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# OREGON UNIVERSITY OF

# **MUSIC AND DANCE**



UO Opera Ensemble *presents*Shattered Woman: **La Voix Humaine** 

**Beall Concert Hall** Friday, Feb. 19, 2016 | 7:30 p.m.



# **CAST**

Elle (She) Abbigail Cote (Recipient Kathleen Bezinover Opera Scholarship)

**pianist**Ulysses Loken

### **ARTISTIC** AND **PRODUCTION STAFF**

Gustavo Castro, Conductor, Vocal Coach

Karen Esquivel, Stage Director

Ulysses Loken, Graduate Teaching Assistant and Rehearsal Pianist

Thor Mikesell, Lighting and Technical Assistance

Evan Harger, Assistant to Conductor and Supertitles

Erin Zysett, Poster and Program Designer & Photographer

### **DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

The work you are seeing this evening is a poignant study of an individual who encounters a devastating loss. The opera is based on the play by the same name by Jean Cocteau. Cocteau, with the French soprano Denise Duval, gave birth to the piece alongside Poulenc, spending hours together, going through the same anguish of its heroine. The theme is an altogether too human and familiar one: A person's last phone conversation with their lover, who now loves someone else. The vulnerability and honesty of expression of the text that so well captures the emotional suffering taking place in "Elle" is matched and brought even more to life by the music. The vocal and dramatic demands on the soloist to bring the character to life for 45 minutes, with so few external accouterments, are indeed great. But I believe only this way can the focus be uniquely on the inner world of Elle, which can so easily be found, at some time or another, in our own world. I am not sure an admonition to "enjoy" this presentation is appropriate! Perhaps, it is better to encourage you to allow yourself to experience this glimpse into our human frailties and come away touched by its candor.

## **Special Thanks to:**

Eugene Opera Dean Brad Foley The Bezinover Family Dr. Ann Tedards