

**Mallorie Chernin** (Chorus Master) is Director of Choral Activities at Amherst College in Amherst, Massachusetts, where she coaches, teaches conducting and conducts three choirs, the Concert Choir, Women's Chorus, Men's Glee Club and Madrigal Singers. A native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Mallorie Chernin completed a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. She holds a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from Westminster Choir College located in Princeton, New Jersey. Prior to becoming Director of Choral Activities at Amherst College in 1986, Ms. Chernin served on faculties at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, Smith College and Hampshire College. In addition to her position at Amherst College, Ms. Chernin is in frequent demand as an adjudicator, clinician and guest conductor.

**Christopher Ostrom** (Scenic and Lighting Designer) has worked with Opera Boston in a career spanning 10 seasons and 30 productions, most recently *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*, *The Pearl Fishers*, *Semele*, and the North American premiere of Peter Eotvos' *Angels in America*. Other credits include *Stiffelio*, *The Crucible*, *Vanessa*, *Suor Angelica*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, and *Werther* (Chautauqua Opera), *Tosca* (Opera Providence), *The Magic Flute* (Tulsa Opera), and *Albert Herring* (New England Conservatory). His local credits include productions for Lyric Stage, New Rep, Stoneham Theatre, Cape Rep, Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theatre, Provincetown Repertory Theatre, Boston Ballet, Snappy Dance Theatre, Northeast Youth Ballet, Worcester Foothills Theatre, Christmas Revels, Backyard Productions, The Walnut Hill School, Boston College, Northeastern University, Suffolk University, and the Boston Conservatory.

**Nancy Leary** (Costume Designer) has a theatrical career that spans two decades. Her recent design credits include Handel's *Semele*, Mozart's *La Clemenza di Tito* for Opera Boston, *La Finta Gardiniera* for Juilliard, Massenet's *Werther* and Samuel Barber's *Vanessa* for Chautauqua Opera. Additional Opera Boston credits include *Lucrezia Borgia*, *La Vie Parisienne*, *The Consul*, *The Rise and Fall of The City of Mahagonny*, *The Pearl Fishers* and Robert Ward's *The Crucible* which later traveled to Chautauqua and Mobile Opera. Recently Nancy's design credits include the premier of *Expats* and *The Lacy Project* for American Repertory Theater. Nancy has also designed costumes for the Regional Premiere of *Permanent Collection* which won an Elliot Norton, and *Into The Woods* which landed her an IRNE for Costume Design both produced by New Repertory Theater. Other design credits include Orlando Shakespeare Festival, Merrimack Repertory Theater, North Shore Music Theater, Chamber Repertory Theater and Boston Theater Works.

**Karin Hartmann Ludlow** (Stage Manager) is pleased to be working with Live in Concert in Amherst. She has just completed her third season with Opera Boston, where credits include stage managing *Ernani*, *La Clemenza di Tito*, *The Pearl Fishers*, *L'Etoile* and the North American premiere of *Angels in America*. She has stage managed productions for many area companies, including Boston Lyric Opera, The Nora Theatre Company, five seasons as Production Stage Manager at The New Repertory Theatre and ten seasons as Production Stage Manager at Lake George Opera. Favorite credits include three seasons for Sarasota Opera Association where she stage managed *Tosca*, *Die Fledermaus*, *The Flying Dutchman*, and various works of the Verdi cycle. She will be returning to Opera Boston in the fall.

**Judith Udes Herrell** (Production Manager) has been involved in opera and theater since she was a small child. Her grandmother, Minnie Udes, was a milliner who made hats for the Met and Broadway. From the day she could walk she was involved in the backstage excitement of theater. Her one claim to fame was a short run on Broadway as the youngest daughter in *Fiddler on the Roof*. As she became older she continued acting and singing in high school and college. Locally, she has played with Commonwealth Opera on stage, in their orchestra (percussion), as production manager and is a member of their Board of Directors. She is thrilled and honored to be Production Manager the premiere of *Our American Cousin*.

**Cynthia James** studied ballet at the Royal Ballet School in London, Her earlier training as a dancer was with Mme. Tatiana Ourousoff of the Russian Imperial Ballet, and the Harkness Ballet School in New York City. She was a soloist with the Massachusetts Ballet Company, and has performed Isadora Duncan's repertoire extensively, including the Isadora Duncan Retrospective in Moscow in 1994. As a costumiere, she has designed and created costumes for dance, opera, musicals and theater. In her work as costumiere with Commonwealth Opera, her favorite productions include *Oliver*, *The King and I*, *Camelot*, *Barber of Seville*, *Rigoletto*, and *Man of La Mancha*. This is Cynthia's first endeavor as Props Master, and she is pleased to take part in *Our American Cousin*.

**Karen Rosenak** (Repetiteur) is an almost native of the Bay Area. She was and is founding member and pianist of the Bay Area new music groups EARPLAY and the Empyrean Ensemble, and was a core member of San Francisco Contemporary Music Players. When she's not playing new music, she enjoys playing fortepiano. She studied modern piano with Carlo Bussotti and Nathan Schwartz, and fortepiano with Margaret Fabrizio. She has been a member of the music faculty at UC Berkeley since 1990. She is currently in residence at Amherst College where she holds the Valentine Chair for the calendar year 2008.

**Beckie Kravetz** (Wigs and Makeup) trained as a theatrical mask maker. A job at Santa Fe Opera introduced her to the mask-like scale of operatic makeup, and after apprenticeships at Santa Fe, Spoleto and San Francisco, she worked for 18 years with Los Angeles Opera, where she was also resident mask maker. Her skills have transformed singers including Placido Domingo, Sir Thomas Allen, Carol Vaness and Samuel Ramey. She also created the makeup, masks and wigs for television commercials starring Michael J. Fox, Charles Barkley, Michael Jackson and Madonna. Beckie's current focus is on sculpture and masks, which can be seen at [BKSculptureStudio.com](http://BKSculptureStudio.com).

**Elly Jessop** is a 2008 graduate of Amherst College, where she double-majored in Theater & Dance and Computer Science. Most recently, she choreographed and costumed designed her senior thesis performance, *Digital Disassociations*, and costume designed Amherst's production of *The Illusion*. At Amherst, she also performed with the Concert Choir and co-directed the Madrigal Singers. She has worked with Present Company, Inc., the Castle Rock Players, and the Ko Festival of Performance. In the fall, she will be attending MIT's graduate program in Media Arts and Science, where she will be a member of the Opera of the Future group.

**Ann Steinhauer** (Wardrobe) has been involved in the local theater scene for 15 years performing such tasks as set crew, wardrobe mistress, costumer, and hair designer, as well as playing an assortment of various old broads, usually in musical comedy. She has been associated with So. Hadley Community Theater, Wilde Irish Women Reperatory, Old Deerfield Productions and Amherst Leisure Services Community Theater. Originally hailing from the Land of Lincoln, Ann is delighted to be joining this cast and crew of talented folk.