

*LEON WILSON CLARK*  
*OPERA SERIES*

*SHEPHERD SCHOOL OPERA*

*and members of the*

*SHEPHERD SCHOOL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA*

*present*

*ALBERT HERRING*

*A comic opera in three acts*

*Music by Benjamin Britten*

*Libretto by Eric Crozier*

*Debra Dickinson, director*

*Thomas Jaber, conductor*

*Matt Coldwell, set and lighting designer*

*Margaret White, costume designer*

*March 27, 29, 31 and April 2, 1998*

*7:30 p. m.*

*Wortham Opera Theatre*

RICE UNIVERSITY

the  
Shepherd  
School  
of Music

## CASTS

(in order of appearance)

FRIDAY, MARCH 27    TUESDAY, MARCH 31

<i>Lady Billows, an English autocrat</i>	<i>Joan Allouache</i>
<i>Florence Pike, her housekeeper</i>	<i>Aidan Soder</i>
<i>Miss Wordsworth, the Head Teacher</i> <i>at the Vicarage School</i>	<i>Anna Christy</i>
<i>Mr. Gedge, the Vicar</i>	<i>Raymond Granlund</i>
<i>Mr. Upfold, the Mayor</i>	<i>Brandon McReynolds</i>
<i>Superintendent Budd</i>	<i>Clifford Derix</i>
<i>Emmie, a village child</i>	<i>Sibel Demirmen</i>
<i>Cis, a village child</i>	<i>Dawn Bennett</i>
<i>Harry, a village child</i>	<i>Amy Cowan</i>
<i>Sid, a butcher's shophand</i>	<i>Alok Kumar</i>
<i>Albert Herring, from the greengrocer's</i>	<i>Daniel Wampler</i>
<i>Nancy Waters, from the bakery</i>	<i>Laura D'Angelo</i>
<i>Mrs. Herring, Albert's mother</i>	<i>Adrienne Starr</i>

SUNDAY, MARCH 29    THURSDAY, APRIL 2

<i>Lady Billows, an English autocrat</i>	<i>Joan Allouache</i>
<i>Florence Pike, her housekeeper</i>	<i>Aidan Soder</i>
<i>Miss Wordsworth, the Head Teacher</i> <i>at the Vicarage School</i>	<i>Susan Hurley</i>
<i>Mr. Gedge, the Vicar</i>	<i>Christopher Holloway</i>
<i>Mr. Upfold, the Mayor</i>	<i>David Ray</i>
<i>Superintendent Budd</i>	<i>Clifford Derix</i>
<i>Emmie, a village child</i>	<i>Elizabeth Holloway</i>
<i>Cis, a village child</i>	<i>Rebecca Morris</i>
<i>Harry, a village child</i>	<i>Amy Cowan</i>
<i>Sid, a butcher's shophand</i>	<i>Matthew George</i>
<i>Albert Herring, from the greengrocer's</i>	<i>Creighton Rumph</i>
<i>Nancy Waters, from the bakery</i>	<i>Michelle Herbert</i>
<i>Mrs. Herring, Albert's mother</i>	<i>Kristin Sampson</i>

# *Albert Herring*

by Benjamin Britten (1913-1975)

Composed in 1947 with libretto by Eric Crozier  
and based on *Le Rosier de Madame Husson*, a short story  
by Guy de Maupassant, *Albert Herring* was written to launch the  
first season of The English Opera Group and was first performed  
at the Glyndebourne Opera House, England, on June 10, 1947.

*The action takes place at Loxford, a small market town  
in East Suffolk, England, during April and May of 1900.*

## *ACT I*

*Scene 1 - The morning of April tenth,  
in the morning room of Lady Billows' house.*

*Scene 2 - Immediately following,  
at Mrs. Herring's greengrocery shop.*

## *INTERMISSION*

*(15 minutes)*

## *ACT II*

*Scene 1 - The afternoon of May first,  
in a tent set up in the Vicarage garden.*

*Scene 2 - Later that evening,  
at Mrs. Herring's greengrocery shop.*

## *ACT III*

*Scene 1 - May second,  
at Mrs. Herring's greengrocery shop.*

*Members of the*  
**SHEPHERD SCHOOL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

*Larry Rachleff, Music Director*

**Violin I**

*Zachary Carrettin*

**Flute, Alto Flute  
and Piccolo**

*Christina Jennings*

**Horn**

*Martina Snell*

**Violin II**

*Jennifer Thompson*

**Oboe**

*Omri Raveh*

**Harp**

*Anastasia Jellison*

**Viola**

*Alexis Bacon*

**Clarinet and  
Bass Clarinet**

*Leesa Nimitz*

**Piano**

*Gregg Punswick*

**Cello**

*Robert Howard*

**Bassoon**

*Shawn Jones*

**Percussion**

*John Andress*

**Double Bass**

*Sandor Ostlund*

**Orchestra Manager**

*Martin Merritt*

**ARTISTIC AND PRODUCTION STAFF**

*Director . . . . . Debra Dickinson*  
*Music Director and Conductor . . . . . Thomas Jaber*  
*Set and Lighting Designer . . . . . Matt Coldwell*  
*Technical Director, Master Electrician, . . . . . Matt Coldwell*  
*Scenic Artist and Stage Carpenter*  
*Costume Designer . . . . . Margaret White*  
*Production Stage Manager . . . . . Alex Stutler*  
*Assistant Director . . . . . Elizabeth Holloway*  
*Properties Master . . . . . Alex Stutler*  
*Rehearsal Accompanist . . . . . Gregg Punswick*  
*Shop Assistants . . . . . Daniel Wampler, Alok Kumar*  
*Costume Assistants . . . . . Kristin Sampson, Elizabeth Holloway*  
*Laura D'Angelo, Sibel Demirmen*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## 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*

## 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 Galveston, she directed and choreographed last year's production of **Damn Yankees**. 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.



**RICE**