



Office for the Arts at Harvard

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For More Information

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RUN AMOC! Artist Residency to Take Place at Harvard University

The American Modern Opera Company (AMOC) will be in residence at Harvard for nine days – developing new work and engaging students in performative experiences while working in more than 20 university venues, including Music Department classrooms, Harvard College Houses, the Harvard iLab, Harvard Ed Portal, Malkin Athletic Center, Schlesinger Library and Harvard Dance Center.

(Cambridge, MA)—Members of the American Modern Opera Company (AMOC), a collective of diverse, distinguished and vibrant artists – including four Harvard alumni – will participate in RUN AMOC!, a nine-day immersive artist residency that will take place February 23-March 3 at venues throughout Harvard University. The residency is sponsored by the Office of the Dean of Arts and Humanities and the Office for the Arts at Harvard, in partnership with the Harvard Music Department, Harvard Ed Portal, Harvard Innovation Lab, Office for Career Services, Harvard Dance Center, American Repertory Theater, Theater, Dance & Media, and The Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America.

“The presence of working artists in classrooms, houses, dining halls and other spaces at the university is an opportunity for direct student engagement with the arts, with possibilities for serendipity that uncover even more creativity among our undergraduates,” said Robin Kelsey, Dean of Arts and Humanities and the Shirley Carter Burden Professor of Photography at Harvard University. “The residency is not only an intellectual and imaginative journey for the visiting artists and our students, it is an adventure for Harvard with an outcome measurable in new creative production, personal connection and community building.”

AMOC was founded in 2017 and serves as home, incubator and executor for 17 artists – singers, dancers, writers, directors, instrumentalists and composers – and their ambitious projects. In its inaugural season, the company, which is led by Co-Artistic Directors Matthew Aucoin '12 (composer and conductor) and Zack Winokur (director, choreographer and dancer), and Managing Director Jennifer Chen '11, launched the Run AMOC! Festival at the American Repertory Theater in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in December 2017, and will be the Artist-in-Residence at the Park Avenue Armory in New York City in April.



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The Harvard residency will provide far-ranging creative experiences for students and university affiliates, including open rehearsals, curricular interactions, performances, panel discussions, pop-up events and jam sessions.

In addition to holding rehearsals and development sessions in the Harvard College Houses, the 12 company members attending this residency, among them singer Davóne Tines '09 and violinist Keir GoGwilt '13, will also take their meals in the student dining halls, allowing for informal dialogue and exchange of ideas.

The residency also features events that are open to the public: a cabaret at OBERON (Feb. 24), a workshop, performance and discussion of the opera Tom-Tom (Feb. 26), a demonstration and conversation about interdisciplinary collaboration at the Harvard iLab (Feb. 28), a community night of music and dance at the Harvard Ed Portal (March 2) and a closing celebration and performance (March 3).

"I knew all of the alumni artists in this company when they were undergraduates at Harvard, and they were among the most inventive, curious and risk-taking artists I've known in my years at the OFA," said Jack Megan, Director of the Office for the Arts. "You knew when they left that they'd be back someday, and I am thrilled our alumni artists and their colleagues will be engaging our current cohort of artists but also inspiring the entire student body, faculty and staff."

For AMOC, the residency is a chance to develop work in collaboration not only with each other but with students, who are invited to attend rehearsal sessions and creative explorations in real time.

"The Harvard arts community is rich with unexpected collisions and collaborations and juxtapositions," said Aucoin. "I've tried to carry that spirit of inquiry and exploration into AMOC: We are both a performing ensemble and a kind of mobile think tank, a motley crew of artists in diverse fields who come together to create interdisciplinary work."

While at Harvard, the company hopes to share its model with student artists and, alternatively, to be influenced by the participation of students. "We want to show that it's possible to stay curious, to stay collaborative and to integrate a wide range of interests into one's artistic activity," said Aucoin. "You don't have to choose between a performing career and a scholastic one: AMOC is our effort to bridge that gap, to unite intellectual inquiry with the highest possible standards of musical performance."

In addition to Aucoin, Tines, Chen and GoGwilt, company members onsite include:



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Zack Winokur, Co-Artistic Director
Jonny Allen, percussionist
Miranda Cuckson, violinist, violist
Julia Eichten, dancer, choreographer
Emi Ferguson, flutist
Conor Hanick, pianist
Coleman Itzkoff, cellist
Or Schraiber, dancer, choreographer
Bobbi Jene Smith, dancer, choreographer

To learn more about RUN AMOC!, visit ofa.harvard.edu/AMOC-residency.

The Office for the Arts at Harvard (OFA) supports student engagement in the arts and integrates the arts into University life. Through its programs and services, the OFA teaches and mentors, fosters student art making, connects students to accomplished artists, commissions new work, and partners with local, national, and international constituencies. By supporting the development of students as artists and cultural stewards, the OFA works to enrich society and shape communities in which the arts are a vital part of life. The OFA's Learning from Performers program brings to Harvard professional artists who interact with students through a range of educational forums, many open to the public. Information: ofa.harvard.edu, ofa@fas.harvard, 617.495.8676.

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