights and backstage for the past four NCFO productions. This year he gave up on fighting and singing for the Galactic Empire to study for his bar mitzvah. (Mazel tov, Adam!) When not a stage hand he pursues political activism, metalworking, skateboarding and cycling.

**Tom Gould (Stormtrooper 1, Stormtrooper 7, Stormtrooper Chorus)** is singing for the tenth time in a North Cambridge Family Opera production, seven of them with his daughter Aviva (go MDC & Falcons Crew!) and one with his son Adam. Tom has just started a new job, proving that an old stormtrooper can learn new tricks. He dedicates his performance to his wife Maura for her support, encouragement, and near infinite patience as an NCFO house manager.

**Verity Eleanor Gould (Stormtrooper 12, Stormtrooper Chorus)** is a student at Cambridge Friends School. Verity enjoys singing and food.

**Eli Grigsby (Bith 2, Sandpeople / Alien / Rebel Chorus)** is performing with NCFO for the first time.
Waaay back in the twentieth century, she knew all the words to all the songs in *Annie*, *Oliver!*, *Godspell*, and *Damn Yankees*. These days her daughter, Ayumi Batra, has to remind her what to sing, and when. During the week, she’s a math professor at Boston College. (And TBH, she’s forgotten a lot of math too.) She’d like to thank Ayumi’s dad, Puneet, and little brother, Shinji, for encouraging and supporting us.

**Baruch Gurwitz (Stormtrooper Chorus)** is enjoying his first NCFO production. This is his first time *ever* on stage; after watching the previous five productions he decided it was time. He succumbed to the call of the dark side of the force. He is having fun not shooting the rebels and pointing out how backward the Stormtroopers are as compared to the army. Baruch lives at home in Somerville with his two cats and his wonderful wife, Jill.

**Sue Hall (Jawa / Sandpeople / Alien / Rebel / Stormtrooper Chorus, Producer)** is having a blast playing a Rebel, Stormtrooper, Jawa, Sandperson, Alien, and Ghost of Alderaan in her fifth appearance in *Space Opera* (the first without any of her kids performing). She loves this amazing show almost as much as she loves the amazing man who created it. When not spending time with her fabulous family and delightful dogs, she tutors math (come one, come all, Algebra to Calculus to Statistics!)

**Aytan Hamill (Stormtrooper 8, Stormtrooper Chorus)** can name that tune in one note. Aytan is celebrating his twelfth year with NCFO after singing in all of our operas since 2008’s *The Puzzle Jigs*. When not singing, Aytan can be found swimming, cross-country skiing, or selling cookies at the Cardinal Cushing Center’s on-campus bakery.

**Katie Hamill (Rebel 6b, Sandpeople / Alien / Rebel Chorus, Choreography Assistant)** is excited to be performing in her tenth show with NCFO, along with her daughter Anya Miller, her brother Tom Hamill, and her nephew, Aytan. Her favorite previous roles include Leo in *Weedpatch* (2018), Meidan in *Springtime for Haman* (2017), the Storyteller in *The Weaver’s Wedding* (2016), Lamia the Lioness in *Rain Dance* (2014), and a pointy-eared alien in *Space Opera* (2011). She especially enjoys dancing with all the Rebels, Aliens, and Stormtroopers!

**Tom Hamill (Stormtrooper 7, Stormtrooper Chorus)** has long ago lost count of how many NCFO productions he’s been in, but is certain that he enjoyed most of them. This is his third time through *Space Opera*, having sung Owen Lars as well as various Rebel / Alien / Sandperson (Person of Sand?) roles in prior productions. In his spare time, Tom can be found swinging Kerri Brann across the floor at contra and square dances throughout Greater Boston.

**Ruth Hertzman-Miller (Droid Quartet, Droid / Alien / Rebel Chorus)** has been performing with NCFO for more than ten years, most recently as a Prince in *Springtime for Haman* in 2017. She is a student in composition in the certificate program at New England Conservatory and has written several songs for the NCFO Science Festival Chorus, including “Space Time,” a song about traveling at the speed of light (to be performed this spring). She also works part-time as a physician at Hebrew SeniorLife. She thanks her husband David and kids Sarah, Lonnie, and Rachel for all their support.

**Beth Hocking (Droid 1, Droid / Alien / Rebel Chorus)** is a high school science teacher. She previously played the Emcee in *Weedpatch* and is pleased to be singing with NCFO again.

**Heather Hoffman (Rehearsal Manager)** has been happily anonymous since *Antiphony* (2006) basking in the glow of her child’s (sadly former) performances.
on stage and her husband Mark Jaquith’s stage crewing, while keeping an eye on her knitting and the pizza order. She enjoys being serenaded at rehearsals and telling people where to go. Thanks to everyone who makes this possible on stage and off.

**Sue Holcomb** (Sandperson 1, Sandpeople / Alien / Rebel Chorus) is a freelance musician, violin/viola teacher, and longtime participant in NCFO. She and her husband Craig Burket are both Sandpeople in the Opera this year. Outside of the show, their sandbox is in Watertown.

**Sophie Hopwood** (Stormtrooper 6, Stormtrooper Chorus) is 11 years old and in the 5th grade. They performed in NCFO’s productions of Weedpatch and Springtime for Haman. Sophie loves reading, science and art.

**Walter Hopwood** (Stormtrooper 5, Stormtrooper Chorus) is an 11-year-old 5th grader who goes to the King Open School in Cambridge. He plays the cello and loves sports, reading, and video games. Last year he was Rufus in Weedpatch, and the year before he was a chamberlain in Springtime for Haman. Walter is really excited to be in this show and can’t wait to perform next year! He dedicates his performance to his family for all the support they give to him.

**Keiara Hunter** (Rebel 1, Jawa / Alien / Rebel Chorus) is 12 years old, a 6th grader at Putnam Ave. Upper School, and is returning for a rebellious second year in NCFO, after last year’s debut in Weedpatch! She loves synchronized swimming, reading, listening to music, and snuggling with her puppies.

**Ben Jerome** (Stormtrooper 5, Stormtrooper Chorus) is a father to two wonderful children. He comes from a family that loves singing. Growing up in Haiti, he sang in his church choir and played the violin.

**Kostas Jerome** (Stormtrooper 6, Stormtrooper Chorus) is a 5th grader at Shady Hill School in Cambridge. He also performed at the Watertown Children’s Theatre in Pirates of Penzance and sang in the Boston Children’s Chorus. He loves reading, playing video games, and spending time with his friends.

**Laima Jerome** (Stormtrooper 15, Stormtrooper Chorus) is a 2nd grader at Shady Hill School in Cambridge. She also performed in Annie at the Watertown Children’s Theatre. Laima loves reading, cooking, dancing, and singing.

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**All best wishes for your success!**

**State Senator**

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Donna Jones (Alien / Rebel Chorus) is happy to be participating in Space Opera after her Family Opera debut in Weedpatch last year. She is having a great time being a Rebel with her three talented grandchildren: Louis, Vivianna, and Julianna Jones Tandon. Julianna Jones Tandon (Jawa 1, Jawa / Alien / Rebel Chorus) is a 3rd-grade Homeschool student. For as long as she can remember, she has been curious about the world around her and intrigued by the connection of people, animals, plants, and nature. Julianna also enjoys writing poetry and studying the lyrics to classic and contemporary musicals. One of her favorite films, from her earliest memories, is The Sound of Music.

Louis Jones Tandon (Rebel 4, Alien / Rebel Chorus) is a 10th-grade student who has great interest in math, biology, writing, and origami. In his younger years, he was in the performance Oliver Twist playing the main role and singing the part of Oliver. He was excited to spend last summer sailing. “If All the World’s a Stage Louis would love to be sailing its Oceans.”

Vivianna Jones Tandon (Rebel 3, Jawa / Alien / Rebel Chorus) is a 7th-grade Homeschool student who looks forward to every opportunity to express her creativity through the arts, music, and writing. She has performed in various plays and danced in the Nutcracker ballet. Last year she received the level of Gold in The American Ballet Association’s Performance Award. Inspired by great actresses of the past, Vivianna even personified the legendary Lena Horne for Halloween.

Birikti Kahsai (Stormtrooper 12, Stormtrooper Chorus) is an 8th grader in Vassal Lane Upper School. Some of her hobbies include reading, debating, tap dancing, and baking. She also enjoys spending time with family and friends and watching classic movies.

Bean Karbiner (Sandpeople / Alien / Rebel Chorus) is performing in their first musical since their 2nd-grade play and rediscovering how much fun it is to sing. Bean also likes rocks and is a hobby lapidary and jeweler.

Margaleet Katzenblickstein (R2-D2) has been performing in Family Opera since 2013, when she played the DescAnt in Antiphony. Previous roles have also included one of the Five Kids in The Weaver’s Wedding, a Meerkat in Rain Dance, Hathach in Springtime for Haman, the Jury Foreperson in Kids Court, and a member of the Citizens Committee Quartet in Weedpatch. Margaleet is a 15-year-old homeschooler and is dual-enrolled at Middlesex Community College.

Craig Kelley (General Dodonna, Sandpeople / Alien / Rebel Chorus) is a repeat NCFO singer who started with last year’s Weedpatch Community Chorus and who now leads the Operatic Resistance as General Dodonna. He enjoys reading, bicycling, Dungeons & Dragons, and spending time with his family, where his wildest hopes are regularly exceeded. He is delighted to live in a universe that is not at all very far away where something like the North Cambridge Family Opera brings so much joy to so many lives.

Hope Kelley (Sandpeople / Alien / Rebel Chorus) has found her way from the dark side and is a rebel this year! She 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, Jackal, Haman’s Friend and Weedpatch chorus member.) Until two years ago, she happily performed with her two sons. They continue to perform, but at college. Thankfully, this is the second year in a row that she is enjoying the camaraderie of her husband Craig, who finally switched from faithful audience member to cast last year. For those reading this, she highly recommends becoming a cast member next year. She would love to perform with you.

Addie Kelsey (Droid Quartet, Droid / Alien / Rebel Chorus) is a 10th grader at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School and enjoys singing, dancing, and running. She has been performing in NCFO since she was in 4th grade, playing parts ranging from a bouncy baby rabbit (Rain Dance, 2014) to a despairing 40-year-old Jewish man (Springtime for Haman, 2017).

Margot Kelsey (Droid 1, Droid / Alien / Rebel Chorus) is in her third year of NCFO. She has been an Okie...
in *Weedpatch* and mosquito in *Weaver’s Wedding*. She is in 6th grade at Vassal Lane Upper School, and in her free time she loves to read and play with her kitten. She would like to thank her sister and her mom for always making NCFO so much fun.

**John Kernochan:** (Admiral Ackbar, Droid / Alien / Rebel Chorus) It might be abstruse / Or even obtuse / To be a Rebel / While I am still able / Now I aspire / Before I retire / To be a Thespian

**Joe Klompus** (Sandpeople / Alien / Rebel Chorus, Cantina Bass) is a professional bass player who performs locally, nationally, and internationally, everywhere from small clubs to outdoor festivals and occasionally on television. In addition to playing music, he is the vintage guitar guru at the Music Emporium in Lexington. He sang in the NCFO productions *Lifetime: Songs of Life and Evolution* (2007), *The Puzzle Jigs* (2008), *Springtime for Haman* (2010), *Space Opera* (2011), *Flying High* (2012), and *Antiphony* (2013). He would like to thank his daughter, Eva Beram, for dragging him into NCFO light-years ago and for encouraging her brother, Marlon Beram, to continue the family tradition.

**Popi Kokkinogenis** (Rebel 3, Alien / Rebel Chorus) is happy to return for her sixth year with North Cambridge Family Opera, having played in *Springtime for Haman, Weaver’s Wedding, Kids Court, Rain Dance*, and *Antiphony*. She was first inspired to join NCFO when she watched the 2011 performance of *Space Opera*, so this is the show she has been waiting for! She is a 16-year-old homeschooler who loves manga and making animation.

**David Krikorian** (Stormtrooper Chorus) has been an admirer of NCFO for years, but this is his first participation. He and his wife Kristien met in another chorus, but he otherwise has little singing experience. His instrumental experience includes taking the first year of piano lessons (seven times) and recently taking up the cello. He works as an engineer and is notable for having run a Dungeons & Dragons campaign for twenty-nine years.

**Sebastian Krikorian** (Stormtrooper Chorus) is a 7th grader at Ottoson Middle School in Arlington. Last year he sang professionally as a student of Saint Paul’s Choir School, but this show is his acting and

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Cast Biographies

dancing debut. He thanks his mother for contributing to his music education and his father for writing this bio.

Autumn Rati Lane (Jawa 2, Jawa / Alien / Rebel Chorus) joins NCFO for her first stage opera performance. She is in the 2nd grade at the Arthur D. Healey School in Somerville, where she enjoys math, reading, and music. She loves cats, the color pink, and playing piano. She intends to be a horse trainer when she grows up. In the meantime, she is having fun with new friends at NCFO in *Space Opera*!

Heather Terran Rati Lane (Rebel 2, Alien / Rebel Chorus) fell in love with *Star Wars* at age 5, when she saw it five times at its first run in the theater. She managed to miss or avoid all music and arts growing up, so is now enjoying jumping in to the deep end with NCFO. When not trying to memorize lyrics and choreography or despairing about harmony, she plays board games, cooks stupidly spicy food, goes camping with her family, and designs high-throughput neural net natural language processing systems.

Susan Rati Lane (Alien / Rebel Chorus) memorized the complete script to *Star Wars* off of a heavily played, first generation Betamax copy at age 6, and she answered to the name Leia from age 17 to 25. There was no way that she could not sing in *Space Opera*. When not geeking about science fiction, she writes educational software for MIT App Inventor and fan-edits movies. Previously, she has played viola for a medieval dance band and for the Albuquerque Philharmonic Orchestra. She also makes a mean beef and barley stew.

Kerry LaRose (Princess Leia) is a freshman at the Francis W. Parker School. She has been a member of NCFO since the 2015 production, and she is thrilled to make her debut this year as a primary soloist. She also sings with the Handel and Haydn Society’s Young Women’s Choir, with whom she recently performed at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in “The City of Women Concert.” Kerry also performs with her school’s theatre department. She would like to thank her amazing voice teacher, Susan Davies, for her dedication and for sharing her talent. She is grateful for her supportive parents, as well as for her friends and family who are faithful audience members! She appreciates her Opera cast-mates for all the laughs behind the scenes, and David, Sue, Kathy, Rachel, Carla and the rest of the crew for working hard on this production.

Susan LaRose (Alien / Rebel Chorus) joined her spouse Chanda and daughter Kerry in NCFO in 2015, after realizing that being on stage is even more fun than being in the audience. She would like to thank David, Sue, Kathy, Rachel, Carla and fellow cast members for all of the fun! She’s thankful for friends and family for taking the time to come every year and cheer us on!

Bill Laskin (Stormtrooper 14, Stormtrooper Chorus) has been a Warrior Ant (*Antiphony*), a Security Guard (*Kids Court*), and this year is a Stormtrooper. He fears he has been typecast as a bad guy! His daughter, Izzy, got him into this mess six years ago when she was the littlest Warrior Ant of them all. Alas, she has forsaken NCFO for hockey, so he is the only Laskin on stage this year. Happily, son Peter is pitching in behind the scenes again, this time as stage manager, a big promotion after many years on stage crew. Good on you, Peter! A big thank you to all his cast mates for another season of fun and song. He is thrilled to be part of the production that started it all 20 years ago, even if he is one of the bad guys. Again.

Peter Laskin (Stage Manager) has spent the past six years on stage crew for the NCFO, and has never broken any props or sets. Finally, his talents have been recognized, and he has been promoted to

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stage manager. He’s never managed anything as big as a stage, but it seems pretty difficult to damage. He last saw Space Opera at the age of four, and has fond memories of the parts where he was awake.

Charles E. Leiserson (Stormtrooper 13, Stormtrooper Chorus) is performing in the North Cambridge Family Opera for the fourth time. He played a Frog in Weaver’s Wedding (2016) and, presumably due to a lucky kiss, a Prince in Springtime for Haman (2017). His experience of playing a nasty townie in Weedpatch (2019) led him naturally to the Dark Side of the Force for this year’s production of Space Opera. To pass the time when not performing in NCFO or singing in the shower, Charles enjoys teaching algorithms and software performance engineering at MIT.

Katherine Hope (Katie) Leiserson (Bith 1, Stormtrooper Chorus), age 11, is a 5th grader at Shady Hill School and is performing in North Cambridge Family Opera for the fourth time. She played a Frog in Weaver’s Wedding (2016), Dara in Springtime for Haman (2017), and both a townie ballerina and an Okie student in Weedpatch (2018). In her school’s production of The Great Race (2018), she played the Snake. She loves her cat, Tigger (recently passed away); her dog, Luna; cooking; and art. She would like to thank all her music teachers for teaching her wonderful musical things.

Kathy Lindsay (Jabba the Hutt, Droid / Jawa / Sandpeople / Alien / Rebel Chorus, Stage Director, Costume Design) … an experiment in the aging effects of opera as witnessed in space. 20 years ago our test subject started as a bright shiny golden droid, always worried and desiring recognition. In 2005, we find that the metallic finish has worn off to a pristine white, serenity and recognition found. In 2011, we find that the white has dulled to beige and browns, and the subject has gained the knowledge that blending in with the chorus can offer a variety of life form experiences. Now, in 2019, we find that some changes are inevitable; slime buildup and moral decay are hard to stop.

Rosemary Lindsay (Assistant Stage Manager) is a strange and powerful being. Long ago she was the youngest rebel, but now she fights alongside the rest of the mysterious Crew. Watch the vast deserts rise into the air, houses appear from nowhere, and objects move without human (or other) contact! All on the next episode of CREW.

A.J. Liuba (Alien / Rebel Chorus, Cantina Keyboards) would like to thank her family for their support. She dedicates this performance to the memory of Daniel Weinreb, who volunteered with the opera company for years and whose Jedi hologram is watching us now.

Chanda McCreary (Alien / Rebel Chorus) has been a part of this amazing community with her spouse Susan and daughter Kerry since 2014. She would like to especially thank Sue, David, Kathy, Rachel, and Carla, for making this an experience she and her family will always remember! Thank you to our friends and family for being faithful and supportive audience members!

Glenn McElhoe (Darth Vader, Assistant Stage Director) is performing with NCFO for his tenth season! It’s been five years since he played the evil villain Tau, and he is wondering if he is being typecast (gladly!). Since his own children have gone on to college, he is thrilled to be joined by his nephew Darius on the quest to forcibly bring peace to the galaxy. Outside of Opera and the NCFO science chorus, Glenn sings a cappella in a barbershop quartet and with the Vocal Revolution chorus. He is grateful for the support of his family and especially his daughters, who have put up with his endless jokes revealing that he is . . . wait for it . . . their father.
Cast Biographies

Dan McKanan (Rebel 6a, Alien / Rebel Chorus) was born on May the Fourth, 1967, and attended his very first PG movie on Thanksgiving Day, 1977.

Oriana McKanan (Rebel 5, Rebel 6b, Alien / Rebel Chorus) is a 15-year-old homeschooler, and this is her seventh year in the opera. When she’s not doing homework, sleeping, or both at once, she likes to read, write, bake, doodle, sing, dance, drink lattes, be silly, eat, argue with her friends, and hang out with small children. She is super excited to be in this performance because she saw it when she was seven and instantly fell in love. She would like to thank her fantastic friends for (sort of) keeping her sane. She hopes you enjoy the show as much as she does!

Alec McKinney (Admiral Ackbar, Sandpeople / Alien / Rebel Chorus) has been participating in stage shows and the Science Chorus with NCFO since 2006. He wants to thank his wonderful extended family and friends for all their support, and most importantly and sincerely, the NCFO for all they have given to Cambridge and beyond over the past nearly 20 years.

Julie McKinney (Sandpeople / Alien / Rebel Chorus, Choreography Assistant) began her NCFO career with Space Opera in 2011, and always hoped to be an alien. After careful training with several other operas, including Rain Dance, Flying High, and Springtime for Haman, that dream is fulfilled! She thanks the NCFO team and community for all the good times over the years!

Margery Meadow (Jawa / Alien / Rebel Chorus) is pleased to be able to join NCFO again this season. In previous productions, she has been a member of the Concerned Citizens Committee (Weedpatch), a frog (Weaver’s Wedding), jackal (Rain Dance), and ladybug (Antiphony). She is a member of the Boston Recorder Society and the Yiddish chorus of Boston Workmen’s Circle, A Besere Velt (A Better World), and has performed with Vermont’s Bread and Puppet Theater. Past artistic endeavors include classical flute, modern dance, and rock’n roll bass guitar. She worked for many years as a technical writer. Margery likes to read, knit, and cuddle her guinea pigs. Love and thanks to John and Ruth for their support.

Jason Merrill (Darth Vader) is happy to be back for his fifth NCFO show, and his second villainous lead (following Springtime for Haman two years ago). He is also often seen on stage with Theatre@First in Davis Square and has been singing in choirs and the

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Occasional musical or opera since age 10. By day he works on the GNU C++ compiler for Red Hat.

Alice Merrill Hunter (Stormtrooper 10, Stormtrooper 11, Stormtrooper Chorus) is excited to be back for her fifth NCFO show. Alice is in the 6th grade (with Anastasia Miller) at JFK Elementary in Somerville, where she is in 6th grade. She is very excited to participate in NCFO’s 20th anniversary production of It is really exciting. Anne has sung in choruses since she was a kid. She’s been singing with Coro Allegro, Boston’s LGBTQ+ and Allied chorus, for almost 30 years, as well as lots of church choirs. She loves Gregorian chant. Anne lives with her wife Cynthia, their 2 pugs, and their cat in Dorchester. She’s really grateful to David and Sue for the opportunity to join the NCFO family.

Jeff Moore (Droid Quartet, Droid / Alien / Rebel Chorus) is pleased to return for his 18th NCFO production... or is it his 37th year with the MIT Chorallaries? It must be, because here he is singing a cappella... David Bass’s music... with Aimee Yermish... just like way back when, at Tech. Of course, David has grown so much as a composer and librettist, that he now gets to ask the musical question: Do my parents do doo-doo in space?

Liz Morse (Rebel 7, Alien / Rebel Chorus, Choreography Assistant) is a special education teacher and a dancer. She is so happy she can continue singing and dancing with NCFO. This is her eighth performance with NCFO, having previously been a Townsperson (Weedpatch, 2018), a Concubine (Springtime for Haman, 2017), a Peacock (Weaver’s Wedding), a Stagehand (Kids Court, 2015), Jackie the Jackal (Rain Dance, 2014), a Scorpion (Antiphony, 2013) and a Stage Parent (Flying High, 2012). She has loved spending this season with both new and old friends in the opera company. She would like to thank all of her family and friends for the love and support they have shown her all year long.

Megan Morse (Droid Quartet, Droid / Alien / Rebel Chorus) is delighted to return for her tenth production with NCFO, having played various principal and supporting roles in the past, most recently a member of the Citizens Community Quartet. She also sings with a barbershop quartet. Megan would like to thank the Family Opera for providing these wonderful opportunities and community. She’d also like to thank her friends and family for all of their love and support over the years.

Joanne Nicklas (Stormtrooper 4, Stormtrooper Chorus) is excited to be an oppressive force in the NCFO’s 20th anniversary performance. Many thanks to David and Sue, and to her family, especially her mom and brothers and fellow stormtrooper Eliza.

Patty Nolan (Jawa / Alien / Rebel Chorus) is appearing in her first NCFO production, after watching her kids perform and her husband do makeup for years. She is thrilled that David & Sue
encouraged her to join the cast, since she still winces remembering trying out for the school chorus in 5th grade and being told she couldn’t sing at all. She is happy to be stepping outside her comfort zone by singing publicly for the first time in Space Opera. Truth be told, the role of rebel comes naturally to Patty, and her weekly appearances on her favorite soap opera (Cambridge School Politics – most Tuesday nights on cable) prepared her for some of the creativity and zaniness of NCFO.

Marleigh Norton (Stormtrooper 2, Stormtrooper Chorus) is generally not seen in her acting roles, preferring voice-acting and puppetry to staged theater. The opportunity to be a singing dancing stormtrooper, however, was too silly to resist. She has most recently been seen (heard?) as a variety of monsters in Theatre@First’s She Kills Monsters, though favorite all time roles have been behind the microphone as Barbara Gordon in Batman: The Ace of Detectives, Carla Marley in Red Sands Investigations, Captain Rosany in Sirens of War, and Jean in Three Skeleton Key. On weekends, she volunteers as a puppy raiser for America’s VetDogs. She would like to thank her most recent pup, Merry, for putting up with all the singing practice.

Fiona O’Loughlin (C-3PO) is 18 years old and a senior at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. She is thrilled to be participating in her eighth NCFO production this year, after various hilarious animal and human roles in Flying High, Antiphony, Rain Dance, Kids Court, Weaver’s Wedding, Springtime for Haman, and Weedpatch. She has also loved performing in many fantastic Beyond the Fourth Wall musicals. When she is not acting and building sets, Fiona enjoys reading, writing, playing games, traveling, and playing with her puppies.

Jill Pelavin (Bith 1, Stormtrooper Chorus, Cantina Flute) is in her fifth NCFO production, and happy to scat on stage with Abbe and not shoot any rebels with Baruch. She is thrilled to scat and play the flute back in her natural habitat, the stage extension. It’s refreshing being a Stormtrooper, much more savory than last year’s Trump supporter (the Kern County Citizens’ Committee quartet in Weedpatch). She has also been Haman’s wife, before that the Story-Teller (Weaver’s Wedding), and before that, in Kids Court, was a stagehand with strong pinkies. Previous to NCFO, she was in five musicals as part of the orchestra pit. She is a software engineer by day, making the web easier to use with better UIs, 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 Somerville with her two cats and her wonderful husband, Baruch.

Mary Penniston (Scientist, Droid / Alien / Rebel Chorus) has participated in many theatrical productions, starting in high school. She usually plays bad guys, such as a guard (in Kids Court) or a murderess (in Murder is Announced, by Agatha Christie), but is trying to reform as a Rebel.

Columbine Phoenix (Makeup) is in her 7th year at NCFO, she thinks. Recruited to the Rebel team by makeup Jedi Elizabeth Stone, she can also be found selling jewelry via sunspotdesigns.com by night and trying to improve a droid named Alexa by day. (These droids work much better, but Alexa’s got nice crisp consonants....) She’s always looking to learn new makeup techniques, and loves the inclusive mission and infectious joy of NCFO. Rock on, midichlorians or no!

Geneva Popper-Keizer (Alien / Rebel Chorus) has fond memories of a long drive to San Francisco to attend a premiere screening of The Empire Strikes Back in 1980, when she was 8 years old (especially since none of her siblings got to go). In spite of an early love of science fiction, she spends much of her time in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries as a harpsichordist, music historian, and archivist. As a baroque dancer, she appeared in Longy School of Music productions of Dido and Aeneas, Acteon, and Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme. She is also known to lose herself in nineteenth-century literature, and can’t help but dabble in poetry and prose. This is her first performance with the NCFO.

Carla Procaskey (Costume Design and Management) has been involved with NCFO for a very long time. She still thinks it is great.

David Rabkin (Makeup, Photography) is in his twelfth season of being mixed up with NCFO,

Patty Nolan, a rebel?
Who knew???
And… she sings, too!

Congrats on your opera debut, Patty, from all your admiring fans.
managing makeup and as a parent of performers, photographer, and all-around fan. This year comes with a new milestone: his wife Patty Nolan’s first stage appearance. (Advice to all involved: Keep a safe distance when she starts dancing.) Each year, NCFO reminds him of the power of community and restores his faith in humanity, at least temporarily.

Eoin Rogers (Uncle Eoin, Alien / Rebel Chorus) is a senior at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. This is his sixth year performing in NCFO. Some of his past roles have included being a Soldier Ant in Antiphony, an evil Hyena in Rain Dance, and a Prince in Springtime for Haman. Last year he was a Townie in Weedpatch. In his spare time, Eoin enjoys playing ice hockey and singing with the Boston City Singers.

Henry Rogers (Droid / Alien / Rebel Chorus, Cantina Drums) is in the 8th grade at the Rindge Avenue Upper School. This is Henry’s fourth time performing in NCFO. He has been a Jackal in Weaver’s Wedding, a Soldier Ant in Antiphony, and an Audience Kid in Kids Court. This year, Henry is playing the drums during the Cantina scene, as well as being a Droid and a Rebel. When he is not at opera, he divides his time between practicing the drums, piano, cello and Kung Fu. Henry also enjoys math.

Ruth Rogers (Scientist, Droid / Alien / Rebel Chorus) started with NCFO nine years ago in the 2011 performance of Space Opera as a Rebel and is excited to do it again. In between, she has been a Stage Mom, a Soldier Ant, a Hippo, a Stagehand, a Jackal, a Concubine and an Okie, and also sings with the Science Festival Chorus. This year is extra special because she is performing again with both her sons: Eoin and Henry. When not singing or with family (ideally both at once), Ruth works as an architect and practices kung fu. She would like to thank her husband Sean for his incredible patience during opera season, and the opera family for making it all so fun.

Tricia Saxler (Rebel 8, Jawa / Alien / Rebel Chorus) is delighted to be participating in her seventh NCFO opera, having played roles ranging from Camera Crew to Soldier Ant, Okie to Rebel and Alien. She has found each opera as enjoyable as the last, though this one is especially exciting! She particularly loves the chance to sing and dance with protocol droid and alien rebel daughters, and to revisit the galaxy of her childhood far, far away and a long time ago.

Daniel Scibelli (Rebel 1, Alien / Rebel Chorus) is 15 years old and in his sixth performance with NCFO. In previous years, he performed in Weedpatch, Springtime for Haman, Rain Dance, Kids Court, and Weaver’s Wedding. He is in the 9th Grade at the John D. O’Bryant School of Math and Science, a Boston Public School. Danny loves singing and performing. He also loves playing basketball and soccer. He enjoys all sports, theatre and drawing. He would like to thank everyone at NCFO for giving him this wonderful opportunity.

Dale Senechal (Set and Lighting 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 47th anniversary of his first involvement in the world of theater when he played the role of Oliver in the musical of the same name.

Darius Silva (Stormtrooper 10, Stormtrooper Chorus) is happy to be performing with NCFO for
the first time this year after watching his cousins Alex & Nicole McElhoe perform for many years. He is a 4th grader at Brackett Elementary School in Arlington and loves to sing and to play sports. This is his favorite musical to perform in so far because it combines his love of Star Wars and musicals. He’s grateful to his uncle Darth Vader (Glenn McElhoe) for inspiration, coaching, and rides to rehearsals.

Sara St. Antoine (Droid Quartet, Droid / Alien / Rebel Chorus) has been an ant, gazelle, mosquito, concubine, and Okie in her previous five Opera appearances, but has never been quite this blue. Thank you to all the creative people who have made this opera a blast, and to daughters Addie and Margot for their awesome company and patient coaching.

Nicolette (Nicci) Stamos (Rebel 5, Jawa / Alien / Rebel Chorus) is in her fourth NCFO performance. At Hale Middle School in Stow MA, she is in the 8th grade. She is in band and chorus and landed the role of Grace in the school musical, Annie. Nicci and her friend Karis have written and are in the process of producing their own original play, Deserving: A Cinderella Retelling, and opening day is scheduled for late spring at Hale Middle School. Nicci also stars and edits her own local TV show – Better Batter Baking – and hosts other informational shows on StowTV (Schoonerfest 2018, Second Chance Christmas Décor, Springfest, etc…) Nicci is looking forward to another year of softball and sailing with SailGHS and Sea Scout Ship 5.

Elizabeth R. Stone (Makeup Designer) is a relatively mild-mannered stage makeup artist and facepainter from Somerville. She has worked with North Cambridge Family Opera since 2002, as well as with other local theatre companies, such as MITGS&P, MIT MTG, Theatre@First, and the Sudbury Savoyards. She also plays recorder and pennywhistle for Red Herring Morris. Other activities are closely supervised by Morticia, one of her cats. Heartfelt thanks, as always, to David Rabkin, Columbine, and the makeup crew!

Yifei Sun (Stormtrooper 3, Stormtrooper Chorus) is enjoying his second performance with NCFO. Yifei is a 9th grader who wants to be a film maker someday. He was a proud Okie in Weedpatch, and he enjoyed singing in the Science Festival chorus for the past two years.

Jessica Trainor Tasucu (Vocal Coach) frequently performs opera with area companies. She recently covered the role of Prince Orlofsky for Worcester Schubertiade’s New Year’s Eve production of Die Fledermaus. She also debuted with Promenade Opera Project in August 2018 as Dorothée in Massenet’s Cendrillon. Previously, Jessica was a Studio Artist at Opera NEO in San Diego. She played the roles of Mélisse and Coryphe, and covered the role of Sidonie in Gluck’s Armide. Jessica serves Christ Church Congregational, UCC, in Brockton, Massachusetts, as a Section Leader, and also leads mass as a cantor for the Archdiocese of Boston in South Boston. Jessica is a member of the voice faculty at Music Academy of Chelmsford and The Instrumental Music School of Concord-Carlisle and runs her own voice studio from her home in Somerville, Massachusetts. She is thrilled to have joined NCFO as a vocal coach for a second year and would like to congratulate everyone on fantastic work! www.jessica-trainor.com

Julia Teller (Jabba the Hutt, Jawa / Alien / Rebel Chorus, Choreography Assistant) is a 7th grader at Shady Hill School. This is her seventh year with NCFO, having acted as Patty in Weedpatch (2018), Harbora and a Prince in Springtime for Haman (2017), 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, she is always doing gymnastics. She also enjoys being with her friends, reading, and writing. She would like to thank her mom, her two sisters, and her (almost!) step-dad. Thank you for supporting me through everything, even though I annoy you at times. I love you all to pieces.

Laura van Melle (Jawa / Alien / Rebel Chorus) has been in many NCFO shows since Antiphony (2002), but this is Laura’s first time doing Space Opera and her first time being solely a chorus member. When she is not singing, she is working on getting into grad school to become a substance abuse counselor, watching Netflix, and hanging out with friends. She would like to thank David, Sue, and every musical coach and director she has ever had over the years.

Sara Verrilli (Stormtrooper 14, Stormtrooper Chorus) works at the MIT Game Lab as a staff researcher and lecturer in game design. This is her sixth performance with NCFO, where she has successfully hidden in the back of the choruses in Antiphony, Kids Court, Weaver’s Wedding, Springtime for Haman, and Weedpatch. She is somewhat dismayed to discover that the small people who were in front of her in her first shows are now tall enough that she is standing among them, rather than behind them.

Julie Viens (Rebel 7, Sandpeople / Alien / Rebel Chorus) is performing in her ninth performance since
Cast Biographies

her own family joined the NCFO family in 2003. She has played roles on the stage as well as off, such as “proud mom,” “lost and found searcher” and ticket-taker. She is very excited about the whole riding a Bantha thing this year. Julie thanks everyone involved in the opera for making it such a wonderful community experience.

Yongting Wang (Stormtrooper 4, Stormtrooper Chorus) is excited to sing together with her son Yifei for the first time on stage. Yongting had no experience of musical performance by any means prior to this. She is planning to join the family opera again next year with her son Yifei and her daughter Ellen, who is eager to join once she is old enough.

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Noah Weinstein (Alien / Rebel Chorus) is a 1st grader at the Graham & Parks School in Cambridge. This is Noah’s first NCFO production. At 7 years old, he is the youngest member of the Space Opera cast. He has previously performed with the Mosesien Center for the Arts in Watertown. His interests include art ... and Star Wars Lego! He would like to thank his family and friends – especially Ava for being the awesomest sister in the world!

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Cast Biographies

2013); Gazelle (Rain Dance, 2014); Stagehand (Kids Court, 2015); Peacock (Weaver’s Wedding, 2016); Prince (Springtime for Haman, 2017); and a Kid (Weedpatch, 2018.) She would like to thank her lovely and amazing daughters, who shine on stage and in life; the dynamic trio of David, Sue, and Kathy; and Seth for discovering NCFO in the first place, which has meant so much.

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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.

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About our company... 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.