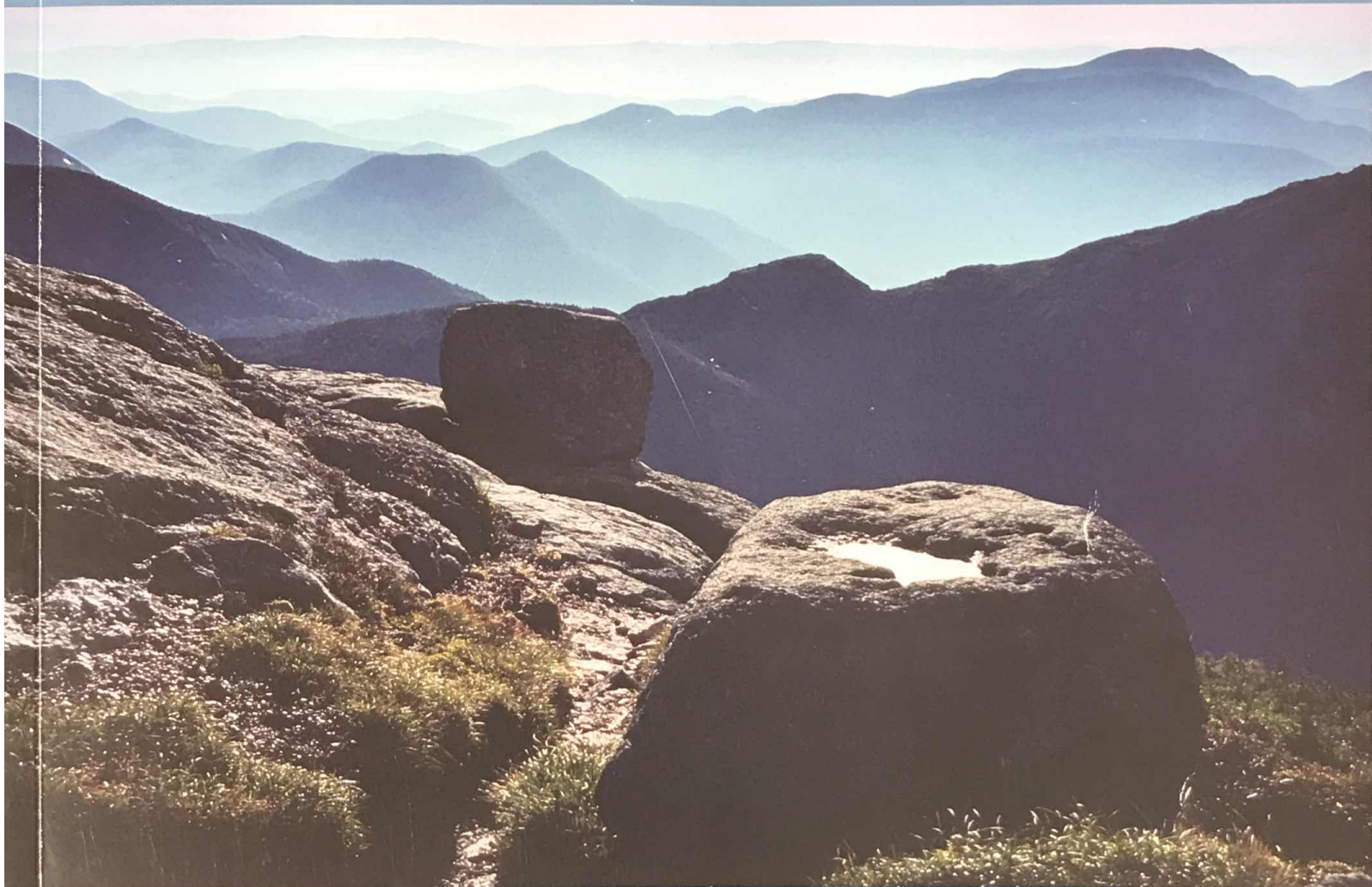


# Glimmerglass FESTIVAL 2014



MADAME BUTTERFLY • CAROUSEL • ARIADNE IN NAXOS • AN AMERICAN TRAGEDY



# AN AMERICAN TRAGEDY (2005/2014)

Music by Tobias Picker

Libretto by Gene Scheer

Based on Theodore Dreiser's novel of the same title

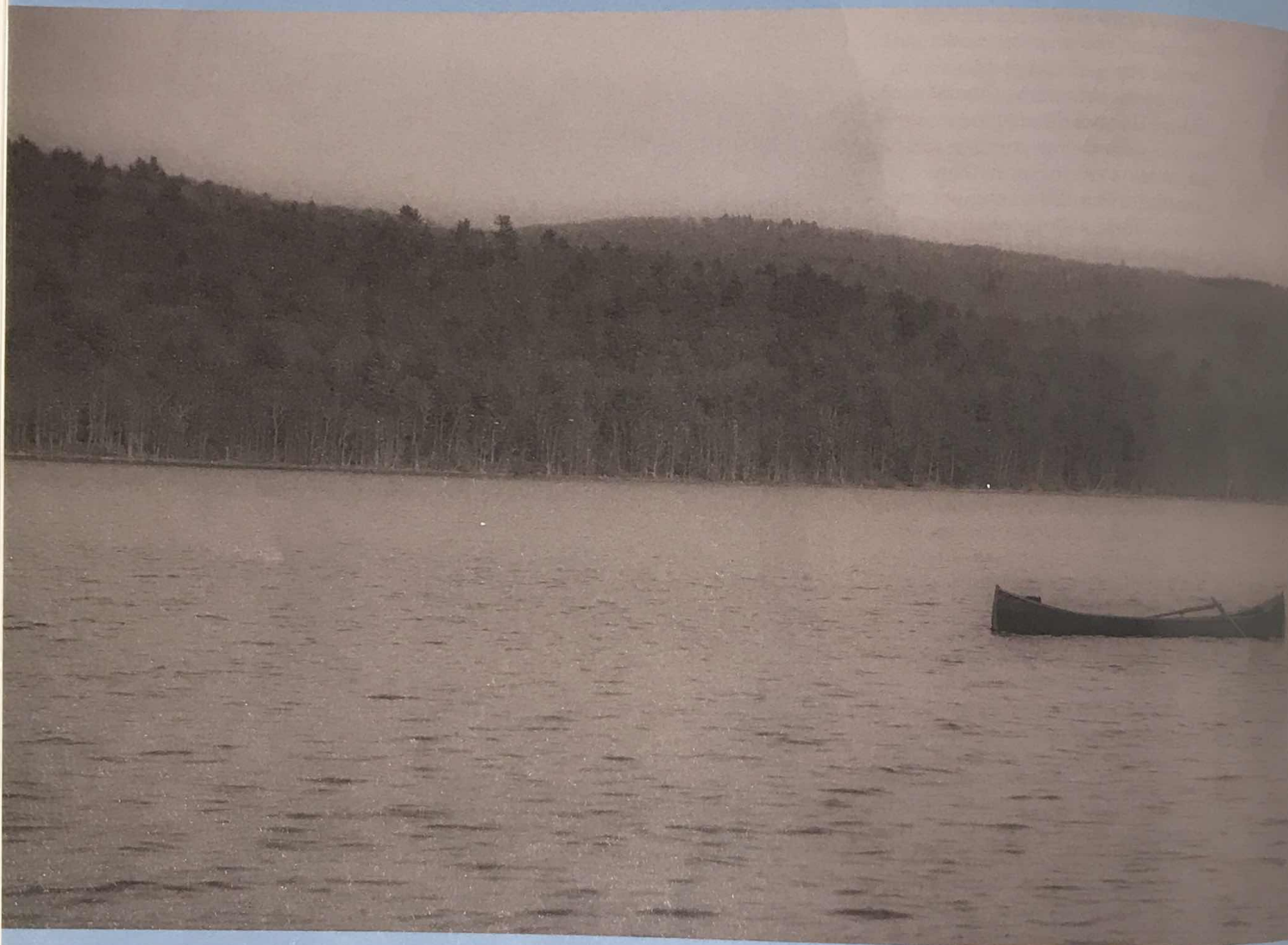


Photo by Abby Radd

New Production, sung in English with projected English text

Nine performances: July 20m, 25, 31; August 5m, 7, 9m, 11m, 16, 24m

Running time: Two hours and 45 minutes, including one 25-minute intermission

*This production is made possible by a generous grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with major support from Faith E. Gay and Francesca Zambello.*

*An American Tragedy is additionally sponsored by the Glimmerglass Festival National Council, and with important support from the National Endowment for the Arts and The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Inc.*

## CAST, IN ORDER OF VOCAL APPEARANCE

Gilbert Griffiths	Daniel T. Curran*
Clyde Griffiths	Christian Bowers*
Roberta Alden	Vanessa Isiguen*
Grace	Samantha Guevrekian*
Elizabeth Griffiths	Jennifer Root*
Samuel Griffiths	Aleksey Bogdanov*
Bella Griffiths	Meredith Lustig*
Sondra Finchley	Cynthia Cook*
Reverend McMillan	John Kapusta*
Orville Mason	Thomas Richards*
Elvira Griffiths	Patricia Schuman
Judge	Matthew Scollin

The Glimmerglass Festival Orchestra and Chorus

## PRODUCTION

Conductor	George Manahan
Director	Peter Kazaras
Choreographer	Eric Sean Fogel
Sets	Alexander Dodge
Costumes	Anya Klepikov
Lighting	Robert Wierzel
Projected Text	Kelley Rourke
Hair & Makeup	Anne Ford-Coates
Assistant Conductor	Nimrod David Pfeffer*
Assistant Director	Sarah Hutchings*
Principal Coach/Accompanist	Christopher Devlin
Assistant Coach/Accompanist	Dan K. Kurland*
Stage Manager	Richard K. Blanton

\*Members of the Young Artists Program

\*Alumnus of the Young Artists Program

Clyde Griffiths, the poor son of a street preacher, has moved to Lycurgus to work in his uncle's factory. Roberta, a factory worker, catches his eye, and he begins to pursue her. Not long afterward, he meets Sondra, a friend of the Griffiths family, and is intrigued; the feeling is mutual. Although Clyde continues to see Roberta, he spends more and more time with Sondra. Roberta reveals to Clyde that she is pregnant and pleads with him to marry her; he agrees.

As Roberta waits for Clyde to make good on his promise, she writes him a series of increasingly desperate letters. Clyde, lost in his dreams of a future with Sondra, continues to put her off. When Roberta confronts Clyde at church, he pulls her aside and convinces her not to embarrass him, agreeing to come for her later that evening. Clyde fantasizes about making his problems disappear.

Clyde takes Roberta to the Adirondacks. As they share a rowboat, Clyde tells Roberta they will be married first thing in the morning. When she is distracted by water lilies, he contemplates pushing her in, but cannot bring himself to do it. A few minutes later, their movements cause the boat to capsize.

Clyde, charged with Roberta's murder, claims her drowning was an accident. Sondra's circle urges her to protect her reputation by forgetting Clyde. Elvira, Clyde's mother, comes to Lycurgus to ask the Griffiths family to use their political power to help her son; they refuse. Clyde is tried, found guilty, and sentenced to death. He admits to his mother that he could have saved Roberta; she prays that he be forgiven and leaves him. Clyde spends his last moments reading a letter from Sondra.

# YOUNG ARTISTS PROGRAM



**Jasmine Habersham** *soprano*  
Macon, Georgia  
Mill Woman – *Carousel*  
Naiad (cover) – *Ariadne in Naxos*  
Bella Griffiths (cover) – *An American Tragedy*

**Past:** Norina in *Don Pasquale* and Mrs. Julian in *Owen Wingrave*, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music; Juliette (cover) in *Roméo et Juliette*, Kentucky Opera; Ethel in *Show Boat*, Central City Opera; funeral soloist in *Porgy and Bess*, Cincinnati Opera; Susannah in *Tintypes*, Janiec Opera Company at Brevard Music Center; B.M., Shorter University; M.M., University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.



**Conor Hanratty** *director*  
Dublin, Ireland  
Assistant Director – *Madame Butterfly*

**Past:** Assistant director, *Nixon in China*, Wide Open Opera; director, *Opera Briefs* (works by Carissimi, Dove and O'Connell), Project Arts Centre, Dublin; director, *Lamenti*, a dance film shot at Castletown House; director, *Losers*, and associate director, *Cristina, regina di Svezia*, Wexford Festival Opera; director, *Maria de Buenos Aires*, Cork Opera House; director, *FLATPACK*, Ulysses Opera Theatre; B.A., Trinity College; M.F.A., UCLA. **Future:** Director, *Harp: A River Cantata*, Dublin Fringe Festival; director, *The Wandering Scholar* and *Trial by Jury*, assistant director, *Silent Night*, Wexford Festival Opera.



**Andrew Harper** *dancer*  
Goldsboro, North Carolina  
Carnival Boy – *Carousel*

**Past:** Recipient, 2013-2014 Kenan Fellowship at Lincoln Center Education; performed in *Pictures*, Merce Cunningham Trust; created small works, Amalgamate Artist Festival and Green Space Blooms Festival; performed leading roles in works by George Balanchine, William Forsythe and Susan Jaffe, University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA); danced in televised productions of *Oklahoma!*, *The Nutcracker* and *Kingdom*; choreographer, Cirkus Theatre Project, UNCSA/Cirque du Soleil; B.F.A., University of North Carolina School of the Arts. **Future:** Continues as freelance choreographer and dancer based in New York City.



**Jeni Houser** *soprano*  
Richland Center, Wisconsin  
Armyny and Mill Woman – *Carousel*  
Zerbinetta (cover) and Naiad – *Ariadne in Naxos*

**Past:** Frasquita in *Carmen* and Zerbinetta (cover) in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Virginia Opera; Josephine in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, Opera Saratoga; Naiad and Zerbinetta (cover) in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Fort Worth Opera; Galatea (cover) in *Acis and Galatea* and Oscar (cover) *Un ballo in maschera*, Madison Opera; B.M. and B.A., Lawrence University; M.M., University of Nebraska-Lincoln. **Future:** Johanna in *Sweeney Todd*, Madison Opera.



**Sarah Hutchings** *director*  
Lexington, Kentucky  
Assistant Director – *An American Tragedy*

**Past:** Director, *Children of Eden*, Greatbatch School of Music; director, *Il mondo della luna* and *Acis and Galatea*, Cincinnati Chamber Opera; director, *New in November*, Hartford Opera Theater; assistant to composer, *Morning Star*, Cincinnati Opera; assistant director, *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music; bachelor's degree, Western Carolina University; M.M., Florida State University; D.M.A., University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.



**Vanessa Isiguen** *soprano*  
Los Angeles, California  
Roberta Alden – *An American Tragedy*

**Past:** Beatrice Russo in *Il Postino*, Mannes College The New School for Music; soprano in *Sorrows of Frederick* (workshop), Metropolitan Opera; High Priestess in *Aida* and title role in *Giuditta* (mainstage excerpt), Opera Tampa; Adina in *L'elisir d'amore*, New York Lyric Opera Theatre; Giulietta in *I Capuleti e i Montecchi*, Crested Butte Music Festival; Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro*, Boston Opera Collaborative; B.M., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Professional Studies Diploma, Mannes College The New School for Music. **Future:** Cio-Cio-San in *Madame Butterfly*, Florida Grand Opera.



**John Kapusta** *tenor*  
White Plains, New York  
Goro (cover) – *Madame Butterfly*  
Dance Captain and Brighella (cover) –  
*Ariadne in Naxos*  
Reverend McMillan – *An American Tragedy*

**Past:** Don Eusebio in *Opportunity Makes the Thief*, Little Opera Theatre of NY; Monostatos in *The Magic Flute* and Sellem in *The Rake's Progress*, Music Academy of the West; national semi-finalist, 2014 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions; recipient, 2009-2010 Fulbright Grant; B.A., Harvard College; M.A., University of California, Berkeley. **Future:** Continues studies for Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley.



**Dan K. Kurland** *coach/accompanist\**  
Chicago, Illinois  
Assistant Coach/Accompanist – *Carousel* and  
*An American Tragedy*  
Glimmerglass Debut: Assistant coach/accompanist  
for *King for a Day* and *Camelot*, 2013

**Past:** Music director and pianist, Vocal Arts Cabaret, The Juilliard School's Ellen and James S. Marcus Institute for Vocal Arts; Manny Weinstock (understudy) in *Master Class* (Broadway), Manhattan Theatre Club; faculty and assistant conductor/recitalist, *Orpheus in the Underworld* and *The Tales of Hoffmann*, Franco-American Vocal Academy; recitals with Julian Schwarz, Charles Yang, Raquel González, Spencer Lang, Lacey Jo Benter; performances, Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall and David Rubenstein Atrium, Guggenheim Museum, DiMenna Center and Steinway Hall; M.M., The Juilliard School. **Future:** Continues as C.V. Starr Doctoral Fellow, The Juilliard School and music director and pianist, Vocal Arts Cabaret, The Juilliard School.