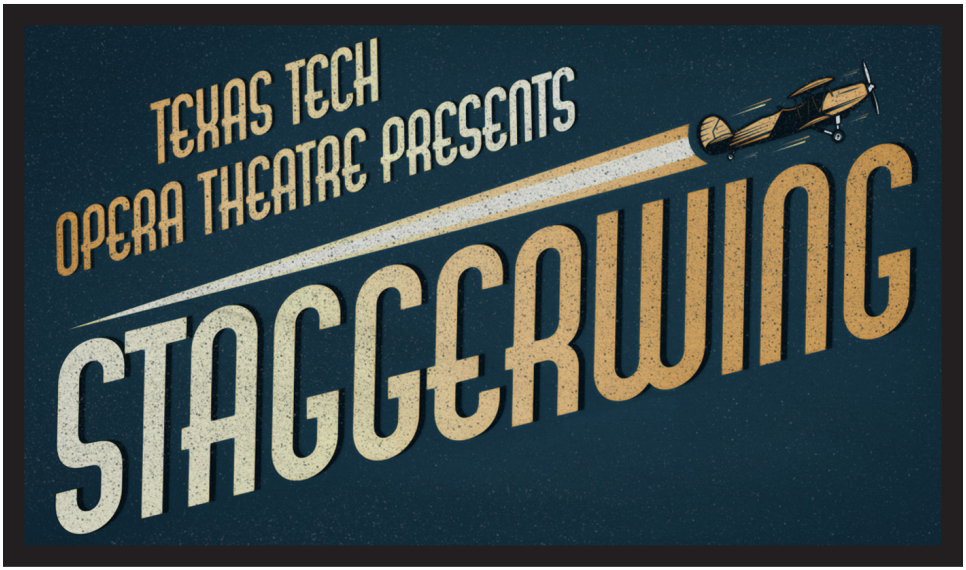
SCHOOL OF **MUSIC**

TEXAS TECH

J.T. & Margaret Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts



STAGGERWING

Sung in English

Composed by Lisa DeSpain
Libretto by Rachel J. Peters
Texas Tech Opera Theatre

Thursday, November 12th, 2026 | 7:00 pm
Friday, November 13th, 2026 | 7:00 pm
Saturday, November 14th, 2026 | 7:00 pm
Sunday, November 15th, 2026 | 2:00 pm
Crickets Theater

CAST

CHARACTER	THU 11/12, SAT 11/14	FRI 11/13, SUN 11/15
Louise M. Thaden	Landrie Almquist	Ashton Aranda
Blanche Noyes	Kaitlyn Reeves	Gabrielle Carley
Olive Anne Beech	Cora-Grace Smith	Alyssa Wilson
William Royle / J.H. Turner / Dewey Noyes	Aidan Chapleau	Ryken Tucker
Walter Beech / Father / Train Conductor	Dianhao Lou	Alex Neal

CHORUS

Kayden Bawa	Mario Hernandez	Ariana Sanchez
Regan Dorsett	Connor Jenkins	Julian Sawe
Logan Drum	Elli Mendoza	Lauren Ziegenhorn
Joy Geria	Brooke Ryan	

MUSIC TEAM

Vocal Coach	Dr. William Averill, Dr. Jared Tehse
Conductor	Jedrick Itugot
Clarinet	Aron Maczak
Contrabass	Gregory Faught
Percussion	Cory Powell II
Chorus Master	Mark Bailey
Pianists	Dr. Jared Tehse, Jacobo Cerda

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Director, Producer	Dr. Mary Martin
Scenic Designer	Andrea Bilkey
Technical Direction	Michael Strickland
Scenic Carpenters	Michael Strickland, Justin Radcliffe, Constanza Romero
Paint Charge Artist	Constanza Romero
Lighting Designer	Jack Piland
Light Board Operator	Vincent Purkeypile
Lighting Crew	Jacobi Molina
Projection Design	Dr. Hideki Isoda Daniel Kim, Po Ting Wang
Head of Design and Costume Coordination	Mallory Prucha
Associate Costume Coordinator, Costume Shop Supervisor, Run Crew Supervisor	Cassandra Trautman
Wardrobe Head	Alise Evans
Hair and Makeup Head	Abigail Rose
Alternations and Run Crew	Abigail Rose, Mena Koch, Taylor Woods
Supertitle Operator	Katie Ball
Stage Management	Wen Li, Sujin Park
Props Coordinator	Joy Geria
Opera TAs	Gabrielle Carley, Joy Geria, Wen Li, Sujin Park
Concert Ensembles Manager	Austin Glenn

ABOUT THE OPERA

Staggerwing was composed by Lisa DeSpain (b.1964) with a libretto by Rachel J. Peters (b.1977) and won the 2020 Zepick Modern Opera Commission. *Staggerwing* celebrates the 1936 monumental flight of aviation team Louise Thaden and Blanche Noyes as they compete in the Bendix Trophy Air Race in a Staggerwing Model C-17 plane. The opera also explores the achievements of Olive Ann Beech, who co-founded and served as president of Beech Aircraft. Alongside her husband Walter Beech, Olive Ann is often referred to as the "First Lady of Aviation."

From the composers website: "During the 1930s, Wichita, Kansas was the center of both aviation and musical innovation. *Staggerwing* brings to life the story of home-town heroes with a score steeped in the unique sound of the territory jazz bands; Walter Page, Bennie Moten, and Count Basie."

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Thank you for supporting Texas Tech Opera Theatre's production of *Staggerwing*! As a new School of Music faculty member, this is my first opera with Texas Tech. I'd like to thank the TCVPA students, faculty, and staff for supporting me in this endeavor, helping me learn the ropes, and collaborating with me to tell this story. I have enjoyed learning about Louise and Blanche's story of resilience and perseverance. Their energy was reflected in the students as they learned Lisa DeSpain's beautiful score. I hope you enjoy the show as they bring the story to life for you today!

- Dr. Mary Martin