

**CCM**

OPERA SERIES  
PRESENTS

# DARK SISTERS (CHAMBER VERSION)

Composed by Nico Muhly  
Libretto by Stephen Karam  
Arranged by Nate Thatcher

**April 3-5 2025,  
Cohen Family Studio Theatre**

University of   
**CINCINNATI** | COLLEGE-CONSERVATORY  
OF MUSIC

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI COLLEGE-CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC  
DIVISION OF THEATRE ARTS, PRODUCTION AND ARTS ADMINISTRATION  
PRESENTS

# DARK SISTERS

Composed by  
**Nico Muhly**

Libretto by  
**Stephen Karam**

Maestro  
**Trevor Kroegor\***

Lighting Designer  
**Charlie Raschke\***

Production Stage Manager  
**Finley Shields\***

Director  
**Brian Robertson**

Costume Designer  
**Meredith Randall\***

Props Manager  
**Melanie Reitman\***

Fight/Intimacy Director  
**K Jenny Jones**

Sound Designer  
**Nick Feldmann\***

Technical Director  
**Stirling Shelton**

Scenic Designer  
**Moira Seger\***

Wig & Make-Up Designer  
**M O'donnell\***

**\*Denotes CCM Student**

Presented under license from G. Schirmer, INC, o/b/o Chester Music Ltd. / St. Rose Music Publishing Co., copyright owners.

Run time will be 1 hour and 30 minutes, including a 15-minute intermission

*Flash photography, video and audio recording of performances is prohibited without prior written approval from CCM.*

The University of Cincinnati does not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, age, sexual orientation, veteran status or gender identity and expression in its programs and activities. The complete Notice of Nondiscrimination can be found at [uc.edu/about/policies/non-discrimination](http://uc.edu/about/policies/non-discrimination).

# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

DARK SISTERS follows one woman's dangerous attempt to escape her life as a member of the FLDS Church (Fundamentalist Latter Day Saints), a sect that split from mainstream Mormonism in the early 20th Century largely because of the LDS Church's renunciation of polygamy. The male founders of the Mormon faith (Joseph Smith and Brigham Young, chief among them) loom large in American history; Dark Sisters puts the women front and center.

The narrative draws inspiration from the flurry of media attention surrounding the two most infamous raids on FLDS compounds (the 1953 raid at Short Creek, AZ and the 2008 raid at the YFZ Ranch in Eldorado, TX) as well as the stories of the over 80 wives of Joseph Smith and Brigham Young. Set against a red-earthed landscape filled with revelations, dark prophets and white temples stretching towards heaven, Dark Sisters charts one woman's quest for self-discovery in a world where personal identity is forbidden.

# THE PLACE & TIME

## **Act I**

April 3rd, 2008

Yearning For Zion Ranch

Brief flashbacks to other events in the family history.

## **Act II**

April 21st, 2008

Television Interview

Brief Flashbacks in succession to:

2005

2006

2007

April 22, 2008

2004

June 2, 2008

# THE COMPANY

Eliza..... Tanya Harris+, Natalie Romanick^  
Presentia.....Diamond Sparks+, Stella Fitzgerald^  
Ruth..... Sydney Sorbet+, Lily Scalisi^  
Almera..... Helele Fan+, Olivia Knutsen^  
Zina.....Malone Blaich+, Kristine Overman^  
Lucinda.....Ariana Troxell-Layton+, Lea Nayak^  
Prophet.....Seoyong Lee  
King..... Harrison Hancock

^ Performs Friday, April 4 and Saturday, April 5 Evening

+ Performs Thursday, April 3 and Saturday, April 5 Matinee

## COMPANY PROFILES

Student bios are organized by major and within each section they are listed alphabetically by name. The bios on this page include Acting, Ballet, Musical Theatre, Opera and Voice students.

[ccm.uc.edu/programs/bios](http://ccm.uc.edu/programs/bios)

# ORCHESTRA ROSTER

Trevor Kroeger\*, Maestro

## **Piano/Keyboard**

Linda Jung  
Joseph Stevens

## **Percussion**

Meg Lynch  
Jared Kohli

# PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Stage Managers..... Crystal Espinoza, Lily Landoch  
Supertitle Operator ..... Ibn Whitfield  
Assistant Production Managers ..... Annalee Crosser, Bethany Untener  
Associate Technical Director ..... Ryan Buckley  
Scenic Charge Artist..... Joseph Schmitt  
Set/Props Running Crew ..... John Dougherty, Andrew Hille  
Assistant Lighting Designers..... Miya Chambers, Hayden Valkema  
Production Electrician ..... Robert Chalk  
Lighting Programmer ..... Matti Andrews  
Lighting Board Operator ..... Nate Keller  
Deck Electricians ..... Michael Hamburg  
Follow Spot Operators ..... Halena Edwards, Blake Yavuz  
Assistant Costume Designer..... Lexi Revis  
Wardrobe Supervisor ..... Alanna Gorrigan  
Wardrobe Crew ..... Owen Keeler, Julia Koch, Lilly West  
Wig and Make-Up Running Crew ..... Ela Congleton, Lucy Dunn  
Production Sound Engineer..... Hank Burns-Pavlik

# PRODUCTION PROFILES

Student bios are organized by major and within each section they are listed alphabetically by name. The bios on this page include Costume Design and Technology, Lighting Design and Technology, Make-Up and Wig Design, Sound Design, Stage Design, Stage Properties, Stage Management and Technical Production.

[ccm.uc.edu/programs/production-bios](http://ccm.uc.edu/programs/production-bios)

## TAPAA FACULTY AND STAFF

Faculty and staff bios are organized by department and within each section they are listed alphabetically by name.

[ccm.uc.edu/overview/directory.html#theatre](http://ccm.uc.edu/overview/directory.html#theatre)