

LEON WILSON CLARK
OPERA SERIES

SHEPHERD SCHOOL OPERA

presents an evening of

**SCENES FROM OPERA
AND MUSICAL THEATRE**

Debra Dickinson, stage director

Thomas Jaber, musical director and pianist

January 30 and 31, February 1 and 2, 1998

7:30 p. m.

Wortham Opera Theatre

RICE UNIVERSITY

the
Shepherd
School
of Music

PROGRAM

DER FREISCHÜTZ

Music by Carl Maria von Weber; libretto by Johann Friedrich

**Act II, scene I: Schelm, halt' fest!/
Kommt ein schlanker Bursch gegangen.**

Agatha: Leslie Heal

Annie: Laura D'Angelo

CANDIDE

*Music by Leonard Bernstein; lyrics by John Latouche,
Dorothy Parker, Stephen Sondheim, Richard Wilbur*

O Happy We

Candide: Matthew Pittman

Cunegonde: Sibel Demirmen

THE THREEPENNY OPERA

Music by Kurt Weill; lyrics by Bertolt Brecht

The Jealousy Duet

Lucy Brown: Aidan Soder

Polly Peachum: Kristina Driskill

MacHeath: Adam Feriend

DON GIOVANNI

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte

Act I, scene 3: Là ci darem la mano/Ah! fuggi il traditor!

Don Giovanni: Christopher Holloway

Zerlina: Elizabeth Holloway

Donna Elvira: Michelle Herbert

STREET SCENE

Music by Kurt Weill; lyrics by Elmer Rice

Act II Duet

Rose: Adrienne Starr

Sam: Matthew Pittman

MY FAIR LADY

Music by Frederick Loewe; lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner

On the Street Where You Live/Show Me

Freddy Eynsford Hill: David Ray

Eliza Doolittle: Dawn Bennett

LA BOHÈME

Music by Giacomo Puccini;

libretto by Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica

Act III

Mimi: Kristin Nelson

Marcello: Matthew George

Rodolfo: Creighton Rumph

Musetta: Adrienne Starr

Directed by Elizabeth Holloway

INTERMISSION

LE NOZZE DI FIGARO

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart;

libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte

Act I, scenes 5-7:

Non so più cosa son, cosa faccio/Cosa sento! Tosto andate

Cherubino: Susan Hurley

Susanna: Anna Christy

Count Almaviva: Jameson James

Don Basilio: David Ray

Act III, scene 2: Letter Duet: Sull'aria

Countess Almaviva: Rebecca Morris

Susanna: Sibel Demirmen

INTO THE WOODS

Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Agony

Cinderella's Prince: Brandon Gibson

Rapunzel's Prince: James Harper

LAKMÉ

Music by Leo Delibes;

libretto by Edmond Gondinet and Philippe Gille

Act I: Dôme épais, le jasmin

Lakmé: Hyang Suk Shin

Mallika: Joan Allouache

ASSASSINS

Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

The Ballad of Booth

The Balladeer: Brandon McReynolds

John Wilkes Booth: Alok Kumar

David Herold: David Ray

I PAGLIACCI

Music and libretto by Ruggiero Leoncavallo

Act I: Silvio! a quest'ora

Nedda: Kristin Sampson

Silvio: Raymond Granlund

SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE

Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Act II: Lesson #8/Move On/Sunday

George: Adam Feriend

Dot: Joan Allouache

ARTISTIC AND PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Director Debra Dickinson
Musical Preparation and Pianist . . . Thomas Jaber
Pianist Gregg Punswick
Technical Director Matt Coldwell
Production Stage Manager Alex Stutler
Costumes Margaret White

Special thanks to The Country Playhouse.

PROGRAM NOTES

The scenes that we present to you tonight are the product of the fall semester of the Opera Workshop classes. Students in Opera Workshop I work on scenes in English from musical theater or operetta, concentrating on stage movement, dance, developing characterization, and bridging the gap between spoken dialogue and music. They learn to take direction, to critique each other's scenes, and to take the risks necessary to turn music into staged performance. In Opera Workshop II, students are responsible for the initial staging of their own scenes, which we hone and refine in class, further developing the acting techniques that they acquired during Opera Workshop I. Students may choose their own scenes in Opera Workshop II and have the option of singing in the original language.

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

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 four summers, Ms. Dickinson was the Acting Instructor at the Chautauqua Opera in New York. In Houston, Ms. Dickinson directed the highly acclaimed productions at Stages of **The World Goes Round**, **A Grand Night for Singing**, and **She Loves Me**. In addition to her position as Artist Teacher of Opera Studies for Acting and Movement at The Shepherd School of Music, she also teaches at Rice University's School of Continuing Studies.*

THOMAS JABER is Director of Choral Activities and Associate Professor of Vocal Coaching at The Shepherd School of Music. In addition to the responsibilities of coaching graduate students and senior voice majors, Mr. Jaber teaches choral conducting and conducts three ensembles: Rice Chorale, Shepherd Singers, and Sallyport. These groups have been heard nationwide on both National Public Radio and the CBS Radio Network.

Before moving to Houston in 1988, Mr. Jaber was Music Director of the Opera Theatre of Temple University in Philadelphia. He earned degrees with honors in piano from Arkansas State University and Indiana University, and was granted the Performer's Certificate in Accompanying from the Curtis Institute of Music, where he was a member of the faculty from 1976-1988. Mr. Jaber worked as a vocal coach and conductor at Philadelphia's Academy of Vocal Arts from 1977-1986. He was also chosen as vocal coach for the Opera Company of Philadelphia/Luciano Pavarotti International Competition. As a pianist, he has appeared with many artists, including Katherine Ciesinski, Stephen Varcoe, and Suzanne Mentzer, in performances for the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Dallas Opera Guild, and Da Camera of Houston.

*SHEPHERD SCHOOL VOICE DEPARTMENT
AND OPERA STUDIES FACULTY*

*Joyce Farwell, Professor of Voice and Chair of the Voice Department
Janet de Chambrier, Vocal Coach*

*Debra Dickinson, Artist Teacher of Opera Studies for Acting and Movement
Andrea Jaber, Artist Teacher of Voice*

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

*William Murray, Associate Professor of Voice
Jo Anne Ritacca, Vocal Coach*

PROGRAM NOTES
UPCOMING EVENTS OF
SHEPHERD SCHOOL OPERA

*Benjamin Britten's Albert Herring,
fully staged and costumed, with the
Shepherd School Chamber Orchestra*

Debra Dickinson, director

Thomas Jaber, conductor

March 27, 29, 31 and April 2

7:30 p.m., Wortham Opera Theatre

Admission \$10; students and senior citizens \$8.

For advance tickets, call 713-527-4933.

An Evening of Operatic Arias

Saturday, April 18, 7:30 p.m.

Wortham Opera Theatre

Free admission, no tickets required.



RICE