



Earnest Little began studying music and playing the piano at the age of three. He has studied music at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, University of Pacific and San Jose State University where he earned a B.M. in Piano Performance. In his career Earnest has won numerous statewide competitions, scholarships and grants for his work in music and education. He has been a featured performer with the San Jose State Wind Ensemble, the Master Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra and has performed Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 with the Stockton Symphony. Earnest is currently teaching and educating students all across the South Bay.



Nicole Lopez-Hagan received her MFA from Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont, CA, culminating in her appearance as Lazuli in Chabrier's L'étoile. Prior to that she was a recipient of the Rick Roberts Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Musical Theater for her appearance as Ms. Pennywise in Urinetown while pursuing her Bachelor's in History at the University of San Francisco, and has continued to appear in musicals, including as Rose Smith in Meet Me in St. Louis with Pacifica Spindrift Players. She currently sings in chorus of Opera San Jose and Pocket Opera, and has most recently appeared as the Queen of the Night in Stanford Light Opera's production of Die Zauberflöte in March of 2018, and as the soprano soloist in the world premier of Joe Beckers "Obscuri Lateris Illuminati: A requiem mass from the Dark Side of the Moon." She can be seen next in the role of Barbarina in Pocket Opera's production of Le nozze di Figaro.



Garrett Woodford-Berry is a rising senior at Santa Clara University double majoring in computer science and philosophy with a minor in music. He has played cello for thirteen years and is currently principal cello of the University Orchestra. In 2015, he got 2nd place in the Lewis and Clark College Concerto Competition and in 2016, he was a winner of SCU's annual concerto competition. He is currently a fellow in Chamber Music Silicon Valley's Emerging Artist Program for the 2017-2018 season.

Taylor Ackley is a performer and composer of Classical, Jazz and Traditional American Music. He is currently a graduate student at Stony Brook University, where he has studied composition with Ray Anderson, Perry Goldstein, Margaret Schedel, Daria Semegen and Daniel Weymouth. Along with his substantial success as a multi-instrumentalist, Taylor has been commissioned by a number of soloists, chamber ensembles, choirs and jazz bands. His music has been featured in festivals throughout the United States as well as Denmark and China. He is the founder and director of the Stony Brook Roots Ensemble, a chamber music group which focuses on studying and performing Traditional American Music.



Jo Oquendo is a freelance hornist based in the Bay Area. Jo received his Bachelor's of Music Education and Music Performance from San Jose State University. There he studied under Kevin Rivard, Co-Principle Horn of the SF Opera and SF ballet. He's also studied under freelance hornist Alex Rosenfeld, who's played with the SF Symphony. As a freelancer, Jo has worked with groups like CMTSJ, Cambrian Symphony, Peninsula Symphony, Redwood Symphony, and Chabot Wind Symphony. As an educator, Jo holds both private and group lessons with a focus on french horn and trumpet. Often inspiring young horn players, Jo has coached youth orchestral groups like SJYS and CPYO. Growing up near the Silicon Valley, Jo combines his passions for music with technology. This has opened opportunities in many genres of music, including Chamber, Worship, Hip-Hop, R&B, Pop and Experimental. Some other hobbies Jo loves are coffee-tasting, trying new food spots, biking, and spending time with his better half Jessica and their twin boys Noah and Rome.



A dedicated violist, **Jared Kauk** is active in multiple spheres of the Bay Area music scene. He graduated with his Bachelor of Music in Viola Performance from SJSU under the instruction of Paul Ehrlich and a Diane Nicholeris, and has since been freelancing for local orchestras while teaching multiple instruments for the flourishing Sustained Music School. As a composer, he writes and records string arrangements for local bands and co-writes folk-rock songs with Shiloh Kauk as Bird and Willow.

