

NEW  
OPERA  
LYRA  
LIFE ON STAGE

LOST LOVE AND TRAGIC FORTUNE

# THE GREAT GATSBY

WORLD PREMIERE - A NEW OPERA BY ANDREW AGER

APRIL 19 & 20, 7:30PM  
SOUTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

15 AYLMEY AVE., OTTAWA

# THE GREAT GATSBY

## BY ANDREW AGER

Composer – Andrew Ager  
Director – Suzanne Bassett

### CAST

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Jay Gatsby – Adam Sperry  
Daisy Buchanan – Carmen Harris  
Jordan Baker – Ania Hejnar  
Tom Buchanan – Ryan Hofman  
Myrtle Wilson – Jenifer Olenic  
George Wilson – Alasdair Campbell  
Hotel Maid – Ella Duncliffe  
Gardener – Harold Young

Meet the cast and read performer bios at  
[newoperalyra.ca](http://newoperalyra.ca)



### ORCHESTRA

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Conductor – Matthew Larkin  
Violin 1 – Adam Nelson, Jeremy Mastrangelo  
Violin 2 – Sara Mastrangelo, Maria Nenoiu  
Viola – Kevin James, David Marks  
Cello – Fanny Marks  
Clarinet – Roxanne Leveille  
Piano – Andrew Ager

# **PRODUCTION TEAM**

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Stage Manager – Hyung Song

Assistant Stage Manager – Ella Duncliffe

Set Dresser – Donna Ager

Lighting Design – David Magladry

Lighting Assistant – Kevin Reeves

Costumes – Kathryn Racine

Costuming Assistant – Catherine Simons

Makeup – Heather Ingrams

Makeup Assistant – Helen Beck

Front of House – Renee Michaud, Iain MacPherson, James Seylor, Keith MacLellan, Mark Shulist, Mary Zborowski

General Manager/Marketing – John Scott

Artistic Consultant and Outreach Officer – Ryan Hofman

**Thank you to the following for their generosity  
and support:**

Harold Young

Stuart MacKinnon

Joan Pettit

Rideau Park United Church

Southminster United Church

New Opera Lyra acknowledges that our performance this evening is on the unceded, unsundered Territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin Nation whose presence here reaches back to time immemorial. We honour their long history of welcoming many Nations to this beautiful territory and uphold and uplift the voice and values of our Host Nation.

# SYNOPSIS

## **ACT 1**

**Prologue** - Gatsby is seen looking over the water in darkness, towards the green light on Daisy's dock.

**Scene 1** - Daisy Buchanan and her friend Jordan Baker are having a tipsy afternoon. Tom, Daisy's wealthy husband, appears briefly and lectures them about the decadent state of society. They tease him and he leaves - to go see his mistress Myrtle Wilson. After Tom leaves, Jordan tells Daisy about the opulent parties she has attended at a mansion across the bay. Daisy is shaken when she learns it is the home of Jay Gatsby, her former love. Jordan tells Daisy that Gatsby has invited them to lunch. Daisy is deeply moved and disturbed by this twist of fate.

**Scene 2** - Tom and Myrtle meet for an encounter at a New York hotel. Encouraged by Tom, Myrtle sings an aria mocking her husband George, a poor mechanic. George suspects Myrtle is having an affair and has announced they are soon moving away. Myrtle pleads for Tom to take her away and is outraged at his hesitation to do so. Tom leaves angrily.

**Scene 3** - Daisy sings of her love affair with Gatsby, five years earlier. Gatsby was at that time a poor young man looking for a future.

**Scene 4** - Gatsby nervously welcomes Daisy and Jordan to his home. On a pre-arranged cue, Jordan slips away, leaving Gatsby and Daisy to their blissful tender reunion. They sing of

how "only the wind and waves knew" they were waiting for each other.

## **ACT 2 (towards the end of summer)**

**Scene 1** - George Wilson, depressed and downtrodden, has discovered a necklace given to Myrtle by Tom. He sings of his resentment of the wealthy who "take what they want and don't pay". Myrtle arrives and is confronted by George, who announces they are leaving in two days, and that she is to stay home until then.

**Scene 2** - Tom, Daisy, and Jordan are awaiting Gatsby at a hotel. Tom is to finally meet Gatsby and has done some investigating about him in the meantime and suspects he is a criminal. Daisy is in a state of very bad nerves. Jordan sings a quasi-humorous, quasi-sad aria about what to do with all the time that lies ahead of youth. Gatsby arrives, and after some forced polite conversation, Tom challenges Gatsby about what he is up to with Daisy. Tempers begin to flare and Daisy becomes very upset. Finally Gatsby tells Tom that Daisy doesn't love him and never did - that she only married Tom because Gatsby was poor at the time and went away to seek his destiny. Tom appeals to Daisy who says, after some tortured moments, that she did love Tom once but that she loved Gatsby too. Gatsby is stunned and upset by her confession, but insists to Tom that Daisy will be coming with him and leaving Tom. Tom is so certain that, despite the summer affair with Gatsby, Daisy will not leave him, that he kicks Gatsby out, calling him a crook, and sarcastically demands he take Daisy home. As Daisy and Gatsby leave, she asks to drive the car as it will calm her down.

**Scene 3** - George is in a state of shock in the road in front of his garage. (As Daisy and Gatsby sped in the dark past Wilson's

garage, they fatally struck Myrtle, who had just at that moment escaped from the house after George had locked her in.) Tom arrives on the scene, and after recovering from the shock of learning about Myrtle's death, tells George, who is threateningly brandishing a pistol, that, based on the description, it was Gatsby's car. George leaves into the night on foot.

**Scene 4** - Back at his mansion, Gatsby expresses his confidence that he will see that Daisy has no trouble from the road accident. He says he will fix everything, as he always does. As well, he will wait forever for Daisy to come to him - she had expressed her love for even to her own husband. Gatsby stands by the dark water, gazing longingly towards Daisy's home and singing of how the past and the future will be one - as George slowly emerges from the background and shoots him, before taking his own life.