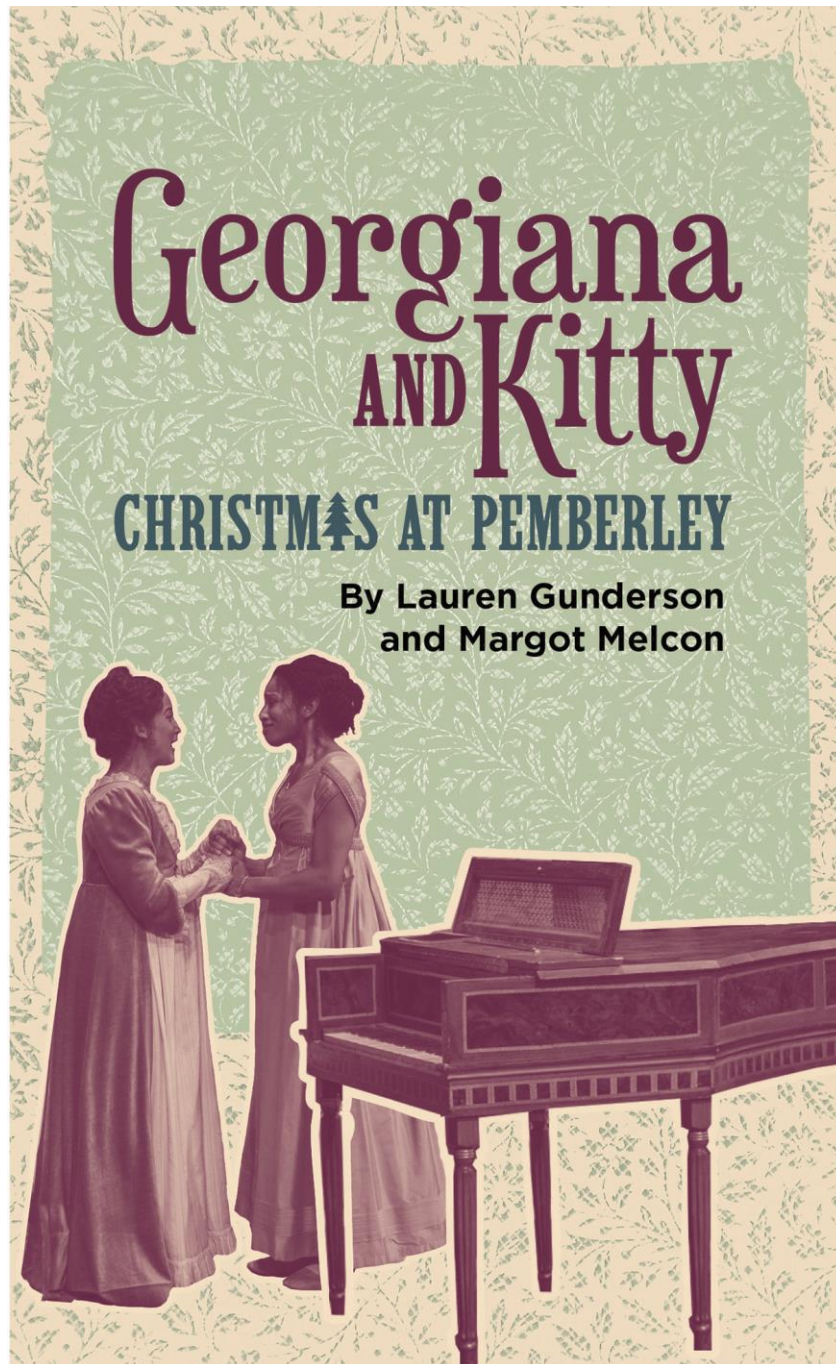


NORTHLIGHT THEATRE



ACCESSIBILITY GUIDE

Image Description: The poster for Northlight Theatre's production of *Georgiana and Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley*, written by Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon. A grayscale photograph of two young women is in the bottom left of the poster. They hold hands as they stare into each other's eyes while wearing dresses that go down to their ankles. One woman has her mouth open as if surprised, while the other has pursed lips as if she is trying to hold back tears. To their right is a grayscale photograph of a small upright piano. The background of the poster is beige and pale green with small stencils made to look like leaves and flowers.

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GUIDE INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Northlight's production of *Georgiana & Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley* by Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon. This production will run at Northlight Theatre from November 26 through December 24. The address is 9501 Skokie Blvd, Skokie, IL, 60077.

This guide holds many different accessibility tools to make your experience at the show as comfortable as possible. Please be aware that not every element of this guide will be useful to each individual. Therefore, please feel free to pick and choose which accessibility tools would be most beneficial to you.

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PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Tuesday – Thursday Evenings (all times are estimates)

- 6:30pm The lobby opens for concessions & socializing.
- 7:00pm The auditorium opens for you to take your seat.
- 7:30pm A recorded curtain speech will play.
- 7:35pm The show will begin.
- 9:45pm The show will end.

Friday – Saturday Evenings (all times are estimates)

- 7:00pm The lobby opens for concessions & socializing.
- 7:30pm The auditorium opens for you to take your seat.
- 8:00pm A recorded curtain speech will play.
- 8:05pm The show will begin.
- 10:15pm The show will end.

Saturday – Sunday Matinees (all times are estimates)

- 1:30pm The lobby opens for concessions & socializing.
- 2:00pm The auditorium opens for you to take your seat.
- 2:30pm A recorded curtain speech will play.
- 2:35pm The show will begin.
- 4:45pm The show will end.

Weekday Matinees (all times are estimates)

- 12:00pm The lobby opens for concessions & socializing.
- 12:30pm The auditorium opens for you to take your seat.
- 1:00pm A recorded curtain speech will play.
- 1:05pm The show will begin.
- 3:15pm The show will end.

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FULL SHOW SYNOPSIS **(spoilers ahead)**

Run time: 2 hours and 10 minutes, with one 15 minute intermission

The play begins in 1815. Georgiana Darcy reads several letters she has received from various characters. Kitty Bennet wrote to Georgiana explaining how she misses her and will soon be joining her at Pemberley on Christmas morning. Elizabeth “Lizzy” Darcy wrote to Georgiana expressing how excited she and Mr. Darcy are for Georgiana to arrive at Pemberley. Fitzwilliam Darcy, Georgiana’s brother, writes saying that he has not heard from her in some time. Henry Gray writes that he has accepted Georgiana’s offer to visit Pemberley.

A number of characters are at the Pemberley Estate, late christmas morning, giving and opening presents. Georgiana enjoys music and is given piano sheet music as a gift from Darcy, and blank sheet music as a gift from Kitty. Eventually everyone leaves and Georgiana and Kitty are left alone. Kitty opens a gift from Georgiana. It is a brand new set of stationary. Georgiana tells Kitty that Henry writes to her every day. Georgiana insists that she does not love Henry, however. She then confesses that she has not told her brother or Lizzy about her correspondence with Henry. Georgiana then reveals that Henry is coming to Pemberley tomorrow with a friend. Kitty encourages her to tell Lizzy that they are expecting two guests.

The next scene begins in the middle of a conversation between Lizzy and Darcy. Lizzy has just informed Darcy about Henry and his friend arriving for Christmas. Darcy is very upset that his sister has been corresponding with a young man for nearly a year

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without telling him. Lizzy insists that they only corresponded about music, but Darcy objects to the fact that Georgiana kept a secret from him. Darcy admits he does not want a repeat of what happened with Mr. Wickham, but Lizzy assures him that Georgiana is older now, and the incident with Mr. Wickham was his moral failure and not hers. Lizzy says that Darcy will “lose” his sister if he does not let her make her own decisions and live her life.

The following morning, Georgiana and Kitty are eagerly waiting for Henry and his friend. Lydia enters and informs them that Mr. Wickham was just downstairs begging for her forgiveness, but she sent him away “for good”. Kitty accuses Lydia of only talking about herself and never showing an interest in Kitty’s life. Lydia leaves the room. Jane, Mary, Lizzy, and Darcy enter. Lizzy and Darcy reveal that they are expecting a baby, and everyone is overjoyed. Darcy pulls his sister aside and confesses that he does not wish to be the kind of brother she cannot confide in and that his only wish is for her happiness. He asks about Henry, and Georgiana tells him that he is quite perfect. Darcy exits and a carriage arrives with Henry and his friend. A young man enters and introduces himself as Thomas, Henry’s friend. He reveals that Henry is reluctant to enter, but eventually he emerges. They all introduce themselves, though Henry speaks very little. Thomas and Kitty seem to have caught one another’s attention. Henry asks Georgiana to play a new piece of music she told him about. As she plays the piano, Darcy enters. He introduces himself to the young men and suggests that their arrival came as a surprise to him. Lizzy asks Kitty to take the two guests upstairs.

Later that day, Georgiana is upset that Darcy was less than welcoming to Henry and Thomas. She’s also concerned about how speechless she was upon seeing him. However, the other ladies

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remind her of how his letters made her feel, and she is put somewhat at ease. They decide that they will engage Henry in conversation that evening so Georgiana can learn more about him.

Henry tells Thomas that he has been practicing being more conversational for the next time he sees Georgiana. He then reveals that his brother's mismanagement of their family's estate has caused them to lose everything, causing him to leave school and sell the estate. However, his father has made an arrangement between Henry and a young lady living next door who stands to inherit her family's, which would allow Henry to rebuild his family's reputation. He insists that he wants to marry Georgiana though. Thomas assures him that he must follow his heart and ask for her hand in marriage. Then, Lydia enters and Henry exits, leaving her alone with Thomas. He calls her beautiful and she admits that she finds him charming. They decide that they will work together to help their friends overcome their fear and nerves and become engaged.

Just before dinner, Henry runs into Georgiana at the piano. They talk about music and how they cannot bear the thought of a single day without it. They get close to each other, but Henry distances himself for fear of what Darcy might think. Kitty, Thomas, and some of the other ladies enter. Lydia finds the letter from Henry's brother detailing the state of their estate, and she exits with it. Darcy enters and Henry approaches him. The others try to help Georgiana and Henry as they describe to Darcy how they met. Darcy insists that a true gentleman would have contacted a young lady's guardian before engaging in correspondence with her. Kitty asks Georgiana to recreate the night she met Henry, so Georgiana plays the piece of music she played then. Kitty prompts them as they recreate their initial meeting. Lydia enters and quietly tells

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Darcy he must read Henry's brother's letter. Darcy, Lydia, and Lizzy exit. Henry hands Thomas a poem he's written for Georgiana. Thomas reads it out loud so that Georgiana overhears it. Henry takes the note away and finishes reading it, while Georgiana accompanies it with music from the piano. Just then, Darcy enters, reveals the contents of Henry's letter, and asks him and Thomas to leave Pemberley at once. Henry is heartbroken and leaves, followed by Thomas. Georgiana tells her brother that she will never find love so long as his pride and prejudice subjects them to endless interrogation and scrutiny. Georgiana promises to never be silent again.

The second act jumps forward six years, in 1819. Georgiana and Kitty are now in their early 20's. They are planning a concert at Georgiana's home in London announcing The Society for Woman Musicians. Georgiana plans to play a concerto by a composer named George Williams. Darcy is furious upon receiving the invitation as it is inappropriate for women to perform publicly, but Lizzy insists that they will attend the concert.

The day before Christmas, we are at Georgiana's London home where she lives alone. Kitty is now her manager and is reviewing the guest list for the concert. The two friends hand each other Christmas presents. To their amusement, they have gifted each other the same exact necklace. Georgiana thanks Kitty for all her help with the concert, especially seeing as Kitty has children and a husband, Thomas, to look after. Thomas enters and informs them that Darcy and the Bennet sisters have arrived. Almost immediately, Darcy questions the purpose of his sister's Society for Women Musicians. Georgiana explains that if a world ruled by men does not include women, then women must create a space for themselves. Darcy admits that he fears what society will say about

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her. Thomas cuts in and invites Darcy to a drink at the club. Thomas and Darcy exit. Georgiana apologizes for her and her brother's bickering, but Lizzy admits that she prefers Georgiana being honest and upfront about her needs as opposed to being quiet and submissive. Then the women catch up on their families and lives. They all express how proud they are of Georgiana's success. She has been hosting salons at her home and they've proven to be quite popular. The visiting Bennet sisters exit to go out to the town, leaving Georgiana and Kitty alone. Georgiana wonders aloud if perhaps she should "reveal everything" tonight.

Later that afternoon, Thomas brings Kitty the pamphlets for Georgiana's upcoming concert. He reveals that the printer of the pamphlets has followed him home to ensure that Kitty is satisfied with the printing. It turns out that Henry is the printer. He enters and admits that he kept his identity a secret because he was unsure Georgiana and Kitty would welcome his printing services. Thomas explains that Henry's business is earning a reputation as one of the most innovative and influential publishing houses in London. Henry confesses to seeing Georgiana play music numerous times over the years, and he offers his printing services to the Society for Women Musicians at no cost. Thomas and Kitty are grateful for his offer and invite him to the concert later that night. Henry accepts and exits. Kitty expresses disappointment in Thomas for keeping the printer's identity a secret, and for bringing him to Georgiana's home just before her most important concert. Thomas believes this can be an opportunity for Georgiana and Henry to revive their love, but Kitty insists that Henry's appearance could undo all the work she and Georgiana have put into the Society.

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Later that day, Darcy approaches his sister while she plays music. He tells her he'd like to understand her better. Georgiana is doubtful. The Bennet sisters enter, causing Georgiana and Darcy to exit. The sisters learn of Henry's plan to attend the concert later that night and insist that Kitty tell Georgiana about Henry.

That evening, before the guests arrive, Henry and Georgiana run into each other just outside her home. She is surprised to see him as Kitty neglected to inform her of his arrival. Georgiana insists that he attend the concert. Henry hands her a handsomely bound folio containing the collected works of George Williams. As she leafs through it, she realizes that one of the pieces in the folio is the piece she played for George six years ago at Pemberley. Thomas says it is his favorite piece and that "it belongs in this collection". She thanks him.

Inside the home, Georgiana tells Kitty about her interaction with Henry. She is adamant about revealing everything at the concert. Kitty warns that the truth is not worth risking the Society, but Georgiana insists. Then, the family and Henry enter to take their seats. Georgiana addresses her audience just before the concert. She reveals that she is actually George Williams. She has been composing under that name for years, knowing that the name of a woman composer would never draw attention or critical acclaim.

After the concert, Kitty, Lizzy, Darcy, and Thomas talk about Georgiana's revelation. Kitty confesses to penning all of "George Williams'" letters while Georgiana wrote the music. Darcy realizes that he has been blind to his sister's accomplishments until now. Georgiana enters looking for Henry, and just as she's about to exit, he tells her that she is "an extraordinary artist". He says that her piece tonight captured exactly how he feels about Lizzy. He

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apologizes for having failed Georgiana. She thanks him and they embrace.

Outside the home Georgiana meets Henry. He says that he knew she was George Williams from the first Williams concert she played. He confesses his love for her, and she says she loves him as well.

Just before midnight, Georgiana and Henry enter and tell the family that they will be marrying in the new year. Everyone is overjoyed, and Darcy welcomes Henry to the family. Thomas reveals that Kitty raised a thousand pounds from funders at the concert. Darcy replies by saying that he shall double that amount. Henry offers to gain publishing rights for the works of all the women musicians of the Society. The clock strikes midnight, announcing that it is officially Christmas Day. Georgiana plays a Christmas song and everyone sings along.

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SENSITIVITY GUIDE

SENSORY WARNINGS

Loud Christmas music plays between scenes, especially at the beginning of the play and at the beginning of Act II after the intermission.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does this production contain any technical elements that could be loud, bright, or shocking?

Like many of Northlight's plays, this production will include technical elements that may trigger sensory sensitivities. Northlight has done its best to design elements so that they will be accessible to all, but each person is different, thereby making it impossible to plan for every individual. If you believe that you may have some sensory sensitivities to the show, please consult the guide above to make you are aware of them before they happen. Please also remember that Northlight has noise canceling headphones as well as sunglasses available to borrow for any of these moments.

What types of accessibility options does Northlight provide?

Northlight provides a wealth of accessibility options for its audience members. These tools can be broken up into two specific categories: Specific Date Accessibility and General Accessibility.

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For specific date accessibility, Northlight will provide accommodations on predetermined dates throughout the run. We highly recommend reserving tickets for these dates ahead of time. These accommodations include: ASL Interpretation, Audio Description, Open Captions, and Relaxed/Sensory Friendly Performances.

For general accessibility, Northlight provides a wide range of tools that can be requested at any performance of the show free of charge. These include: assisted listening devices and accessible seating. For accessible seating, it is recommended you request the necessary seats when purchasing your tickets, as they may not be available the day of the performance. For assisted listening devices, please go to the House Manager or ask an usher.

For more information, visit northlight.org/visit/#accessibility or email Ruben Carrazana, Community Engagement Manager, at rcarrazana@northlight.org.

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REFERENCE PHOTOS

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|---|---|
|  | <p>North Shore Center for the Performing Arts Exterior</p> <p>Id: The front of North Shore Center on a sunny day. The building has white columns and its sides are primarily made of windows.</p> |
|  | <p>North Shore Center for the Performing Arts Entrance</p> <p>Id: The doors to North Shore's building. The doors are paneled glass and there is a hand railing leading up. A man is entering the doors.</p> |
|  | <p>North Shore Center for the Performing Arts Parking Lot</p> <p>Id: The parking lot at the theater. It is a sunny day with many clouds, there is a sign that says "Theatre Parking Only" and several cars parked.</p> |
|  | <p>Northlight's Auditorium</p> <p>Id: The doors leading directly into the theater. There are three doors which are all light brown wood. Two doors are open. A sign above the doors reads North Theatre. A man is waving hello.</p> |
|  | <p>The Set for <i>Georgiana & Kitty</i></p> <p>Id: The set is made to look like the inside of a large house. A tall wall runs along the back of the stage. The wall is a tan color with dark brown wooden trim. There is a large doorway to the left, and four thin bookshelves in the center. A green Christmas tree with red ribbons is on the right. Closer to the audience on the left are two tan armchairs with a short brown table between them and a large red rug on the floor. A piano sits center stage against the back wall with a piano bench.</p> |





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|  | <p>Ruben Carrazana Community Engagement Manager</p> <p>Id: A Hispanic man sits and stares at the camera with his head resting on his hand. He has black hair and wears a dark maroon sweater in front of a black wall.</p> |
|  | <p>BJ Jones Artistic Director</p> <p>Id: A picture of a jolly older man with a white beard and hair going silver.</p> |
|  | <p>Janyce Caraballo Georgiana Darcy</p> <p>Id: A Latina woman in her 20's with dark, brown eyes and curly, long, dark brown hair. She wears a light orange shirt, and has olive/tan skin and a soft smile.</p> |
|  | <p>Samantha Newcomb Kitty Bennet</p> <p>Id: An African American woman in her 20's with dark brown eyes and very curly dark brown hair just to her shoulders. She has light brown skin and wears a red shirt.</p> |




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|  | <p>Emma Jo Boyden Jane Bingley</p> <p>Id: A white woman in her late 20's with sandy blonde long hair and dark blue eyes. She looks directly at the camera and lightly smiles in front of a light blue/periwinkle background. She wears a black tank top with a v-neck.</p> |
|  | <p>Amanda Drinkall Elizabeth Darcy</p> <p>Id: A white woman in her 30's with reddish brown hair that falls just above her shoulders. She has blue eyes and a blue button down shirt, with a slight smile and dimples.</p> |
|  | <p>Erik Hellman Henry Gray</p> <p>Id: A white man in his 40's with blond hair, a short beard, and blue t-shirt.</p> |
|  | <p>Andrea San Miguel Mary Bennet</p> <p>Id: A Latina in her late 20's with dark brown eyes fixed on the camera, a slight smile on her face. Wavy brownish/red hair falls to her shoulders. She has olive skin and wears a black tank top.</p> |

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|  | <p>Nate Santana Thomas O'Brien</p> <p>Id: Light grey-blue eyes. Hair pulled back with a strand hanging to the left side. Little smirk on face with head tilted to the left.</p> |
|  | <p>Yousof Sultani Fitzwilliam Darcy</p> <p>Id: An Afghan-American man in his 30's with olive skin and a short beard that's peppered white hair. Short black hair and a light blue shirt.</p> |
|  | <p>Preeti Thaker Lydia Wickham</p> <p>Id: An Indian American woman in her 30's with a nose ring, a slight smile and a tilted head as she looks directly into the camera. She is wearing a royal blue long sleeved blouse.</p> |