

NightwoodTheatre ●●●●

Presents the 15th Annual Lawyer Show

The SOUND of MUSIC

Music by **Richard Rodgers**

Lyrics by **Oscar Hammerstein II**

Book by **Howard Lindsay & Russel Crouse**

Suggested by The Trapp Family Singers by **Maria Augusta Trapp**

Director and Choreographer **Sadie Epstein-Fine**

Music Director **Melissa Morris**

Associate Choreographer **Ari Sterlin**

Set & Costume Designer **Amanda Wong** 黃婷婷

Lighting Designer **Rebecca Picherack**

Production Manager **Maya Royer**

Stage Manager **Ashley Elliott**

Assistant Music Director **Alexa Belgrave**

Assistant Director & Assistant

Stage Manager **Lee Stone**

Production Assistant **Nika Jalali**

Props Assistant **Andrew Wong**

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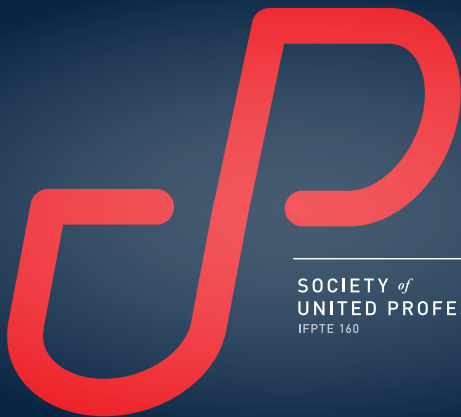


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Land Acknowledgment

In the spirit and intent of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations, Nightwood Theatre acknowledges the land on which our work is created and where our offices are located is the traditional territory of many Nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples, and is home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.

We acknowledge them and any other Nations who care for the land (acknowledged and unacknowledged, recorded and unrecorded) as the past, present, and future caretakers of this land, the traditional territory named Tkarón:to, the Mohawk word for "the place in the water where the trees are standing." The treaty for this particular parcel of land (Treaty 13), collectively referred to as the Toronto Purchase, applies to lands east of Brown's Line to Woodbine Avenue and north towards Newmarket. We recognize the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples on this land and the Dish With One Spoon Wampum covenant.



About The Lawyer Show

The Lawyer Show is the main annual fundraiser for Nightwood Theatre, a registered charitable organization and Canada's preeminent feminist theatre since 1979. Since the Lawyer Show's inception in 2010, some 300 legal professionals have appeared in 15 different productions to raise much needed funds in support of Nightwood. Over 35 members of the legal community have been rehearsing for the last three months to mount this year's exhilarating, entertaining, and professionally led musical.

This year, we're excited to present **THE SOUND OF MUSIC** – The final collaboration between Rodgers & Hammerstein was destined to become the world's most beloved musical.

Thank you to tonight's lawyers, sponsors, advertisers, donors and auction prize donors, and of course, to you, our wonderful audience, for helping to make the Lawyer Show such an incredible success!

Nightwood Theatre is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and engages under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement, professional artists who are members of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association. Nightwood is a member of the Toronto Alliance for Performing Arts (TAPA).

Registered Charitable Number:
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The Lawyer Show 2024 – *The Sound of Music*

Director and Choreographer	Sadie Epstein-Fine
Music Director	Melissa Morris
Associate Choreographer	Ari Sterlin
Set & Costume Designer	Amanda Wong 黃婷婷
Lighting Designer	Rebecca Picherack
Production Manager	Maya Royer
Stage Manager	Ashley Elliott
Assistant Music Director	Alexa Belgrave
Assistant Director & Assistant Stage Manager	Lee Stone
Production Assistant	Nika Jalali
Props Assistant	Andrew Wong

Cast

Maria Rainer	Courtney Evans
Captain von Trapp	David Mills
Elsa Schrader	Sheila Gibb
Max Detweiler	Joseph Cuyegkeng
Liesl von Trapp	Olivia Danylchuk
Friedrich von Trapp	Garrett Zehr
Louisa von Trapp	Astrid Mrkich
Kurt von Trapp	Bennett Jensen
Brigitta von Trapp	Rona Ghanbari
Marta von Trapp	Lucie Catherine Zhang
Gretl von Trapp	Ari Sterlin
Mother Abbess	Jennifer Whincup
Sister Augusta	Aliah El-Houni
Sister Berthe	Tracy Pratt
Sister Margaretta	Heidi LeBlanc
Sister Katherine	Khrystina McMillan
Sister Sophia	Sharlene Atkins
Sister Bernice	Angela Zhu
Rolf Gruber	Brennyn Watterton
Franz	Richard Chan 陳駿華
Frau Schmidt	Melanie Herbin
Ursula / Baron Elberfeld	Heather Paterson
Baroness Elberfeld	Edina Cavalli
Herr Zeller	Leo Salloum
Frau Zeller	Laura Precup-Pop
Admiral von Schreiber	Danny Kastner

Ensemble Chorus

Matthew Chung, Leah Cummings, Christine Doucet, Valérie Duchesneau, Courtney Edwards, Ally Lawrence, Kaja Marinic, Liz McConkey, Elizabeth Moore, Lessa Nosko, Allison Pressé, Danika So





Congratulations

to Nightwood and the amazing
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Astrid Mrkich, Law Society of Ontario

Bennett Jensen, Egale Canada

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With special thanks to **Charles Beall** of Bales Beall LLP.

Message from the Director

Welcome everyone to Nightwood Theatre's annual Lawyer Show!

I feel blessed to have been asked to direct the Lawyer Show again this year after directing the 2019 production of *Mamma Mia!* The Nightwood and Lawyer Show communities have always embraced me with open arms and I feel lucky to be in this position.

I was intimidated when I embarked on the mountainous task (forgive my pun) of directing *The Sound of Music*. This classic show is one of the most iconic Broadway musicals, made even more popular by the movie. Most people have an idea of what it should be. My goal was to understand this story with fresh eyes, removed from preconceived notions. Rather than looking at what had been done before, I focused on the text of the book and the score to understand what lay at the heart of this story. Through this analysis and our discovery in the rehearsal room two major themes have revealed themselves: Discovering and rediscovering love through music; staying true to who you are and what you believe. These two themes have been the guiding light of our production of *The Sound of Music*.



Part of our analytical work was to really get to know each of the characters. What you will see on stage are not the stock characters you think you know, but real, flawed human beings. We were also provided the unique opportunity of casting adults in the roles of the von Trapp children. Through a lot of play and laughter these seven actors have committed wholeheartedly to representing these siblings with the integrity and childlike sensibility that they deserve.

The themes in *The Sound of Music* have felt relevant in 2024. Our world is growing increasingly divisive and hate is being given a platform. What I take from this story is the need to find our shared humanity and to stick up for each other and what we believe in. To rediscover our childhood joy, to follow our hearts and to sing more. Right now the world needs more song. **Enjoy the show!**

- Sadie Epstein-Fine

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— Sarah Holdren,
New York Magazine

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Photo of Actor Amy Rutherford by Dahlia Katz

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The Sound of Music

THE SOUND OF MUSIC – The final collaboration between Rodgers & Hammerstein was destined to become the world’s most beloved musical. Featuring a trove of cherished songs, including “*Climb Ev’ry Mountain*,” “*My Favorite Things*,” “*Do-Re-Mi*,” “*Sixteen Going on Seventeen*” and the title number, “*The Sound of Music*” won the hearts of audiences worldwide, earning five Tony Awards and five Oscars. The inspirational story, based on the memoir of Maria Augusta Trapp, follows an ebullient postulate who serves as governess to the seven children of the imperious Captain von Trapp, bringing music and joy to the household. But as the forces of Nazism take hold of Austria, Maria and the entire von Trapp family must make a moral decision.

Act One

Preludium	The Nuns of Nonnberg Abbey
<i>The Sound of Music</i>	Maria
<i>Maria</i>	Sisters Berthe, Sophia, Margaretta, Augusta, Katherine, Bernice and Mother Abbess
<i>My Favorite Things</i>	Maria and Mother Abbess
<i>My Favorite Things (Reprise)</i>	Maria
<i>Do-Re-Mi</i>	Maria and the von Trapp Children
<i>Sixteen Going on Seventeen</i>	Rolf and Liesl
<i>The Lonely Goatherd</i>	Maria and the Children
<i>The Lonely Goatherd (Reprise)</i>	Gretl, Louisa, Marta, and Brigitta
<i>How Can Love Survive?</i>	Max, Elsa and Capt. von Trapp
<i>The Sound of Music (Reprise)</i>	The Children and Capt. von Trapp
<i>So Long, Farewell</i>	The Children and Capt. von Trapp
<i>Morning Hymn</i>	The Nuns
<i>Climb Ev’ry Mountain</i>	Mother Abbess

Act Two

<i>My Favorite Things (Reprise)</i>	The Children and Maria
<i>No Way to Stop It</i>	Elsa, Max and Capt. von Trapp
<i>Something Good</i>	Maria and Capt. von Trapp
<i>Gaudeamus</i>	The Nuns
<i>Maria (Reprise)</i>	The Nuns
<i>Confitemini Domino</i>	The Nuns
<i>Sixteen Going on Seventeen (Reprise)</i>	Maria and Liesl
<i>Do-Re-Mi (Reprise)</i>	Maria, Capt. von Trapp and the Children
<i>Edelweiss</i>	Capt. von Trapp, Maria and the Children
<i>So Long, Farewell (Reprise)</i>	Maria, the Children and Capt. von Trapp
<i>Finale Ultimo</i>	The Company

Music and Lyrics for
“Something Good”
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Sadie Epstein-Fine

Director & Choreographer

Sadie Epstein-Fine (they/them) is a storyteller who works to spotlight equity seeking voices, beginning with the communities they are a part of. They do a lot of art and advocacy centering queer, trans and queerspawn (people with 2LGBTQ+ parents) identities. In 2018 they edited *Spawning Generations: Rants and Reflection on Growing up with LGBTQ+ Parents*, published by Demeter Press. *Spawning Generations* was nominated for LAMBDA Literary and Forward Indies awards and was named one of the top 10 books of 2018 by NOW Magazine. Theatre credits include: *Little Mis(s)gender* (Director, Queer AF Collective/U of T Bonham Centre Lab), *Eraser* (Director/Playwright/Choreographer, The Riser Project/Why Not Theatre, nominated for five Dora Awards including outstanding direction, new play and production, upcoming: Fall 2024 publication, Playwrights Canada Press), *Eraser: A New Normal* (Director/Playwright/Choreographer, Theatre Direct), *Mamma Mia!* (Director, Nightwood Theatre).



Melissa Morris

Music Director

Melissa Morris is a director, actor, singer, musician, musical director, playwright, composer, and educator. She is a faculty member at Queen's University and Sheridan College. Melissa has performed at Chemainus Theatre, Drayton Festival, Theatre Orangeville, Port Hope Festival, Thousand Islands Playhouse, Stirling Theatre, Upper Canada Playhouse, Orillia Opera House, Gravenhurst Opera House, Theatre Collingwood, Theatre Kingston and was Resident Musical Director/Composer at St Lawrence

Shakespeare Festival for ten seasons. Melissa composed music for the Off-Broadway hit *Evil Dead the Musical*. As an opera director, Melissa has directed Susannah and Don Giovanni for Toronto City Opera. This is Melissa's third lawyer show, having Assistant Musical Directed *The World Goes 'Round*, and Vocal Coached *Urinetown*. She has a private voice studio, teaching singers of all ages and runs Health and Harmony with her husband Jose Peralta, doing biweekly Sound Baths. Upcoming: *Sh-Boom in Grand Bend* at the Huron County Playhouse. @missmelissamorris



CREATIVE TEAM

Amanda Wong 黄婷婷

Set & Costume Designer

Amanda Wong is an award winning Toronto based set and costume designer. Amanda earned the outstanding design award in Toronto's summerworks festival for two consecutive years collaborating with directors Severn Thompson and ted witzel. She has worked with the prominent theatre companies Soulpepper, Tarragon, Obsidian, Modern Times Stage Co, Aluna, Canadian Stage, Nightwood, and Canadian Stage. Amanda is currently Canadian Green Alliance's first eco design mentee. She is passionate about sustainable design and finding new structures for creation with minimal environmental impact. Amanda is happy to collaborate with this cast of lawyers once again.



Rebecca Picherack

Lighting Designer

Rebecca is happy to be back with the Lawyer Show team! Other Lawyer shows include *Guys and Dolls* and *Legally Blonde The Musical*.

Maya Royer

Production Manager

Born and raised in Toronto, Maya has always been passionate about her city and its culture. She is grateful to be a member of the Toronto performing arts community as a Production Manager. Excited to see what the future holds, she appreciates every opportunity that gives her the chance to grow as both an artist and as a person. Maya holds a BFA from Toronto Metropolitan University, in Performance Production and Design. Select credits include: *Mad Madge*, Nightwood Theatre; *Sweeter*, Cahoots Theatre Company; *Loss*, The Theatre Centre; *Our Place*, Cahoots Theatre Company; *Beautiful Renegades*, Peggy Baker Dance Projects; *Mahabharata*, Whynot Theatre; *Mashup Pon Di Road*, Whynot Theatre; *Three Ordinary Men*, Cahoots Theatre Company; *The Events*, Necessary Angel; *Pygmalion*, Guild Festival Theatre.





Ashley Elliott

Stage Manager

Ashley Elliott (she/her) is a versatile theatre professional with a background in arts administration, stage management, directing, writing, and performing. Originally from Windsor, ON - Ashley worked in the theatre industry in Orlando, FL and Boston, MA before obtaining a BA in Theatre & Communication Studies from a university in Toronto. Her extensive background in stage management includes five Lawyer Show musicals, three Toronto Fringe Festivals, two Edinburgh Fringe Festivals, and a memorable stint at Canada's

Wonderland for Cirque Canadien. Ashley has always held space in her heart for Nightwood Theatre, a connection that dates back to 2017 when she started as an intern, then transitioned to stage management for the annual Lawyer Show fundraiser, and now as part of the team as the Administrator - Operations & Partnerships. During her downtime, she exclusively enjoys snuggling with her three cats (Ruby, Espresso & Millie), her adorable dog (October), and incredible partner, Christian.

Alexa Belgrave

Assistant Music Director

Pianist/Composer/Educator, Alexa Belgrave has been an active member of Toronto's music community for almost a decade. Upon completing her ARCT and a degree in jazz piano studies from UofT, Alexa has created and collaborated with multiple projects spanning across diverse genres and mediums. She most recently released her debut album "Let's Talk" under her personal project, *Moodset*, this past March. As a musical director she has worked with Dance Immersion, Nightwood Theatre, Bad Hats Theatre, Musical StageCo, Obsidian and more.



Alexa currently teaches at Sheridan College and Mayfield Secondary School of the Arts, freelances in various musical roles and is excited to be back for Nightwood's annual Lawyer show!





Lee Stone

Assistant Director & Assistant Stage Manager

Lee Stone (they/them) is a queer, trans and non-binary, multidisciplinary theatre practitioner with a focus in directing, producing and teaching. Their inspiration as a director has always been about engaging with stories and voices of and for social change through the lens of feminism. Lee is a graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and the founder, artistic director-producer of Dead Name Theatre (DNT), which uplifts and centres

the voices, experiences and talents of trans, non-binary and queer creatives in Toronto (deadnametheatre.weebly.com). Most recently they were part of the 2023-2024 Nightwood Innovators cohort. In alignment with the show's themes of individual action in the face of unjust and forced occupation, Lee will be donating a portion of their artistic fees from Nightwood Theatre to Palestine Relief. May all of our hearts soon be filled with the sound of music.

Nika Jalali

Production Assistant

Nika Jalali (she/her) is an Iranian-Canadian multi-disciplinary artist, producer, and creator. She is devoted to curating spaces and pushing boundaries for racialized communities to perform and share their stories on Canadian and international stages. Most recently graduated from Toronto Metropolitan University with a BFA in Performance Production & Design, Nika is pursuing her passion for provoking change and challenging social and political "norms" by telling the stories of women in minority communities through art and theatre. As part of her collaboration on interdisciplinary

projects, Nika has worked in countries such as Italy, Scotland, the Czech Republic, and Germany. She aims to continue her work internationally as she pursues a career in Artistic Producing. Select theatre credits include *TomorrowLove* (Why Not Theatre/Toronto Metropolitan University); *Enormity, Girl & the Earthquake in Her Lungs* (Toronto Metropolitan University); *DINO Land* (Rock Bottom Movement/Toronto Metropolitan University); *Brollies & Bumbershoots* (Elmwood Theatre/Edinburgh Fringe Festival).





Congratulations!

A special shoutout to Altus Group Team
Legal's very own Jenn Whincup!

Congratulations to Nightwood Theatre and
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THE CAST



Aliah El-houni

Sister Berthe

Aliah El-houni is an experienced litigator and Co-Director of the Community Justice Collective, where she brings her skills to bear to provide free legal support to organized communities and activists in the GTHA. This is her second appearance in a lawyer show and she is delighted to be supporting Nightwood Theatre and re-connecting with her first love, live performance!

Allison Pressé

Chorus Member

Allison is overjoyed to return to the Lawyer Show, having first appeared in *Guys and Dolls*, in 2016. She was introduced to the musical theatre world by her mother, who took her to see *Les Misérables* on Broadway, and she has never looked back! She now adores all musical theatre - often found at parties attempting to change the Top 40 music to show tunes, much to party goers dismay. While not singing and dancing, she is a litigator with Strigberger Brown Armstrong LLP, where she practices primarily in insurance defence. She is very thankful to Nightwood Theatre for providing lawyers with this wonderful creative outlet and to her firm, family and friends for being so supportive!



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THE CAST



Ally Lawrence *Chorus Member*

Ally is a litigation associate at Torsys LLP. Her practice focuses on litigation and dispute resolution in a number of areas, including corporate/commercial disputes, class actions, and employment law.

Ally is thrilled to be participating in her first Lawyer Show, and is honoured to be sharing the stage with this year's incredible cast. She is grateful for the opportunity to be part of this musical, which is

personally near and dear to her heart, and for the support and direction of the talented, hardworking team at Nightwood Theatre. A special shout-out to the other Lawyer Show first-timers for their humour and friendship.

Ally also wishes to thank her family, friends, and colleagues at Torsys for their support and encouragement throughout this experience - it has meant the world.

Angela Zhu *Sister Bernice*

This is Angela's third year taking part in The Lawyer Show! Playing a nun feels like a joyful return to her musical roots, after Angela's decade of singing liturgies with chamber choirs – enhanced by the privilege of sharing a stage with this talented cast! Called to the bar in 2020, Angela is currently on parental leave from OPSEU/SEFPO, where she litigates to build power for unionized workers.



Ari Sterlin

Gretl von Trapp & Associate Choreographer

Ari is thrilled to be participating in her second lawyer show and is honored to have been trusted with some of the choreography this year! She is even more thrilled to finally be old enough to play her dream role Gretl.



Called to the Bar in 2021, Ari is currently working in talent management at AMI. The height of her career was working on Broadway's Paradise Square in 2022, but she has been lucky enough to have been working on and off the stage for over a decade and is the founder of the Cote Saint-Luc's Senior Summer Works program in Montreal. Lots of thanks to Nightwood and the wildly talented cast and creative team!



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THE CAST

Astrid Mrkich

Louisa von Trapp

Astrid Mrkich (she/her) is a social justice lawyer, activist, and community organizer. She joined the Lawyer Show in 2016 and has appeared in *Guys and Dolls* (Allison the Hot Box Girl), *Legally Blonde The Musical* (Vivian Kensington), *Mamma Mia!* (Mauricio/chorus), *The Stars of Mars* (chorus), *The World Goes 'Round* (chorus) and *Urinetown* (Hot Blades Harry). She isn't sure she can ever top last year's type casting/method role of playing cop-hating radical Harry, but playing 13-year-old miserable and mischievous Louisa von Trapp comes close. She's honoured to sing and play again this year with some of her favourite people and hopes the von Trapps remind us all of the transformative power of speaking truth to power no matter the consequences, because nobody's free until everybody's free. #FreePalestine.



Bennett Jensen

Kurt von Trapp

Bennett (he/him) is grateful and excited to be making his musical theatre and Lawyer Show debut as Kurt von Trapp in *The Sound of Music*. When he isn't rehearsing, Bennett spends his time defending the rights, dignity and humanity of 2SLGBTQI people as Director of Legal at Egale Canada. He dreams of a world where this work becomes unnecessary and we can all just sing and dance.

Brennyn Watterton

Rolf

Brennyn is Counsel with the Ministry of the Attorney General. This is Brennyn's second Lawyer Show and she is so glad to be back! Brennyn most recently performed in last year's production of *Urinetown* and in the 2022 Fringe Festival in the production *Roomers*.

Brennyn was an active cast member of Laurier Musical Theatre during her undergraduate degree. With Laurier Musical Theatre, she was in productions of *Legally Blonde: The Musical*, *9 to 5: The Musical*, and *Footloose*. Brennyn would like to thank her supportive friends and family.



THE CAST

Christine Doucet

Chorus Member



Christine is delighted to be back for her third Lawyer Show! In her day job, Christine is counsel with the Office of the Children's Lawyer (Ministry of the Attorney General). In her 24/7 job, she is a mom to two amazing and energetic kiddos. In her not-so-spare time, Christine enjoys cooking, reading, and catching up on the latest episodes of Dateline.

Many thanks to the Lawyer Show family, especially the brilliant Nightwood team for putting on another incredible production! Enjoy the show!

Courtney Edwards

Chorus Member

Courtney Edwards is an Associate in the Family Law Group at Lerner LLP (Toronto), where she practices a wide range of family law disputes, including contracts and agreements, parenting issues, child and spousal support, and complex property and financial matters.



Courtney Evans

Maria

Courtney is a Senior Manager at TD Bank's Senior Customer Complaints Office. Since her articling student days back in 2013, the annual Nightwood Lawyer Show tradition has been one of her Favourite Things.

Whether dancing like a Shakespearean deer (foreshadowing for singing about does and deers perhaps?), bend-

ing and snapping as Elle Woods or listening to hearts in dystopian *Urinetown* times, Courtney is incredibly grateful to be part of this wonderful community. She hopes you go home after the show singing (or yodeling) all the way!



Torys is proud to support the Nightwood Theatre on its 2023 Lawyer Show. We applaud its commitment to the arts and to nurturing the creation of extraordinary theatre by women.

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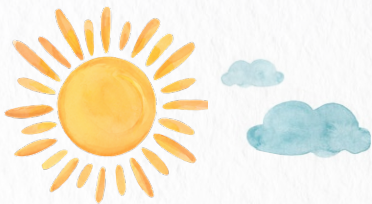
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THE CAST

Danika So

Chorus Member

Danika is proud to support Nightwood in her second year in the lawyer show, this time as the notable nun in the back, infamous maid in the back, and random party guest!



Danny Kastner

Admiral von Schreiber

I'm grateful to be at it again. Thank you to the superstars at Nightwood and everyone in the cast and crew.

David Mills

Captain von Trapp

David is the Managing Partner of Mills & Mills LLP and chair of the firm's Estates Group. For 25 years since being called to the bar, David has been acting like he knows what he is doing. He was delighted to discover The Lawyer Show in 2019 as it has given him a chance to act (or engage in some approximation thereof) in the more traditional sense while reliving his past life as a theatre student at McGill University. It is a true pleasure and privilege to share the labour of love that is The Lawyer Show with the talented people of Nightwood and this year's amazing cast of lawyers.



THE CAST



Edina Cavalli

Baroness Elberfeld + Chorus Member

Edina is a VP in TD's Strategic Sourcing Group and is responsible for Enterprise Procurement Programs, Strategy, Operations and ESG. She is a keen traveller, runner and has lived and practiced law in Europe, the US and now Canada. She is a member of the Nightwood Board and the chair of its Development Committee and sits on the Lawyer Show Committee. She joined The Lawyer Show cast in 2017 despite her reservations about singing in public or musicals in general and never looked back.

Elizabeth Moore

Chorus Member

Elizabeth Moore is an assistant Crown attorney who has practiced in downtown Toronto's criminal courts for almost eight years. A theatre kid at heart, she was the only member of her law school moot team to not be scolded for speaking too softly.

This is Elizabeth's first Lawyer Show and she's enjoyed every minute, especially when confusing her partner by singing Latin nun music around the house. She is grateful to the Nightwood team and *Sound of Music* cast and crew for their warm welcome and hard work.



Garrett Zehr

Friedrich von Trapp

Garrett is delighted to be back for his 5th Lawyer Show. His legal work includes labour, criminal defence, and international human rights law. He loves doing anything by, on, or in the water (most recently joining a waterpolo squad) and stretching his vocal chords at both choir and karaoke.

His life preparation for the role of Friedrich has included: learning some German, being a 14-year-old 'afraid to be himself' (weren't we all?), and spending time as a lonely goatherd on a commune in rural Georgia.



THE CAST

Heather Paterson

Ursula + Baron Elberfeld + Chorus

Heather Paterson is a partner at Shibley Righton LLP specializing in Municipal and Professional Liability defence litigation. Heather is excited to be a part of the *Sound of Music* cast. This is Heather's 11th Lawyer Show. Over the years, some of her favourite Lawyer Show roles have been the Sea Captain (*Twelfth Night*), Dr. Pinch (*The Comedy of Errors*) and Lieutenant Brannigan (*Guys & Dolls*). Heather wishes to thank Nightwood, the creative team and entire cast and crew of *The Sound of Music* for the music, the laughter and most of all the friendship.



Heidi LeBlanc

Sister Margaretta

Heidi is an associate lawyer at Carters Professional Corporation, where she enjoys a broad civil litigation practice with a focus on charity and not-for-profit related disputes. Outside of her life as a lawyer, Heidi is a dedicated dog parent, avid foodie, and musical theatre enthusiast. This is Heidi's 8th Lawyer Show production, with previous credits including *Legally Blonde The Musical*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Mamma Mia!*, and most recently, as the precocious Little Sally in *Urinetown: The Musical!*



Heidi couldn't be more excited to join Nightwood Theatre again this year as Sister Margaretta in *The Sound of Music*, and wishes to thank to her family, friends, and colleagues for all of their ongoing support and encouragement (and for their patience in enduring the not-so-occasional show tune).

Jennifer Whincup

Mother Abbess

Jennifer is Senior Legal Counsel at Altus Group, a leading provider of asset and fund intelligence for the commercial real estate industry, where she supports its analytics business. She is delighted to be participating in her fifth Lawyer Show and to continue to support Nightwood Theatre and the great work they do. She is forever grateful to Nightwood Theatre for the chance to share the spotlight with such a fantastic group of lawyers under the direction of an exceptional production team. Jennifer would like to thank her colleagues for their support while she stretches her creative muscles and an extra special thanks to her family for their love and support.



THE CAST



Joseph Cuyegkeng

Max

Joseph is overjoyed to make his less-awaited, but long-debated return to musical theatre with *The Lawyer Show*. A lifelong vocalist, his past credits include roles in *Les Misérables*, *Evil Dead: The Musical*, *West Side Story*, *Urinetown*, *Grease*, and *The Drowsy Chaperone* as well as choir performances for various dignitaries and clergy members (and Jackie Chan that one time). Now an in-house lawyer for Spin Master Entertainment, Joseph's excited to bring Max Detweiler

to life with the incomparable cast and crew of *The Sound of Music* and to show (or remind) his friends, family, and the legal community at large that he's not just a needlessly loud person, but one with classical training. Joseph would like to give special thanks to his fiancée, Mercedes, and their dogs, Benji and Moogi, for letting him rehearse in the house despite its painfully inadequate soundproofing.

Kaja Marinic

Chorus Member

Kaja is a formerly Vancouverite lawyer who arrived in Toronto in the dead of winter. Dismayed by the sparse foliage and lifeless grass, she immediately sought out the lively, vibrant, theatre-kid-ridden community of the *Lawyer Show* (something both cities have in common!). She is honoured to be participating in the varied roles of nun, household staff, and fancy party-goer in this year's Chorus. She dedicates this performance to her husband (Josh), her cat (Sailor), and all the beloved friends who have been coaxed into attending the show.



Khrystina McMillan

Sister Katherine

Khrystina is overjoyed to be part of *The Sound of Music*, simply one of her favourite things! She has been a member of Nightwood Theatre's *Lawyer Show* since 2016, and is excited to be returning this year to help solve a problem like Maria. When she's not pretending to act ;), she works as a securities prosecutor.

Thank you all for your continued support: we hope to fill your hearts with the sound of our music (...couldn't help myself).





Wishing the Lawyer Show team a wonderful run of *The Sound of Music*!

Break a leg, Sheila!

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THE CAST

Laura Precup-Pop

Frau Zeller + Chorus Member

Laura is a Federal Crown who mainly prosecutes drugs and guns. Beyond acting like she knows what she's doing in court, she has no acting experience. This is her first Lawyer Show and she is grateful for the opportunity and the forthcoming lead role on Law & Order Toronto.



Leah Cummings

Chorus Member

Leah is glad to be back with Nightwood for her third Lawyer Show! She is a lawyer with Rayman Harris LLP who practices primarily in municipal, administrative, and expropriations law. She is grateful to Nightwood for the opportunity to get back to her artistic roots and for their tireless promotion of feminist theatre. Thanks also goes out to the entire cast and crew of *The Sound of Music*!

Leo Salloum

Herr Zeller + Chorus Member

Leo Salloum is a lawyer. He is trying not to be one. He can't help it, and he's sorry.



Lessa Nosko

Chorus Member

Lessa is thrilled to be performing in her first Lawyer Show, and is immeasurably grateful to the magnificent Nightwood team and talented cast for this incredible experience. When she isn't trying to memorize Latin chants by serenading her very confused cat, Lessa is a research lawyer who moonlights as an audiobook narrator and voice actor. Huge thanks to everyone involved in this production, and to my loving and supportive family and friends. Special shout out and big hugs to D, E and J.

THE CAST

Liz McConkey

Chorus Member

Liz is so thrilled to be participating in her first lawyer show! Called to the bar in 2022, Liz is currently working at a boutique employment law litigation firm in Toronto. She has been involved in bands and theatre productions in her undergraduate studies and law school. She is so grateful for the support she has received from her friends, family and firm!



Lucie Catherine Zhang

Marta von Trapp

Lucie has been yodelling since she was a little girl, thanks to her parents' love for the film version of *The Sound of Music*. One fateful day, she was scrolling through a lawyer newsletter and noticed a casting call for The Lawyer Show's *The Sound of Music*. Without hesitation, she signed up for an audition. Then she said to herself, "Wait...what's The Lawyer Show?" And the rest is history.

Lucie's love of musical theatre started in high school and carried over to her music degree at Queen's. There, she was a performer, keyboardist, and music director for several shows, including *Dogfight* (Pasek and Paul) and 3 student-written musical revues, which pieced together songs from different Broadway musicals into original stories. After shifting focus to her legal career for the last 9 years, Lucie could not think of a better way to get back into performing.



Matthew Chung

Chorus Member

Matthew is happy to be returning to the Lawyer Show for a second year (and the opportunity to work on his falsetto range). When he's not in the rehearsal hall, Matthew is counsel at the Crown Law Office - Civil, litigating on behalf of the provincial government at all levels of court in Ontario.



THE CAST



Mel Herbin *Frau Schmidt*

Mel is excited to return to the stage as Frau Schmidt and a singing nun in *The Sound of Music*. The biggest challenge of being onstage for this show is resisting when her heart wants to sing every song it hears.

Previous favourite roles for Nightwood's Lawyer Show include Rosie in *Mamma Mia!*, Feldzeig in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Enid in *Legally Blonde The Musical*, Boyet in *Love's Labour's Lost*, and Adriana in *The Comedy of Errors*.

Next up: catch Mel October 25 - 27 with a group of LS alumni in the 10th anniversary remount of their 2014 Fringe show, *Watching Seana McKenna Watch Paint Dry*, at the Palmerston Library theatre. Proceeds support Lawyers Feed the Hungry.

(Yes, she does also fit in the practice of law.)

Olivia Danylchuk

Liesel von Trapp

Olivia is an entertainment lawyer at Goldenberg & Co P.C. She has most recently worked as production counsel on films including *"Priscilla"*, *"Winner"*, *"Love Me"*, *"I Used To Be Funny"*, and the forthcoming film *"The Apprentice"*.

This is Olivia's 2nd Lawyer Show, and she couldn't be more excited to fulfill her lifelong dream of being a von Trapp child in the *Sound of Music*!

Olivia would like to thank the whole team at Nightwood for all their hard work putting the Lawyer Show together and creating this wonderful community.



Richard Chan 陳駿華 *Franz*

Hi everyone! Bonjour tout le monde! 大家好! Thank you so much for being here today to support the Lawyer Show and Nightwood Theatre. It's an honour and a privilege to be part of this amazing cast and creative team for the first time. Working on this show has been so much fun and I hope you enjoy it too!

Outside of the rehearsal hall, I'm a broadcasting regulatory lawyer at CBC/Radio-Canada. I'm also on the board of directors for Common Boots Theatre and the Chair of the OBA's Entertainment, Media and Communications Law Section this year. Much love and gratitude to the Nightwood team for this amazing opportunity to rekindle my passion for theatre and performing. Thank you! Merci beaucoup! 多謝!



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THE CAST

Rona Ghanbari

Brigitta von Trapp

Rona is a music & theatre lover, and is currently a Knowledge Management Lawyer focused on Artificial Intelligence and Innovation, as well as the Director of Student Programs at Stikeman Elliott LLP. Previously, she was a corporate associate at Stikeman Elliott. She is thrilled to be a part of her sixth lawyer show and so grateful for the amazing people who've supported her habit of tricking people into listening to her sing, including (but not limited to) the incredible team at Nightwood Theatre, the brilliant creative team and crew, and this wonderful cast.



Sharlene Atkins

Sister Sophia

After qualifying in NZ and practicing in England Sharlene "retired" from the law on moving to Canada. She is still exercising those lawyer muscles in the world of banking compliance (minus the time recording, hurrah!). Gathering to play and learn as part of The Lawyer Show has become a treasured annual gift. And this time a nun! Thank you to everyone for your support of Nightwood's vital work, enjoy the show!



Sheila Gibb

Elsa

Sheila is delighted to be returning to The Lawyer Show – 14 years after playing the hapless Helena in Nightwood's inaugural Lawyer Show, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In the intervening years, Sheila has done extensive work on stage and screen, if "stage" means court and "screen" means Zoom court. Sheila practices family law at Epstein Cole LLP and is a member of the Executive of The Advocates' Society. She has two bright, strong and creative daughters, who have been major supporters of this new forum for their mother's theatrics. Sheila thanks the spectacular Nightwood team and her husband, family, friends and colleagues for their enthusiasm and support.



THE CAST

Tracy Pratt

Sister Berthe

Tracy is a Fasken litigator with a passion for musical theatre. From a courtroom to a convent, Tracy is delighted to be “Sister Berthe” in her sixth Lawyer Show! As *The Sound of Music* is close to her heart, it has been great fun spending months in a place where the hills are alive with well-meaning sisters trying to solve a problem like Maria. (That young woman is a handful!) As a “von Trapp party guest”, Tracy has finally learned how to waltz, a skill that is shamefully neglected at the Advocates’ Society.

A huge thank you to the wonderfully talented, and enthusiastically encouraging, Lawyer Show cast and professional team. It is a true joy to be on stage and, in turn, support the creativity and transformational work of Nightwood Theatre. Tracy is grateful to family and friends for attending the show and applauding wildly. Now for a little “Do-Re-Mi” and so on!



Valérie Duchesneau

Chorus Member

Valérie is pleased to return to the Lawyer Show for her sixth consecutive year. You may recall her 2020 cabaret stand-up performance or her memorable work as *Urinetown*'s Old Man Strong last year. Since that show, Valérie became a mother and has been known to rehearse her *Sound of Music* parts with her baby, who seems to love Latin.

When she returns to work, Valérie will continue to work on tax policy issues for Ontario.



Special Thanks to:

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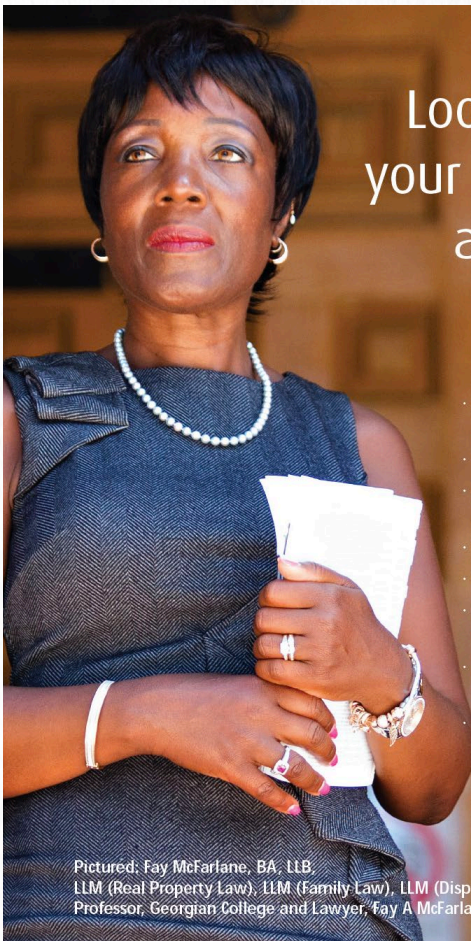


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Photo credit: Urinetown: The Musical (2023). Photo by Lyon Smith.

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-The Honourable Justice Gloria Epstein, Lawyer Show cameo

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These few months in turn, I believe, make us better people, and even better lawyers. **Nightwood provides for us a safe place to be brave, and to risk take.** In these few months with Nightwood, we remember to be creative and connected and we get to experience a little bit of extraordinary in our ordinary. I have left the experience with a new passion for my life in general and inspired to make other positive choices. In short, for a few months each year, Nightwood gives us a little magic."

- Christine Marchetti, cast member

"It never ceases to amaze me how you all take a group of non-professionals and **achieve such great outcomes.**"

- John Sorensen, band member

Break out from behind the Bar!

Join us onstage in the 16th annual Lawyer Show in June 2025! Contact ashley@nightwoodtheatre.net to join our mailing list for more details.

About Nightwood Theatre

As Canada's preeminent feminist theatre, Nightwood cultivates, creates, and produces extraordinary theatre by women and gender-expansive artists, liberating futures, one room at a time. Founded in 1979, Nightwood Theatre has created and produced award winning plays, which have won Dora Mavor Moore, Chalmers, Trillium and Governor General's Awards.

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Jade Silman	Artistic Associate & Head of Communications
Nika Jalali	Metcalf Intern Artistic Producer*
Angela Sun	Head of Digital Marketing
Charlotte Dorey	Graduate Partners and Outreach Intern
Keshia Palm	Interim Program Director: Write From The Hip
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