

# **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Greetings, and welcome to the main-stage production of Musical Theatre Productions' 2017-2018 Season.

We are thrilled to present the London premiere of Adam Guettel's award-winning musical, *The Light in the Piazza*. Guettel, the son of *Once Upon a Mattress* composer Mary Rodgers and grandson of famed composer Richard Rodgers, based his musical on a novella by Elizabeth Spencer and the 1962 film starring Olivia de Havilland and George Hamilton. This lush, romantic story of fate and lovers divided by culture and secrets has been moving audiences since its Broadway premiere in 2005 starring Victoria Clark, Kelli O'Hara and Matthew Morrison.

We hope you will join us in June for the close of our season with *Broadway to the Max*, Originally mounted in 1992 to rave reviews, this hilarious, show-stopping revue returns to the Wave (formerly known as the Max) on Western campus with a dinner theatre experience that is not to be missed! Featuring memorable numbers from such musical theatre treasures as *Dreamgirls*, *Les Miserables*, *Chess*, and The Will Rogers *Follies* as well as exciting songs from some of Broadway's recent hits like *Something Rotten*, *The Book of Mormon*, *The Producers*, *Spamalot*, *Young Frankenstein*, and more!

Stay tuned to hear about other exciting MTP events on the horizon including the return of our ever-popular karaoke piano bar and an MTP theatre excursion! We are already looking ahead to our 2018-2019 season and the exciting celebration of our 30th anniversary! We want you to be a part of the festivities!

We thank you for joining us here at the theatre. Without your patronage and support, we would not be able to present such high-caliber productions and engaging events. Our organization is a completely volunteer-run, not-for-profit charity. With your help, we can continue our mission to nourish local talent and inspire a passion for musical theatre in the community. Please review the Sponsorship section of your program to see how you can help make a difference.

And now sit back and enjoy this romantic Italian holiday.

Joe Recchia,  
President of the Board of Directors,  
Musical Theatre Productions

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*Musical Theatre Productions Presents*

# The Light in the Piazza

Book by CRAIG LUCAS  
Music and Lyrics by ADAM GUETTEL

THE LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA is presented through  
special arrangement with R & H Theatricals:  
[www.rnh.com](http://www.rnh.com)

## **PRODUCTION TEAM**

Producer: Kyle Stewart  
Director: Kristina Baron-Woods  
Musical Director: Andrew Rethazi  
Stage Manager: Kristen Clancy  
Assistant Stage Manager: Jason McMannis

THE LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA  
Book by CRAIG LUCAS  
Music and Lyrics by ADAM GUETTEL  
Orchestrations by Adam Guettel  
Additional Orchestrations by Ted Sperling  
Music Consultant - Andy Einhorn

Produced by arrangement with Turner Entertainment Co.

Owner of the original motion picture "Light In The Piazza" Based on the Novel by Elizabeth Spencer  
Original Broadway Production by Lincoln Center Theater, New York City, 2005

The World Premiere of The Light In The Piazza was produced by the Intiman Theatre Seattle, Washington  
Opening Night: June 14, 2003 Bartlett Sher, Artistic Director Laura Penn, Managing Director and The  
Goodman Theatre, Chicago, Illinois

Opening Night: January 20, 2004 Robert Falls, Artistic Director Roche Schulfer, Executive Director  
Developed with the Assistance of the Sundance Institute Theatre Laboratory

Italian Lyrics for "Il Mondo Era Vuoto" by Judith Blazer  
Italian Translation by Judith Blazer and Maria Vèrnole Blazer

## **DIRECTOR'S NOTES**

I first saw *The Light in the Piazza* in Toronto in 2010 at the Berkeley Street Theatre. I knew nothing about the show at the time - only that this production had been directed by an artist whose work I very much admired. So my husband and I went. Just as Fabrizio and Clara, the young pair at the centre of the story, fall instantly in love when they meet on that fateful summer morning in Florence, I was immediately smitten with this charming, intimate musical. The feeling was almost ineffable - how can one describe music that is classical, operatic, Golden Age Broadway, and contemporary music theatre all at the same time?; or a love story that is sweet and sincere, and yet sophisticated? On first viewing, the show appeared to focus on the young love - so beautifully evoked in Craig Lucas's book and Adam Guettel's music and lyrics. Soon, however, I realized that the love story went far beyond this pair, extending to Fabrizio's boisterous and supportive family and Clara's mother, a woman weighing her daughter's newfound happiness with her own cynical view on love and marriage. The word "light" or "luce" mentioned by several of the characters means something different to each of them. The story transcends its setting: the doting mothers, passionate fathers, clash of cultures could be anywhere, anytime.

The fact that this story happens to take place in Italy post-WW2, just as the country is returning, after so many years of darkness, to being the centre of art, food, and fashion, is fortunate for all of us. Elizabeth Spencer, the author of the original novella on which this show is based, wrote in her introduction, "The first time I saw Italy was in August of 1949. Italians were glad to be alive in a life that was possible to live, and their gladness filled the air and reached out to all comers. All the dancing and romancing, the easy friendships and dates, meetings and partings, may seem frivolous to talk about, but it was more than that one felt in Italy in those days. It had come out of the inferno just endured; it was a resurrection." As you take your seats in the McManus Stage (set up to emulate the shape of the piazza), imagine that you are sitting at a cafe table, overhearing this love story unfolding in front of you, as sunlight floods into a Florentine piazza. *Alla bellezza della vita!*

Kristina Baron-Woods  
Director

the voices of  
Broadway  
show choir

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## MUSICAL DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Adam Guettel's musical soundscape of the Florentine love story that is *The Light in the Piazza* perfectly exudes, in his words, "the sound of feeling in love." But his sophisticated score has captured so much more than that. There is an inner beauty to this music that is so uniquely mid-century Italian that we can't help but be transported right to the heart of Florence by the music alone. One of the key elements that makes the music come alive in this way is Guettel's expert use of orchestral colour. And he has made this music more accessible to amateur companies like MTP through his own reduced orchestration for 5 musicians, which you will hear today. The star of this piece's orchestration is without a doubt the harp. Guettel's use of the instrument in the score is masterful and sensitive. Sometimes folksy and fun, sometimes rich and full, but always stunningly beautiful, the prominence of the harp creates an intimate sound that evokes at once the uniquely Italian aesthetic of the story and the power and pain of love.

As you let the music wash over you at this performance, I encourage you to pay attention to the details. Guettel has liberally employed the tool of musical motifs that come back again and again through the course of the show. Look for these recurring motifs and consider them as they appear. At times they are self-evident reflections on developments in the drama, such as Clara's impassioned plea to her mother in Act II echoing the very same music we heard when she first met Fabrizio in Act I. But the real beauty is in Guettel's more subtle uses of the motifs he establishes, and nowhere is this more exquisite than the way in which he brings all of the motifs together at the close of the show. Our excitement during this whole process has been in the discovery of these details, and I invite you to make these discoveries along with us as we take this musical *passeggiata* together.

Andrew Rethazi  
--Musical Director



## KRISTINA BARON-WOODS - Director

Kristina is thrilled to bring this beautiful show to London audiences. Recent directing credits include *Anne of Green Gables*, *Defying Gravity*, [title of show], and *The Fantasticks* (Best Show at London Fringe 2012). Musical director for *Oliver!* and *The Addams Family* with LYTE. As a performer: Amalia in *She Loves Me* and Sally in *Follies* (MTP); Laurey in *Oklahoma!*, Carrie in *Carousel*, Polly in *The Boy Friend* (TUTS Vancouver), and Christine in the National Concert Tour of *Phantom of the Opera*. Kristina teaches musical theatre at Western University. She is extremely grateful to the talented artistic team, crew, and cast of *Piazza* who have made every rehearsal a joy.



## KRISTEN CLANCY — Stage Manager

For MTP: *Time Warp*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Defying Gravity*, *She Loves Me*, *Night of Noir*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Gypsy* and Board of Directors. She would like to thank this brilliant cast and Kristina, Andrew, Kyle and Jason for making this experience such a positive one.



## JASON MCMANNIS — Assistant Stage Manager

MTP credits: Soloist in *Time Warp*, *50 Years of the Rock Musical*; Ensemble (Sailor/Chef) in *Disney's The Little Mermaid*. Other credits: Stationmaster in *Anne of Green Gables* (LCP); Fabian in *William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night* (2017), Tom in *Prelude to a Kiss* (LCP); Roger Egan in *Broken Up* (South Middlesex Acting Krew 2016). Jason would like to sincerely thank the entire cast and crew for making his first "backstage" experience so easy! It's been such a joy to watch this show take shape.



## ANDREW RETHAZI — Musical Director

For MTP: *The Gondoliers*, *Follies*, *Seussical*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Oklahoma!* (2013), *Gypsy*, *Dare to Dream*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Night of Noir*, *She Loves Me*, *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, *The Light in the Piazza*, *Broadway to the M@x* (2018). Andrew is thrilled to be back in the Musical Director's seat with this epic production. He has worked on operatic and musical theatre productions in London, Toronto, Waterloo, Edmonton, and Lucca, Italy, as well as other performances all over Ontario, British Columbia, and England. He is currently completing his DMA in voice performance at Western University. Many thanks and lots of love to Joe for his continuous love and support during this production.



## KYLE STEWART — Producer

For MTP: *Bat Boy*, *She Loves Me*, [title of show], *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Songs for a New World*. Other credits: *The Normal Heart* (LCP), *Cherry Docs* (LCP), *The Last Five Years* (Forest City), *Shrek the Musical* (RidgePlayers), *Chicago* (Theatre Kent). Kyle is excited to get off the stage and onto a production team. He would like to thank Andy, Wil, Henry, and his friends for their support.

## OUR CREW

|                          |                                                                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Producer:                | Kyle Stewart                                                                |
| Director:                | Kristina Baron-Woods                                                        |
| Musical Director:        | Andrew Rethazi                                                              |
| Stage Manager:           | Kristen Clancy                                                              |
| Assistant Stage Manager: | Jason McMannis                                                              |
| Costume Designer:        | Kristina Baron-Woods                                                        |
| Costume Assistant:       | Kate Deman, Rebecca Deeming                                                 |
| Dressers:                | Mya Matos, Carly Fox                                                        |
| Hair/Makeup Designer:    | Heather Heywood                                                             |
| Props Lead:              | Patt Brocksom                                                               |
| Lighting Designer:       | Stephen Mitchell                                                            |
| Set Designer:            | Laura Sepulveda                                                             |
| Set Construction Crew:   | Bob Gerow, Jim Brown, Richard Skidmore, Gerry Swift, Fred Hasler, Tom Smyth |

## ORCHESTRA

|         |                   |
|---------|-------------------|
| Piano:  | Andrew Rethazi    |
| Harp:   | Kathleen Gahagan  |
| Violin: | Christian Wray    |
| Cello:  | Patrick Theriault |
| Bass:   | Aidan Wasse       |

Developed with the Assistance of the Sundance Institute Theatre Laboratory  
Italian Lyrics for "Il Mondo Era Vuoto" by Judith Blazer  
Italian Translation by Judith Blazer and Maria Vèrnole Blazer

## SPECIAL THANKS

The Production Team of the Light in the Piazza would like to personally thank the following for their support during the planning, creation, and run of this production: Steve Allen, Antiques on the Side, Barwoodston Closets, Citi Plaza Mall, East Elgin Secondary School, Garlic's of London, the Grand Theatre, Kerry Hishon, Natalie Kearns, Karen Killeen, the Londoner, the London Review, Original Kids Theatre Company, Wil Sorrell, Andy Taylor, Henry Truong.

## ABOUT MTP

Musical Theatre Productions is a charitable, not-for-profit organization that was formed in 1988. Our mission is to consistently produce and advocate for high-quality community musical theatre in London, Ontario, Canada and the surrounding area. For more information, please visit [www.mtplondon.ca](http://www.mtplondon.ca)



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## SONG LIST

### Act One

- Overture
- Statues and Stories Margaret & Clara
- The Beauty Is Clara
- Il Mondo Era Vuoto Fabrizio
- Passeggiata Fabrizio & Clara
- The Joy You Feel Franca
- Dividing Day Margaret
- Hysteria Clara & Margaret
- Say It Somehow Clara & Fabrizio

### Act Two

- Entr'acte
- Aiutami Naccarelli Family
- The Light in the Piazza Clara
- Octet/Clara's Tirade Company
- The Beauty Is (Reprise) Margaret
- Let's Walk Signor Naccarelli
- Love to Me Fabrizio
- Fable Margaret

### COLTON ABEL — Giuseppe Nacarelli



Beginning at a young age, Colton took to the stage in shows and choirs across the London area. His interest in musicals led him to be in *Les Misérables* at the Grand theatre and *Nunsense* at the Palace Theatre in London. Colton then studied Music Theatre at St. Clair College where he performed in *Little Women*, *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*, and *Guys and Dolls*. Colton then engaged in 'workshopping' new musicals and working with composers such as Michael Mott, Kerrigan and Lowdermilk, and Michael McLean. Colton is now thrilled to be performing as Giuseppe in this production of *The Light in the Piazza*.

### MATT BUTLER — Fabrizio Nacarelli



Matt's excited to be back on the MTP team! After seven years of this fun little side hobby, Fabrizio is Matt's first time in a lead musical role. Now his massive ego is going head to head with his quaking nerves, but hey, that's acting for ya! *Grazie per essere venuto!*

### REBECCA DEEMING — Ensemble



MTP Debut. Rebecca is excited to join this talent cast as a member of the ensemble. Past credits include LCP: Prissy Andrews in *Anne of Green Gables*, TST: Mrs Pross in *A Tale of Two Cities*, Lady Ingram in *Jane Eyre*, KWMP: *Anne of Green Gables*, *Footloose*, *The Sound of Music*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, TCP: *Ragtime*, *Cats*. Rebecca would like to thank her Mother and Aunt for their help during this busy time. *Goditi lo spettacolo!*

### RACHEL GINTHER — Ensemble



Past credits: *Little Red Riding Hood* (Vera Causa Opera), *Anne of Green Gables* (MTP), *Echo* (Vera Causa Opera), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Student Budget Productions), *The Cunning Little Vixen* (Opera Laurier), *Handel's Messiah* (Choral Connection, Waterloo Chamber Players), *Sweeney Todd* (Pacheco Theatre), *Footloose* (Grand Theatre HSP), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Parkside Musical Theatre), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Parkside Drama). Rachel is very excited for audience members to be transported back to 1950s Italy! Rachel studied voice at Wilfrid Laurier University under the tutelage of Brandon Leis, graduating with a Bachelor of Music, and recently won the Rose Bowl in her hometown's Rotary Music Festival.



### KATE MILNER — Tour Guide/Ensemble

For MTP: Debut. Other theatre/directing credits: *Anne of Green Gables* (LCP), *Hallelujah: Remembering Leonard Cohen* (C2 Entertainment), *Summer of Love* (SHDHS), *Little Shop of Horrors* (SHDHS), *Grease* (SHDHS), *Tapestry: The Music of Carol King* (Diva), *The World Goes Round* (Diva), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Lella), *Once Upon a Mattress* (SMT). Kate wishes to express her huge thanks to her family for bring so very supportive of her foray back into the world of theatre and is looking forward to her upcoming productions at SHDHS this spring - *I Don't Want to Talk About It* and, *The Tree That Holds Up the Sky*.

### CHRISTOPHER F. PARKER — Roy Johnson



Christopher appreciates this opportunity to portray the character of Roy and is thrilled to be back with MTP after a nine year hiatus. He wishes to thank Ceris and Hillary for making him smile during rehearsals and a big thank you to Kristina for her excellent direction, vision, confidence and trust throughout these past four months. Christopher's recent works include for MTP: *Nine*, for LCP: Producer of *Anne of Green Gables* and playing the character Karl Lindner in *A Raisin In The Sun*. For Woodfield Productions: Mr. Woodhouse in *Jane Austen's Emma*. Christopher wishes to dedicate his performances in this production to Mr. Jeff Ste. Marie. A friend through all the seasons

### HANNAH PERDU — Ensemble



MTP Debut. Hannah is thrilled to be a part of the ensemble of *The Light in the Piazza*! Past credits include: Nurse/Mrs./Harriet Pawling in *Sunday in the Park with George*, Heather in *American Idiot* (Original Kids Alumni), Ensemble in *My Fair Lady* (Grand Theatre High School Project), Carrie Pimperidge in *Carousel*, Cassandra in *Cats*, Claudia in *Nine* (OKTC), Ensemble in *Jane Eyre* (The Singer's Theatre). Hannah would like to thank her family and friends for their continuous support on her journey through life and for always sharing the joy!

### JAMES PETRASIUNAS — Ensemble



For MTP: Debut. Other Credits: *Romeo and Juliet* (CCH), *Grease* (South Huron District HS), *Into the Woods* (CCH), *Summer of Love*, (South Huron District HS), *Pippin* (H.B. Beal), *Anne of Green Gables* (LCP). James would like to thank all of his friends, and family, especially his parents for all their support.



### BRONWYN POWELL — Signora Nacarelli

Non parlo inglese, ma devo dirgli quanto mi piace recitare in La Luce Nella Piazza. Adoro la mia famiglia teatrale! Qualche dei personaggi musicali preferiti del mio passato eran The Beggar Woman in *Sweeney Todd*, The Woman in *Zorba*, e Lily in *The Secret Garden*.Grazie per essere venuto. Godere!\_I don't speak English, but I have to tell you how much I enjoy being in *The Light In The Piazza*! I adore my theatrical family. Past favourite musical roles include...(well, you get the idea!) Enjoy!

### JORDAN ROWLEY — Ensemble



MTP debut! Jordan is thrilled to be a part of MTP'S *The Light in the Piazza*. Other stage credits include: LCP's *Anne of Green Gables* as Moody, Central Elgin C.I (St. Thomas) *Little Shop of Horrors* as Mr. Mushnik, as well as being in his former high school bands and choir. Jordan is excited to perform one last time on stage before he heads to Lakehead University for school in the fall. Jordan would like to thank his friends and family for all their support that they give and their encouragement to continue theater. Enjoy the show and Welcome to Italy!

### RACHEL SHERRET — France Nacarelli



For MTP: Debut! Rachel is so excited to be doing her first show back in London after having just graduated with a Bachelor of Music in Classical Voice Performance from the University of Toronto. Most recently, Rachel performed Suor Genovieffa in the Centre for Operatic Studies in Italy's production of *Suor Angelica* this past summer in Sulmona, Italy. Other credits include Ensemble in *Paul Bunyan* (UofT Opera, 2016), Violet Russell in *Sullivan and Gilbert* (London Community Players, 2013). Rachel would like to thank Kristina for daring to put on this incredible show in London and allowing her to be a part of the journey. She would also like to thank her family for supporting her through thick and thin.

### CERIS THOMAS — Margaret Johnson



Ceris Thomas is thrilled to be appearing in *The Light in the Piazza*. The process of learning this incredible material has proved a challenge that has been made all the more thrilling by working with this incredible team of artists. Other roles include The Chaperone in *The Drowsy Chaperone* and Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*. Ceris has the distinct pleasure of teaching Performing Arts at East Elgin Secondary School in Aylmer. She works with her husband with their company, Shrew'd Business, where they support theatrical ventures with workshops, props rentals, weaponry, puppets and fight direction. As always, love and thanks to Brock, Mum, Dad and lestin for their never-ending support.



## HENRY TRUONG — Priest/Ensemble

Henry is happy to once again take the stage with MTP, and is looking forward to years of being typecast as Italian clergy, which he's sure is inevitable based on his cutting European visage, his resolutely pious lifestyle, and his strict diet of booze and crackers.



## HILLARY TUFFORD — Clara Johnson

Hillary Tufford is a freelance performer and music teacher. Hillary is thrilled to play Clara Johnson in MTP's *The Light in the Piazza*. Hillary's theatre highlights include Nadia in the world premiere of *Oksana G* (Tapestry Opera), Anne Shirley in *Anne of Green Gables* (LCP), Spirit & Witch in *Dido and Aeneas* (LLCO), Papagena in *Die Zauberflöte*, Dew Fairy in *Hansel and Gretel*, Margot in *The Merry Widow* (UWOpera), and Despina in *Così fan tutte* (AEDO). Hillary holds a Masters in Voice Performance (Western University). Hillary looks forward to performing the music of Stefania Turkevych in recital (The Ukrainian Art Song Project). Many thanks to her friends, family, and mentors for their endless laughter and support!



## DUANE WOODS — Signor Nacarelli

For MTP: George in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Herbie in *Gypsy*, Herod in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Georg in *She Loves Me*. Other London theatre: Bruce in *Fun Home* (Calithumpian), *The Normal Heart*, *Sullivan & Gilbert* (LCP), *The Fantasticks* (Shrew'd Business Collective/London Fringe). Additional Theatre (selected): *Book of Days* (Theatre Emanation); *Miniputt* (Theatre Orangeville); *Shear Madness*, *Big River*, *Me and My Girl* (Drayton Entertainment). Love and hugs to Kristina, Henry, and our sweet baby Lu.



## 'NIGHT MOTHER

by Marsha Norman  
at The ARTS Project,  
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## THE LAST 5 YEARS

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Gifts may be made in any amount and are greatly appreciated.

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