

LEON WILSON CLARK
OPERA SERIES

SHEPHERD SCHOOL OPERA

and the

SHEPHERD SCHOOL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

present

BARRICADE

- WORLD PREMIERE -

An opera in one act

Music by Richard Lavenda Libretto by Steve Klepetar

Brenda Nuckton, guest director Larry Rachleff, conductor

Hal Lanier, musical director

THE MEDIUM

An opera in two acts

Music and libretto by Gian Carlo Menotti

Debra Dickinson, director

Thomas Jaber, conductor and musical director

March 26, 28, 30, and April 1, 1995

7:30 p.m.

Wortham Opera Theatre

RICE UNIVERSITY

the
Shepherd
School
of Music

***Barricade* (1994) (World Premiere)**

Music by Richard Lavenda. Libretto by Steve Klepetar.

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Professor P. B. Ravian	Peter Lindskoog
Professor Lois Winters	Kimberly Gratland
Dean Frank Allspice	Jason Scarcella
Erich Ravianesch	Raymond Granlund
Captain	Deric Rosenblatt
Ruth Ravian	Suzanne Stockman
S.W.A.T. Team	Zachary Bruton, Bruce Durazzi, David Mebane Jonathan Pearl, Gary Rod, Bob Skehan
The Advisee	Sara Bayer

ORCHESTRA

Larry Rachleff, conductor

Violin I	Viola	Flute, Piccolo and Alto Flute	Piano
Yoong Han Chan, concertmaster	Stephanie Griffin, principal	Kris Guthrie	Daniel Velicer
Zhang Zhang	Michael Bynog	Clarinet	Percussion
Kristen Anthony		Dawn Dale	Julie Angelis
Violin II	Cello	Jacob DeVries	Orchestra Manager
Alice Miller, principal	Christina Nahabedian, principal	Bass Clarinet	Martin Merritt
Yi Ching Fong	Rebecca Carrington	Jacob DeVries	Orchestra Librarian
Julia Stoltie	Double Bass	Horn	Ellen Rose
	Robert Rohwer	Dietrich Hemann Katherine Loesch	

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

As a child grows, the world progresses from an indistinct blur to identifiable people and things; from a babble of sound to comprehensible language; from squiggles on a page to an engrossing story. We grow up learning that as we mature, the unknown becomes the familiar. Then suddenly we are adults, and we discover that not only do we not know it all, but that we cannot know it all. What happens when you find that you are a grown up and don't understand the world any better than you did as a sixteen year old?

- Intermission -

The Medium (1946)

Music and libretto by Gian Carlo Menotti.

CAST

(in order of appearance)

<i>Monica</i>	<i>Tracy Rhodus</i>
<i>Toby</i>	<i>Cameron Aiken</i>
<i>Baba (Madame Flora)</i>	<i>Mary Cowart</i>
<i>Mrs. Nolan</i>	<i>Angelia LaRock</i>
<i>Mrs. Gobineau</i>	<i>Vanessa Van Valin</i>
<i>Mr. Gobineau</i>	<i>Philip Bouknight</i>

ORCHESTRA

Thomas Jaber, conductor

Violin I	Double Bass	Bassoon	Percussion
<i>Colleen Brannen</i>	<i>Pamela Lopes</i>	<i>Joshua Hood</i>	<i>Michael Sharkey</i>
			<i>Deirdre Urano</i>
Violin II	Flute	Horn	Orchestra Manager
<i>John Anderson</i>	<i>Josué Casillas</i>	<i>Kelly Daniels</i>	<i>Martin Merritt</i>
Viola	Oboe	Trumpet	Orchestra Librarian
<i>Eberhard Stoll</i>	<i>Jennifer Teisinger</i>	<i>Edward Martinez</i>	<i>Ellen Rose</i>
Cello	Clarinet	Piano and Celeste	
<i>Rebecca Gilmore</i>	<i>Juliet Lai</i>	<i>Beth Johnson</i>	

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

*Gian Carlo Menotti was inspired to write **The Medium** when, in 1936, he was invited by some neighbors to attend a seance which was being held at their house. The neighbors were endeavoring to communicate with their recently deceased daughter, whose name, Doodly, was later used in the opera. Menotti was very skeptical of the proceedings, but he recognized that the parents of the dead girl actually saw and heard the spirit of their daughter, though he himself saw nothing. He felt cheated, for in his cynicism, he was denied the creative power of the parents' faith and certainty. His exploration of the strength of faith and the myriad layers of reality he observed at the seance led to his composing **The Medium** in 1945.*

PRODUCTION STAFF FOR BOTH OPERAS

<i>Stage Manager</i>	<i>Alex Stutler</i>
<i>Technical Director</i>	<i>Don Russell</i>
<i>Assistant Director (Barricade)</i>	<i>Andrea Trisciuzzi</i>
<i>Lighting and Set Design</i>	<i>Don Russell</i>
<i>Costumes</i>	<i>Kimberly Gratland</i>
<i>Rehearsal pianist</i>	<i>Neal Kurz</i>
<i>Running Crew</i>	<i>Katrina Kropa, Shawna Peterson Zachary Bruton, Jonathan Pearl</i>
<i>Properties</i>	<i>Alex Stutler</i>

This production is made possible by a generous
endowment from the late Dr. Leon Wilson Clark.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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the University of Houston R.O.T.C., Southwestern Paint & Wallpaper,
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Betty Dickinson, Don Goza, Ruth Russell, Rose and Norm Stodick,
Alice Sullivan, and Deene Webster.*

BIOGRAPHIES

DEBRA DICKINSON has performed on Broadway, Off-Broadway, in national tours, at Theatre an der Wien in Austria, and at various regional opera and theatre companies throughout the U. S., including the Chautauqua Opera and the Central City Opera. She has starred opposite both Richard Burton and Richard Harris in *Camelot*. Her affiliation with the New York City Opera under Beverly Sills includes serving as the Associate Director of *The Pajama Game*. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Northwestern University and a Master's degree from Hunter College in New York City. For the past four years, Ms. Dickinson has been the Acting Instructor at the Chautauqua Opera in New York. In addition to her position as Artist Teacher of Opera Studies for Acting and Movement at The Shepherd School of Music, Ms. Dickinson also teaches in the School of Continuing Studies at Rice University.

STEVE KLEPETAR was born in Shanghai, China, in 1949, the son of Jewish refugees from Czechoslovakia. He grew up in New York City and was educated at S.U.N.Y. Binghamton and at the University of Chicago, where he received his Ph.D. in English in 1977. Dr. Klepetar's poetry has been widely published throughout the United States. Two of his poems appear as texts in other pieces by *Barricade* composer Richard Lavenda. Dr. Klepetar has also done collaborative work with painter Bill Ellingson. A book based on this collaboration, *Painting the Word: A Collection of Watercolor Poems*, appeared in 1991. *Barricade* is his first libretto. Dr. Klepetar teaches literature and creative writing at Saint Cloud State University in Minnesota.

RICHARD LAVENDA's music has been played by orchestras, choruses, chamber ensembles, and soloists throughout the United States, Europe, and Australia. He has been commissioned and performed by, among others, the Houston Symphony Orchestra, the Pierrot Plus Ensemble, Earplay, Bricolage, and the Fischer Duo. His music is published by Norruth Music, Inc. and recorded on MMC. A native of New Jersey, Dr. Lavenda received his education at Dartmouth College, Rice University, and The University of Michigan, where he completed a doctorate in 1983. He is currently Associate Professor of Composition and Theory at The Shepherd School of Music.

BRENDA NUCKTON is honored to be directing the premiere of *Barricade*. She has been an assistant director for Houston Grand Opera for the past two seasons, working on numerous productions including *Aida*, *Elektra*, *Rigoletto*, and the David Hockney production of *Turandot*. As a director, she has staged *Amahl and the Night Visitors* for Opera to Go in Portland, Oregon, and *Der Jasager*, *Echoes through Time*, *The Telephone*, and *The Marriage by Lanternlight* for the Peabody Institute of Music. Ms. Nuckton received her Master of Music in Vocal Performance from Peabody and her Bachelor of Arts in Music from Lewis and Clark College. Upcoming engagements include serving as assistant director for *Der Rosenkavalier* with Houston Grand Opera and for *Pique Dame* with the Metropolitan Opera. She makes her home with her husband in Portland, Oregon.

*SHEPHERD SCHOOL VOICE DEPARTMENT
AND OPERA STUDIES FACULTY*

Virginia Babikian, Professor of Voice and Chair of the Voice Department

Richard Bado, Artist Teacher of Opera Studies

Debra Dickinson, Artist Teacher of Opera Studies for Acting and Movement

Joyce Farwell, Professor of Voice

*Thomas Jaber, Associate Professor of Music, Director of
Choral Activities, and Vocal Coach*

Hal Lanier, Artist Teacher of Opera Studies

William Murray, Associate Professor of Voice



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