

The Cast & Crew of “Osmosis” and “Liz Norton & Friends”



BETH LEWINSKI (Host of “Osmosis”)

Beth Lewinski is a Milwaukee native with a degree in Film, Television and Theatre from the University of Notre Dame. You may recognize her as the Town Selectperson/ Moderator from MMV's Only We Know Best, or you may have seen her in numerous productions and shows (scripted and unscripted) with the Alchemist Theatre, ComedySportz Milwaukee, Radio WHT, Sketch 22, Schmitz and Giggles, V-Core productions, MoJo Dojo, and others. She regularly performs with and is an Associate Producer of Dinner Detective Milwaukee. She is grateful to be a part of this amazing production, thanks you for being here, and hopes you enjoy the show!



LIZ NORTON (Host of “Liz Norton and Friends”)

Liz Norton has enjoyed being a part of many local productions both in Milwaukee and Chicago. Credits include: Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre: Mimi Schwinn (A New Brain), Skylight Music Theatre: Wicked Witch (Wizard of Oz), Stepmother (Into the Woods); The Marriott Theatre: Mdme. Renaud (La Cage Aux Folles); Sunset Playhouse: Dolly Levi (Hello, Dolly!); Off the Wall: Aurora (Kiss of the Spider Woman); Boulevard Theatre: Melba (Pal Joey); Soulstice Theatre: Phyllis (Follies); Lake Country Playhouse: Joanne (Company). Upcoming: Dear World with Boulevard Theatre, and Grand Hotel with Kokandy Productions (April 2018).

www.liznortonsings.com



AMBER YANG

Amber Yang is a classically trained viola performance and music education major at the Peck School of the Arts. She is a solo performer, but performs with numerous groups in the Milwaukee and surrounding areas. Amber is also a private viola/violin instructor with a studio located on Milwaukee's East side. During her final year at UWM, Amber is spending a significant amount of time working on her audition and solo repertoire, working towards securing a professional position with a symphony.



ANDRÉA MOSER

Andréa is happy to return to MMV after appearing in their recent show, *ONLY WE KNOW BEST*. Her background includes a BFA in Theatre Performance, improv (Seattle Theatresports, Flanagan's Wake, Late Night Catechism), sketch comedy (The Show), and 48-hour films. She has worked with the Alchemist, Danceworks, In Tandem, Luminous Theatre, Bunny Gumbo's Combat Theatre, Cooperative Performance, and Sunset's Bug-in-a-Rug program. Favorite commercial credits include taking a cymbal crash to the head and voicing a musical milkshake.



BRIANA LIPOR

Briana Lipor, a native of Racine, began performing at the early age of five with her dad's rock and roll band! Her passion for the arts blossomed and landed her roles in shows such as *South Pacific*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Footloose* and many more! She studied Vocal Performance at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside in Kenosha, WI.

In 2008, Briana was awarded the title of Miss Wisconsin and was fortunate to travel the country and even compete on the Miss America stage! Briana is currently on her 10th year teaching children's musical theater at The Racine Theater Guild. Beth was recently a part of MMV's production *Only We Know Best*. She is very excited to be a guest of Liz Norton with whom she appeared in "Hello, Dolly!"



BARBARA CZARKOWSKI

Singing is an artful joy and stress reliever for Barbara, who just retired from twenty-four years of teaching. A happy soprano in her church choir, she joined **Milwaukee Metropolitan Voices** in 2010, was a founding member of **In Good Company** in 2013, and created our children's ensemble, some of who are her former students. Barbara produced our May 2015 labor show, *Living Life in Ten Acts* and *My World of Disney* in 2017.



BEN KORDUS

Ben Kordus is a founding member of Milwaukee Metro Voices, and has served on the Board of Directors for nine of those years. After a three year stint as president, Ben retired from the Board at the end of 2016.

In his twelfth season with MMV, Ben has performed as a soloist or ensemble member at all but one show. His favorite songs to perform with the group have been songs of a humorous nature. Having appeared recently in *Only We Know Best*, Ben is pleased to be part of such another original show concept!



BETSY MUELLER

Betsy Mueller has been a soprano soloist with MMV since 2009. After participating in choirs and musical theatre programs throughout her junior high and high school years, she was awarded a vocal performance scholarship to Carroll University. Although she is classically trained, she enjoys the variety of musical styles that MMV allows her the opportunity to explore.



CHAD LARGET

Chad Larget made his Broadway debut in the original cast of *CANDIDE*, 1997 revival, directed by Harold Prince. (Candide Understudy) A Milwaukee native, Chad performed several roles with Skylight Music Theatre in the '90s, including *PIRATES OF PENZANCE* (Frederic), *DIE FLEDERMAUS* (Dr. Blind), *MOST HAPPY FELLA* (Pasquale), and *A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC* (Erlanson). He also participated in MMV's recent show, *ONLY WE KNOW BEST*. Chad has been a REALTOR in the metro area for 14 years.



DWAYNE KRAGER

Dwayne says that in one way or another, music has always been a part of his life. As a member of MMV for the past 9 years, you will notice his voice as the deep bass coming from the many songs performed by the group. In addition, you might notice that he stands out a little bit more than the average group member, yes the tall one in the back. Dwayne truly believes that being a member of the MMV group provides has been a great opportunity to grow his musical talents. "It is wonderful to have the opportunity to apply college music and theater lessons to new and unique productions."



ELORA LEE MALONEY

Elora is delighted to be a part of the uniquely mysterious *Osmosis*. Past credits include *RENT* (Maureen), *Spring Awakening* (Ilse), and *Evil Dead: The Musical* (Cheryl). Catch her as part of the trifecta of vocal velvet in Funk Summit Bass Team, reaching for the top with the funkier jams. Mad love to DRL and Bubba Lane.



ERIC WELCH

Eric Welch was recently seen in appearing with Liz Norton and Briana Lipor in *Hello, Dolly* for Sunset Theatre. He has also appeared in *Spamalot* as Prince Herbert with the Falls Patio Players. Eric was also just involved with the *Snow Dance Festival* with Over Our Head Players in Racine. Other credits include: *The Wild Party* (Oscar D'Armano), *The Little Mermaid* (Flotsam), *The Rocky Horror Show* (Frank 'N' Furter), *The Wedding Singer* (George), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Motel), and *Into the Woods* (Rapunzel's Prince). This spring, he performed in MMV's production of Jason Powell's *Only We Know Best*. He also recently just started his own company, K'Eric'ters. Be sure to check it out on Facebook or instagram!



JACK TELL

Jack Tell is a guitar major at UWM Milwaukee studying contemporary Fingerstyle guitar performance and composition. Jack is inspired by the works of Andy Mckee, Don Ross, Pino Forastiere, Antione Dufour, Kaki King, Michael Hedges, Tommy Emanuel, Stefano Barone, but composes original works as well. Jack plays within the greater Milwaukee area along side numerous groups and individuals, and as a solo performer and collaborator.

www.jacktellmusic.wordpress.com



JASMINE RIDGELL

Jasmine Ridgell will appear in both *Osmosis* and as guest to Liz Norton this weekend. After working in the Finance Industry, her love for singing guided her to further musical study at the Conservatory; and theatre has become a natural progression. She has since performed with Alchemist Theatre, Waukesha Civic Theatre, Kenosha Lakeside Players, and Milwaukee Metro Voices and she was thrilled to play Paula, in MMV's premiere production of *Only We Know Best* by Jason Powell. Jasmine would like to thank her family and friends for their unwavering support.



KATIE FERRARO

Katie Ferraro has been with Milwaukee Metro Voices for five years. Prior to that, she's sung with The Bel Canto Chorus, UW-Oshkosh Choral Union, Waukesha Choral Union, Milwaukee Festival Chorus, Milwaukee Singers, Suburban Singers and for Immaculate Conception church choir, the latter of which is ongoing. Katie is enjoying her time with MMV, and hopes to continue singing with the group for years to come.



ROBBY MCGHEE

Robby McGhee is making his debut with MMV by way of *Osmosis*. As Artistic Director of All In Productions, he has directed *The Last Five Years*, *Dogfight*, *The Wild Party* and most recently assistant directed *Next to Normal*. He has performed on many stages in the Milwaukee area, but has most frequently been seen at Greendale Community Theatre. Thank you for this opportunity and thank you for seeing our show!



RYAN KRUEGER

A Milwaukee native and proud graduate from Milwaukee High School of the Arts, he has spent the last several years working around Milwaukee and Chicago for various theatres such as, First Stage, The Music Theatre Company, Splinter Group, and the Alchemist (Drop-Out Arts). Some of his favorite roles/shows include: THE ALIENS (Evan), ZANNA, DON'T! (Tank), SEUSSICAL (Wickersham Brother 2), DOG SEES GOD (Beethoven), and KIMBERLY AKIMBO (Jeff). He recently appeared in MMV's ONLY WE KNOW BEST (Joe, the Intern). Ryan appears in both shows for this Gala Weekend.



TESS MASIAS

Tess Masias graduated from The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in May of 2016 with a BA in Vocal Performance. This is Tess's first production outside of school and she is thrilled to be part of such a diverse and talented local cast. Past performances include The Sorceress in UWM's *Dido and Aeneas*, Un Patre in UWM's *L'Enfant et les Sortilège,s* and Sondra in MMV's production of *Only We Know Best*. Tess is beyond grateful to have an amazing support system in her friends and family who encourage her to follow her passions. Tess appears in both shows for this Gala Weekend.



ANDY BLOCHOWIAK (Drums)

Andy Blochowiak has been a professional performer and instructor in the Milwaukee area for nearly 20 years. A music major from UW-Milwaukee, he teaches lessons at Lincoln Music House and frequently gigs freelance around town in jazz and blues clubs, as well as doing musical theater. You can catch Andy drumming around town in the following bands: *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Hearthfire* and *Funky Chemist*.



KAREN SCHULTEIS (Keyboard)

This is Karen's 11th season as accompanist for MMV. Currently the Director of Liturgy and Music at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Greenfield, she directs and accompanies five choirs, sings and composes liturgical music. Karen has accompanied many Milwaukee area soloists and groups.



LOUIS CUCANATO (Piano)

Lou has been working in Milwaukee for 25 years. His range of experience is comprehensive. He has worked shows such as 'Mamma Mia' and 'Hairspray' at the Marcus Center, as well as performing on synthesizer for the Milwaukee Ballet. He frequently performs as soloist at the Pfister Hotel Lobby Lounge. He is also comfortable as a pop musician or working with vocalists in a jazz duo or trio.



MARK LEWANDOWSKI (Upright Bass)

Mark Lewandowski, Upright Bass – Mark has been playing bass in the Milwaukee and Chicago areas for over twenty-eight years. He has performed with Ballet Chicago, The Ruth Page Ballet, Chicago Lyric Opera, George Daugherty (Warner Brothers), Conti Condoli, Steve Turre, Stanley Jordan, Mel Torme and Bud Harner (Barry Manilow). Also local musicians Michael Drake, Deirdre Fellner, Barb Stephan, Ben Hans, Johnny Padilla and his own groups called Crosstalk and Groove Towne among others. He holds a Bachelor of Music Degree from Millikin University in Decatur Illinois. Mark has toured as a musician to Germany, France, Italy, Aruba and performed at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida and Six Flags Great America in Gurnee, Illinois. He has also recently performed with his group Ain't Misbehavin' at the Governor's Mansion and for President George W. Bush.



TREFOR WILLIAMS (Musical Director)

Trefor Williams is the founding Artistic Director of Milwaukee Metropolitan Voices, and has been the driving force behind its nearly 40 shows performed since its formation in 2006. Working with this talented crew of singers, and the so funny Beth Lewinski has been a blast, while been able at the same time to put on stage the artistic endeavors of our own company secretary and wordsmith Emory Churness. Thank you Emory!
Traveling the length and breadth of the US, Trefor continues to promote Welsh music, both as conductor and soloist, while maintaining a successful vocal studio at his Milwaukee home base.



KAREN NELMS (House Manager)

Karen Nelms is a founding member of **Milwaukee Metro Voices**. Having served as a director on the board for nine years Karen retired from the board at the end of 2016, but as always she is as busy as ever for MMV and is currently setting up **The Friends of MMV** to support the organization. So if you want to be part of our activities Karen is the one to see. Karen is a fine alto who has appeared in all but one of MMV's productions.



EMORY CHURNESS (Osmosis Creator/Producer)

A long-time member of the now-disbanded Wisconsin Cream City Chorus, Emory first sang with Milwaukee Metropolitan Voices in 2011 and is now serving as Secretary on the MMV Board. In addition to performing dozens of concerts, he has written many parodies, arranged scores, composed original music, crafted show narrations and co-written choral theatre productions. Emory is also a member of (and Director's Assistant for) the Cross Lutheran Church Praise Choir. Other creative endeavors include freelance graphic design in a variety of formats, plus penning "Interview with the Psychic," a 1-act play that was selected and performed by the Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa in 2005. He is thrilled to see Osmosis being performed again, especially with the amazing ideas brought to it by Beth Lewinski and Trefor Williams. Emory lives in inner-city Milwaukee with his husband (Wil), and a pair of Dobermans, fish, ghosts and roommates.



The "Hardknock Kids"

Back Row

Johnny Romero Kaitlyn, Larissa Day, Kaitlyn Day

Front Row

Piper Shultz, Josh Krager, Elsa Day

With special thanks to parents Reyna Day and Sara Martinez.