



presents

## The title "The Count Of Monte Cristo" is rendered in a stylized, colorful font. The word "The" is in a simple yellow font. "COUNT OF" is in a yellow font with a red outline. "MONTE" is in a large, bold, yellow font with a red outline, and a sword is positioned horizontally behind the letters "ONTE". "CRISTO" is in a yellow font with a red outline. The sword has a detailed hilt and a long, straight blade.

A Musical Adaptation

inspired by the classic novel by Alexandre Dumas

produced for radio-style dramatic production

April 16 - June 16, 2021

**Available for download:**  
**\$15 per ticket; \$30 per family**  
**at [imagostage.org](http://imagostage.org)**

Script, Music, and Lyrics by Cathy Flores  
Additional Music and Lyrics by Chris Flores,  
Bethany A. Schwartzkopf, K. J. Schwartzkopf,  
and Jason Stephenson

Produced by special arrangement with  
LifeHouse Productions,  
Inc. @ [LifeHouseProductions.com](http://LifeHouseProductions.com)

# THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

Synopsis of scenes and songs

Overture

## ACT I

**Scene 1:** Edmond's Cell at the Château d'If (1832)  
"Château d'If/The Count of Monte Cristo".....Edmond

**Scene 2:** The Port of Marseilles (1815)  
"1815".....Ensemble

**Scene 3:** The Shore of the Marseilles Port  
"Serenade".....Edmond, Mercedes  
"Insignificant Betrayal".....Danglars, Fernand, Villefort

**Scene 4:** The Mayor's Office in Marseilles

**Scene 5:** Villefort's Office in Marseilles  
"Insignificant Betrayal" (Reprise).....Villefort, Danglars,  
Fernand

**Scene 6:** The Port of Marseilles

**Scene 7:** Edmond's Cell at the Château d'If/  
The Shore of Marseilles

*(Six Years Pass)*

"Where Can I Go?" .....Mercedes  
"Mercedes" .....Edmond  
"Where Can I Go/Mercedes" (Reprise).....Edmond  
Mercedes, Fernand

**Scene 8:** Edmond's Cell, Château d'If  
"One More Shovelful to Freedom/  
Bury Your Heart" .....Abbé Faria, Edmond

**Scene 9:** The Paris Orphanage/The Port of Marseilles

**Scene 10:** Faria's Cell at the Chateau d'If

“God Will Avenge” .....Abbé Faria, Edmond

**Scene 11:** Outside the Château d’If

**Scene 12:** An Island

“The Vampa” .....Luigi, Smugglers

**Scene 13:** The Island of Monte Cristo

“The Count of Monte Cristo” .....Edmond

Entr’acte

## **ACT II**

**Scene 1:** Port of Marseilles and Morrel’s Home

**Scene 2:** Carnival in Rome

“Carnival in Rome” .....M.C., Albert, Franz, Ensemble

“The Vampa” (Reprise).....Chief Smuggler

**Scene 3:** Mondego’s Mansion in Paris

“Lost Love” (“Serenade” Reprise).....Edmond

**Scene 4:** Danglars’ Cell

**Scene 5:** The Count’s Mansion in Paris

**Scene 6:** Danglars’ Cell

**Scene 7:** The Count’s Mansion in Paris .

“He Could Have Been My Son” .....Edmond

“Bury My Heart” (Reprise).....Edmond

**Scene 8:** Villefort’s Office in Paris

**Scene 9:** A Paris Courtroom

“Forgiveness” .....Haydée

**Scene 10:** The Count’s Mansion in Paris

“He Could Have Been Your Son” Reprise.....Mercedes

**Scene 11:** Paris Countryside

**Scene 12:** Edmond’s Cell at the Château d’If and

The Port of Marseilles

“Château d’If/The Count of Monte Cristo” Reprise

.....Edmond

“Forgiveness” Reprise.....Edmond

“Wait and Hope” .....Edmond, Ensemble

# WHO'S WHO

## Artistic and Production Team

Director.....Tess McKinley  
Music Director.....Dan McKinley  
Audio Recording, Mixing and Edit.....Michelle Heinze  
Sound Effects, Assistant Recording Engineer.....Pete Cherry  
Sound Supervisor.....Travis Jarrett  
Stage Manager.....Joshua Eipper  
Vocal Coach.....Dede Austen

## Cast of Characters

Edmond Dantes.....Peter Cherry  
Mercedes Herrera.....Michelle Heinze  
Morrel.....Peter Smick  
Fernand Mondego.....Jesse Kriesel  
Danglars.....David Orvosh  
Gerard de Villefort.....Andrew Neill  
Noirtier.....Colin Harper  
Abbé Faria.....Ben Morse  
Haydée Quesnel (Adult).....Amelia Smith  
Haydée Quesnel (Child).....Joy Waltmire  
General Quesnel.....Peter Smick  
Sister Julie.....Jackie Meuse  
Jacopo.....Francisco Mota  
Luigi Vampa.....Kenny Smith  
Albert Mondego.....Maxfield Sklar  
M.C.....Kenny Smith  
Chief Smuggler.....Maxfield Sklar  
Smugglers.....Andrew Neill, Colin Harper  
Guard.....Colin Harper  
Mayor.....Colin Harper  
Overseer.....Andrew Neill  
Franz.....Victor Stiles  
Servant.....Colin Harper  
Officer.....Andrew Neill  
Judge.....Colin Harper  
Ensemble.....Allegra Smick, Victor Stiles, Madeleine Trumbull,  
Anna Waltmire, April Waltmire, Joy Waltmire,  
Sara Waltmire, Emily Whitfield  
Narrator.....Tess McKinley

## Director's Note:

### Wait and Hope

"Wait and hope:" the final words of Alexandre Dumas' novel *The Count of Monte Cristo*. What are we supposed to understand from them?

Betrayed and forgotten for 14 years, Edmond Dantes miraculously escapes from an impenetrable prison. Why was he betrayed and forgotten? And why 14 years of it? And what does it all have to do with you or me?

Our private sufferings often are unexplainably unfair and feel interminable. God offers no simplistic answer to our cries for mercy and release. Dumas attempts to answer with these words: Wait. Hope.

Those familiar with Old Testament stories will remember that God did not intervene *until* Abraham was ready to plunge a dagger into the son he loved; *until* the Israelites had broken their backs serving as Egyptian slaves for over 400 years; *until* they were terrorized by the Egyptians in hot pursuit behind them and the foaming Red Sea before them; *until* Job's wealth was dissipated, his health ruined, and his sons and daughters slaughtered; *until* Joseph was ridiculed, bullied, beaten up, and sold into slavery by his own brothers and unjustly thrown into prison on a false accusation of adultery. THEN, God came to the rescue.

Perhaps the point of waiting and hoping is that we need to come to the place where it is abundantly clear that our deliverance is not of our own making, but is only because of divine intervention.

Edmond Dantes credits his own ingenuity for his escape, considering it his divine responsibility to exact revenge against those who betrayed him. He is diabolical in his orchestration of events that will cause the worst possible suffering for his betrayers in ways that will wound them the most. Is he playing God or the Devil? Freed from a physical prison, he creates a psychological prison where a desire for revenge eats away at his very soul.

The villainous characters of Villefort, Danglars, and Mondego find wealth, happiness, power, and prestige, but the treacherous

choices they have made eventually become their undoing. Their stories warn us of the consequences of pride.

*The Count of Monte Cristo* is a story about forgiveness and redemption, pride and revenge, but also about the divine Knight in shining armor who rescues the repentant, but does not do so *until* we acknowledge that we are not the author of our deliverance.

Although Dumas gives some implied twists at the end of his novel, the story ends with some ambiguity. It is intentional. What exactly happens to Edmond and Mercedes? Well, quite simply, that is another story. Boy-gets-girl-and-lives-happily-ever-after stories are not realistic. Redemption frees us from bondage to the prisons we have created, but not necessarily from the consequences of our choices. We are assured however, that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope (Romans 5:3-4).

So, until our deliverance comes, we wait. and hope.

Tess McKinley,  
Director

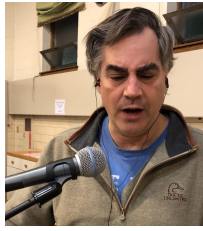
### Biographies of the Actors



**Peter Cherry (Edmond Dantes, Sound Effects, Assistant to Recording Engineer)**

has been involved in community theater for over twenty years. A native of northeast Vermont, he acted and played percussion in pit orchestras for productions by the St. Johnsbury Players, Danville Summer Singers, and St.

Johnsbury Academy. He was a member of the ensemble cast of Jean-Claude van Itallie's one-act play, *Interview*, which won at the district, state, and New England theater festivals. At Gordon College, he had the opportunity to sing the role of Figaro in Act II of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* in a production of opera scenes. He also played Judas in the 2003 Christ Church of Hamilton and Wenham production of *Godspell*, Sidney Carton in Imago Stage Company's production of *A Tale of Two Cities* and Edward Rochester in *Jane Eyre*. He lives in Gloucester with his wife and three children.



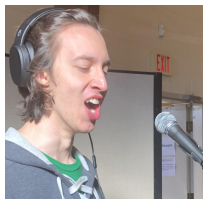
**Colin Harper (Noirtier, Guard, Mayor, Officer, Smuggler, Servant, Judge, Ensemble)** appeared in Imago Stage productions as Robert in *Jane Eyre* and Dr. Manette in *A Tale of Two Cities*. He attends Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church and works as an information security analyst at Liberty Mutual in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. He loves to sail, grow fruits and vegetables, raise chickens

and bees, hunt ducks, and make gnocchi. He lives in Ipswich with his wife and four daughters.



**Michelle Heinze (Mercedes, Audio Engineer)** is a singer/songwriter, worship leader and homeschooling mother. Theater has long been a passion for Michelle, but her favorite roles have been those in musicals that highlight the awesome and redemptive power of God, such as *Jane Eyre* (Jane), *A Tale of Two Cities*

(Lucie), *Esther* (Arafeen), *Ebenezer Scrooge* (Elizabeth) and *A Journey to Bethlehem* (Rachel). She has done significant audio work on musical recordings in the past, both for the church and for her original album (*Not Alone*), but this is her first time producing a full length audio drama. Working on this production has been a unique challenge for Michelle and she is especially grateful to her family, Peter Cherry and his family, Travis Jarrett, and the wonderful cast. Thank you for your commitment to excellence and fun, patience, and steadfast encouragement during this season. For many of us, this year has indeed been one of many storms, but we are learning to wait and hope. "And hope is not an empty wish. It is a promise of better things to come." Soli Deo Gloria.



**Jesse Kriesel (Fernand)** is a full time student at Gordon College in Wenham, MA. He studies Music in Worship and Theatre Arts, and aspires to be a performer. He has performed in such college productions as *Antigone*, *The Velveteen Rabbit*, and *Titanic the Musical*. When he isn't performing, he is busy with schoolwork or his

positions as an apprentice and TA for the school's theatre department.



**Jackie Meuse (Ensemble)** played the roles of Miss Scatcherd and Lady Ingram in Imago Stage Company's production of *Jane Eyre* and Madame DeFarge in *A Tale of Two Cities*. After attending one church service at Christ the Redeemer in January of 2014, Jackie joined both CtR and its choir. A choral and church

choir singer for many years, Jackie performed with Quannapowitt

Players Children's Theatre Company (Reading, MA) productions in the 1970s. Jackie is grateful for her friends and family for their love and support always.



**Ben Morse (Abbé Faria)** is from Natick, MA. He has a beautiful wife, 3 sons, and 4 grandsons. This is Ben's first venture with Imago, and he has enjoyed every minute of it. Recently, Ben was the voice of Ebenezer Scrooge in *A Gilbert & Sullivan Christmas Carol* with Greater Worcester Opera. He has appeared in many GWO productions and concerts over the last 11 years. Ben appeared as

Mordecai in the New Life Fine Arts original musical *Esther: For Such a Time as This* in the Fall of 2020, and has appeared in many other New Life productions throughout their 23 year affiliation. He has performed with the Concord Players, the Sudbury Savoyards, Longwood Opera, TCAN (in Natick), and is on the New England Gilbert and Sullivan Society (NEGASS) Board.



**Francisco Mota (Jacopo)** is a recent graduate of Salem State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre. His recent credits include Stryver in *A Tale of Two Cities* with the Imago Stage Company and King Carlos Cuarto in *A Free Man of Color* with the Salem State University Theatre. This is his second production with Imago Stage Company.



**Andrew Neill (Gerard de Villefort, Prison Overseer, Smuggler)** has performed in Imago Stage Productions as St. John Rivers in *Jane Eyre* and Charles Darnay in *A Tale of Two Cities*. He previously appeared as a member of the Pegasus Players while attending Norwich

University in Vermont and as a student at Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School (a very, very long time ago). Andrew has been singing with church choirs for the past 35 years, first at Christ Church in Hamilton and for the past 10 years at Christ the Redeemer Church. He is employed full-time with the Town of Hamilton.



**David Orvosh (Danglars)** is very excited to be part of the cast of *The Count of Monte Cristo*. David has performed the roles of Bob Cratchit in *Scrooge*, King Xerxes in *Esther*, Faithful in *Celestial City*, and was an ensemble member in *Ruth* and *Song on the Wind* at New Life Drama Company. He also plays the role of Joseph in his

annual family Christmas nativity reenactment.





**Maxfield Sklar (Albert, Chief Smuggler)** is an actor and dramaturg from Salem, MA. This is his first performance with Imago Stage Company. He has been a leading member of Trinacria Theater Company since 2016 where he is involved as a writer and a performer. Other work in acting and historical interpretation includes performing with Still Small Theatre Company, History Alive!, and the Boston Tea Party Ships and Museum. This fall, Max began studying for his MDiv at Yale Divinity School. He is a postulant for holy orders with the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts.



**Allegra Smick (Ensemble)** In addition to her talents in costume design and construction, Allegra is a seamstress and quilter and has spent a long career in the classroom. She taught French, German, and English at Masconomet Regional High School in Boxford, MA, before joining the faculty at the Waring School in Beverly in 1991, where she taught French and Humanities. She established the Waring in Angers program in 1999 and has traveled frequently to France during her teaching career. Two of Allegra's quilts have been exhibited by Sacred Threads Quilts: one in their 2019 biennial and one in the Backyard Escape traveling show in 2020. Since retirement, she and her husband have traveled within the U.S. as well to Europe, South America, and Africa. Allegra is an avid seamstress who takes delight in her six grandchildren who also like to travel. She played a French revolutionary and various other roles in Imago Stage's *A Tale of Two Cities* and was in the *Jane Eyre* ensemble.



**Peter Laird Smick (Morrel, General Quesnel)** played Mr. Brocklehurst, Mr. Eshton, and the Vicar in Imago Stage Company's production of *Jane Eyre* and Monsieur DeFarge in *A Tale of Two Cities*. He spent over 35 years in the field of secondary education as a teacher and administrator. In the spring of 2012, he retired after 22 years as Headmaster of the Waring School. An enthusiastic choral singer, Peter was for many years a stalwart of the bass section of the choir of Christ Church of Hamilton and Wenham, where he played leading roles in productions of *The Play of Herod* and *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. He was also a member of the Castle Hill Festival Chorus and has performed with a number of choral ensembles, such as The New A Cappellas under the direction of Dick Emery. Peter and his wife Allegra now occupy an empty nest in Beverly. Their four children and six grandchildren live in places as close as Providence and as faraway Los Angeles and Seattle, which gives them yet another excuse to indulge their favorite pastime — travel.



**Amelia Smith (Haydée)** is an actor, director, and theatre educator from Beverly, MA. She is excited to be making her debut with Imago Stage Company in this recording, alongside her husband, Kenny. She would like to thank Tess and Dan for continuing to tell stories that inspire hope during this difficult time. Favorite past productions

include *The Diary of Perpetua* (Perpetua) and *Godspell* (Director) with Still Small Theatre, *The Glass Menagerie* (Laura) and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Cecily) with The Firehouse Center for the Arts, and most recently *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Snout) with North Shore Players.

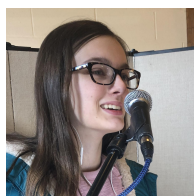


**Kenny Smith (Luigi Vampa, M.C.)** is an aspiring voice actor who has performed in *The Prophet Project*, *The Diary of Perpetua*, and *Today, in this Town*. He has also assistant directed *How I Met Our Father* and directed *The Day Between* with Still Small Theater Company. He is excited to debut with Imago Stage Company in this production of *The Count of Monte Cristo*.



**Victor Stiles (Franz, Officer, Servant)** appeared as Richard Mason in Imago Stage Company's production of *Jane Eyre*. As a music lover, Victor is happy to be part of his first musical with the church. Victor has spent six years serving in the choir, and would like to thank Dan McKinley for shaping him as a musician. Outside of church, he

participates in his school's select a cappella ensemble, as well as playing piano and guitar.



**Madeleine Trumbull (Ensemble)** is an 8th grader at Plumfield Academy. Some of her favorite pastimes are reading, knitting, playing with her bunnies, and art. Last year she played Amy Eshton in Imago Stage's production of *Jane Eyre*. She has very much enjoyed being a part of *The Count of Monte Cristo*.



**Anna Waltmire (Ensemble)** is a senior in high school and played Louisa Eshton in Imago Stage Company's *Jane Eyre*. She loves playing the part of the snobby aristocrat. When she is not performing, working, or doing school, she can be found creating art, hanging out with friends, or watching her favorite YouTubers. Anna has

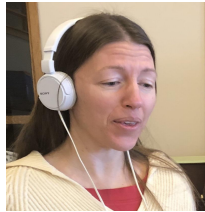
played Sarah Cratchit and ensemble roles in *Scrooge: A Christmas Carol* and an acolyte dancer in *Esther, for Such a Time as This* at New Life Drama Company.



**April Waltmire (Ensemble)** is in tenth grade and loves to act. She played a Schoolgirl and was in the Ensemble in *Jane Eyre* with Imago Stage Company. At home, she is probably reading a book, taking a walk with her friends or she might be writing her own short stories. April has played Father Christmas in *The Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe*, and at New Life Drama Company, she played the roles of Fan and Mary Cratchit in *Scrooge: A Christmas Carol* and a Jewish child in *Esther, For Such a Time as This*.



**Joy Waltmire (Young Haydee)** is in fifth grade and was born for the stage. She played the role of Adele in *Jane Eyre* for Imago Stage Company. She says the best part is the freedom to be as dramatic as she wants to be. Joy loves to create and sew, play minecraft, or do whatever her sisters are doing. She has played Tiny Tim and Want in *Scrooge: A Christmas Carol* and was a Jewish child soloist in *Esther, For Such a Time as This* at New Life Drama Company.

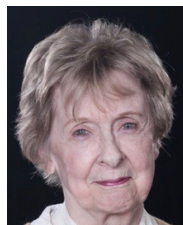


**Sara Waltmire (Ensemble)** is delighted to be a part of *The Count of Monte Cristo*. In most productions she can be found working behind the scenes (*Jane Eyre*, Imago Stage Company) in the green room or sewing costumes. When she is not working with a production she is busy homeschooling her children, working with youth group students, teaching ceramics or crafting. She loves the fact that *The Count of Monte Cristo* shows the love and gift of forgiveness that only comes from Jesus Christ in such a stirring narrative.



**Emily Whitfield (Ensemble)** is homeschooled in her senior year of high school. She loves music and art, but especially theatre. She has also played Macduff in Rebel Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. This is her third production with Imago Stage Company.

### Production Team



**Dede Austen (Vocal Coach)** has an Artist Diploma from Longy School of Music in Cambridge. Her singing and acting career includes scenes from various operas, and she especially loves Mozart. She has presented many solo and duo concerts, among them benefits. Her musical and teaching work has included many productions of show music, center staging her

students, frequently in cabaret form. She played the role of Gabelle in Imago Stage's production of *A Tale of Two Cities*.



**Joshua Eipper (Stage Manager)** In addition to his stage management duties, Joshua also assists with set construction, prop maintenance, lighting, and sound for Imago Stage Company. He is from Pennsylvania and moved to Massachusetts to attend Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, where he discovered that New England felt like home to him. He also discovered Anglicanism around the same time, and he is now a deacon at Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church. He is establishing a home maintenance business, Eipper Maintenance.

**Travis Jarrett (Sound Supervisor)** Travis is a producer, multimedia artist, and musician who has been helping artists bring their music and creative visions to life for over 20 years. He has several strong opinions about music, ecclesiology, liturgy, vinyl records, tea, and Doctor Who.



**Daniel McKinley (Music Director)** has been full-time Minister of Music/Organist & Choirmaster of CTR since its 2009 inception, following similar positions at Christ Church of Hamilton & Wenham (11 years) and First Christian Church, Columbus, IN (19 years). Dan has bachelors' and Master's degrees in organ and church music from Indiana University, and was awarded its performer's certificate in organ. He has been dean of the Boston and Merrimack Valley chapters of the American Guild of Organists. His recording of Marcel Dupré's music for organ and orchestra is on the Naxos label. He has been Music Director for all Imago Stage Company's productions, and is married to artistic director Tess. They hope to attend all the Shakespeare plays; he has two more to go



**Tess McKinley, (Director, Narrator)** is an actress, director, and teacher who has performed in over 50 productions on New York City stages and with regional theaters and summer stock companies. She has directed several community and student productions, and conducted Shakespeare workshops for middle and high school students. She studied theater and dance at Interlochen Arts Academy and is a graduate of the New York University Tisch Theater program. Tess has taught English and Theater for 14 years at public and private middle and high schools and currently teaches Literature at St. Augustine School in Andover. She has 3 grown children, 3

grandchildren, and a fourth grandchild on the way! She has collaborated with her husband, Dan McKinley, in productions of *Narnia*, *A Secret Garden*, *Oliver Twist*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, and *Jane Eyre*.

### **Our Mission**

Imago Stage Company, in residence at Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church in Danvers, Massachusetts, is an outreach to the communities of the North Shore of Boston. We are a team of artists, musicians, designers, and technicians who use our talents to bring classic redemptive stories to life through theater, music, and dance. We are distinctly Christian in our intent and perspective. Our purpose is to engage the imagination of our audiences in ways that are spiritually transformational.

### **We need you!**

Imago Stage Company is a self-funded organization. We are reliant on ticket sales and support from our contributors to finance these productions. Please help us to continue to bring classic theater to the North Shore with your donations of any amount. Contributions can be made payable to Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church with Imago Stage in the memo line. To donate, click below:

### **[Donations](#)**

Thank you for your support!

### **Join us**

We are always looking for talented people to join our production staff. If you have an interest in design, construction, marketing, promotion, or any other skill, please reach out to us. We would love to meet you!



***"Holding the mirror up to nature"***

imagostage@ctrnorthshore.org  
www.imagostage.org  
978.774.3163  
188 Elliott Street  
Danvers, MA 01923