



**Loose Tea Music Theatre announces the appointment of
Four New Board of Directors**



July 7, 2022 - Toronto, ON // Toronto-based opera company [Loose Tea Music Theatre \(LTMT\)](#) is delighted to announce the appointment of four new Board Directors, adding to the expansion of staff that occurred earlier this year. New members include **Melissa Chetty** (Vice-President), **Kendal Lander** (Secretary), **Charity Chan**, and **Rebekah Lobosco Gilli**. They join current President Dr **Alan Viau**, and Treasurer **Natasha Bood**. With an expanded group of dynamic individuals supporting the organization, LTMT can continue to push the boundaries of opera and music theatre.

From Executive Artistic Director **Alaina Viau**: *“The voting in of our new board, with so many incredible individuals, is a reflection of our continued momentum. I’m absolutely thrilled to welcome our new members that bring a breadth of significant experience to support our collective vision for opera. I want to especially thank outgoing Director Aislinn Ritchie, who supported us from the very beginning. She was instrumental in our development, helping raise over \$500,000 in grants and in-kind donations - we simply would not be where we are today without her dedication and steadfast support.”*

Melissa Chetty (she/her) shares a passion for innovative programming in arts and culture industries and has a background focused on designing and administering funding programs. She brings to the LTMT Board a keen interest in the development of performing arts production and building organizational resiliency and capacity, with a strong foundation of expertise centered around community engagement, funds/budget management, strategic planning, and program governance. Combining her training background in performing arts with well-rounded experience that includes serving as Acting Director of External Affairs at Canada’s National Ballet School, Manager of Program & Services for the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs and Culture Programs Advisor for the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism, & Culture Industries, Melissa understands both the artistic and operational requirements of organizations across non-profit and government sectors.

Kendal Lander (she/her) has worked in arts and education non-profit/charity management for nearly a decade, with a focus in operations, strategic planning, and fundraising. Throughout her career, Kendal has held positions at the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Sistema Toronto, and the Toronto Children’s Chorus. Most recently, Kendal has consulted with multiple charities on their COVID transition and recovery strategies to ensure continued growth and long-term health. After engaging with children, youth, and families for the entirety of her career, Kendal decided to transfer this experience into the field of law. She is currently completing her Juris Doctor at the University of Ottawa, Common Law program. Kendal is thrilled to maintain her arts and non-profit roots as a member of the LTMT board, and contribute to an organization dedicated to the exploration of cross-cultural and social relationships.

Charity Chan (she/they) has been an arts professional for over 25-years, working across Canada, the United States, Latin America, and Europe. As a producer, curator, educator, and arts manager, she is dedicated to cross-cultural, multidisciplinary programming that expands access to the arts to all communities. Having served as the Interim Associate Dean of Music and Fine Art at Humber College and the Head of Public Programmes and Learning at the Museum of Contemporary Art Toronto, she has also overseen the annual performing arts season at the Aga Khan Museum of 250+ programs, and currently oversees outreach and communications for Luminato Festival Toronto’s Edward Burtynsky Immersive Exhibition “In the Wake of Progress.” Charity holds an M.F.A. in Contemporary Performance and Literature from Mills College, and was previously an Andrew Mellon Fellow at the Centre for Arts and Cultural Policy at Princeton University and a Perkins Fellow at Columbia College Chicago’s Centre for Black Music Research.

Rebekah Lobosco Gilli (she/her) is currently the Interim Director of Development at Opera Atelier. She has multiple years of experience in fundraising and arts administration, with additional experience in management, customer service, and hospitality. Rebekah holds multiple degrees in music history and has been published in the edited volume *Queer in the Choir Room* (ed. Michelle Parke, 2014). She is deeply passionate about supporting arts organizations and is thrilled to be joining the LTMT Board!

About Loose Tea Music Theatre: Loose Tea Music Theatre was founded in 2013 by Director and Creator Alaina Viau. LTMT centers its creation on addressing critical social issues and curating ensembles that showcase the diversity of humanity. Our mandate is to create new and reimagined music theatre productions in an inclusive and compassionate environment that supports creators and welcomes diversity in creation. It's Vision: Through interdisciplinary performative arts, innovation, and exploration, Loose Tea will dismantle systemic barriers within the performing arts industry, ultimately revolutionizing its impact within society.

<https://looseteamusictheatre.com>

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For more information

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