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
CASTS
(in order of appearance)

FRIDAY, MARCH 27     TUESDAY, MARCH 31

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 29     THURSDAY, APRIL 2

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

Violin II
Jennifer Thompson

Viola
Alexis Bacon

Cello
Robert Howard

Double Bass
Sandor Oslund

Flute, Alto Flute and Piccolo
Christina Jennings

Horn
Martina Snell

Oboe
Omri Raveh

Harp
Anastasia Jellison

Clarinet and Bass Clarinet
Leesa Nimitz

Piano
Gregg Punswick

Bassoon
Shawn Jones

Percussion
John Andress

ARTISTIC AND PRODUCTION STAFF

Director Debra Dickinson
Music Director and Conductor Thomas Jaber
Set and Lighting Designer Matt Coldwell
Technical Director, Master Electrician, Scenic Artist and Stage Carpenter Matt Coldwell
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.