

LEON WILSON CLARK
OPERA SERIES

SHEPHERD SCHOOL OPERA

presents an evening of

SCENES FROM OPERA
AND MUSICAL THEATRE

Richard Bado, conductor

Debra Dickinson, stage director

*Susan Lorette Dunn and Michael Franciosi,
musical preparation*

*Kathryn Christensen, Kyle Evans,
Michael Franciosi, Levi Hammer,
and Melissa Marse, pianists*

February 10, 11 and 12, 2006

7:30 p.m.

Wortham Opera Theatre

Celebrating 30 *Years* 1975-2005

THE SHEPHERD SCHOOL OF MUSIC RICE UNIVERSITY

PROGRAM

DIE LUSTIGEN WEIBER VON WINDSOR

*Music by Otto Nicolai;
libretto by Salomon Hermann von Mosenthal; premiere 1849*

*Frau Fluth: Amanda Conley
Frau Reich: Kelly Duerr
Pianist: Kathryn Christensen*

THE FANTASTICKS

*Music by Harvey Schmidt;
book and lyrics by Tom Jones; premiere 1960*

*Matt: Michael Accinno
Luisa: Meghan Tarkington
Wall: Valerie Rogotzke
Pianist: Michael Franciosi*

COSI FAN TUTTE

*Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart;
libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte; premiere 1790*

*Dorabella: Kira Austin-Young
Guglielmo: Raines Taylor
Pianist: Melissa Marse*

BILLY BUDD

*Music by Benjamin Britten;
libretto by E. M. Forster and Eric Crozier; premiere 1951*

*Claggart: Barry Robinson
Novice: Keith Stonum
Pianist: Levi Hammer*

MITRIDATE

*Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart;
libretto by Vittorio Cigna-Santi; premiere 1770*

*Aspasia: Hannah Nelson
Sifare: Angela Mortellaro
Pianist: Michael Franciosi*

INTERMISSION

DON PASQUALE

*Music by Gaetano Donizetti;
libretto by Giovanni Ruffini; premiere 1843*

*Norina: Emily Vacek
Malatesta: Colm Estridge
Pianist: Melissa Marse*

DER ROSENKAVALIER

Music by Richard Strauss;

libretto by Hugo von Hofmannsthal; premiere 1911

Sophie: Lindsay Boulware

Octavian: Audrey Walstrom

Pianist: Kyle Evans

CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA

Music by Pietro Mascagni;

libretto by Giovanni Targioni-Tozzetti and Guido Menasci;
premiere 1890

Santuzza: Andrea Trusty

Mamma Lucia: Valerie Rogotzke

Pianist: Michael Franciosi

KISS ME KATE

Music and lyrics by Cole Porter;

book by Sam and Bella Spewack; premiere 1948

Lili Vanessi: Lindsay Boulware

Fred Graham: Raines Taylor

Stage Manager: Barry Robinson

Pianist: Michael Franciosi

ARTISTIC STAFF

Conductor Richard Bado
Stage Director and Choreographer Debra Dickinson
Lighting Designer Troy McLaughlin
Musical Preparation Michael Franciosi, Susan Lorette Dunn
Rehearsal Pianists Michael Franciosi, Melissa Marse

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director Troy McLaughlin
Stage Manager, Properties Master Alex Stutler
Surtitles Debra Dickinson
Surtitled Operators Kira Austin-Young, Lindsay Boulware
Followspot Operators Michael Accinno, Troy McLaughlin,
Andrea Trusty
Running Crew Amanda Conley, Keith Stonum,
Meghan Tarkington
Costume Assistant Valerie Rogotzke
Hair and Makeup Assistant Kelly Duerr

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to Kirk Markley, Freddy Reymundo, Melissa Graff
and Houston Grand Opera, and the students of Opera Workshop.

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

MICHAEL ACCINNO is completing his senior year at the Shepherd School, where his voice teachers have included Joyce Farwell, Joan Allouache, and Stephen King. He participated in scenes from *The Pirates of Penzance* and *Atalanta* in last year's opera scenes program. Recording credits include an appearance as the boy soprano soloist in the National Symphony Orchestra's recording of John Corigliano's *Of Rage and Remembrance*.

KIRA AUSTIN-YOUNG is a junior from Dallas. She attended high school for two years at the Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan. A student of Kathleen Kaun, she has been active for the past two years in the Rice Light Opera Society, where she performed the roles of Edith in *The Pirates of Penzance* and Lady Jane in *Patience*. She performed the role of Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel* last fall at the Shepherd School.

LINDSAY BOULWARE is a second-year graduate student at the Shepherd School. A native of Amarillo, Texas, she has performed numerous times with the Amarillo Opera and the Amarillo Symphony. Ms. Boulware received her undergraduate degree from the University of Houston, where she performed Madame Silberklang in Mozart's *The Impresario* and Princess Ninetta in Prokofiev's *Love for Three Oranges*. At the Shepherd School, Ms. Boulware covered the role of Miss Jessel in Britten's *The Turn of the Screw*, was featured in last spring's Mozart concert conducted by Hans Graf, and performed a scene from Strauss' *Arabella* in which she played Zdenka. Ms. Boulware is a student of Kathleen Kaun. This spring she will appear as the young satyr Satirino in the Shepherd School's production of *La Calisto* by Francesco Cavalli.

KATHRYN CHRISTENSEN, a senior piano performance major, is originally from Boise, Idaho. She studies with Brian Connelly and particularly enjoys twentieth-century music and collaborating with vocalists and instrumentalists. After graduating from the Shepherd School, she plans to move to Washington, D.C., where she will pursue a Master's degree in collaborative piano.

Soprano AMANDA CONLEY, a native of Murray, Kentucky, is currently a second-year master's degree candidate, studying voice with Stephen King. She received her Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Kentucky, where she appeared in productions of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *Don Giovanni*, and *Street Scene*. She was a featured soloist in the University of Kentucky Opera Gala and *A Grand Night for Singing*. Last year Ms. Conley was seen as Susanna and Frasquita in the Shepherd School's opera scenes program, and most recently, as the Dew Fairy in *Hansel and Gretel*. She will be portraying Destino in the upcoming *La Calisto* at the Shepherd School.

KELLY DUERR, a mezzo-soprano, is a senior at the Shepherd School pursuing her Bachelor of Music degree. Last summer she performed the roles of La Zia Principessa in *Suor Angelica* and Marcellina in *Le nozze di Figaro* at the Operafestival di Roma. At the Shepherd School, she has performed scenes from *Così fan tutte*, *The Rake's Progress*, and *Carmen*. Ms. Duerr is a student of Kathleen Kaun.

COLM ESTRIDGE was born in Sydney and holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the Australian National University, Canberra. While obtaining his degree, he performed the roles of Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte* and Figaro in *Le nozze di Figaro*. At the Sydney Conservatorium he played Puck in the Opera Department's season of scenes, *The Falling*. Last fall, he appeared as the Father in *Hansel and Gretel*. This spring he will play Sylvano in *La Calisto*. Mr. Estridge has performed in numerous concerts in Australia, and in 2001, he sang the American National Anthem at the Australian government's memorial service for the victims of September 11.

Pianist KYLE EVANS was born in Oklahoma and grew up in Houston, where he studied piano with Elaine Walters. He received the Bachelor of Music degree from Oklahoma City University, where he studied with Robert Laughlin. He appeared as winner of the University's concerto competition and performed with the school's Orchestra, Wind Philharmonic, and Opera. Mr. Evans is currently completing work toward the Master of Music degree in piano and chamber music at the Shepherd School as a student of Brian Connelly.

MICHAEL FRANCIOSI is currently Artist Teacher of Opera Studies at the Shepherd School of Music. Prior to his association with the Shepherd School, he was an assistant conductor with Houston Grand Opera for seven seasons. In addition, Mr. Franciosi has also worked with the San Francisco Opera Center, Greater Miami Opera, Sarasota Opera, Chautauqua Opera, Opera/Omaha, and The Santa Fe Opera. He has also been a guest coach with the European Center for Opera and Vocal Art in Belgium and the Chautauqua Institution School of Voice. Mr. Franciosi holds degrees from the Manhattan School of Music and West Virginia University.

LEVI HAMMER is currently a master's student at the Shepherd School where he studies piano with Brian Connelly. He has recently played and conducted Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 1* and *Symphony No. 1*, Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire*, and much chamber music. Upcoming performances include Beethoven's *Triple Concerto*, the complete *Brandenburg Concertos* of Bach, and the complete piano music of Copland. He has studied conducting with Kenneth Kiesler and Kurt Masur.

Pianist **MELISSA MARSE** recently played Beethoven's *Emperor Concerto* at the Breckenridge Music Festival. She is an active soloist, chamber musician, and coach. She is a core vocalist in *Conspirare*. She will appear with the Austin Symphony next season, and on a CD of *Goldberg Variations* to be released next fall. Melissa obtained degrees from the University of Texas, Yale University, the Juilliard School, and the New England Conservatory. She won a teaching award for her work at Harvard University.

ANGELA MORTELLARO, a native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is in her second year of the graduate voice program at the Shepherd School of Music. She appeared here last fall as Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel*, and the previous fall as the Governess in *The Turn of the Screw*. She was a featured soloist in last spring's all-Mozart concert conducted by Hans Graf. Ms. Mortellaro performed the role of Susanna in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* at the Operafestival di Roma this past summer. She will be seen this coming March at the Shepherd School as Diana in *La Calisto*.

HANNAH NELSON, soprano, is a second-year graduate student at the Shepherd School. She received her Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance at Northwestern College in St. Paul, Minnesota. She won the 2003 Minnesota District Metropolitan Opera Auditions and was a four-time winner in the National Association of Teachers of Singing Competition. Ms. Nelson's operatic roles include Pamina in *The Magic Flute*, Barbarina in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Lucy in *The Telephone*, the Jester in *Many Moons*, and Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel* at the Shepherd School. She was a soloist in Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Bach's *Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen* from *Cantata 51* with the South Dakota Symphony, and in Handel's *Psalm 112* with the South Dakota Symphony's Chamber Orchestra. Ms. Nelson, a student of Stephen King, will be singing the title role in *La Calisto* in the spring.

BARRY ROBINSON, bass-baritone, is a student of Stephen King. He earned his Bachelor of Music degree from the Manhattan School of Music where he performed as Il Commendatore in *Don Giovanni*, Il Commissario in *Madama Butterfly*, and Doc in *An Apple A Day* (written by Dona D. Vaughn), among other roles.

South Dakotan **VALERIE ROGOTZKE** is a mezzo-soprano currently in the second year of her Master's degree, studying with Kathleen Kaun. She received her Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance at the Peabody Conservatory of Music and has done additional study at the University of Oslo. Roles performed include Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro*, the Third Lady in *Die Zauberflöte*, Mrs. Herring in *Albert Herring*, and Grimmerde in *Die Walküre*. Ms. Rogotzke has appeared in scenes as Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel*, Augusta Tabor in *The Ballad of Baby Doe*, and as Ruth in *The Pirates of Penzance*. She was the Mother in last fall's production of *Hansel and Gretel*, and she will appear this spring as Natura in *La Calisto*.

KEITH STONUM is a native Houstonian. He was a member of Houston Grand Opera's High School Voice Studio and recently appeared as a Demon in last fall's *Hansel and Gretel*. Last summer, Mr. Stonum was heard in the children's opera *The Tiger of Chungshan*. He is a sophomore and is a student of Stephen King.

MEGHAN TARKINGTON is a sophomore studying with Kathleen Kaun. Last fall she was in the chorus of the Shepherd School's production of *Hansel and Gretel* and will be seen as one of the Furies in *La Calisto* this spring.

RAINES TAYLOR's operatic roles have included Il Conte Almaviva in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, The Father in *Hansel and Gretel*, Giuseppe in *The Gondoliers*, L'Arbre in *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges*, and Somarone in *Béatrice et Bénédicte*. Raines has performed and studied at the Studio Lirico International Opera Workshop in Anghiari, Italy, Chautauqua Institution School of Voice, and the Aspen Opera Theatre Center, where he recently was awarded the Maestro's Circle Scholarship. A graduate of the Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University, Mr. Taylor holds a Bachelor of Music degree in voice performance and a minor in Italian studies. Originally from Thomasville, Georgia, he is pursuing a Master's degree in voice at the Shepherd School as a student of Stephen King.

Mezzo-soprano ANDREA TRUSTY, from West Liberty, Kentucky, is a second-year graduate student. Ms. Trusty received her Bachelor of Music degree from Morehead State University, where she studied with Roma Prindle. Ms. Trusty appeared last spring in the Shepherd School's special all-Mozart concert conducted by Hans Graf and in last year's scenes program as Azucena in Verdi's *Il trovatore*. This coming March she will appear as Giunone in *La Calisto*. Ms. Trusty is a voice student of Stephen King.

EMILY VACEK is a senior studying with Kathleen Kaun. Ms. Vacek is pursuing a double degree in vocal performance and psychology. Ms. Vacek performed the role of Miles in Benjamin Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* at the Shepherd School, as well as Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* in the scenes program in 2005. Ms. Vacek also visited Salzburg, Austria, in 2005, where she performed the role of Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte* with the Austrian American Mozart Academy.

AUDREY WALSTROM, mezzo-soprano, grew up in Los Alamos, New Mexico, and is a senior this year. While at the Shepherd School, Ms. Walstrom has performed Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel*, and the partial roles of Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro*, and Mercédès in *Carmen*. This past summer she attended the Aspen Opera Theater Center, where she covered the Forester's Wife in Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen* and performed the partial roles of Third Lady in *The Magic Flute* and Marcellina in *Le nozze di Figaro*. This semester, Ms. Walstrom will sing the role of Endimione in Cavalli's *La Calisto*, and this summer, she will be attending the Music Academy of the West. Ms. Walstrom is a student of Kathleen Kaun.

SHEPHERD SCHOOL VOICE DEPARTMENT AND OPERA STUDIES FACULTY

Stephen King, Professor of Voice and Chair of the Voice Department
Janet de Chambrier, Artist Teacher of Opera Studies
Richard Bado, Professor of Opera Studies and
Director of the Opera Studies Program
Debra Dickinson, Artist Teacher of Opera Studies for Acting and Movement
Susan Lorette Dunn, Lecturer in Voice
Michael Franciosi, Artist Teacher of Opera Studies
Thomas Jaber, Professor of Music, Director of
Choral Activities, and Vocal Coach
Kathleen Kaun, Professor of Voice
Susanne Mentzer, Professor of Voice

UPCOMING OPERA EVENTS

March 29, 31 and April 2

Shepherd School Opera and the Shepherd School Chamber Orchestra present
La Calisto by Francesco Cavalli.

Wortham Opera Theatre at Alice Pratt Brown Hall.

Admission (general seating): \$10; students and senior citizens \$8.

For tickets call 713-348-8000.



RICE