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*The 2023 Holiday Festival; photo by Glenn Asakawa.
The 2024 Holiday Festival is in Macky Auditorium, Dec. 6-8.*

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CU ★ PRESENTS

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2024

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College of Music: *Photo by Glenn Asakawa*

Musical Theatre: *Promotional art for
Heathers, The Musical*

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many contributions of Indigenous peoples in
our state. CU Boulder acknowledges that it is
located on the traditional territories and ancestral
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and many other Native American nations. Their
forced removal from these territories has caused
devastating and lasting impacts.

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SPOTLIGHT



Advocacy Through Artistry

By Henry Michaels

In 2021, soprano Renée Fleming—one of those rare artists who needs absolutely no introduction—released the album *Voice of Nature: The Anthropocene*. Featuring both Romantic era works and new compositions by Nico Muhly, Caroline Shaw and Kevin Puts, *Voice of Nature* would go on to win Fleming her fifth Grammy Award in 2023.

And in January of 2025, Fleming will bring a concert inspired by this album to Macky Auditorium. Fleming, who has frequently lent her voice to causes in which she believes, ventures further into the realm of advocacy through artistry with this album and ensuing concert project. *Voice of Nature: The Anthropocene* focuses on the environment and climate change. (The Anthropocene is a name proposed by scientists for our current geological epoch, one whose beginning is marked by the first instances of significant human impact on the planet.)

“The music on the album begins in a time almost two centuries ago when people had a profound connection to the beauty of nature,” said Fleming of *Voice of Nature*. “Now we have reached a moment when we see all too clearly the effects of our own activity and the fragility of our environment.”

This is an eclectic concert, featuring music by composers from Nico Muhly and Kevin Puts to George Frideric Handel and Giacomo Puccini—even Richard Rodgers and Björk! The concert will also feature a film specially created for this project by the National Geographic Society which further highlights the beauty and fragility of our planet, its climate and the creatures we share it with.

While there is certainly a tone of somberness in the serious message that underlies this concert, the music and film also serve to deliver a substantial dose of hope. The words

of American poet Dorianne Laux's *Evening*—set to music by Kevin Puts—illustrate well this juxtaposition of apprehension and hope:

“We know the land / is disappearing beneath / the sea, islands swallowed / like prehistoric fish. / We know we are doomed, / done for, damned, and still / the light reaches us, falls / on our shoulders even now, / even here where the moon is / hidden from us, even though / the stars are so far away.”

Renée Fleming performs on the Artist Series at Macky Auditorium, on Jan. 31, 2025.

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Little Women

By Louisa May Alcott
Adapted and Directed
by Jessica Robblee



Dec. 5 - 29

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UPCOMING EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

CU ★ PRESENTS

ARTIST SERIES



Pablo Sáinz-Villegas
Guitar Masterworks
Nov. 9, 2024



**Boston Brass +
Brass All-Stars Big Band**
Christmas Bells
are Swingin'
Dec. 14, 2024



Renée Fleming
Voice of Nature
Jan. 31, 2025



Kodo
One Earth Tour 2025:
Warabe
Feb. 15, 2025

COLLEGE OF MUSIC



Heathers: The Musical
Book, Music and Lyrics
by Laurence O'Keefe and
Kevin Murphy
Nov. 14-17, 2024



Holiday Festival 2024
Boulder's beloved
holiday tradition
Dec. 6-8, 2024



The Pirates of Penzance
By Gilbert and Sullivan
March 14-16, 2025



Big Fish
By John August and
Andrew Lippa
April 24-27, 2025

TAKÁCS QUARTET



Takács Quartet
Jan. 12 and 13, 2025
March 9 and 10, 2025
April 13 and 14, 2025
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EVENT LISTING**



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- Online at cupresents.org
- From our box office at the University Club
- By phone at 303-492-8008

Ticket sales are final; no refunds. Exchanges are subject to availability and must be made at least one business day prior to the day of performance.



VISITOR INFO

LATE SEATING

Latecomers are seated at the discretion of the house manager. You may be seated in a seat other than your ticketed seat; you can move to your ticketed seat during intermission.

Late seating is unavailable in the:

- Music Theatre (Imig Music Building)
- Loft Theatre (University Theatre Building)

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Holiday Festival 2024
Dec. 6-8

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UPCOMING THEATRE & DANCE EVENTS



Antigone

By Jean Anouilh, translated by Jeremy Sams
Nov. 8-17, 2024 | Roe Green Theatre



FRESH: Fall 2024

A CU dance concert
Dec. 6 and 7, 2024 | Irely Theatre



Catapult

A BFA dance concert
Feb. 7-9, 2025 | Irely Theatre



John Proctor is the Villain

By Kimberly Bellflower
Feb. 21-March 2, 2025 | Loft Theatre



Open Space

Curated by CU Dance Connection
March 7-9, 2025 | Irely Theatre

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Theatre & Dance
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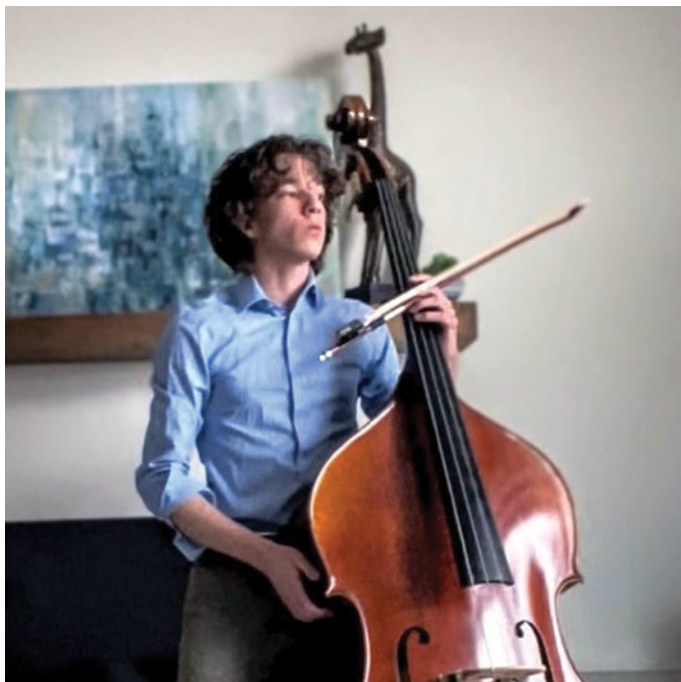
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SPOTLIGHT



Meet Willem Rohwer— 2024 Sher Distinguished Musician Scholarship Recipient

By Kathryn Bistodeau

We're pleased to announce freshman Willem Rohwer as our 2024 Sher Distinguished Musician Scholarship recipient!

Rohwer comes to the College of Music from Edwards, Colorado, to pursue an undergraduate degree in double bass performance studying with Associate Professor of Double Bass Susan Cahill. "She's absolutely wonderful," Rohwer says. "I had the opportunity to take a couple lessons with her over the summer and her approach to teaching is through a fresh lens."

At CU Boulder, Rohwer hopes to explore different musical ensembles, genres and styles to find his own niche. "Developing my own musical opinions and character are really something that I want to find here," he says.

Rohwer first learned about the scholarship through an email inviting him to an additional audition. He had just a few weeks to prepare and utilized an unusual tactic: "I had figured out that one of the most helpful things for me was to play in different locations throughout my house and throughout my town instead of just in my room," he says.

"You can hear different things. I practiced in my living room and then I practiced in a closet and then I practiced outside."

The traveling practice paid off and Rohwer was offered the four-year, full-ride scholarship funded by John and Anna Sie.

"You couldn't wipe the smile off my face for a week, I was really happy to hear that I would be able to go here and that I was so wanted."

Rohwer is also part of the Music Buffs Living Learning Community—a program that brings together music loving students to collaborate and create. "It's so exciting to be a part of this community because everyone I meet is eager to do exactly what I want to do, which is jam out with people my age who have different ideas about music," he says.

Additionally, Rohwer wants to develop another passion of his: Space.

"I've always been fascinated with astrophysics and space," he says.

"I think music and astrophysics relate because they both have to do with exploring—with music, there's such an infinite space ahead of you where you can explore how everything sounds."

He adds, "When you're playing music, it brings you to a space that's so separate from time, stress or any of the other happenings of daily life. The same feeling that I get in that musical space is what I experience when I think about exploring deep space because it's so far out and separate from everything else ... and always brand new."

Rohwer joins these current Sher Distinguished Musician Scholarship recipients:

2023: Nate Bonin (horn) and Danny Kaminski (jazz bass);
2022: Jude Dow-Hygelund (piano) and Cian Kreuger (jazz sax); and

2021: Anna Kallinikos (trumpet) and Raven Dow-Hygelund (classical guitar).

Our gratitude to the 2024 Sher Distinguished Musician Scholarship selection committee comprising faculty members Gary Lewis, Matthew Roeder and Elizabeth Swanson. "I'm excited that we've added another very talented musician as part of our incoming class of first-year Music Buffs!" says Roeder.

CU ★ PRESENTS | ARTIST SERIES



UPCOMING EVENTS

**Pablo
Sáinz-Villegas**
Nov. 9

**Boston Brass +
Brass All-Stars
Big Band**
Dec. 14

Renée Fleming
Jan. 31

Kodo
Feb. 15

**Sweet Honey
in the Rock**
Feb. 28

**Martha Graham
Dance Company**
April 26

*All performances take place at 7:30 p.m.
in Macky Auditorium.*

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CU ★ PRESENTS | TAKÁCS QUARTET



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SPOTLIGHT



Kodo puts a visceral, visual spin on taiko drumming for 40th Anniversary tour

By Adam Goldstein

The members of the Kodo Taiko Performing Arts Ensemble are just as apt to impress seasoned jazz drummers as they are musical novices.

Take Max Roach, for example, the legendary jazz percussionist and composer who redefined the sound and dynamic of the American art form in the 1950s. Before he passed in 2007, Roach spoke to the Village Voice about Kodo, an ensemble that specializes in Japanese drumming styles, compositions and performance. Roach saw that contemporary quality and marveled at the group's sheer presence onstage. "The technique they use to play percussion instruments is totally different from anything I've ever

seen," Roach told the Village Voice in the 1990s. "They deal with 'visual sound' more than anyone I've ever known."

It would be a misnomer to attach the word "traditional" to the group's approach to Japanese taiko percussion; while they draw on the deep cultural roots of their country in terms of instrumentation and method, they are thoroughly modern in terms of their repertoire and their adaptation of the art form.

The visual component is impossible to ignore during a performance by Kodo. They specialize in taiko, a Japanese word that can be translated roughly

as both "heartbeat" and "children of the drum." The troupe members take to the stage clad in headbands and loincloths; their onstage approach includes gymnastic leaps and acrobatic flourishes; the drums themselves—rendered of wood and animal hide—are massive, and serve as onstage personas of their own.

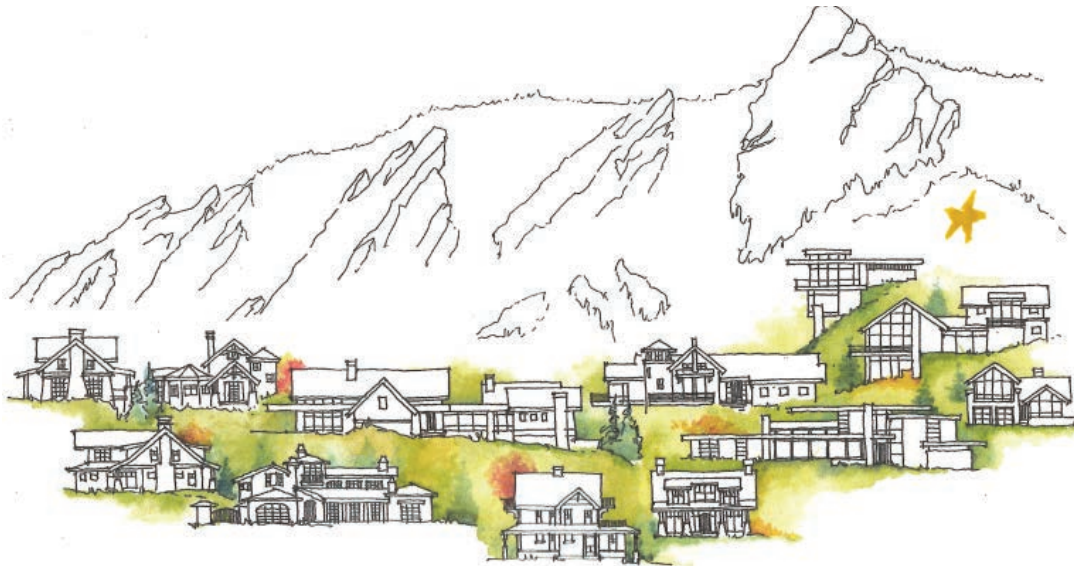
But the very music itself also seems to offer a visual component, a feature that has made the Kodo Performing Arts Ensemble a global lure since its formal launch at the Berliner Festspiele in 1981. The Kodo troupe produces a percussive, tactile brand of sound, one that audience members can see in the drums' visual vibrations and one they can feel in the vibrations that will reach the back of the balcony at Macky Auditorium when the group visits the CU Boulder campus on Feb. 15.

For more than 40 years, Kodo has been delivering this impressive dynamic to audiences across the globe from their home base on the rural island of Sado in Japan. Their "One Earth Tour" formally began in 1984 and, for their anniversary celebration, the group has focused on their driving artistic mission statement, one that's just as much about community as it is about sound.

"The sound of our taiko will echo out from Sado Island to the world, and from the world to Sado Island," Kodo Taiko Performing Arts Ensemble Leader Yuichiro Funabashi notes on the group's website. "We will continue our One Earth Tour; our mission (is) to remind people of the common bonds we all share. We will strive to connect people through the resonant sound of taiko, creating moments and spaces brimming with joy and smiling faces."

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CAST

Veronica Sawyer
Adriana Ripley
Jason “JD” Dean
Alex Mehigan
Heather Chandler
Mya Busch
Heather McNamara
Courtney San Pedro
Heather Duke
Lydia Blaisdell
Martha Dunnstock
Cammy Garcia
Ram Sweeney
Indigo Jones
Kurt Kelly
Ian Saverin
Ram’s Dad /
Big Bud Dean
Sean Murray
Ms. Fleming /
Veronica’s Mom
Angie Torres-Caballer

Kurt’s Dad /
Veronica’s Dad /
Principal Gowan
Quint Hill
Coach Ripper
Seth Edgar
Beleaguered Geek
Zane Larson
Preppy Stud /
Officer Milner
Reed Jacobs
Hipster Dork /
Officer McCord
Peyton Busch
Stoner Chick
Alecia Marquardt
Young Republicanette
Jude Hill
New Wave Party Girl
Elena Diederich

WESTERBERG CHEERLEADERS

Adele Trapp
Kaya Leyendecker
Troy Baker

WESTERBERG STUDENTS

Ava Scott
Jada Abbott
Sophie Green
Isabel Harrison
Ty Lowrey
Lydia Blaisdell
Carly Freeman

UNDERSTUDIES

Veronica Sawyer
Isabel Harrison
Jason “JD” Dean
Quint Hill
Heather Chandler /
Heather Duke /
Ensemble Swing
RUBY ANDERSON
Heather MacNamara /
Ms. Fleming /
Ensemble Swing
CARLY FREEMAN
Ram Sweeney / Kurt Kelly
Troy Baker
Kurt’s Dad / Ram’s Dad
PEYTON BUSCH
Martha Dunnstock
JADA ABBOTT
Ensemble Swing
TY LOWREY

MUSICAL THEATRE

Heathers: The Musical

Book, Music and Lyrics
by Laurence O’Keefe and
Kevin Murphy

Nov. 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 2024
Music Theatre

CREATIVE TEAM

Director	Kristel Jelinek Brown
Assistant Director	Kyle Stockburger
Student Assistant Director	Izzy Bodley
Music Director	Collin Sinclair
Choreography	Marla A. Schulz
Scenic Design	Jeffrey B. Rusnak
Costume Design	Ann Piano
Lighting Design	Emily Maddox
Sound Design / Engineering	Dan Sjaastad
Props Design	Jennifer Melcher
Technical Director	Jeffrey B. Rusnak
Production Director	Ron Mueller
Fight Director	Marla A. Schulz
Intimacy Choreographer	Kristel Jelinek Brown
Production Manager	Ron Mueller
Dramaturg	Kyle Stockburger
Stage Manager	Hannah Iverson
Assistant Stage Managers	CJ Llewellyn-Ryan
	Courtney Sjaastad
	Lydia Blaisell
	Carly Freeman
	Edie Roth
Dance Captains	
Fight Consultant	

Based on the film written by Daniel Waters

Heathers: The Musical was originally directed
Off-Broadway by Andy Fickman and choreographed by
Marguerite Derricks.

HEATHERS THE MUSICAL is presented by arrangement with
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CONTENT ADVISORY

Thank you for being here with us at *Heathers: The Musical*. Please be aware that the production contains the following subject matter: haze, loud noises including gunshots, flashing lights and strobe, strong language and mature themes including murder, suicide, sexual violence, alcohol and drug use, and references to eating disorders.

We acknowledge that these subjects can be activating or triggering for some viewers. Audience discretion is advised. If you have any concerns or need further information, we will have mental health support resources available in the upstairs Grusin Lobby before, during, and after performance provided by CU's Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS). They will offer materials for counseling, OVA (Office of Victim Assistance), FSAP (Faculty/Staff Assistance Program), ALC (telehealth platform), and 988.

SYNOPSIS

Based on the cult classic film of the same name, *Heathers* is the story of Veronica Sawyer, a senior at the fictional Westerberg High. Veronica longs to be cool like the clique of it-girls that runs Westerberg: the unaffected, unattainable Heathers. Unfortunately, in addition to awesome levels of popularity, the Heathers are also cruel, choosing to mock and bully their kingdom into submission. When Veronica uses her skills as a forger to get the Heathers out of detention, she impresses their leader Heather Chandler—so much so that they agree to let her into their exclusive club.

At first, Veronica is thrilled ... until she finds out that being one of the Heathers means bullying the same kids she used to call friends. Meanwhile, Veronica finds herself attracted to a mysterious newcomer at school named Jason “JD” Dean. When an innocent drink mixup results in the accidental poisoning of Heather Chandler, JD convinces Veronica to stage Chandler’s suicide. The results are so successful that Veronica and JD, exhilarated with their newfound power, resolve to rid Westerberg of the cruelly popular elite forever ...

DIRECTOR’S NOTE

When Matthew Chellis reached out to me to direct *Heathers*, my first thought was: Maybe I can convince him to choose a different show? I remember watching the movie as a sheltered Catholic school teen in the 90s, feeling equal parts shocked and subversively intrigued by the story (and of course, Christian Slater!) Cut to 2024 where so much about this cult classic has become a terrifyingly regular occurrence, and the satire no longer feels like satire.

And yet, this material resonates deeply with today’s young people, a generation of students who have spent their entire lives never experiencing the privilege of feeling truly safe inside of their classrooms or school buildings. While the events of this story have become gruesomely commonplace, we cynically experience a similar song and dance, albeit wrapped up in a different package. Young people still scream to be heard, seen and validated. Adults respond all too often with “thoughts and prayers” narcissism and very little action.

In diving into this work with this group of thoughtful and brilliant humans, we could all agree that navigating the snake eating-its-own-tail nature of this material is actually cathartic. And what is art if not catharsis—holding a mirror up to society, forcing us to bear witness to and reckon with our ugliest parts. In the prologue to the script, *Heathers* writers Kevin Murphy and Laurence O’ Keefe, describe the young people in this story as “recognizable human beings, lunging for safety like a drowning man lunging for a lifeboat.” Now if only we—the adults—can heed the call to be brave enough to open our hearts, minds and arms to pull them to safety.

Immense gratitude to the College of Music, the entire *Heathers* team and this incredible cast. You fill me with hope.

SPECIAL THANKS

Dean John Davis	Justin Johnson
Associate Dean	Robert Westenberg
Matt Roeder	Tamara Meneghini-Stalker
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Rojana Savoye	Advisory Board
Bennett Forsythe	Mihky and Michael Ritter
Carrie Howard	Becky Roser
Arianne Powell	Paul Eklund

SONG LIST

ACT ONE

Beautiful (Part 1)

Veronica, Martha, Ram, Kurt, Principal, Coach, Ms. Fleming and Students

Beautiful (Part 2)

Veronica, Chandler, McNamara, Duke, Ms. Fleming, Principal, Coach and Students

Candy Store

Chandler, McNamara, Duke, Veronica and Martha

Fight For Me

Veronica and Ensemble

Candy Store Playoff

Chandler, McNamara, Duke and Offstage Women

Freeze Your Brain

JD

Transition to Party

JD

Big Fun

Ram, Kurt, Chandler, McNamara, Duke, Veronica, Martha and Ensemble

Dead Girl Walking

Veronica, JD

Veronica's Chandler Nightmare

Chandler and Veronica; all Students and Faculty

Pain in My Path

JD and Veronica

The Me Inside of Me

Veronica, JD, Chandler, Officer Milner, Officer McCord, Ms. Fleming, Students and Teachers

You're Welcome

Veronica, Ram, Kurt and Male Ensemble

Never Shut Up Again

Duke, Veronica, Ram, Kurt and Ensemble

Our Love is God

JD, Veronica, Kurt and Ram

ACT TWO

Prom or Hell

Veronica

My Dead Gay Son

Ram's Dad, Kurt's Dad and Ensemble

Seventeen

Veronica and JD

Shine a Light

Everyone (except Martha)

Lifeboat

Heather McNamara

Shine a Light (Reprise)

Duke and Ensemble

I Say No

Veronica, JD and Ensemble

Hey Yo Westerburg

Heather McNamara and Students

Kindergarten Boyfriend

Martha

Yo, Girl/Meant To Be Yours

JD, Heather Chandler, Ram, Kurt and Students

Dead Girl Walking (Reprise)

Veronica, JD and Student

We're All Worth Saving

Veronica and JD

Finale: Seventeen (Reprise)

Veronica, Martha, McNamara, Duke and Ensemble

PERSONNEL

JADA ABBOTT (Ensemble) is from Eagle and is a junior mezzo soprano studying with Andrew Garland. This is Abbott's third production at CU Boulder, with previous shows including *Titanic*, *The Musical* and *9 to 5*. When not on stage Abbott enjoys skiing, rafting and hiking. She is super stoked to share this performance with everyone and hopes you all enjoy!

RUBY ANDERSON (she/they) (Heather Chandler u/s / Heather Duke u/s / Ensemble Swing), is a musical theatre (BM) student in her third year, studying under the direction of Professor Abigail Nims. She has previously been seen as Charlotte Cardoza in *Titanic*, *The Musical*, Matron Mamma Morton in *Chicago* and the Drowsy Chaperone in *Drowsy Chaperone*. Originally from San Diego, she grew up doing modern dance with Kidz Danz Kompany for 11 years. As a residential advisor and a member of the Advocates for Youth "Condom Collective" she is passionate about serving her community and advocating for safe sex practices. She is a member of CU Boulder's Impact Playback and has done three artist residencies in rural Colorado communities. She has also done theatre of the oppressed work with Affinity Arts Consulting. Next semester she will be studying abroad at the University of Sydney Conservatorium of Music. She would like to thank Kristel for being an amazing director and her parents for always supporting her.

TROY BAKER (Ensemble), from Leadville, is a freshman at CU Boulder. He is studying musical theatre (BM) and is currently studying under Professor Andrew Garland. This is his first show with CU Boulder but recently has appeared elsewhere as Jack in *Into the Woods*, Shrek in *Shrek the Musical* and Captain Von Trapp in *The Sound of Music*. While off the stage, Baker enjoys skiing, volleyball and a good movie night with friends. Baker would like to thank all of his family and friends who have supported his extreme endeavors, as well as all the people he has worked with who have helped him grow as a performer. He hopes you love the show!

LYDIA BLAISDELL (Heather Duke), is a junior in the musical theatre (BM) program. She studies with Professors Matthew Chellis and Jennifer Bird-Arvidsson. She has participated in six productions at CU Boulder, including *Chicago*, where she had the incredible opportunity to portray Roxie Hart. Blaisdell would not be in this production without the support of her family, friends and teachers and thanks them for all of their support. She is so excited to be part of this amazing production working along side such talented peers and mentors and hopes that you will enjoy the show as much as she does.

MYA BUSCH (Heather Chandler), is a senior in the musical theatre (BM) program, studying voice with Jennifer DeDominici. Recent performances include Doralee Rhodes in *9 to 5*, Stewardess Prichard in *Titanic* and Mrs. Tottendale in *The Drowsy Chaperone*. She is also very excited to be playing Isabel in Eklund Opera's *Pirates of Penzance* and be in the ensemble of *Big Fish* this upcoming spring. She is beyond thrilled to be stepping into the role of Heather Chandler, a dream role she's been passionate about since sixth grade. She expresses gratitude to her friends and family for their support in pursuing her dreams. @mya.elizabethh

PEYTON BUSCH (Hipster Dork / Officer McCord), is a sophomore in the musical theatre (BM) program, studying voice with Jennifer DeDominici. Recent performances include Mr. Tinsworthy in *9 to 5* and Wallace Hartley in *Titanic, the Musical*. Enjoy the show! @peytonlbusch

ELENA DIEDERICH (New Wave Party Girl) is a junior in the musical theatre (BFA) program at CU Boulder. This will be her third mainstage production. Previously, she's portrayed New Employee in *9 to 5* and Madame Aubert in *Titanic, The Musical*, as well as Janice in *A My Name Is Alice*. Other favorite roles outside of college include Rusty in *Footloose* and Loganne in *The 25th Annual*

Putnam County Spelling Bee. Besides theatre, Diederich also enjoys drawing, knitting and horror movies. She's excited to bring you this production of *Heathers: The Musical*. Don't forget the Corn Nuts (BQ, naturally)!

SETH EDGAR (Coach Ripper), is a sophomore in the musical theatre (BM) program, and studies voice under Professor Jennifer DeDominici. Edgar has previously been a part of *9 to 5* and *Titanic, The Musical*, and is incredibly honored to be a part of his third show at CU Boulder! When working on a show, Edgar always tries to learn at least one lesson from characters he plays so that when he leaves the show, he can use what he has learned to grow and become a better person and actor. Edgar thanks his amazing family and awesome friends for all they do, and he hopes that the traffic from the Utah game doesn't affect the Saturday crowds too badly. Sko Buffs!

CARLY FREEMAN (Ensemble / Dance Captain), from Houston, Texas is a sophomore in the musical theatre (BM and BFA) program at CU Boulder, and studies voice under Jennifer DeDominici. She made her CU Boulder debut last year in *Titanic, The Musical* as a freshman. She would like to thank Krystal and Marla for giving her these opportunities to help her grow as a performer and artist. Lastly, she would like to thank her mom for being her light in the world and her cat, Luna, for making it very hard to go to rehearsal.

CAMMY GARCIA (Martha Dunnstock), is a freshman at CU Boulder from Windsor, Colorado. She is pursuing a Bachelor of Music in musical theater and studies voice with Andrew Garland. She could not be more excited to be playing Martha Dunnstock in the College of Music's production of *Heathers: The Musical*! Previous theatre credits include Olive Ostrovsky in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, SpongeBob SquarePants in *SpongeBob SquarePants: The Musical*, The Red Cross Nurse/The Queen of Hearts in *Alice By Heart*, Leanne in *Puffs*, The First Witch in *Macbeth* and The Witch in *Into the Woods*. When not on stage, Garcia can be found hanging out with her friends, listening to music or singing in a practice room. She would like to thank her mom and sister, wonderful friends, the cast, crew, and directing team and everyone who makes this show possible. Enjoy the show!

SOPHIE GREEN (Ensemble "Nerd") is a mezzo soprano and junior year musical theatre (BM) major at CU Boulder. She studies under Jennifer DeDominici and has also worked with John Seesholtz. Recent performance credits include Stewardess Hutchinson in

Titanic, The Musical and ensemble/swing roles in CU Boulder's *9 to 5*, *Chicago* and *The Drowsy Chaperone*. She is so incredibly thankful for the love and support of her family, friends, and mentors, and she hopes that you all will enjoy the show. Go Westerborg!

ISABEL HARRISON (Ensemble / Veronica u/s) is a senior musical theatre (BM) student studying under Jennifer DeDominici. She is a mezzo soprano originally from Colorado Springs. Harrison has appeared in many CU Boulder productions; favorite credits include Kate Mullins in *Titanic, The Musical* and Hunyak in *Chicago*. She recently performed as Tabatha in *Alice By Heart* with Synthesis Theatre Co. Harrison will graduate this spring with a bachelor's degree in musical theater, minor in dance and a singing health specialist certificate. Outside of the theatre, Harrison enjoys video editing, sewing and constructing costumes, and spending time with her friends and family. Harrison is really grateful to be involved in a production with so many wonderful people, and she hopes you enjoy the show!

JUDE HILL (Young Republicanette), is a mezzo soprano in her junior year at CU Boulder. She is pursuing a Bachelor of Music in musical theatre, studying under Abigail Nims. Over the past two years, she has been in six productions. Most recently, she has been seen in CU Presents production of *Titanic, The Musical* as Madelaine Astor and The Lyric Theatre of Leadville's production of *Into the Woods* as Cinderella. She is extremely grateful for everyone in her life who has mentored her and supported her dreams of performance. She is so excited to be in this production of *Heathers: The Musical* and hopes you enjoy the show!

QUINT HILL (Kurt's Dad / Veronica's Dad / Principal Gowan), is a Charlotte, North Carolina native, and a Junior studying musical theatre (BM) at the University of Colorado Boulder. He has been involved in more than 15 productions over the last decade: *Titanic* (Harold Bride), *9 to 5* (Joe), *Chicago* (Amos Hart), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Ensemble) and *Sweeney Todd* (Anthony Hope). When Hill is not performing, he loves to go on runs and is an avid game enjoyer. He would like to thank his friends and family for their unwavering support of his craft. @quint.hill

REED JACOBS (Preppy Stud / Officer Milner) is a sophomore studying advertising, business and theatre. Previous roles include: *Titanic, The Musical* (Edgar Beane), *9 to 5* (Doctor/Ensemble), *Eurydice* (Loud Stone), *The Little Mermaid* (Prince Eric), *A Chorus Line* (Gregory Gardner), *Indecent* (Actor #9) and *Jekyll*

and *Hyde* (Simon Stride). He would like to thank the Bachelor of Music in Musical Theatre program as well as his parents for being so supportive and dedicated.

INDIGO JONES (Ram), a tenor born and raised in Boulder, Colorado, is a sophomore musical theatre (BM) major. Jones has a mission to inspire others with the beauty of theatre, as it has inspired him since he was a little nerd in middle school. Jones is currently honing his craft in dancing, vocal technique and acting to move to New York and pursue a musical theatre career after finishing his bachelor's degree. Jones is so grateful to be able to tell this great story to an eager audience today and hopes they all love the show as much as he does.

ZANE LARSON (Beleaguered Geek) is excited to be in *Heathers: The Musical* with such a talented and fun cast. Some of the previous shows he's performed in at CU Boulder include *Titanic, The Musical*, *Company* and *The Drowsy Chaperone*. In his free time, Larson creates 80s pop music under the alias Mister Bodacious! He can't wait to step onto the stage again and hopes people like his performance! He dedicates his performance to his uncle and grandfather, Drew and Wallace Larson.

KAYA LEYENDECKER (Cheerleader / Ensemble), is a freshman at CU Boulder, majoring in musical theatre (BM) with a minor in dance. Born and raised in Central California, Leyendecker is now honing her vocal skills under the guidance of Jennifer DeDominici. This is her first CU Boulder production. Notable credits in her hometown include Catherine Parr in *Six. The Musical*, Alice Murphy in *Bright star*, Ariel in *The Little Mermaid*, Winnie Foster in *Tuck Everlasting* and Frenchie in *Grease!* Passionate about the performing arts from a young age, Leyendecker is thrilled to be part of CU Boulder's dynamic musical theatre program. Outside of class, Leyendecker enjoys yoga, dancing, hiking and songwriting. Leyendecker thanks her friends, family and teachers for their support and hopes you all enjoy the show!

TY LOWREY (Ensemble), is 18 years old and on the BMMT track. He was born and raised in Orlando, Florida, where he had the pleasure of working with Ryan Skiles, Justin Horn, Lea Floden and Lauren Langa. He is currently placed in Matthew Chellis' studio and is excited for the opportunity to expand his music comprehension, vocal skill and acting ability at CU Boulder. Lowrey is most thankful for his family; without their support he would not be here today.

ALECIA MARQUARDT (Stoner Chick), is a senior mezzo soprano studying musical theatre (BM) at CU Boulder. Theatre has always been her passion, and she feels so blessed to be able to do it every day. In past shows, she has had the privilege of portraying Annie (*Six*) in Chicago, Second Officer Lightoller in *Titanic*, *The Musical* and Doralee Rhodes in *9 to 5*. She is excited to portray “Stoner Chick,” and has “high hopes” that you will enjoy the show as much as she does. She would like to thank her mom, grandma and the rest of her family; her professor, Jennifer Bird-Arvidsson; Julie Simpson; and her friends for their continuous support in her theatrical endeavors. She would also love to thank the reader for their continued support of the arts.

ALEX MEHIGAN (Jason “JD” Dean), is a 22-year-old senior studying musical theatre (BM). Born and raised in Portland, Oregon, the Pacific Northwest is where he calls home. Mehigan is a student in Andrew Garland and Jennifer DeDominici’s voice studios. Mehigan’s CU Boulder credits include George Widener in *Titanic*, *The Musical*, Dick Bernly in *9 to 5*, *The Musical*, Amos Hart in *Chicago*, Underling in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Arvide Abernathy in *Guys and Dolls* and Tiny Tom in *Urinetown: The Musical*. Read more about Alex by visiting alexmehigan.com/about | IG: @alexmehigan

SEAN MURRAY (Ram’s Dad / Big Bud Dean), a bass baritone from Broomfield, is a sophomore at CU Boulder studying musical theatre (BM) and economics. He studies voice with Professor Andrew Garland. He has appeared recently in *Titanic*, *The Musical* at CU Boulder and as a member of the court at the Colorado Renaissance Festival. He is very excited to share this amazing production with you!

ADRIANA RIPLEY (Veronica Sawyer) is a proud Eugene, Oregon native. She is a senior at the University of Colorado Boulder, where she’s majoring in musical theatre (BM), psychology and French. Ripley has had the privilege of studying with Professor Andrew Garland and is currently under the expert guidance of Professor Jennifer DeDominici. Some of her favorite credits at CU Boulder include Caroline Neville in *Titanic*, *The Musical* and Liz in *Chicago*. She has served as the dance captain and co-choreographer for both the CU musical theatre department and Eklund Opera. Ripley was a cast member in NAMT’s 35th Annual Festival of New Musicals, portraying Gabriela in Evynne Hollens’ *Mija*. She reprised her role in *Mija*’s international debut in Guatemala this summer, and returned to New York City for her Feinstein’s/54 Below debut in *Let’s Be Bad: Celebrating Broadway’s Villains*. You can find her

@adriana.ripley on social media. She would like to thank her mother and her friends for their unwavering support and love!

COURTNEY SAN PEDRO (she/her) (Heather McNamara) is so excited to be making her CU Boulder debut with this wonderful cast! Courtney is a transfer student from Chicago, has loved this show for as long as she can remember, and feels so lucky to be doing it with such an incredible team. Some of San Pedro’s favorite credits include Wednesday Addams in *The Addams Family*, Katherine Plumber in *Newsies* and Mimi Marquez in *Rent*! In her free time, you could probably find her out with her friends, having a movie night or playing the daily New York Times games. This cast and crew has worked incredibly hard on this show, and it’s something we’re very proud of, so she hopes you’re ready to sit back, tighten your scrunchie, and enjoy coming into the wonderful world of the Heathers.

IAN SAVERIN (Kurt Kelly) is a senior in the musical theatre (BM) program where he studies voice with both Matthew Chellis and Jennifer DeDominici. Saverin has been seen in CU Boulder productions such as *Urinetown*, *Titanic*, *The Musical*, *Chicago*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Guys and Dolls* and *Falstaff*. This past summer Saverin spent his time with the Utah Festival Opera in Logan, Utah performing in *Cats* as the Rum Tum Tugger and *Anything Goes* as Billy Crocker. He hopes you enjoy the show!

AVA SCOTT (Ensemble) is thrilled to be a part of her third mainstage production at CU Boulder. Previously, Scott appeared in *Working: A Musical* as Housewife, and *Titanic*, *The Musical* as a Swing. Originally from Florida, Scott is pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree in musical theatre. She would like to thank Kristel, Kyle, Hannah and the entire production team, cast, and crew for their amazing work on Heathers, as well as her friends and family for endless support! Enjoy the show!

ANGIE TORRES (Ms. Fleming / Veronica’s Mom) is a junior and soprano in the musical theatre (BM) program. She has appeared in CU Boulder productions of *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Chicago*, *9 to 5*, and *Titanic*, *The Musical*. After college, she plans on jumping straight into auditioning for professional productions, in hopes of living as a full-time performer. Torres sends her love and thanks to all the people who helped her get this far, especially her family, and she thanks you for coming to the show!

ADELE TRAPP (Ensemble Cheerleader), mezzo soprano from Sacramento, California, is a sophomore in the musical theatre (BM) program. Trapp was part of the CU Boulder production of *Titanic, The Musical* as Kate Murphy. She has also been seen as Hope Cladwell in *Urinetown* with Sutter Street Theatre, Cosette in *Les Misérables* with Oak Ridge High School and Little Red in *Into the Woods* with Sacramento Theatre Company. Trapp would like to thank the cast and crew for being so wonderful, and her family, friends and teachers for all their support. She hopes you all enjoy the show!

IZZY BODLEY (Student Assistant Director) will be graduating in May with a Bachelor of Music Education degree. In her time at CU Boulder, she has performed in productions including *Cabildo* (Mary), *Falstaff* (Innkeeper/Chorus), *Cendrillon* (Fairy/Chorus) and *La Bohème* (Chorus). She made her solo directorial debut last April with *Because She's a Woman*, a cabaret showcasing LGBTQ+ performers and women composers, in collaboration with CU Boulder's Diverse Musicians' Alliance (DiMA). Bodley is thrilled to be a part of the incredible team working on this production and is excited to share this timely, heart wrenching, hilarious story. Many thanks to the gracious support and collaboration of this wonderful cast, Kristel, Kyle, Colin, Marla, CJ and Hannah for making her final production at CU Boulder so special.

MATTHEW CHELLIS (Bachelor of Music in Musical Theatre Program Director / Associate Professor of Voice) has appeared in musical theatre and opera performances throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and South America. Appearances include New York City Opera, Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center and Lincoln Center.

HANNAH IVERSON (Stage Manager) is a recent CU Boulder Theatre & Dance graduate with a BFA in stage management. This is her first show with the College of Music and her first time working on a musical. Previous CU Boulder credits include *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *The Revolutionists*, *Antigone: Presented by the Girls of St. Catherine's* and many more. Her proudest achievement is working as the production manager for Sandbox, CU's resident student series. She would like to thank the College of Music for the opportunity to work with such a talented cast and her friends and family for supporting her through this semester.

KRISTEL JELINEK BROWN (Director / Intimacy Choreographer) is a director and community-based arts and sexuality educator, passionate about access and the reinvention of art-making and arts spaces as radically inclusive. Her work has been seen at DCPA, the Northglenn Youth Theater, Crested Butte Music Festival, Bayview Music Festival, Metro State University, Spellbound Theater and Parlando School of Musical Arts, where she served as Director of Voice/Theatrical Education (2015-2019). Performance credits include: regional productions of *Lystistrata Jones* (Cleonice), *Grease* (Frenchy) and *Aida* (Ensemble); national tour of *Urban Cowboy, the Musical* (Ensemble); and principal vocalist for Norwegian Cruise Lines and Harrah's Showboat Casino in Atlantic City. Education/training: BFA in theater performance from CU Boulder, MA in applied theater from CUNY, sexuality education from ISEE. Brown is one of the co-founders of Dandelion Arts Collective, a nonprofit that promotes health equity through community-based arts practices. Endless love to D, C, B and P.

CJ LLEWELLYN-RYAN (Assistant Stage Manager). has more than 20 years of experience in technical theatre. She has embraced working as a stage manager in community spaces across northwest England and helped nurture young talent at AMDA College of Performing Arts and the Youth Academy of Dramatic Arts in Los Angeles. Since joining CU Boulder's enrollment management team in 2018, Llewellyn-Ryan returned to her theatre roots for the College of Music's 2022 production of *Drowsy Chaperone*. After lending her skills to *Company* for the Department of Theatre & Dance in 2023, Llewellyn-Ryan is excited to once again collaborate with an incredible creative team and cast for *Heathers: The Musical*! Thanks for coming, and enjoy the show!

MARLA A. SCHULZ (Choreographer / Fight Director) uses movement as a universal entry point into pre-written works, and enjoys challenging herself to look at material from different perspectives. Her work has been seen in numerous productions across the country in addition to presenting her research at the Association for Theatre in Higher Education conference. Selected credits: *Manningcast: The Musical* (ESPN), *Spring Awakening* (CU Boulder), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Colorado Shakespeare Festival), *Next to Normal* (CU Boulder) and *Mary Poppins* (Artisan Center Theatre). Schulz is a proud Director's Lab West alumni (2024), and received a BFA in musical theatre from Southern Illinois University Carbondale and MFA in dance from the University of Colorado Boulder.

COLLIN SINCLAIR (Music Director) began his musical journey in middle school as a pianist, quickly developing a passion for accompanying choirs and working with pit orchestras. He made his music directing debut in 2019 with *Heathers* for a summer camp production, and since then has worked extensively in the Denver Metro area with organizations such as Parker Arts, Front Range Theatre Company and StageDoor Theatre. He has played for the CTG's Henry Awards as well as in a national tour of *Wicked* at the Buell Theatre. Sinclair has been with CU Boulder since 2019, contributing to several musical theatre productions. While his academic background is in astrophysics and computer science, his love for music has remained a constant, and he brings his passion, collaborative spirit, and enthusiasm to every production he leads. He is excited to return to *Heathers: The Musical* at CU Boulder, where his music directing journey began.

KYLE STOCKBURGER (Assistant Director / Dramaturg) is a multidisciplinary teaching artist with a passion for storytelling and restorative practices in artmaking. His performance credits include work at Here Arts Center, The Tank NYC, Judson Memorial Church, Chashama Studios and Theatre for a New City in New York; REDCAT and the Hollywood Fringe in Los Angeles; Teatro Experimental in Guadalajara, Mexico; and Town Hall Arts Center in Littleton, Colorado. His written work has been performed at Dixon Place, The Secret Theatre and The Wild Project. He has directed projects at Dixon Place and the CalArts Coffeehouse Theatre. His short film *Tom's Bench* won Best Quarantine Short at the 2021 Astoria Film Festival. Education/training: BFA in theatre performance from CU Boulder, MFA in acting from CalArts. Color him stoked to be back at his alma mater working with this amazing ensemble, how very!

BAND

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Jason Olney

Trumpet

Leilani Spurlock

Violin

Laura Perez Rangel

Guitar

Judah Davis

Bass

Trevor Preuss

Percussion

Ian Spillman

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Ben Smith

Electricians

Pearl Enssle

Joshua Kirk

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Ben Smith

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Jennifer Galvin

Scenic Artists

Jennifer Galvin

Lelah Radostis

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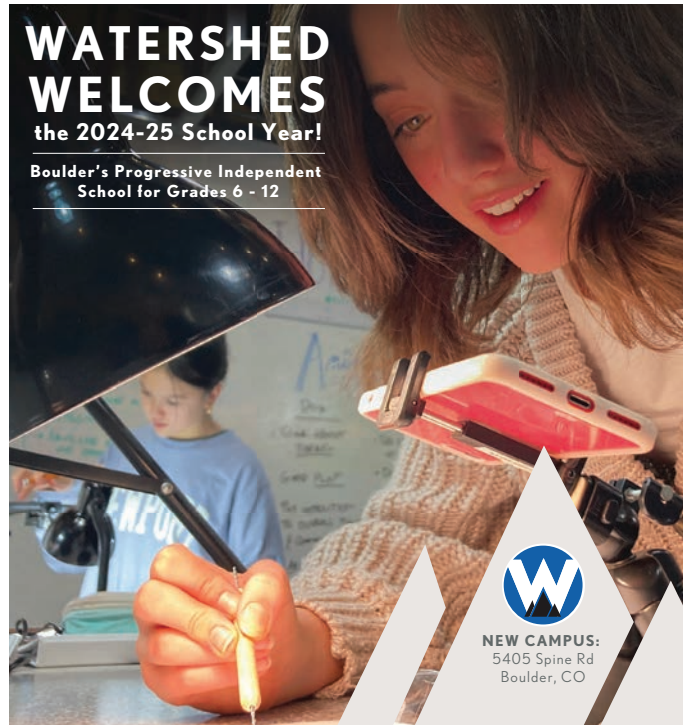
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By Kathryn Bistodeau

When Abigail Terrill (MM '24) learned about alternative piano keyboards, it seemed she'd found an obvious solution to a complicated problem. Terrill spent the last year of her master's experience researching narrower keyboards to accommodate pianists with smaller hands, and how quickly pianists can transition to and from them.

"The length of alternative keyboards is the same as standard keyboards, only the width of each key is very slightly smaller," Terrill says. The CU Boulder College of Music has had such a keyboard on loan from the DS Standard Foundation since April 2023, featuring a six-inch octave instead of the standard six-and-a-half-inch octave.

"The reason I got interested was because I have tendonitis and I noticed a bunch of my female pianist friends were also getting tendonitis. I've had friends who have had to quit because they got some kind of severe playing-related injury," Terrill says.

Alternatively sized keyboards can help pianists avoid injuries sustained from over-reaching and enable individuals with smaller hands to play some repertoire that is physically impossible for them to perform on standard-size pianos.

"Keyboards are made to a standard size and the human hand is not a standard size,"

says Jennifer Hayghe, associate professor of piano and chair of the Roser Piano + Keyboard Program at the College of Music. "In my 25 years as a professor, I have seen the number of students with injuries rise exponentially. I spend a lot of my time working with students trying to reduce their stress and tension and work through the injuries they've accrued. I do believe that if we had smaller keyboards as a standard thing, that would not be an issue."

The piece loaned to the College of Music is a piano action—that is, the keyboard and the mechanism that causes hammers to strike the strings when keys are pressed. This action can technically fit onto any piano, though some fittings are more difficult than others. Mark Mikkelsen and Phil Taylor, both piano technicians at the College of Music, say they put in 50 to 60 hours of work fitting the alternative keyboard into a Steinway piano.

"The problem in making these keyboards for Steinway instruments is that Steinways are entirely handmade, which means they're not all exactly the same," Hayghe explains. "So when alternative keyboards are made as close as possible to a 'standard' Steinway size, all these little adjustments are necessary. It took a long time and a lot of adjusting to get that keyboard used to that piano."

Terrill's thesis project involved 15 pianists playing a musical excerpt on a standard piano, and then on a narrow keyboard. She measured their errors when initially playing on the alternative keyboard and after 10 minutes of practice.

"We found that everyone by the end—transitioning from the standard size to the second try on the narrow keyboard—had fewer errors than on the first try," Terrill says. "Most of them said 'I wish I could practice more on it.'"

Since graduating this spring, Terrill has been teaching piano lessons—another instance when narrow keyboards would be helpful. "Most instruments have smaller versions for when you're learning as a kid, but not the piano," she notes.

"I really see this as an equality issue. I'm looking for movement from people. I want to push for more research and for people to have conversations about it."

Photo: Abigail Terrill (MM '24) and duo partner James Morris (DMA '25) rehearse his first piano duo composition that premiered last year. Terrill is playing an alternatively sized keyboard on loan at the CU Boulder College of Music.

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