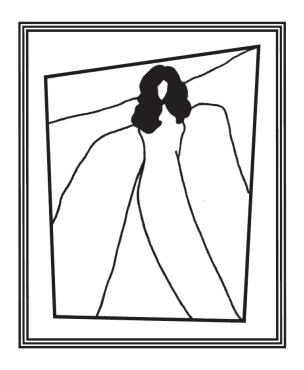


OUR 54TH SEASON 2023-2024

Gaetano Donizetti



May 11, 12, 18, & 19, 2024, at 3 PM
May 18, 2024, at 7 PM
Free performance with piano
May 7, 2024, at 7 PM
Free open dress rehearsal with orchestra
May 9, 2024, at 7 PM

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THE CAST

Lucia Makila Kirchner (May 7 & 12, May 18 at 7 PM) Yujin Zeng (May 9 & May 18 at 3 PM) Alexis Cregger Olinyk (May 11 &19)
Edgardo
EnricoRobert Garner (May 7 & 12, May 18 at 3 PM) Jonathan R. Green (May 9 & May 18 at 7 PM) Peter Hakjoon Kim (May 11 & 19)
RaimondoJongwon Choi (May 7 & 12, May 18 at 7 PM) Steven Fredericks (May 9 & 11) Gennadiy Vysotskiy (May 18 at 3 PM & May 19)
ArturoEthan Ellis (May 7 & 11) Josh Avant (May 9 & 12, May 18 at 7 PM) Nikhil Krishna (May 18 at 3 PM & May 19)
Normanno
AlisaMorgan Mooney (May 7 & May 18 at 3 PM) Elizabeth M. Moulton (May 9, 11, & 19) Manya Gaver (May 12 & May 18 at 7 PM)

Ensemble

Isabella Bernal, Daniel Chiu, Olivia Christopher, Ruby Edelman, Sophia Formella, Thomas Geib, Zoe Gonatas, Cathy Greco, Warren Harding, Yvonne Juris, Wayne Olsen

Edgardo Cover: Josh Avant

THE STORY

Lucia di Lammermoor is based on Sir Walter Scott's novel The Bride of Lammermoor and is set in late 17th-Century Scotland.

Act I, Scene 1. Lord Enrico Ashton's retainers and their captain, Normanno, gather in the grounds of Ravenswood Castle. Enrico broods over his family's fallen fortunes; it galls him that his enemy Edgardo di Ravenswood (whose castle Enrico has usurped) still lives. Only one thing can save the family: a political marriage for Enrico's sister Lucia. Raimondo Bide the Bent, a minister, begs Enrico to be compassionate toward Lucia, who is still in mourning for her mother's death. But Normanno reveals that Lucia has been secretly meeting Edgardo, with whom she fell in love after he saved her from a charging bull. A group of huntsmen report that they have seen Edgardo in the grounds. Enrico vows to kill Edgardo.

Scene 2. Lucia and her companion, Alisa, nervously wait for Edgardo. Lucia is frightened at the sight of a nearby fountain, where a young woman was murdered by a Ravenswood because she was unfaithful to him. Lucia recounts that she once saw the woman's ghost beckoning to her. Alisa sees this as a portent of death and begs her to give up Edgardo, but Lucia declares that he is the light of her life. Edgardo arrives with the news that he must sail to France immediately on a mission to save Scotland. He vows to make peace with Enrico before he goes. When Lucia insists that their love must remain a secret, Edgardo angrily recalls how Enrico ruined his family. He demands that Lucia betroth herself to him immediately. He puts his ring on her finger, and she gives him her own ring. He promises to write to her, and the lovers bid each other farewell.

Act II, Scene 1. Enrico tells Normanno that he plans to have Lucia married to Lord Arturo Bucklaw. Normanno assures him that Edgardo's letters to Lucia have been intercepted, and "proof" of his infidelity, in the form of a love letter to another woman, has been manufactured. Normanno leaves to conduct Arturo to the castle as Lucia enters dejectedly. He tries to placate her by asking her to forget her foolish love, as he has forgotten his anger. When he mentions her noble husband to be, she reveals that she has plighted her troth to Edgardo. Enrico angrily gives her the forged letter. Lucia swoons as she reads it. Trumpets are heard in the distance: Lucia's husband has arrived. Lucia is horrified at the thought, but Enrico reminds her that only her marriage to Arturo can restore Enrico's political fortunes. Enrico rushes off to greet his future brother-in-law. Raimondo enters and tells Lucia to give up hope, for although he managed to get one of her letters to Edgardo, Edgardo has still not replied, proving that he is unfaithful. He advises her to submit to her fate, for the sake of her brother and the memory of her mother. Lucia sadly agrees, and Raimondo joyously proclaims that heaven will remember her sacrifice.

Scene 2. The wedding guests have gathered to greet Arturo, who promises to raise the Ashton family's fortunes. Enrico quietly tells Arturo that, if Lucia seems sorrowful, it is only because she has recently lost her mother. But Arturo has heard something about Edgardo's interest in Lucia. Enrico begins to reassure him when Lucia arrives with Alisa and Raimondo. Enrico presents Arturo to Lucia, who shrinks from him. Enrico hastily invites the couple to sign the marriage contract. Lucia does so, trembling. She is about to faint when Edgardo angrily bursts into the hall. Enrico and Edgardo realize that Lucia's torment is stopping them from attacking each other. Then Enrico and Arturo draw their swords and threaten to kill Edgardo if he does not leave. Edgardo stands his ground, but Raimondo intervenes. Edgardo announces that Lucia has plighted her troth to him, but Raimondo shows Edgardo the contract Lucia has signed. In a fury, Edgardo flings back her ring, snatches his ring from her finger, and curses her. As she swoons, Edgardo rushes off.

Act III, Scene 1. As the guests celebrate the wedding, Raimondo interrupts the revelry with terrible news: Lucia has gone mad and stabbed Arturo to death. Raimondo and the guests pray for her. Lucia wanders into the hall in her bloodstained nightgown. She calls out for Edgardo, remembering the fountain where they sat together - but a terrible phantasm separates them. She then joyously imagines their wedding. Enrico rushes in, having heard the news of Arturo's murder, and is about to strike Lucia when Raimondo and the guests stop him and tell him that she has gone mad. Lucia, believing that Enrico is Edgardo, swears that she signed the contract because her brother forced her to, and that she always loved him. Enrico is consumed with remorse as Lucia begs Edgardo's forgiveness. She will pray for him when she is in heaven.

Scene 2. Edgardo, unaware of the events at Ravenswood Castle, wanders among the tombs of his ancestors. Seeing the bright lights of the wedding celebration at the castle, he despairingly reflects on Lucia's perfidy. A group of mourners, singing a dirge, passes by. They tell Edgardo that Lucia is dying and deliriously calling for him. As he cries out in anguish, a funeral bell tolls. He is determined to see her one last time, but the men detain him. Raimondo arrives with the news that Lucia has died. Vowing to meet her in heaven, Edgardo stabs himself before the horrified mourners.



INTRODUCING...

JOSH AVANT (Arturo/Edgardo Cover), a student of tenor Scott Flaherty, made his professional debut in *Tosca* with the Charleston Symphony and principals of the Metropolitan Opera. He has performed in *Rigoletto* (Borsa), *Il Tabarro* (Tinca/Street Singer), *Gianni Schicchi* (Gherardo), *Carmen* (Remendado), and *Il Trovatore* with Regina Opera, and *Le Nozze di Figaro* with College of Charleston Opera. Musical theater appearances include *The Secret Garden*, *Candide*, *West Side Story*, and *Sweeney Todd*. Josh was also a featured soloist with the Young Artist Series in the Piccolo Spoleto Festival and Charleston Opera Theater.

LINDELL CARTER (Normanno) - A native of The Bronx, NY, tenor Lindell Carter has captured the attention of audiences on opera and concert stages in the US, UK, France, Germany, and Italy. Comfortable in a wide range of repertoire, Mr. Carter has been noted by the media for his "ringing voice" (London Herald) and "power and finesse" (Classical Voice of NC). This season Mr. Carter's solo engagements included a return to the Duke in *Rigoletto* and appearances with the Argento New Music Project (DiMenna Center) and Ensemble Échappé (American Academy of Arts and Letters).

JONGWON CHOI (Raimondo) a native of South Korea, is currently studying at Stony Brook University for his Doctorate. He earned a Professional Studies Diploma from the Mannes School of Music (NYC) and his Master's from Seoul National University. Some of his US roles include Sarastro in *The Magic Flute*, Seneca in *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, Basilio in *The Barber of Seville*, Prince Gremin in *Eugene Onegin*, and Bartolo in *Le nozze di Figaro*. International appearances include performances with the Seoul Metropolitan Opera's Verdi series, in the Korean premiere of *Curlew River*, and in *The Little Prince* with the Korea National Opera.

THIBAULT COURTOIS (Normanno) - Originally from Besançon, France, Thibault Courtois is a Brooklyn-based tenor who focuses mostly on 19th-Century repertoire. He has recently appeared in *Cavalleria Rusticana* with Regina Opera and *La Bohème* with Amore Opera.

BARBARA GRANT D'AVOLA (Costumer) – Barbara's lifelong love of dress and fabric design fueled her 30-year career, starting in Chicago and blooming in New York City. When COVID altered the garment industry, Barbara decided to live out another dream: to educate and build skills of young adults with home-based textile art and sewing classes for theatre. Based on the success of those classes, she became a special education teacher's assistant with NYC's Department of Education. Barbara's love of music and costuming drew her the Regina Opera Company, where her artistic skills help support its

mission to share our love of opera with our local community.

ETHAN ELLIS (Arturo) is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music Master's program. Past roles include Peter Quint in Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* (Chicago Summer Opera), Jupiter in Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld* (Berlin Opera Academy), Schoolmaster in Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen* (MSM), Ruggiero in Caccini's *La Liberazione di Ruggiero* (MSM), and Valetto in Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea* (Trentino Music Festival). Currently, he is performing the role of Gastone at the Snug Harbor PASS Artist Residency production of *La Traviata*. This July he will be a featured artist with the Greek Opera Studio at the Festival of the Aegean.

RICHARD EVANS (Production Design) is a retired electronics engineer. He and his wife Lynn sold their home of 40+ years in Connecticut and moved to Brooklyn in 2014 so that they could attend more operas and Off-Broadway shows and enjoy the Brooklyn vibe. Looking for things to do, Richard worked at restoration on the old tanker ship *Mary A. Whalen* in Red Hook for a few years. He then responded to Regina Opera's call for help and joined as a stagehand. He is now the company carpenter and set designer.

SAMUEL FLORES (Stage Manager) is a Latin-American baritone who currently resides in Brooklyn, NY, and can be seen performing locally. Samuel is making his debut as Stage Manager with Regina Opera and is excited to be taking on a different role in the world of opera. He began working for the Metropolitan Opera as an Administrative Associate in 2018 and has participated in training programs including the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, St. Petersburg Opera: Emerging Artist program, the New York Conservatory summer opera program, and others.

STEVEN FREDERICKS (Raimondo) recently sang Marke in *Tristan und Isolde* with Connecticut Lyric Opera, the Commendatore in *Don Giovanni* with Salt Marsh Opera, Filippo in *Don Carlo* with Fulham Opera (London), and Rossini's *Stabat Mater* and Mozart's *Requiem* with Konzert Opera Firenze (Italy). Other credits include the title role in *Der Fliegende Holländer* with Connecticut Lyric, Boïto's *Mefistofele* with Taconic Opera, and *Messiah* at Carnegie Hall. Internationally, he has appeared at the Chuvash State Theatre (Russia) as Sparafucile in *Rigoletto*, the Commendatore at the Greve Festival (Italy), and Tod in *Der Kaiser von Atlantis* with Israel Chamber Orchestra.

ROBERT GARNER (Enrico) previously appeared with Regina Opera as Gianni Schicchi and as Count di Luna in *Il Trovatore*. Recent engagements include the title roles of *Eugene Onegin* and *Nabucco* at Union Avenue Opera of St. Louis to great critical acclaim. Other recent appearances include: Renato in *Un Ballo in maschera*, Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, Count Almaviva in *Le*

nozze di Figaro, and the title roles of *Rigoletto* and *Don Giovanni*. Since 2007, Mr. Garner has been an ensemble member of The Metropolitan Opera extra chorus, regularly appearing in operas both in New York and on tour in Japan.

MANYA GAVER (Alisa) is a graduate of Hunter College where she received degrees in Music, French, and Italian. She has recently been seen singing with Regina Opera, Utopia Opera, the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of New York, and as Madame de la Haltière with Utah Vocal Arts Academy. Upcoming performances include two world premieres with Pocket Operas at Hunter College as well as a musical theater concert with Bronx Concert Singers, where she has been a ringer for the past two seasons. A grateful student of Mark Watson, when not singing Manya can be found as one of Manhattan's top-rated cat sitters.

THOMAS GEIB (Properties Manager) is excited to be a part of another Regina Opera production. Previous opera/operetta roles include the Organ Grinder in *Il Tabarro*, Dancaïro in *Carmen*, Vespone in *La Serva Padrona*, Frank in *Die Fledermaus*, Imperial Commissioner/Yamadori in *Madama Butterfly*, Customs Sergeant in *La Bohème*, Amelia's Servant in *Un Ballo in Maschera*, Bogdanowitsch in *The Merry Widow*, and Fezziwig/Charwoman in *Scrooge & Gilbert & Sullivan*.

JONATHAN R. GREEN (Enrico) studied with Richard Miller at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music; with Distinguished Professor Tim Noble at Indiana University; and with Dr. Everett McCorvey at the University of Kentucky. He has internationally performed at the Semperoper (Dresden), Deutsche Oper am Rhein (Düsseldorf), Teatro Massimo Bellini (Catania), Teatro di San Carlo (Napoli), and most recently Teatro Regio (Torino). His operatic credits include the title roles of *Rigoletto*, *Falstaff*, and Figaro (Mozart and Rossini), Scarpia (*Tosca*), Renato (*Un Ballo in maschera*), Guglielmo (*Così fan tutte*), Marcello (*La Bohème*), Crown (*Porgy and Bess*), Count di Luna (*Il Trovatore*), and Germont (*La Traviata*).

JOSÉ HEREDIA (Edgardo) - After his 2014 operatic debut as Rodolfo in Puccini's La Bohème in the Dominican Republic, tenor José Heredia has sung the lead roles in Il Tabarro, Rigoletto, Carmen, La Traviata, Un Ballo in maschera, L'Elisir d'amore, La Bohème (Leoncavallo), Tosca, Aida, Cavalleria Rusticana, Madama Butterfly, and Pagliacci. In 2023, Mr. Heredia made his Singapore debut with the Singapore Lyric Opera, singing the roles of Turiddu and Canio in their double-bill production of Cavalleria Rusticana/Pagliacci. He also sang the title role of Jesus de Nazaret in the Spanish opera El caminante de Nazaret by Dominican composer Rafael Danilo Grullón.

OSWALDO IRAHETA (Edgardo) made his international operatic debut at

the Royal Opera House Muscat with Lorin Maazel. He made his European solo recital debut at the Assisi Performing Arts Festival in Italy. Oswaldo has performed in Europe, Oman, Central America, and South Africa. He has had the opportunity to perform with Marvin Hamlisch at Severance Hall, as well performing at the Encompass Musical Gala honoring Terrence McNally and Chita Rivera. Oswaldo has performed various operatic roles and performs regularly in concert. This season includes performances in the US and London as Alfredo (*La Traviata*) and the Duke of Mantua (*Rigoletto*). www.oswaldoiraheta.com

PETER HAKJOON KIM (Enrico) attended the Juilliard School, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees. He was also a recipient of the Lucrezia Bori Grant. He has performed as a leading baritone the title roles of *Don Giovanni*, *Nabucco*, and *Rigoletto*, as well as the roles of Amonasro (*Aida*), Tonio (*I Pagliacci*), Germont (*La Traviata*), Conte di Luna (*Il Trovatore*), Iago (*Otello*), Renato (*Un Ballo in Maschera*), and Sharpless (*Madama Butterfly*) with Tulsa Opera, Union Avenue Opera, New Rochelle Opera, Opera in the Heights, Regina Opera, Chelsea Opera, and the Martina Arroyo Foundation.

MAKILA KIRCHNER (Lucia) is an emerging young classical artist known for her "distinctive and thrilling" lyric-coloratura soprano voice. Makila is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music where she earned her Master's Degree in Vocal Performance. Most recently, she received an Encouragement award from the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition. Makila's scene work includes Gounod's *Faust* (Marguerite), Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Lucia), Strauss's *Arabella* (Arabella), Mozart's *Don Giovanni* (Donna Anna), Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Contessa), and Verdi's *Falstaff* (Nannetta).

MARCIA C. KRESGE (Costume Design) began as a teen sewing her own clothes and grew to making costumes and headpieces. As a designer, dancer, teacher, and performing artist, she collaborates with directors (and artists) to realize the vision of a time period, the emotions, and the characters, whether played by schoolchildren or by professional singers and dancers. She designed and performed in *The Seagull, The Importance of Being Earnest*, many classic ballets with American Ballet Russe, the modern-dance Freeman Repertory Dance Company, and the Folk Dance Theatre. She has been with Regina Opera since 2016.

NIKHIL KRISHNA (Arturo) teaches high school chemistry in the Bronx, NY. He debuted in Spring 2023 as Detlef (*The Student Prince*) with Regina Opera. Since then, Nikhil has done other productions with Regina, and performed with Bronx Opera in February 2024. He is grateful for this opportunity!

MORGAN MOONEY (Alisa) earned her Bachelor of Music in vocal

performance from Georgia State University, where she performed with the ensemble in *The Mikado* and as Mercy Lewis in Robert Ward's *The Crucible*. Morgan has also been heard as La bergère Louis XV in Ravel's *L'enfant et les Sortilèges* with Spotlight on Opera. Most recently, Morgan has been heard in the ensemble of *Cavalleria Rusticana* and as Gretchen in *The Student Prince* with Regina Opera; in the ensemble of *La Bohème* with Light Opera of New Jersey; and as the soprano soloist in Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* with the Narnia Festival Vocal Arts program.

ELIZABETH M. MOULTON (Alisa) - Elizabeth is on a "role"! Singing the role of Alisa in *Lucia di Lammermoor* marks her fourth production in a row with Regina Opera Company. She was previously seen as Giovanna in *Rigoletto*, Mrs. Nolan in *The Medium*, and La Frugola cover in *Il Tabarro* prior to taking on this most recent role. She recently reprised her role as La Maestra delle Novizie in SAS Opera's production of *Il Trittico* with Maestro Stephen Scovasso and has sung Mamma Lucia several times, once with Regina Opera in 2011 and also with Altoona Symphony Orchestra in Altoona, PA with Maestra Teresa Cheung.

ALEXIS CREGGER OLINYK (Lucia) — Opera News praised her "eyeopening Donna Anna" in which she "sailed through the difficult role with vocal ease and stylistic aplomb, wielding her gleaming soprano like a shining sword of justice." Recent highlights include Leonora in Il Trovatore and Micaëla in Carmen with Regina Opera; Amelia in Un Ballo in maschera with Amore Opera; Donna Anna in Don Giovanni, Rosalinde in Die Fledermaus, and Konstanze in The Abduction from the Seraglio with Geneva Light Opera; and Josephine in Utopia Opera's H.M.S. Pinafore. She is pleased to return to Regina Opera to reprise the title role of Lucia di Lammermoor.

WAYNE OLSEN (Production & Graphic Design), a Bay Ridge resident, holds degrees in Fine Art and Art History from Brooklyn College where he graduated summa cum laude, as well as a degree in Graphic Communications from Brooklyn Technical College. Mr. Olsen has received a CLIO Award, and his work has appeared in *Graphis*. Mr. Olsen has also designed sets for opera and Off-Broadway theater productions of *La Bohème*, *Madame Butterfly*, *Tosca*, *La Traviata*, *Rigoletto*, *The Barber of Seville*, *The Impresario*, *The Italian Girl in Algiers*, *Don Pasquale*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Honeymoon in Hades*, *The Ring Cycle*, and *The Tales of Hoffmann*.

SABRINA PALLADINO (Stage Director) fell in love with opera at a young age when her mother would start off Easter morning by blasting a recording of *Cavalleria Rusticana* in their apartment. She made her singing debut as Mimì in *La Bohème* and has sung the role, among many others, countless times, including at Regina Opera. She is fluent in Italian, a history fanatic, and a film buff. She is a Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute alumna and a TV commercial

director/producer, and has directed several operas, including Montclair Opera Theater's debut production of *Nabucco* and Amore Opera's 2023 production of *La Bohème*.

CHRISTOPHER TRAPANI (Edgardo) – Opera News writes, "an artist to watch with his clear and vibrant upper voice." Roles include Offenbach's *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, Gounod's *Roméo et Juiliette* and *Faust*, Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito*, Manrico in *Il trovatore*, Don José in *Carmen*, Rodolfo in *La bohème*, Luigi in *Il tabarro*, Turiddu in *Cavalleria rusticana*, Alfredo in *La traviata*, Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables*, and Pirelli in *Sweeney Todd*. He has also performed as soloist in Verdi's *Requiem*, *Elijah*, and Beethoven's 9th Symphony. He has sung with Santa Fe Opera, Sarasota Opera, New Rochelle Opera, Tri-Cities Opera, Regina Opera, and Opera in the Heights.

GENNADIY VYSOTSKIY (Raimondo) was born in Odessa, Ukraine, and graduated from the Odessa School of Music. He became interested in acting at an early age and participated in numerous musical theater performances and major motion pictures. Mr. Vysotskiy graduated from the University of California at Davis, earning a double degree in Economics and Mathematics. In the last few years he has participated in productions of *The Magic Flute* and *Macbeth* with San Francisco Lyric Opera. New York performances include the Commendatore and Masetto (*Don Giovanni*), Colline (*La Bohème*), Dulcamara (*L'Elisir d'Amore*), and Mr. Kofner (*The Consul*).

SCOTT JACKSON WILEY (Conductor) is delighted to have been reappointed to the position of Principal Conductor of Regina Opera and is honored to follow maestros José Alejandro Guzmán and Gregory Ortega in that role. Formerly the Music Director of Long Island's South Shore Symphony, during his twenty-five-year tenure he brought the orchestra to regional prominence and was recognized with the title of Conductor Laureate upon stepping down last June. Currently, Mr. Wiley is also Music Director of the Centre Symphony Orchestra in Manhattan and Principal Conductor of the Staten Island Philharmonic.

DOOHYUN YOON (Normanno) - Born in South Korea and now based in the United States, Doohyun Yoon is a dedicated tenor active in the world of music. He has participated in operas such as La Bohème, Turandot, and Rigoletto in both Italy and Korea. Currently in his second year of Artist Diploma program under the mentorship of renowned Professor Beth Roberts, he earned a master's degree from Boston NEC and further refined his skills at Manhattan School of Music. With an unwavering passion for vocal excellence and a desire to spread the beauty of music, he looks forward to enchanting audiences with captivating performances.

YUJIN ZENG (Lucia) is a soprano currently based in New York City. This season, she will sing the role of Lucia in *Lucia di Lammermoor* at Regina Opera and will appear at Utah Valley Operafest as Juliette in *Roméo et Juliette*. Prior to the 2023-24 season, Yujin made her professional NYC debut as Adina in *L'Elisir d'Amore* with Opera Camerata and covered Gilda in *Rigoletto* at New Jersey Lyric Opera. Yujin has been seen as La Princesse, Le Feu, and Le Rossignol in Ravel's *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* with Chautauqua Opera and the Manhattan School of Music.

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Double Bass

Ian Fales

Jess Block

Flute

Richard Paratley

Oboe/English Horn

Ellen Gruber

Clarinet

Scott Gerhardt

Youngwoo Jeon

Bassoon

Sage Helinski

Horn

Alina Eckersley

Santiago Valenzuela

Trumpet

Nate McKinstry

Trombone

Gregory Briggler

Harp

Liann Cline

Anna Lien

Timpani

Jerry Neuhof

ChiChing Lin

Percussion

ChiChing Lin

Scott Still



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