



Ada Fender from Windsor Heights, IA

Song: "Great Grim Green"

Mentor: Kamala Sankaram

Musical Director: Allen Rene Louis



Ada Fender plays flute and piccolo in band, the piano for the show choir band, and takes part in theatre productions at her high school. She has been writing songs since she was about 12 years old and performing them at local venues. She's always had a huge love for music.

"**Great Grim Green**" takes place in a fantasy world called Morania where Liz, an orphaned, now 27-year-old peasant girl, lives. Liz is tired of not knowing who she is and being rejected by those around her. She decides to visit a witch, known as the Great Grim Green Guinevene, who she asks to make her into a new person. The song was inspired by the idea of someone feeling so misunderstood that they want to completely change who they are.

Ada's mentor Kamala Sankaram moves freely between the worlds of contemporary opera and experimental music. She has received commissions from the Glimmerglass Festival, Washington National Opera, Houston Grand Opera, the PROTOTYPE Festival, and Shakespeare Theatre Company, among others. Known for her use of cutting-edge technologies, recent compositions include *Looking at You*, a techno-noir featuring live datamining of the audience and a chorus of 25 singing tablet computers, *Only You Will Recognize the Signal*, a serial space opera performed live over the internet, all decisions will be made by consensus, a short absurdist opera performed live over Zoom (featured on NBC and the BBC3,) and *The Parksville Murders*, the world's first virtual reality opera (Samsung VR, Jaunt VR, Kennedy Center Reach Festival, "Best Virtual Reality Video" NY Independent Film Festival, Future of Storytelling, Salem Horror Festival and the Topanga Film Festival.). Also a performer, notable

collaborations have included Meredith Monk's *Atlas* with the LA Philharmonic, *Thumbprint* with LA Opera and Beth Morrison Projects, and Anthony Braxton's *Trillium E*, *Trillium J*, and *Syntactical Ghost Trace Music*. Kamala is the leader of Bombay Rickey, an operatic Bollywood surf ensemble whose accolades include two awards for Best Eclectic Album from the Independent Music Awards, the 2018 Mid-Atlantic touring grant, and appearances on WFMU and NPR. Dr. Sankaram holds a PhD from the New School and is currently a member of the composition faculty at SUNY Purchase.

Ada's musical director Allen René Louis is a Haitian-American composer, lyricist, music director, arranger, vocalist, and actor. Allen's diverse musical style is deeply rooted in his soulful background and church upbringing. His contribution to artistry is fully exhibited in his developing career. His innovative and passion filled work reflects his heart's desire to inspire, heal, and change the world. Allen is most recently known for his work as Music Director/Composer/Arranger of The Inaugural Antonyo Awards presented by Broadway Black.