

Barbara's Blue Kitchen



A COUNTRY FRIED MUSICAL

BOOK, MUSIC & LYRICS BY

LORI FISCHER

DIRECTION BY

JUSTIN ANDERSON



MUSICAL DIRECTION BY

ANN-CAROL PENCE



Streaming September 25 - October 4

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presents



Book, Music, & Lyrics
LORI FISCHER

Scenic Design
JON SANDMAIER

Lighting & Sound Design
DANIEL POPE

Properties Design
ASHLEY HOGAN

Costume Design & Stage Manager
JUSTIN ANDERSON

Managing Director
KATIE PELKEY

Production Manager
DANIEL POPE

Technical Director
JON SANDMAIER

Musical Direction
ANN-CAROL PENCE

Direction
JUSTIN ANDERSON

BARBARA'S BLUE KITCHEN is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals.
www.concordtheatricals.com

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LAWRENCEVILLE GEORGIA

Aurora Theatre, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and receives support through grants and/or membership opportunities from the above organizations.

FROM THE PRODUCERS

Welcome Back Friend!!! Nothing brings us together better than a great meal. During the pandemic, many of us may have improved our cooking skills, but what I miss is meeting friends for dinner at a great restaurant. In a small town, that gathering place is THE DINER.

A diner is a small restaurant, offering a wide range of foods, a casual atmosphere, with a sit-down counter, typically serving inexpensive cuisine. As a rule, diners are symbols of American optimism, and *Barbara's Blue Kitchen* is no exception.

Theatre needs more than a little optimism. It is estimated that 41% of theatres across the nation will never return. Can you imagine Lawrenceville without a theatre? Well luckily, neither can our city. Work has continued on the new Lawrenceville Performing Arts Center (LPAC) and we look forward to bringing many of the shows we are currently producing in the "studio" to you LIVE and in person.

In a small town, the diner's the place you call when your car breaks down. It's the local pet rescue. It's the hot cup of coffee, the friendship, the respite from loneliness. And Barbara knows everyone. That's why Lori Fischer's musical is brilliant. One woman embodies all these characters, so even though all of the characters are distinct, each one feels familiar. My favorite character is the nurse, Miss Morris.

"I have seen just about all I need to see in the ugly ways of this world. Seen all I need to see in the ways of petty, selfish, and just plain dumb. Seen it. That's why, I'm plannin' me a trip to see the Pyramids....I gotta go sit down in front of one of the world's wonders. I'm gonna sit there and ask God how I'm supposed to be of some kinda help in a world where there's only 7 wonders, but millions of unbelievably sad and wrong stories bein' told."

I dream of the day we all meet together at the Aurora and share a hug. Until then, let's make a date to meet here at Barbara's and share a cup of kindness together..

Order Up!



Anthony Rodriguez
Producing Artistic Director



Ann-Carol Pence
Associate Producer



PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Technical Director..... **ASHLEY HOGAN**
Scenic Painter..... **SARAH THOMSON**

BAND

Music Director..... **ANN-CAROL PENCE**
Guitar..... **SKYLER BROWN**
Acoustic Bass..... **MAURICE FIGGINS**
Violin..... **HAYDEN ROWE**

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



CHLOE KAY (Barbara and others) is so excited and honored to take part in this new experiment with virtual theatre at her Atlanta home theatre! She is a graduate of the Aurora's AppCo18. During her apprenticeship she performed in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* as well as *Mamma Mia!* You may have also seen her in the *Hairspray* part of the Musicals by Moonlight concert series or the recent Heart: Valentine's Day Cabaret. Other Atlanta theatre credits include *Vive La Fontaine!* (Theatre du Reve), *Henry V* (Shakespeare Tavern), and *A Christmas Carol* (Alliance). Chloe is also a singer-songwriter and recording artist whose debut album *That Time* can be found on any major streaming platform. Thank you for taking a chance and embracing something new! chloekaysings.com
[@chloekayverse](https://twitter.com/chloekayverse)



SKYLER BROWN (DJ and others) is an Atlanta based actor, singer, and musician. Atlanta credits include *The Color Purple* and *Merrily, We Roll Along* in Concert (Actor's Express), *Memphis the Musical* and *In The Heights* (Aurora Theatre/Theatrical Outfit), and most recently in the musical *Once* (Horizon Theatre). Skyler also music directs Aurora's annual holiday/improv comedy show, *Reindeer Games*, and tours the southeast with his band My Brother Skyler. All love go to his parents for their relentless support.

PRODUCTION STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

LORI FISCHER (Playwright) is the "2008 New York University Harry Kondoleon Graduate Award in Playwriting" recipient and a 2008-09 Dramatists Guild Fellow. Recent Credits: 2014 Independent Vision Award Nominee for Outstanding achievement in Writing. Her musical *The Sparkley Clean Funeral Singers* produced at Capital Repertory Theatre summer 2013, *Is This Heaven, Evan?* by Lori Fischer, Don Chaffer and Lori Chaffer, produced in the BeSpoke Musicals Festival at The York Theatre Company, NYC. *Petie* by Lori Fischer produced at the Duke Energy Theatre by Starving Artist Productions, 2013. She is also the author of the critically acclaimed musical *Barbara's Blue Kitchen*, which played Off-Broadway at The Lamb's Theatre in 2006 and was published by Samuel French in 2007. Her work has been seen at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, the Stonestreet Film Festival, the RipFest Film Festival, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park and The Adirondack Theatre Festival. Lori received her M.F.A. from the N.Y.U. Dramatic Writing Department in 2008. Film Credits: Lori's short film DOTTIE'S THANKSGIVING PICKLE starring Olympia Dukakis, Nancy Opel and Joey Collins was recently featured in the Hollywood Shorts Festival and was an official selection for the New Jersey International Film Festival, the Garden State Film Festival, the Buffalo Niagara Film festival and the Long Island International Film Expo and the Appalachian International Film Festival. In 2010 her musical *The Water Knows My Name* was produced at Perry Mansfield Performing Arts Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado and her one-act *The Burning* was produced in the Midtown International Theatre Festival. In 2011, her play *Thoughts of Rome* was produced by the Georgetown Theatre Company in the Capitol Fringe Festival. Her feature film CHASING TASTE was the Feature Comedy Award Winner at the 2014 Manhattan Film Festival as well as at the 2013 Burbank International Film Festival and an official selection at the Visionfest Film Festival. Lori is a 2014 IVA nominee for outstanding achievement in screenwriting.

JUSTIN ANDERSON (Associate Artistic Director/Director) has served as Aurora Theatre's Associate Artistic Director since 2014. His directorial work has earned 12 Suzi Bass Award Nominations for Outstanding Direction (Winner for *The Bridges of*

Madison County and *Les Misérables* at Aurora Theatre, in 2017 and 2013 respectively). He is also an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia where he directs and teaches courses in acting and musical theatre. He holds a B.A. in Theatre Arts from Campbell University and an M.A. in Theatre Studies from Regent University, with additional course study at Rutgers. Much love to Michael.

ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ (Producing Artistic Director/Co-Founder) Aurora Theatre opened in the summer of 1996 and Anthony Rodriguez and Ann-Carol Pence established Aurora Theatre, Inc. as a non-profit organization in 1999. Under their leadership, the theatre grew from 120 season subscribers to the 5000 subscribers. Aurora's success led to an ABBY Award nomination in 2002 for Arts Professional of the Year. Mr. Rodriguez's greatest accomplishment to date was the successful negotiation to relocate Aurora Theatre to downtown Lawrenceville, where it is now undergoing a \$32 million campus expansion. Aurora's accomplishments include: Learning Library, an Educational Theatre Program, Aurora's Apprenticeship for recent college graduates, Aurora Academy and Conservatory where students learn about theatre from working professionals, Aurora's Musicals by Moonlight an annual outdoor summer concert, Cabaret and Comedy Series musical and stand-up comedy evenings between mainstage events, and Teatro Aurora, a professional Spanish-language theatre company that was created to highlight Latinx cultural heritage and to help build social bridges in our community. Anthony is past Chair of Partnership Gwinnett and past Chair of the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, where he was the first Latino and Arts leader to serve in that position. Mr. Rodriguez is a member of Screen Actor's Guild, is on the boards of NAMT (National Alliance for Musical Theatre) and TCG (Theatre Communications Group), and serves on the national steering committee for the Latinx Theatre Commons. Mr. Rodriguez is a graduate of Marist High School, the University of Georgia with a BFA in Theatre, the Atlanta Regional Commission's Regional Leadership Institute and the National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures' Leadership Institute, and Advocacy Institute. Mr. Rodriguez is a cancer survivor and has been cancer free for 29 year.

ANN-CAROL PENCE (Associate Producer/Co-Founder/Music Director) arranged the music for Aurora's first *Christmas Canteen* in 1996 and was hired full-time in September of 1998 as Resident Musical Director. An education major at James Madison University, she used her background to develop Learning Library (or L2). As a musician, she created Aurora's Musicals by Moonlight, and Aurora's New Musical Initiative. She has performed as pianist and/or music director both nationally (Goodspeed Opera House, Pasadena Playhouse, The Cleveland Playhouse, The Kennedy Center) and locally (The Alliance, Theatrical Outfit, Horizon). As a passionate citizen of Gwinnett, Ann-Carol is most proud of Aurora Theatre winning the first ever Pinnacle Award for Large Non-Profit and the first ever Moxie Award (for women led businesses). These go well with her 5 Suzi Awards for Outstanding Music Direction for *The Bridges of Madison County*, *Les Misérables*, *Mary Poppins*, Aurora's world premiere of *Clyde 'n Bonnie: A Folktale*, and *A Catered Affair* and multiple past nominations. Currently, Ann-Carol is a member of the National Alliance for Musical Theatre. She was a proud participant in the 2016 Atlanta Regional Leadership Institute and member of 2016's "Best Class Ever!" along with friend, colleague & Aurora board member Nicole Love Hendrickson. PLEASE VOTE!

KATIE PELKEY (Managing Director) is celebrating twelve seasons with Aurora! In 2013, Katie transitioned to the role of Company Manager, having previously served as Resident Stage Manager. She also created the highly-successful Stage Management and Costume Apprentice programs that operate simultaneously with Aurora's Acting Apprentice Company program. For five seasons, she worked as Aurora's Educational Resources Associate developing educational curriculum for teachers to use in conjunction with Aurora's TYA Learning Library offerings. And for over a decade,

Katie served as Production Stage Manager for New Plays for Young Audiences, a prestigious TYA summer staged reading series based at New York University. She received her BA in Educational Theatre from New York University with a minor in Dramatic Literature. Many thanks to Michael, Maxwell, and Alexander for their love and support!

MAURICE FIGGINS (Acoustic Bass) has been playing bass for 9 years and has traveled the country with various artists . Maurice has performed with renowned artists Eddie James, Judith Sephuma, and Regina Belle. He has been a part of live recordings, studio sessions, musicals, festivals, and so much more.

HAYDEN ROWE (Violin) is an Atlanta based actor & musician. Atlanta credits include *Once* (Horizon Theatre Company) *Bullets Over Broadway* (GET), *Tarzan*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *The Wedding Singer*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Atlanta Lyric), *Damn Yankees* (Theatre Buford), *A New Brain* (Zero Circle). He would like to thank his family and his former orchestra teacher, Mr. Gray, for all of the support throughout the years! @rowe_hayden

DANIEL POPE (Production Manager) is proud to be a member of the team at Aurora Theatre as Production Manager. Daniel has been a sound designer and engineer in the Atlanta area for the past eight years. He's had the pleasure of designing sound for the Aurora Theatre on many occasions on shows such as: *Into the Woods*, *Christmas Canteen*, *Sweep*, and most recently *The Bridges of Madison County*. Additionally, he's worked on countless other productions in the Atlanta theatre community including: *Evita* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* as Sound Designer and Production Manager at Serenbe Playhouse. Daniel received a Bachelors in Marketing with a specialization in sales and a minor in Music from The University of West Georgia in 2010.

JON SANDMAIER (Technical Director) has worked as Master Carpenter at Aurora for the last couple years. After graduating from IPFW at the end of the last millennium, Jon spent most of his time designing and building sets for various arts organizations in and around Fort Wayne, Indiana. He and his wife relocated to Georgia in the summer of 2016.

ASHLEY HOGAN (Assistant Technical Director) is excited to officially join Aurora's family as a staff member. She has enjoyed working her summers at Aurora the past few years while pursuing her degree at Georgia State University. After graduating summer of '18, she has spent the past year expanding her skill craft as an over-hire carpenter at Aurora.

AURORA THEATRE STAFF

Producing Artistic Director/Co-Founder	ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ
Associate Producer/Co-Founder	ANN-CAROL PENCE
Managing Director	KATIE PELKEY
Associate Artistic Director	JUSTIN ANDERSON
Education Coordinator.....	RENITA JAMES
Director of Corporate & Individual Giving	KELLY CRISS
Production Manager.....	DANIEL POPE
Technical Director.....	JON SANDMAIER
Assistant Technical Director.....	ASHLEY HOGAN
Director of Cross-Cultural Programs	JUAN CARLOS UNZUETA
Director of Sales and Marketing	AL STILO
Marketing & Retention Manager.....	AMEE VYAS
Graphic Design & Marketing Associate.....	ARI MCBRIDE
Box Office Manager	JENNIFER OWENS
Box Office & Front of House Staff.....	DAISIE AKKASHA, ROBYN ROGERS

BEHIND THE SCENES OF

Barbara's Blue Kitchen



Photos by Casey Gardner