

PANELISTS- THEATER

Kate LaRocque- APT, development director, served previously

Joined American Players Theatre's development team in 2007. She has worked with local, state and national civic organizations and non-profits throughout her career. Prior to APT, Kate served as the director of corporate development for Wisconsin Public Television, and as assistant director for the Wisconsin Sesquicentennial Commission. Kate was also a program officer managing grants programs for the Wisconsin Arts Board, and for Best Practices in Journalism - a nationwide initiative of The Pew Charitable Trusts and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Erica Halverson, UW Madison, Theater professor- Education, served previously

PhD, Education - Learning Sciences

Northwestern University

Evanston, IL BS, Speech - Theatre

Northwestern University Evanston, IL

Expert on identity development and literacy learning through the study of youth-produced autobiographical art including films, plays and digital stories.

Carol Cohen, Theater artist, grant writer,

Retired, served previously, worked for Wisconsin Public Television

Julia Nicholas, Development Director, Forward Theater,

Served previously is the Development Director for Forward Theater Company. She has a Master's degree in arts administration and an MBA from the University of Wisconsin - Madison's School of Business, and previously led marketing and public relations efforts for the Elgin Symphony Orchestra and marketing research for Lands' End. In addition, she has worked in marketing and public relations for the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival at Yale's Summer School of Music and at the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina.

Aimee Bowman, Madison Savoyards, Mgr Director,

M.A., is a biostatistician in the Department of Biostatistics and Medical Informatics at UW-Madison. She is a violist with the Edgewood Chamber Orchestra, and has been a member of the Madison Savoyards, Ltd. board of directors since 2013.

Panelists- Music

Dr. Dan Plummer, PhD in music- panelist last cycle

In March 2016, Dan Plummer recently joined the staff at Wisconsin Literacy, Inc. as their Fund Development Manager. He has also been doing freelance grant writing for the Madison Public Library Foundation since August 2015. Prior to that, he was Director of New Initiatives & Special Projects at Florida Grand Opera (Miami, FL). Before moving to Florida, Dan served for eight years as General Director at Opera for the Young (OFtY)—a nationally recognized, professional touring company that introduces 85,000 children to opera annually. Under his leadership, OFtY's finances stabilized and subsequently grew, audience size increased, and programming expanded. Dan earned Bachelor's and Doctoral degrees in music from University

of Wisconsin-Madison and a Master's degree from New England Conservatory of Music. Dan co-chairs Fundraising Day Wisconsin and serves on the AFP-Greater Madison board. Noted for his professional contributions and service, Dan was named by InBusiness Magazine to their 2013 "40 Under 40" roster.

Robin Schmoldt, MA in music- UW Madison- panelist last 2 cycles

Robin Schmoldt serves as the Union South Program Director at the University of Wisconsin--Madison, advising the Art & Film Committees and managing the 1800 piece Wisconsin Union Art Collection. She currently holds Affiliate status with the UW Arts Institute. Schmoldt has a Bachelor of Arts in Radio/TV/Film with an emphasis on film theory and production from the University of Wisconsin--Madison. For thirteen years, she worked as a Stage Manager with Milwaukee World Festivals, Inc's Summerfest, managing all aspects of live concert production. As an undergraduate, she booked live music performances with the Wisconsin Union Directorate Music & Entertainment and Union South Entertainment committees.

Rachel Hauser, Willy St Chamber Artistic Director

Violinist/Violist Rachel Hauser has been a tenured member of the Madison Symphony Orchestra/Madison Opera since 2007. She also performs regularly with the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra and Madison Ballet. Ms. Hauser is an alumna of the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, the Utrecht Conservatory of Music in the Netherlands, and The University of Wisconsin- Madison.

John Beutel, retired music educator, served previous two cycles

John Beutel received his BS and MS degrees from the UW Platteville and has pursued further studies at UW Madison, UW Milwaukee, Vandercook College, and Illinois State University. He is retired after 35 years of teaching public school music and continues to conduct a choir and teach music. He has served on many committees and adjudicated music festivals for the Wisconsin School Music Association for over 35 years.

Dr. David Spies, musician, served in 2015 and 14

Dr. David Spies has to date a 25 year career as a college music instructor and freelance musician. Based in Madison, he currently teaches music at Carroll University in Waukesha, Wisconsin and is Principal Tubist with the Racine Symphony Orchestra. He performs with the Madison Jazz Orchestra, Capitol City Band, tribute band Hirt Alpert (Al Hirt/Herb Alpert), and Yid Vicious Klezmer Ensemble. In addition to his musical activities, he works for Madison Public Library. David previously taught at Marian University of Fond du Lac, the University of Iowa, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, and Northwestern State University of Louisiana. He has served for several years on the Dane Arts Music Grant Review Panel

PANELISTS- MULTI-DISC/VISUAL ARTS

Margaret Plotkin, retired VA educator, served previously

Margaret Plotkin has an Art Education degree from UW Milwaukee and has spent 25 years teaching grades k-5 art in the Mequon-Thiensville school district. She was a docent at

Milwaukee Art Museum, 10 years and a docent at Lynden Sculpture garden in Milwaukee for 5 years. Margaret is a self employed calligrapher, painting exhibitor at the Peninsula School of Art in Door County. She continued painting, printmaking and ceramic work.

Mandy Basich Kron, Senior Art Coordinator for the UW Health Art Program

Mandy Basich Kron is Senior Art Coordinator for the UW Health Art Program. She is curator of the permanent art collection which hangs throughout the UW Hospital and UW Health facilities. Mandy also manages a long-standing art exhibit program in the hospital, installing over 60 exhibits annually.

Mandy graduated from UW- Madison in 2008 with a BS in Art and BA in Harp Performance. She has worked as an artist and musician with various organizations; notably, as Display Artist for Urban Outfitters, Set Designer/Builder/Decorator for the Waukesha Civic Theater, and instructor for the UW Madison Saturday Enrichment Program.

Katherine Davey- director, Make Music Madison

Katherine Davey is a project management, strategic communications, and fundraising professional with twenty years of experience driving measurable results for nonprofit organizations and university centers. She is particularly passionate about projects that contribute to vibrant, sustainable communities, and her inspiration comes from efforts that capitalize on natural local assets and the creative energy of the community. Katherine is currently director of Make Music Madison, and serves on the organizing teams for compelling community projects, including Orton Park Festival, Eastside Express Summer Camp, Dandelion Dash, Central Park Sessions and Chooseapalooza.

Dr. Karen Reece, Nehemiah corporation, hip hop artist/director, served previously

Karen Reece, Director of Nehemiah Center for Justice and Reconciliation, is a research scientist by trade and holds a Ph.D. granted from University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. Karen brings to the table her volunteer experience in reentry with Madison Urban Ministry and Voices Beyond Bars as well as years of experience with loved ones involved in the criminal justice system. Karen was born and raised in Madison, WI and every time she would think of moving away something would come up, so she just decided to stay. When she's not doing research and/or organizing events, Karen enjoys the local music scene (particularly Hip-Hop), playing the cello and singing, and fighting for social justice.

Andrea Maurch, GRACE Presents

Having earned her bachelors in music from Lawrence University and music education certification from UW-Whitewater, Andrea taught high school choir and private piano and voice lessons and served as a judge for Solo & Ensemble for 10 years. Andrea worked for the Wisconsin School Music Association as development director for seven years. Serving on the board of River Arts, Inc, a non-profit music and arts organization in Sauk Prairie, the executive director position became available and Andrea served in that capacity for almost three years. Andrea then started her own company, On Broadway Consulting LLC, to help businesses and non-profit organizations plan their events, promote their activities, develop and/or freshen their websites, plan and execute all kinds of fundraisers, and many other tasks. Currently, Andrea

serves as the program manager for Grace Presents in Madison, WI and as the program administrator for Sauk Prairie Dollars for Scholars. Andrea continues to teach piano and voice lessons and is involved with a wide variety of volunteer programs.

PANELISTS- AIE/DANCE

Kate Corby, UW Dance Professor, served previously

Kate Corby is a contemporary dance artist and educator. She has shown her work extensively in the US and in Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Taiwan and Hungary, where she traveled as a Fulbright fellow. Kate is an associate professor of dance at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and continues to create work with her Chicago-based company Kate Corby & Dancers. She also co-directs Performing Ourselves, a dance outreach program based in Madison that employs undergraduate students to teach dance and wellness curriculum to girls in local community centers. Kate received her MFA in dance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and her BA in theater and women's studies from Beloit College.

Ken Swift, retired MMSD educator, served previously

Elementary classroom teacher of 29 years. Lived in Tanzania and India each for 3 years. Special emphasis in my classroom on experiential cultural and science units. Individual student inquiry investigations a highlight of each year. UW South Asian Outreach Coordinator '82-'83, designing and presenting curricular units for use in southern WI classrooms and produced half dozen performances of Indian music and dance.

Simone Doing, AIE coordinator MMoCA, served previously

Simone Doing is an artist, educator, and organizer whose creative, instructional, and curatorial work reflects her interests in local community issues and new media. Simone currently works at MMoCA in the Education Department and teaches the museum's free art programs for elementary-aged kids. She is a co-founder of Midwest Story Lab, a small multimedia consulting company, and further collaborates with her partner Max Puchalsky on audiovisual projects as Simone and Max. She has organized exhibitions in a range of community spaces in Madison, including *Justified Art!* at the Overture Center and the traveling exhibition of Amber Sowards' photographs, *Captured*, and has held curatorial positions at the Madison Children's Museum and Wisconsin Union Galleries. Simone also co-leads the curatorial programming and serves on the board for Arts + Literature Laboratory, a new visual, literary, and performing arts venue in the Atwood neighborhood.

Michael Mood, music teacher – piano, bassist for Beth Kille Band

Michael Mood is a mild-mannered piano teacher by day, musician/novelist/farmer/father by night. Visit www.michaelmood.com to find his work and musings.

Saira Frank, Development Director, Opera for the Young

Saira Frank began as a touring artist with Opera for the Young (OFTY) in 2008 and after 7 seasons "on-the-road" as a soprano, joined the administrative staff in 2015. An avid teaching

artist and concert performer, Saira's credits run from opera to stage works to Broadway recitals across the Midwest and West Coast. She has performed recitals from her series, "An afternoon on Broadway" on over 200 occasions, bringing the best of opera and Broadway to senior audiences through storytelling and song. As resident teaching artist for Madison Opera, Saira introduced middle school students to opera and helped small groups create their own operatic work of art. Saira embraces the opportunity to spread her love of the highest art form to children across the Midwest in her position with OFTY.