

*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

*Robert Brewer, Susan Lorette Dunn
and Levi Hammer, musical preparation*

*Levi Hammer, Jasmine Hatem
and Eugene Joubert, pianists*

Wortham Opera Theatre

February 2, 3 and 4, 2007

First two performances at 7:30 p.m.

Final performance at 2:30 p.m.

RICE UNIVERSITY

the
Shepherd
School
of Music

PROGRAM

FIDELIO

*Music by Ludwig van Beethoven;
libretto by Josef Sonnleithner and George Treitschke; premiere 1805*

Act I, Scene 1

*Jaquino: John Summers
Marzelline: Katina Mitchell
Pianist: Eugene Joubert*

THE RAKE'S PROGRESS

*Music by Igor Stravinsky;
libretto by W.H. Auden and Chester Kallman; premiere 1953*

Act II, Scene 2

*Anne Trulove: Andrea Leyton-Mange
Tom Rakewell: Daniel Williamson
Pianist: Levi Hammer*

WERTHER

*Music by Jules Massenet;
libretto by Edouard Blau, Paul Milliet
and Georges Hartmann; premiere 1892*

Act III

*Sophie: Lindsay Kesselman
Charlotte: Jennifer Johnson
Pianist: Levi Hammer*

LA CALISTO

*Music by Francesco Cavalli;
libretto by Giovanni Faustini; premiere 1651*

Act II

*Calisto: Grace Field
Mercurio: Jamie Geiger
Diana: Ryan Stickney
Pianist: Levi Hammer*

PAGLIACCI

Music and libretto by Ruggiero Leoncavallo; premiere 1892

Act I

*Silvio: Colm Estridge
Nedda: Adrianna Bond
Pianist: Levi Hammer*

- INTERMISSION -

LA CENERENTOLA

*Music by Gioacchino Rossini;
libretto by Jacopo Ferretti; premiere 1817*

Act I

*Ramiro: Ross Chitwood
Angelina: Sarah Brauer
Stepsisters: Kira Austin-Young, Andrea Leyton-Mange
Pianist: Jasmine Hatem*

ALBERT HERRING

*Music by Benjamin Britten;
libretto by Eric Crozier; premiere 1947*

Act I, Scene 2

*Sid: Jamie Geiger
Albert: Keith Stonum
Nancy: Kira Austin-Young
Pianist: Levi Hammer*

THE TENDER LAND

Music by Aaron Copland; libretto by Horace Everett; premiere 1954

Act II

*Martin: Zachary Averyt
Laurie: Meghan Tarkington
Pianist: Levi Hammer*

A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC

Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim; premiere 1973

Act I, Scene 7

*Petra: Sarah Brauer
Anne: Lindsay Kesselman
Fredrik: Jamie Geiger
Charlotte: Jennifer Johnson
Carl-Magnus: Colm Estridge
Henrik: Ross Chitwood
Liebeslieder Singers: Kira Austin-Young, Zachary Averyt,
Adrianna Bond, Grace Field, Andrea Leyton-Mange,
Katina Mitchell, Ryan Stickney, Keith Stonum,
John Summers, Meghan Tarkington, Daniel Williamson
Pianist: Levi Hammer*

The performance is approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes with intermission.

ARTISTIC STAFF

*Conductor Richard Bado
Stage Director and Choreographer Debra Dickinson
Lighting Designer Troy McLaughlin
Musical Preparation Robert Brewer, Levi Hammer,
Susan Lorette Dunn*

PRODUCTION STAFF

*Technical Director Troy McLaughlin
Stage Manager, Properties Master Alex Stutler
Surtitles Debra Dickinson
Surtitle Operator Bethany Solheim
Followspot Operators Aaron Blake, Laura Botkin, Samuel Schultz
Running Crew Barry Robinson, Emily Vacek
Costume Assistants Adrianna Bond, Grace Field*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Special thanks to Kirk Markley, Adrianna Bond, Melissa Graff,
Houston Grand Opera, and the students of Opera Workshop.*

BIOGRAPHIES

KIRA AUSTIN-YOUNG is a senior 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**. Ms. Austin performed the role of Hansel in **Hansel and Gretel** last fall at the Shepherd School.

ZACHARY AVERYT is a third-year undergraduate student of Kathleen Kaun. A native of College Station, Texas, Mr. Averyt made his operatic debut in 2001 singing the role of Kaspar in Giancarlo Menotti's **Amahl and the Night Visitors**. He will be performing the role of Vincent Jones in the upcoming Shepherd School production of Kurt Weill's **Street Scene**.

ADRIANNA BOND, who hails from Madison, Wisconsin, is a first year master's student in vocal performance at the Shepherd School, where she studies with Stephen King. She received her bachelor's degree in musical arts from Vanderbilt University in 2006. Ms. Bond has sung the roles of Countess Almaviva in **Le nozze di Figaro**, Mrs. Fiorentino in **Street Scene**, and Petra in **A Little Night Music**. She has participated in master classes with Ian Bostridge and Martin Katz. This spring, she will sing the role of the First Nursemaid in **Street Scene**.

SARAH BRAUER, originally from Portland, Oregon, received her bachelor's degree in voice, summa cum laude, from the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music, where she performed Dorothee in Massenet's **Cendrillon** and Narciso in Händel's **Agrippina** with the USC Thornton Opera. Ms. Brauer professionally covered the role of Cherubino in **Le nozze di Figaro** at the Astoria Opera Festival and premiered Primiani's **Truman Project**, creating the role of Margaret Truman, for OPERA America 2006. She played Ramiro in **La finta giardiniera** last semester here at the Shepherd School and will portray Olga Olsen in the upcoming production of **Street Scene**. Ms. Brauer is pursuing her master's degree in voice at the Shepherd School, where she is a student of mezzo-soprano Susanne Mentzer.

ROSS CHITWOOD, tenor, recently completed his final year as an undergraduate at The Juilliard School. Last year, Mr. Chitwood was heard in the role of Tamino in The Juilliard Opera Workshop's production of Mozart's **Die Zauberflöte**, where he also appeared as Don Basilio in **Le nozze di Figaro**. Mr. Chitwood has appeared as Frederic in Gilbert and Sullivan's **The Pirates of Penzance** and The Duke of Dunstable in **Patience**. He played Count Belfiore in **La finta giardiniera** and will portray Lippo Fiorentino in **Street Scene** at the Shepherd School. Under the instruction of Dr. Stephen King, he began his graduate studies here at the Shepherd School this past fall.

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**. At the Shepherd School, he appeared as the Father in **Hansel and Gretel**, Sylvano in **La Calisto** and Nardo in **La finta giardiniera**. Mr. Estridge has performed in numerous concerts in Australia, and in 2001, he sang the United States' National Anthem at the Australian government's memorial service for the victims of September 11.

GRACE FIELD is a junior vocal performance major and studies under the supervision of Dr. Stephen King. She has appeared in several productions in the Shepherd School's opera program including **The Turn of the Screw** as Flora, and in the choruses of **Hansel and Gretel** and **La Calisto**. Upcoming performances include the role of Mae Jones in this spring's **Street Scene**.

JAMIE GEIGER, a lyric baritone, is a first year graduate student at the Shepherd School of Music. Mr. Geiger received his Bachelor of Music degree from Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. Some of his past operatic and musical theater roles include Frank in Strauss' **Die Fledermaus**, Peter in Humperdinck's **Hansel and Gretel**, Bob in Menotti's **The Old Maid and the Thief**, Aeneas in Purcell's **Dido and Aeneas**, Papageno in Mozart's **Die Zauberflöte**, Cinderella's Prince in **Sond-**

heim's *Into the Woods*, Percy in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, and Nardo in last fall's *La finta giardiniera* at the Shepherd School. Mr. Geiger has attended both the Opera in the Ozarks and the AIMS program in Graz, Austria.

LEVI HAMMER is recognized as a conductor and pianist of unusual range and versatility. He recently graduated from the Shepherd School of Music, where he studied piano with Brian Connelly and Robert Roux. He has also studied conducting with Kenneth Kiesler and Kurt Masur. Equally comfortable in a variety of repertoires, Hammer has appeared as a conductor, concerto soloist, recitalist, chamber musician and accompanist. He is currently assistant conductor and staff pianist at the Shepherd School Opera and has recently produced, played, and conducted Bach's complete Brandenburg Concertos and Beethoven's First Piano Concerto, Triple Concerto, and First Symphony as well as all-Copland and all-Stravinsky programs. Future projects include performances of the complete piano music of Copland and a Gershwin/Schoenberg program.

JASMINE HATEM, a native of New Orleans, is currently pursuing a master's degree in chamber music and accompanying. She is a graduate of the College-Conservatory of the University of Cincinnati and a graduate of the University of Houston. In addition to her studies at the Shepherd School, she serves as staff accompanist at the University of St. Thomas.

JENNIFER JOHNSON, mezzo-soprano, is a graduate of Webster University in St. Louis, where she studied with Carole Gaspar. She has won first prize at numerous N.A.T.S. (National Association of Teachers of Singing) regional, state, and district levels. Last year, she won the St. Louis District Metropolitan Opera Auditions and placed third in the Midwest Regional Metropolitan Opera Auditions. This past summer she worked with Opera Theater St. Louis as a Leigh Gerdine Young Artist. Last fall, she played Ramiro in *La finta giardiniera* at the Shepherd School, and she will appear as Mrs. Jones in the upcoming production of *Street Scene*. Ms. Johnson currently studies with Kathleen Kaun.

South African pianist EUGENE JOUBERT has appeared in recitals, chamber music and orchestral performances in Switzerland, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, South Africa and the United States. Mr. Joubert has won numerous awards, including first prizes at the National Chamber Music Competition (2000), the "Advanced Piano Workshop" Concerto Competition in the Czech Republic (2002) and the Unisa South African Music Scholarship Competition (2002), as well as prizes in the International "Jeunesses Musicales" Competition in Romania (2000) and the Unisa National Piano Competition (2003). He holds bachelor's and master's degrees, both cum laude, from the University of Pretoria, where he studied with Joseph Stanford. He is currently a student of Brian Connelly in the Chamber Music and Accompanying program at the Shepherd School of Music.

LINDSAY KESSELMAN graduated summa cum laude from Michigan State University with degrees in music education and vocal performance. She performed several leading roles there, including Anne Trulove in Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*, Claudia in *Nine* by Maury Yeston, and Despina in *Così fan tutte*. Ms. Kesselman traveled to China with a select group of singers from Michigan State for an exchange with the conservatory of music in Shenyang. This past semester, she appeared as Serpette in *La finta giardiniera* and will be seen in *Street Scene* as Greta Fiorentino. She is currently studying with Kathleen Kaun and is pursuing a master's degree in vocal performance at the Shepherd School.

ANDREA LEYTON-MANGE is an undergraduate student of Stephen King and is also pursuing a degree in Linguistics. Last spring, she performed the role of Eternità in *La Calisto*, and this spring, she will appear as Shirley Kaplan in *Street Scene*. She served as vocal director for the Rice Light Opera Society's production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Ruddigore*.

Soprano KATINA MITCHELL is from California, where she began her musical training with piano. She is now in her third year at the Shepherd School, pursuing a degree in voice and a degree in German. Last summer she performed a role in a German-language play in Middlebury, Vermont. Ms. Mitchell has studied at the Goethe-Institut München as well as the Goethe-Institut Frankfurt. She is a student of Kathleen Kaun.

RYAN STICKNEY, a junior student of Susanne Mentzer, is delighted to be playing her first operatic role in the scenes program. In March, she will appear as Mrs. Hildebrand in the Shepherd School's production of Kurt Weill's **Street Scene**. Previously, she was seen in campus theaters as Shelley in Laurence O'Keefe's **Bat Boy: The Musical** and as Jack's Mother in Stephen Sondheim's **Into the Woods**.

Native Houstonian and tenor **KEITH STONUM** is a third-year voice student in Dr. Stephen King's studio. He has been seen at the Shepherd School as a Demon in **Hansel and Gretel**, Novice in a scene from **Billy Budd** last spring, and he sang his first full role as Podestà in **La finta giardiniera** last fall. He looks forward to portraying Dick McGann in the upcoming Shepherd School production of **Street Scene**.

JOHN SUMMERS is a junior undergraduate student from Grapevine, Texas. He is a student of Susanne Mentzer and a former student of Dr. Joyce Farwell. He was a Texoma region N.A.T.S. (National Association of Teachers of Singing) finalist. This past fall, Mr. Summers played the role of Podestà in **La finta giardiniera** and will be playing Officer Murphy in this spring's production of **Street Scene**.

MEGHAN TARKINGTON is a junior studying with Kathleen Kaun. She was in the chorus of **Hansel and Gretel** and was seen as one of the Furies in **La Calisto** last year. In last year's scenes program, she played Luisa in a scene from **The Fantasticks**. This spring, Miss Tarkington will portray Jennie Hildebrand in Kurt Weill's **Street Scene**.

A native of Atlanta, Georgia, **DANIEL WILLIAMSON** is a student of Susanne Mentzer. In 2005, Mr. Williamson performed in the Shepherd School's children's outreach opera **The Tiger of Chungshan** and was a Demon in **Hansel and Gretel** at the Shepherd School. Last year, he portrayed Bat Boy in **Bat Boy: The Musical** at Rice University. This past summer, Mr. Williamson attended the Brevard Summer Music Institute and Festival and was part of the 2006 Janiec Opera Company. There he performed the role of Camille de Rosillon in L har's operetta **The Merry Widow**. He will appear as Daniel Buchanan in the Shepherd School's upcoming production of **Street Scene**.

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

**SHEPHERD SCHOOL VOICE DEPARTMENT
AND OPERA STUDIES FACULTY**

Stephen King, Professor of Voice and Chair of the Voice Department

Richard Bado, Professor of Opera Studies and

Director of the Opera Studies Program

Robert Brewer, Artist Teacher of Opera Studies

Janet de Chambrier, Artist Teacher of Opera Studies

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

Susan Lorette Dunn, Lecturer in Voice

Thomas Jaber, Professor of Music, Director of

Choral Activities, and Vocal Coach

Kathleen Kaun, Professor of Voice

Susanne Mentzer, Professor of Voice

UPCOMING OPERA EVENT

March 22, 24, 26 and 27

Shepherd School Opera and the Shepherd School Chamber Orchestra present
Street Scene by Kurt Weill.

Wortham Opera Theatre at Alice Pratt Brown Hall.

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

For tickets call 713-348-8000.



RICE