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The Barber of Seville

*Fully-staged with Orchestra Sung in Italian
with projected English titles.*

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024, 2:00 pm

Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024, 7:30 pm

*Lewis Auditorium - 14
Granada St, Saint Augustine*



Curtis Tucker

General and Artistic Director

For more information contact us at

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Learn More at [FirstCoastOpera.com](https://www.FirstCoastOpera.com)



From the President



Welcome to the 25th season of the First Coast Opera. We've come a long way in those 25 years and are presenting our most exciting season ever as our Artistic Director, Curtis Tucker continues to provide us with creative and innovative leadership and programming.

It has become a tradition for many of you to ring in the New Year by attending a First Coast Opera production. You won't be disappointed by Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*. This quirky comic opera is full of intrigue, romance, and gorgeous singing.

Our Annual Gala Spectacular, on February 1, will feature the world-renowned composer and musician, Juan Antonio Simarro, who will present a special live performance for the gala evening. This dinner/dance will be held in the spectacular ocean-front ballroom of the Embassy Suites in St Augustine Beach. Seating is limited so get your tickets soon for this unforgettable evening, and to support the future productions of FCO.

25 years ago, the first fully staged opera presented by First Coast Opera was *The Magic Flute* by Wolfgang Mozart. This season, on March 21 and 22 we will again present this charming opera to our patrons here on the First Coast. The cast of delightful and whimsical characters will be filled by many of our favorite singers. Kirk Auditorium, on the campus of the School for Deaf and Blind, will be the site of this performance. There is plenty of free parking there and a beautifully renovated theater. Get your tickets soon.

We value your enthusiastic support of First Coast Opera both through attendance at our programs and through your continued generous giving. We must rely less on public funding, so you, our patrons, are our lifeline to be able to present these wonderful programs. Thank you for your generous and ongoing support. Here's to a terrific 25th Season and many more.

Kerry Fradley

Kerry Fradley, President

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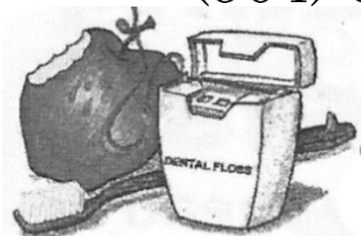
This playbill is available online at
www.firstcoastopera.com/the-barber-of-seville



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Tocoi Creek High School
Thursday, March 13, 2025 8:00PM

Spring Concert
Tocoi Creek High School
Friday, May 9, 2025 8:00PM

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Friday, January 31

Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra
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Thursday, February 27

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Wednesday, March 26

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The Barber of Seville

(Il Barbiere di Siviglia)

Based on *Le Barbier de Séville* by Pierre-Augustin Beaumarchais

Music by Gioacchino Rossini

Libretto by Cesare Sterbini

Premiered February 20, 1816, Teatro Argentina in Rome

CAST

Count Almaviva..... Fran Daniel Laucerica
Figaro, a barber Jake Stamatis
Rosina, ward of Dr. Bartolo Sarah Nordin
Dr. Bartolo, a physician..... Anthony Offerle
Basilio, a music teacher Tyler Putnam
Fiorello, Count Almaviva's servant Dirk Gavin McCoy
Berta, Dr. Bartolo's housekeeper Christen May Mayer
Ambrogio, Dr. Bartolo's servant Charles Ross
Officer Dirk Gavin McCoy
Guitarist Evan Bowen
Maid..... Annie Gaybis
Notary Robert Dawkins
Chorus of townspeople, servants, and soldiers

Artistic Team

Conductor Curtis Tucker
Stage Director Mark Freiman
Scenic Designer..... Garrett E. Wilson
Costume Designer..... Alan Smith
Lighting Designer Patrick Mathis
Hair & Makeup Designer Gina Makarova
Stage Manager..... Olivia Darling

Pre-Opera Talk..... Mark Freiman, Director

There will be an intermission between Acts I and II

Synopsis

Act I | Scene 1

Outside Doctor Bartolo's house, Count Almaviva arrives to serenade the Doctor's ward Rosina with whom he has fallen in love. He pretends to be the poor student "Lindoro" so that she will not be influenced by his title. Figaro, a barber in Seville, arrives rejoicing in his profession. He tells the Count that Bartolo has plans to marry Rosina for her inheritance. Rosina appears on the balcony with a note she has written to the handsome young stranger who has been serenading her. But Bartolo is right behind her and, alarmed by his ward's furtive behavior, is determined to expedite his marriage plans. After instructing Ambrogio that no one is to enter the house, Bartolo hurries off to organize the wedding. Promised payment for his assistance, Figaro devises a plan to get Almaviva into the house, disguised as a drunken soldier seeking lodging.

Act I | Scene 2

Inside the house, Rosina is determined to marry her suitor, Lindoro. Bartolo tells Rosina's music teacher, Don Basilio, of his suspicions that Count Almaviva is in town and in love with Rosina. Basilio suggests that they spread malicious rumors about the Count. Figaro tells Rosina that Lindoro is his cousin and adds that the young man is deeply in love with her. Rosina is delighted and gives him a note to deliver to the supposed Lindoro. The Count arrives in his soldier's disguise, only to discover that Dr. Bartolo is exempt from housing the military. Almaviva slips Rosina a note, which Bartolo sees, but Rosina smartly substitutes the laundry list. The noise from the ensuing confusion attracts the police, and the Count avoids arrest only by secretly revealing his identity to an officer.

Intermission

Act II

Count Almaviva returns, this time disguised as Don Alonso, a music teacher. He says that Basilio is ill and has sent him to give Rosina's music lesson in his place. He gains Bartolo's trust by producing Rosina's letter to himself and offering to persuade Rosina that the letter has been given to him by a mistress of the Count. Bartolo dozes off during the lesson and the Count and Rosina are able to share their mutual affection. Figaro manages to obtain the keys to the balcony, the escape route the Count and Rosina plan to use for their elopement that evening. Basilio appears but is told to go

home because he looks ill, advice he accepts more readily when Almoviva slips him a bribe. Rosina and the Count continue to arrange their elopement, but Bartolo catches the lovers in a compromising conversation and the Count and Figaro must make their escape. When Don Basilio returns to admit that he has never heard of Don Alonso, Bartolo instructs him to fetch a notary to perform his wedding right away. Meanwhile, Bartolo uses Almoviva's letter, which he took earlier, to convince Rosina that the Count intended to seduce and betray her. Furious, Rosina reveals the elopement plans and agrees to marry Bartolo, who rushes off to fetch the police.

Figaro and Almoviva arrive by climbing a ladder up to the balcony during a storm. Rosina confronts her lover, who reveals that he is, in fact, the Count. Their rejoicing is cut short when they realize that Bartolo has removed the ladder. Basilio enters with the notary that Bartolo requested. Figaro persuades the notary to wed Almoviva and Rosina instead, while the Count bribes Basilio into acting as a witness. Bartolo arrives too late and with no choice remaining, he blesses marriage, and everyone wishes the couple love and eternal fidelity.

Principal Artists



Fran Daniel Laucerica (Count Almoviva) is a Cuban-American tenor excited to reprise the role of Il Conte d'Almoviva with First Coast Opera, following his company debut as Silvio in *Le docteur miracle* in 2022. In the 2024/25 season, Laucerica will portray Poisson (*Adriana Lecouvreur*), Pittsburgh Festival Opera; Beppe (*Pagliacci*); Spoletta (*Tosca*); Rinaldo (*Armida*); and Thomas (*Woman with Eyes Closed*), Pittsburgh Opera. Additionally, he will

serve as a tenor soloist in St. Matthew Passion, Madison Bach Musicians. Mr. Laucerica is a recent Third Prize winner of the Handel Aria Competition. In concert, he has performed as a tenor soloist in *Carmina Burana*, Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, *Cantatas 8 and 12*, Mozart's *Requiem* and *Coronation Mass*, Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*, and Handel's *Messiah*.

Deborah & John Arbizzani

Jake Stamatis (Figaro) is thrilled to make his First Coast Opera debut as Figaro. His recent performances include covering Enrico (*Lucia di Lammermoor*) with St. Petersburg Opera, Dancaïre (*Carmen*) and covering Enrico (*Lucia di Lammermoor*) with Sarasota Opera, The Pirate King (*The Pirates of Penzance*) with Pacific Opera Project, and Figaro (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*) with Gulfshore Opera. Upcoming engagements include Il Conte (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Sarasota Opera; Papageno (*The Magic Flute*), Mississippi Opera; and Sir Joseph Porter (*HMS Pinafore*), Pacific Opera Project. Stamatis, a native of Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania, is a graduate of Susquehanna University and Binghamton University.



In the 2024-2025 season, **Sarah Nordin** brings her acclaimed portrayal of Rosina to First Coast Opera. She will also make her debut with the South Dakota Symphony as Sorrine Olsa in the rarely performed *Giants in the Earth* by Douglas Moore; return to St. Petersburg Opera as Countess Charlotte (*A Little Night Music*); and debut with Utah Festival Opera as General Cartwright (*Guys and Dolls*) and Mrs. Harcourt (*Anything Goes*).

Recent highlights from the 2023-2024 season include performances with Orlando Sings for Bach's *B Minor Mass*, Great Falls Symphony for Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, and Ruth (*The Pirates of Penzance*) with First Coast Opera. Nordin has previously charmed audiences as Rosina in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* with Opera Orlando and Gulf Coast Symphony, and as the title role in *La Cenerentola* with Geneva Light Opera.

Bass-baritone **Anthony Offerle**'s (Dr. Bartolo) credits include performances with the OperaEstate in Rome, Cincinnati Opera, Opera Mississippi, First Coast Opera, Dayton Opera, Wyoming Opera, Intermountain Opera, Pacific Opera, and the Spoleto Festival USA. He has sung over 30 leading roles including the title characters in *Don Giovanni* and *Don Pasquale*, Scarpia (*Tosca*), Papageno (*Die Zauberflöte*), and Bartolo (both *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and *Le nozze di Figaro*). Equally at home with musical theater repertoire, he has performed the Major General (*The Pirates of Penzance*); Sir Despard Murgatroyd (*Ruddigore*); Riff (*West Side Story*); and



Curly (*Oklahoma*). He created the role of Muffeo in the world-premiere of Stella Sung's opera *The Red Silk Thread* and stage directed Paul Richards' 2022 National Opera Association Prize-winning *The Golem of Prague*.

A regular with First Coast Opera, **Tyler Putnam** (Basilio) most recently appeared as the Pirate King (*The Pirates of Penzance*). His recent engagements include a return to Opera på Skäret in Sweden as Oroveso (*Norma*), Leporello (*Don Giovanni*) with Gulfshore Opera, Bartolo (*Le nozze di Figaro*) with The Missouri Symphony, Sparafucile (*Rigoletto*) with Opera på Skäret, and Cura Viejo in the world premiere of *Behold the Man* with Opera Las Vegas. Putnam was an apprentice at The Santa Fe Opera for two seasons, where he debuted the role of Kobun in a workshop performance of Mark Campbell and Mason Bates' *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*, sang Zweiter Soldat (*Salome*), and originated the role of Thomas in the world premiere of Jennifer Higdon's *Cold Mountain*. Originally from Chebeague Island, Maine, Putnam is a graduate of Dartmouth College.



St. Augustine baritone **Dirk Gavin McCoy** (Fiorello, Officer) is a frequent performer with First Coast Opera. In addition to multiple FCO concerts, he has appeared in Copland's *America*, as Marcello in *Pasta & Puccini/La Boheme*; Sergeant Miller in the 2018 FL premiere of Curtis Tucker's *The Stranger's Tale*; King Melchior (*Amahl and the Night Visitors*) and Uncle Bonzo (*Madama*

Butterfly). Dirk recently sang the role of David in Samuel Barber's *A Hand of Bridge* for Jacksonville-based Bold City Opera's inaugural production. He sang the title role of Gianni Schicchi and the 3rd Trio Member in *Trouble in Tahiti* with the Mid-Ohio Civic Opera Company, having previously sung the role for the 2022 Romanza Festival. Dirk has sung in the prestigious choruses of the New York City Opera and Washington National Opera, singing or covering comprimario roles in both houses.

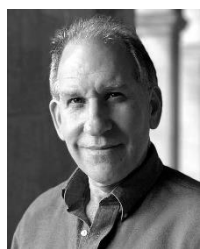
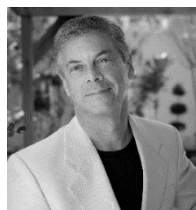
Christen May Mayer (Berta) is excited to make her debut with First Coast Opera. Currently, she sings with Lyric Theater's interactive education program, introducing young students to the vocal arts, as well as with Opera on Tap and various local ensembles and theaters. Most



recently, Mayer performed Clotilde in *Norma* with the New Jersey Opera Theater. She earned her Master of Opera Performance from Oklahoma City University ('24), where she performed roles such as Suor Angelica (*Suor Angelica*), Zweite Dame (*Die Zauberflöte*), Ruel (*The Scarf*), and covered Donna Elvira (*Don Giovanni*) with Painted Sky Opera. Mayer also holds a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance from Stetson University ('19), with additional credits that include Fiordiligi (*Così fan tutte*), Micaëla (*Carmen*), both Ciesca and Nella (*Gianni Schicchi*), Geraldine (*A Hand of Bridge*), and Damigella (*L'incoronazione di Poppea*).

Artistic Team

Curtis Tucker (Director) produces his eleventh season for First Coast Opera as General and Artistic Director, often leading from the orchestra pit or director's chair, and sometimes performing along with singers onstage. This season he will conduct mainstage performances of *The Barber of Seville* and *The Magic Flute*. The Kansas City native led Opera Saratoga in New York before moving to Florida. Last season he led performances of his original one-act opera, *The Stranger's Tale*, in Saint Augustine, Jacksonville, and Mount Dora.



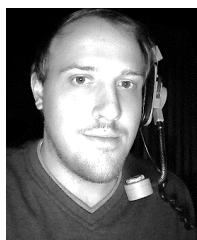
Mark Freiman (Stage Director) makes his debut with First Coast Opera after directing *Carmen* at Union Avenue Opera (St. Louis) and *Lucia di Lammermoor* at Sarasota Opera earlier this year. As a performer, he has portrayed Dr. Bartolo and Don Basilio in *The Barber of Seville* with opera companies across North America, including two national tours with the New York City Opera. A recipient of the prestigious Richard F. Gold Career Grant from the

Shoshana Foundation, Freiman is featured as William Jennings Bryan on the Sony Newport Classics recording of *The Ballad of Baby Doe* and spent a year in Hamburg performing in the German-language production of *The Phantom of the Opera*. His early career included three seasons as a child soloist with the Metropolitan Opera, where he sang a solo in their very first live telecast, *La Bohème* with Luciano Pavarotti. He received his training at New York City's renowned Amato Opera.



Garrett E. Wilson (Scenic Designer) is the Chair and a Senior Artist-In-Residence at the Skidmore College Theatre Department. He designed scenery and lighting for FCO's production of *Opera Mystique* in 2022 and has designed over thirty operas for the Lake George Opera/Opera Saratoga including *Ariadne Auf Naxos*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Candide*, and the world professional premiere of Ned Rorem's *Our Town*. Garrett has also designed scenery, projections, and occasionally lighting, for over sixty productions at Skidmore including *Cabaret*, *A Balm in Gilead*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Macbeth*, *A Dream Play*, and *Enemy of the People*. Garrett is a board member and the acting Artistic Director of Saratoga Shakespeare where he has produced and designed scenery for many productions.

Alan Michael Smith (Costume Designer) Smith's work has been seen on the First Coast Opera stage in for the past eight seasons! Smith has worked as a freelance Costume Designer on Broadway and for various regional theaters in and around New York. As a member of the Theatrical Wardrobe Union, Alan has been associated with over 15 Broadway shows in the last 30 years. He had the pleasure of being the Resident Costume Designer for 9 years at Opera Saratoga and currently for 8 years at First Coast Opera. Mr. Smith is also the Resident Costume Designer at Wagner College for the past 16 years.



Patrick W. Mathis (Lighting Designer) Patrick holds an MFA in Theatre Design and Technologies from Utah State University and a BS in Information Science and Technology from Mercer University. He has worked in theatre and live entertainment across the nation and internationally in the areas of technical theatre, as well as lighting and media design. Patrick is a member of

CITT/ICTS, USITT, and Actors Equity. He currently proudly serves as Assistant Professor of Design and Technology at Flagler College.

Gina Makarova (Hair & Makeup Designer) is glad to be returning to First Coast Opera for a second season. Previously she has designed *La Boheme* and *Pirates of Penzance* for FCO. Back in Orlando, she works with Orlando

Ballet's wardrobe department full time. She has also done multiple productions with Opera Orlando, including classic titles such as *Carmen*, *Rigoletto*, and *Die Fledermaus* as well as more contemporary works such as *The Secret River* and *The Juniper Tree*. In her limited spare time, Gina also likes to perform. She is often seen onstage with Phantasmagoria Orlando as a multi-faceted performer.



Olivia Darling (Stage Manager) Olivia Darling is a freelance stage manager specializing in opera. Her recent credits include calling *La boheme* (Minnesota Opera), and assistant stage-managing *Daughter of the Regiment* (Opera Colorado), *The Barber of Seville* (Des Moines Metro Opera), *American Apollo* (Des Moines Metro Opera), and *Elixir of Love* (Minnesota Opera).

Chorus

David Abraham
Evan Bowen
Greyson Dickason
Paul Dula

Mary-Camila Klotz
Steve Rich
Aaron Snodgrass
Ryan Stark
Emily Sullivan

Laura Weiss
Sebastian Williams
Camille Zeigler
Caragh Zeigler



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Orchestra

Judy Steinmeyer, Concertmaster

Flute

Don Gottlieb

Horn

Sean Morgan
Liam McConlogue

Viola

Breanna Lang
Jessye Russom

Oboe

Kristin Kusic

Trumpet

Joe Jamerson

Cello

Nathan Ealum
Ian Rivera-Rossario

Clarinet

James Hall
Kevin Clausen

Violin

Judy Steinmeyer
AJ Pullium
Kaitlin Smedley
Alyssa Albert
Ty Russom

Double Bass

Aaron Kinman

Bassoon

Nathan Michaelson

Harpsichord

Yelena Kurdina

Orchestral edition by Bryan Higgins, by arrangement with
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Stage Director Mark Freiman
Stage Manager Olivia Darling
Assistant Stage Manager Claire Mayo
Rehearsal Accompanist Yelena Kurdina
Chorus Master Keith Teepen
Orchestra Contractor Music by Pegge, LLC
Property Master Jean Rahner
Props Crew Kerry Fradley, Nancy Perry, Thomas Rahner
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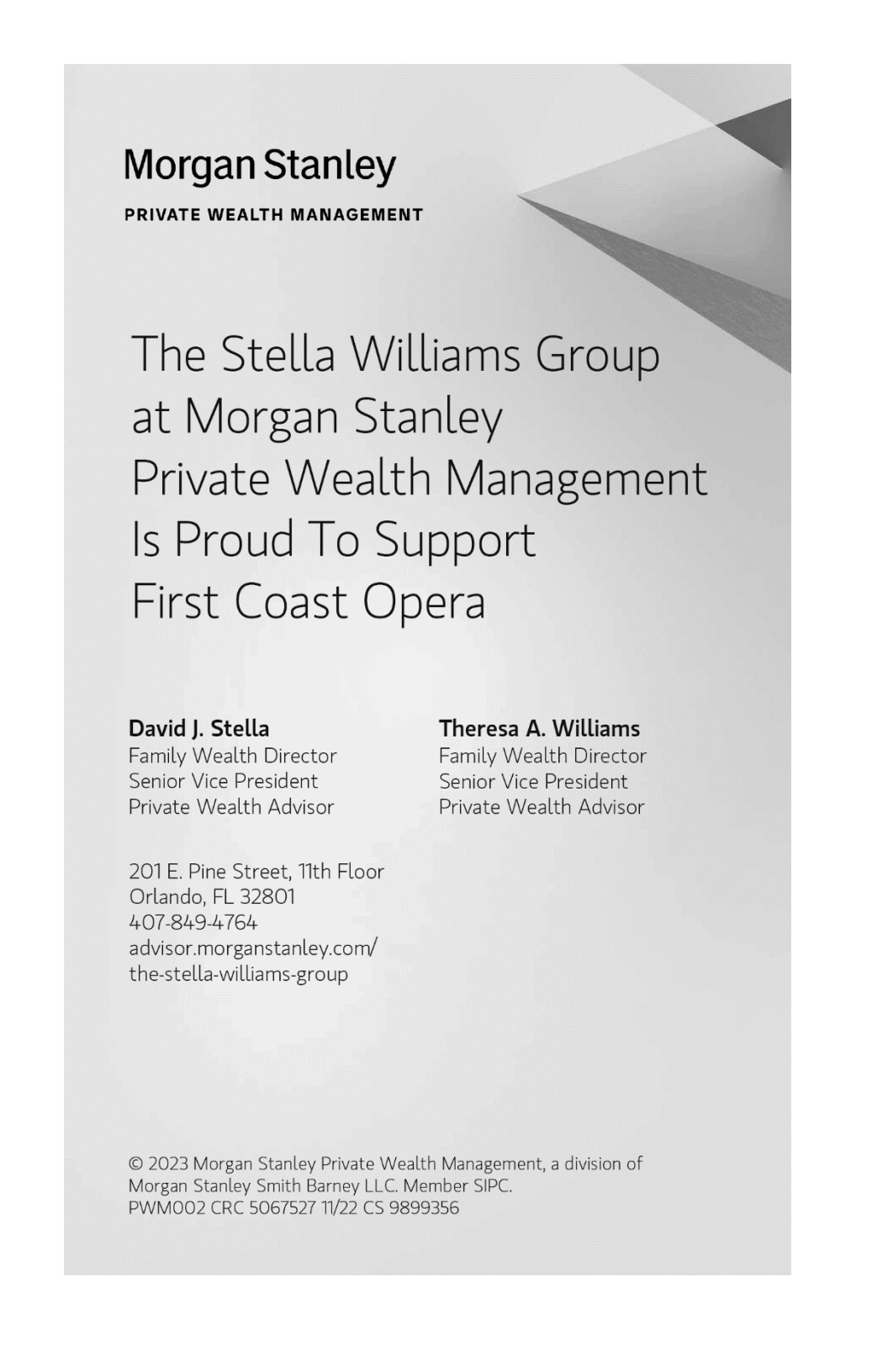
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