

*LEON WILSON CLARK
OPERA SERIES*

*SHEPHERD SCHOOL OPERA
WORKSHOP CLASS*

presents a program of

OPERA SCENES

*“On est grand par l’amour,
et plus grand par les pleurs.”*

*“One is made great through love,
and even greater through sorrow.”*

– Les Contes d’Hoffmann

Richard Bado, conductor

Debra Dickinson, stage director

*Robert Brewer, Susan Lorette Dunn, and
Youn Ju Namkoong, musical preparation*

*Robert Brewer and
Youn Ju Namkoong, pianists*

*Saturday, February 2, 2008
7:30 p.m.*

*Sunday, February 3, 2008
2:00 p.m.*

Wortham Opera Theatre

RICE UNIVERSITY

the
Shepherd
School
of Music

PROGRAM

LE NOZZE DI FIGARO

*Music by Wolfgang Amadé Mozart;
libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte; premiere 1786*

Act 3, Scene 1

*Count: Joseph Quigley
Countess: Bethany Solheim
Susanna: Lauren Snouffer
Pianist: Robert Brewer*

CARMEN

*Music by Georges Bizet;
libretto by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy; premiere 1875*

Act II Quintet

*Dancaïro: Jamie Geiger
Frasquita: Katina Mitchell
Remendado: Keith Stonum
Mercédès: Grace Field
Carmen: Becky Henry
Pianist: Youn Ju Namkoong*

LE COMTE ORY

*Music by Gioacchino Rossini;
libretto by Eugène Scribe and Charles-Gaspard Delestre-Poirson;
premiere 1828*

Act II Trio

*Comte: Daniel Williamson
Isolier: Jennifer Johnson
Countess: Laura Botkin
Pianist: Youn Ju Namkoong*

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

*Music by Benjamin Britten;
libretto adapted from William Shakespeare
by Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears; premiere 1960*

Act II, scene and quartet

*Oberon: Sarah Brauer
Puck: Keith Stonum
Demetrius: Samuel Schultz
Hermia: Sarah Larsen
Lysander: Zach Averyt
Helena: Adrianna Bond
Pianist: Youn Ju Namkoong*

DIE FLEDERMAUS

*Music by Johann Strauss;
libretto by Carl Haffner and Richard Genée; premiere 1874*

Act II, Watch Duet

*Eisenstein: Ross Chitwood
Rosalinde: Bethany Solheim
Falke: Joseph Quigley
Pianist: Robert Brewer*

DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE

*Music by Wolfgang Amadé Mozart;
libretto by Emanuel Schikaneder; premiere 1791*

Act II, scene 8

Papageno: Samuel Schultz

1st Spirit: Lauren Snouffer

2nd Spirit: Ryan Stickney

3rd Spirit: Grace Field

Papagena: Katina Mitchell

Pianist: Youn Ju Namkoong

INTERMISSION

(15 minutes)

CANDIDE

*Music by Leonard Bernstein;
lyrics by Richard Wilbur and Stephen Sondheim; premiere 1956*

Act I, "O Happy We"

Candide: Keith Stonum

Cunegonde: Ryan Stickney

Pianist: Robert Brewer

PELLÉAS ET MÉLISANDE

*Music by Claude Debussy;
libretto by Maurice Maeterlinck; premiere 1902*

Act II, scene 1

Pelléas: Ross Chitwood

Mélisande: Sarah Brauer

Pianist: Youn Ju Namkoong

DON GIOVANNI

*Music by Wolfgang Amadé Mozart;
libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte; premiere 1787*

Act II, sextet

Leporello: Michael Sumuel

Donna Elvira: Adrianna Bond

Don Ottavio: Daniel Williamson

Donna Anna: Bethany Solheim

Zerlina: Grace Field

Masetto: Jamie Geiger

Pianist: Robert Brewer

OF MICE AND MEN

Music and libretto by Carlisle Floyd; premiere 1970

Act III, scene 1

Lennie: John Summers

Curley's Wife: Lindsay Kesselman

Pianist: Robert Brewer

LES CONTES D'HOFFMANN

Music by Jacques Offenbach;
libretto by Jules Barbier and Michel Carré; premiere 1881

Epilogue

Muse: Sarah Larsen
Stella: Adrianna Bond
Lindorf: Michael Sumuel
Hoffman: Zach Averyt
Ensemble: Opera Workshop Class
Pianist: Robert Brewer

The performance is approximately 2 hours with intermission.

ARTISTIC STAFF

Conductor Richard Bado
Stage Director Debra Dickinson
Lighting Designer Troy McLaughlin
Musical Preparation Robert Brewer, Susan Lorette Dunn,
Youn Ju Namkoong

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director Troy McLaughlin
Stage Manager, Properties Master Alex Stutler
Surtitles Debra Dickinson
Surtitle Operator Amanda Grooms
Followspot Operators David Keck, Meghan Tarkington
Running Crew Aaron Blake
Costume Assistant Adrianna Bond

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to Houston Grand Opera, Kirk Markley, Debbie Damon
and B'Dazzled Boutique, and the students of Opera Workshop.

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

BIOGRAPHIES

ZACH AVERYT, a native of College Station, Texas, is in his final undergraduate year studying with Kathleen Kaun. Recent performances with the Shepherd School Opera include *La finta giardiniera* and *Street Scene*. He made his operatic debut as Kaspar in Gian Carlo Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors* in 2001. In December, he was heard as the tenor soloist in Handel's *Messiah* with the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra, which he first performed with the Shepherd School Chamber Orchestra in December 2006.

ADRIANNA BOND, who hails from Madison, Wisconsin, is a second year master's student in vocal performance at Rice University, 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. She appeared at the Shepherd School as the First Nursemaid in *Street Scene*, as Nedda in a scene from *Pagliacci* and as Bess in a scene from *Porgy*

and Bess for the Shepherd School's recent gala concert "Spirit of the Season." Upcoming performances at the Shepherd School include a scenes program of the works of Stephen Sondheim in April.

*Laura Botkin, soprano, is a second-year graduate student at the Shepherd School under the tutelage of Dr. Stephen King. Recent engagements have included Second Spirit in **Die Zauberflöte** with Palm Beach Opera, summer productions with the Janiec Opera Company in Brevard, North Carolina, and a recital of modern works at McCorkle Hall in Macon, Georgia. Last year at the Shepherd School, she sang the roles of Rose in **Street Scene** and Serpetta in **La finta giardiniera**, and this past fall she appeared as Almirena in **Rinaldo**. A graduate of the Mercer University Townsend School of Music, Ms. Botkin performed such roles as Pamina, the Second Witch in **Dido and Aeneas**, and scenes from **Le nozze di Figaro**, **Così fan tutte**, and **Falstaff**. In 2005, she was a finalist in the Palm Beach Opera Vocal Competition and was first place winner in N.A.T.S. (National Association of Teachers of Singing) Georgia division in 2004 and 2005.*

*Mezzo-soprano Sarah Brauer has performed the roles of Ramiro in Mozart's **La finta giardiniera**, Eustazio in Handel's **Rinaldo**, Olga Olsen in Weill's **Street Scene**, Narciso in Handel's **Agrippina** and Dorothee in Massenet's **Cendrillon**, as well as professionally covering the role of Cherubino in **Le nozze di Figaro**. As a member of the Aspen Music Festival, Ms. Brauer has appeared in productions of Verdi's **La Traviata** and Ullmann's **Der Kaiser von Atlantis** under the auspices of the Juilliard Opera Center. Ms. Brauer gave the world premiere performance of Primiani's **Truman Project**, creating the role of Margaret Truman for OPERA America 2006. Ms. Brauer is a student of Susanne Mentzer.*

*Ross Chitwood, baritone, is a second-year graduate student, having completed his undergraduate degree at The Juilliard School. 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 Lippo Fiorentino in **Street Scene** at the Shepherd School. He is under the instruction of Dr. Stephen King.*

*Grace Field is a senior vocal performance major and studies under the supervision of Susanne Mentzer. She has appeared in several productions in the Shepherd School's opera program, including the roles of Mae Jones in **Street Scene** and Flora in **The Turn of the Screw**, and in the choruses of **Rinaldo**, **Hansel and Gretel**, and **La Calisto**.*

*Jamie Geiger, a lyric baritone, is a second-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 **Die Fledermaus**, Peter in **Hänsel und Gretel**, Bob in **The Old Maid and the Thief**, Aeneas in **Dido and Aeneas**, Papageno in **Die Zauberflöte**, Cinderella's Prince in Sondheim's **Into the Woods**, Percy in **The Scarlet Pimpernel**, and Nardo in last year's **La finta giardiniera** here at the Shepherd School. Mr. Geiger has attended the Opera in the Ozarks, the AIMS program and the Aspen Music Festival.*

*A native of Washington, D.C., Becky Henry previously appeared at the Shepherd School as Charlene Hildebrand in last spring's production of **Street Scene**, as a Fury in **La Calisto** and in the choruses of **Rinaldo** and **Hansel and Gretel**. This junior mezzo-soprano is a student of Kathleen Kaun.*

*Jennifer Johnson, mezzo-soprano, is a graduate of Webster University in St. Louis, where she studied with Carole Gaspar. In 2005, she won the St. Louis District Metropolitan Opera Auditions and placed third in the Midwest Regional Metropolitan Opera Auditions. In 2008 she placed first in the Midwest Regional Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Last summer she worked with Opera Theater St. Louis as a Leigh Gerdine Young Artist and next summer will appear as Kate Pinkerton in **Madame Butterfly**. Last fall, she played the title role in **Rinaldo**, and last year, she played Mrs. Jones in **Street Scene**, Ramiro in **La finta giardiniera**, and Charlotte in a scene from **Werther** at the Shepherd School. Ms. Johnson is a second year master's student and studies with Kathleen Kaun.*

*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. Last year, she appeared as Serpetta in **La finta giardiniera** and as Greta*

Fiorentino in Street Scene. In April, she will appear in Anthony Brandt's *The Birth of Something at the Shepherd School*. She is currently studying with Kathleen Kaun and is pursuing a master's degree in vocal performance.

SARAH LARSEN, mezzo-soprano, is a native of St. Paul, Minnesota, and recently completed a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance at Simpson College. While she was with the Simpson College Opera, she performed a variety of roles, such as Florence Pike in *Albert Herring*, La zia Principessa in *Suor Angelica*, Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, Prince Orlofsky in *Die Fledermaus* and Elizabeth Proctor in *The Crucible*. She recently completed her third summer with the Aspen Opera Theater Center, where her roles included Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, Zotico in *Eliogabalo* (American premiere), Florence Pike in *Albert Herring*, the Forester's Wife/Owl in *The Cunning Little Vixen* and Magd in *Wachsfingernabinett*. Last fall, she portrayed Goffredo in the Shepherd School's production of *Rinaldo*.

Soprano KATINA MITCHELL is from California, where she began her musical training with piano. She is now in her senior year at Rice, pursuing a degree in voice and a degree in German. 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 will be appearing at the Shepherd School in April in a scenes program based on the works of Stephen Sondheim. Ms. Mitchell is a student of Kathleen Kaun.

JOSEPH QUIGLEY, a New Orleans native, is thrilled to be performing in the South once more. He has been seen with DePaul Opera Theater in Chicago in such roles as Mozart's Count Danilo in *The Merry Widow*, and Lidio in Cavalli's *L'Égisto*. Last summer marked his fourth consecutive summer as a member of the Aspen Music Festival. There he performed the Vicar in *Albert Herring*, the Baron in *La Traviata*, and El Dancaïro in *Carmen*. He recently played Argante at the Shepherd School in Handel's *Rinaldo*, and will portray Sergeant Belcore in our upcoming production of *L'elisir d'amore*. Mr. Quigley currently studies with Dr. Stephen King.

Baritone SAMUEL SCHULTZ is a voice performance major at Rice University and a student of Dr. Stephen King. He has performed such roles as Guglielmo in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Pooch-Bah in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*, Tarquinius in Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia*, Bob in Menotti's *The Old Maid and the Thief*, and Mr. Bluff in Mozart's *The Impresario*. He will be performing the role of Sergeant Belcore in the Shepherd School's upcoming production of *L'elisir d'amore*. His concert repertoire includes performances as the bass soloist in Handel's *Messiah* and the baritone soloist in Fauré's *Requiem*. Mr. Schultz hails from Wisconsin.

LAUREN SNOUFFER, soprano, is a junior voice student at the Shepherd School. Originally from Austin, Texas, Ms. Snouffer is a student of Dr. Stephen King. At the Shepherd School, she has previously participated in *Rinaldo*, *Street Scene*, *Hansel and Gretel*, and *La Calisto*. This spring, she will appear as Giannetta in *L'elisir d'amore*.

BETHANY SOLHEIM is a soprano from Ottawa, Canada. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Toronto and is currently a second-year master's student at the Shepherd School studying with Dr. Stephen King. In 2005, Ms. Solheim attended the University of Miami summer study program in Salzburg, and she performed the role of Marcellina in a production of *Le nozze di Figaro* with other Canadian students in the Czech Republic. Ms. Solheim appeared as Sandrina in the Shepherd School of Music production of *La finta giardiniera* and will be seen as Giannetta in *L'elisir d'amore* this spring.

RYAN STICKNEY, a senior student of Susanne Mentzer, played Diana in a scene from *La Calisto* in the Opera Workshop scenes program and Mrs. Hildebrand in the Shepherd School production of Kurt Weill's *Street Scene*. Previously, she was seen in campus theaters as Shelley in Laurence O'Keefe's *Bat Boy* and Jack's Mother in Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods*.

Native Houstonian and tenor KEITH STONUM is a fourth-year voice student in Dr. King's studio. He has been seen at Rice University as Podestà in *La finta giardiniera*, as a Demon in *Hansel and Gretel*, and as Novice in a scene from *Billy Budd*. He will be appearing in the upcoming scenes program of the works of Stephen Sondheim this spring.

BIOGRAPHIES CONTINUED ON INSERTED PAGE.



UPCOMING OPERA EVENTS

March 19, 20, 22 and 24

*Shepherd School Opera and the Shepherd School Chamber Orchestra
present*

L'elisir d'amore by Gaetano Donizetti.

Wortham Opera Theatre at the Shepherd School.

All performances at 7:30 p.m.

Admission (general seating): \$12; students and senior citizens \$10.

For tickets call 713-348-8000.

April 16

*Shepherd School Opera
presents*

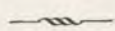
The Birth of Something by faculty composer Anthony Brandt,
and a Stephen Sondheim revue.

Wortham Opera Theatre at the Shepherd School.

8:00 p.m.

Admission (general seating): \$12; students and senior citizens \$10.

For tickets call 713-348-8000.



SHEPHERD SCHOOL VOICE DEPARTMENT AND OPERA DEPARTMENT

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

BIOGRAPHIES CONTINUED:

*JOHN SUMMERS is a senior 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 NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing) finalist. Mr. Summers played the role of Podestà in **La finta giardiniera** and Officer Murphy in last spring's production of **Street Scene**.*

*MICHAEL SUMUEL is a first year master's student at Rice University originally from Odessa, Texas. Mr. Sumuel completed his undergraduate studies at Columbus State University in May 2007. He performed his first role in June 2007 as Figaro in **Le nozze di Figaro**. Last fall, he played the Christian Magician in **Rinaldo** at the Shepherd School, and in December Mr. Sumuel was the bass soloist for Handel's **Messiah** in Columbus, Georgia. He will portray the role of Dulcamara in Rice's spring opera production of Donizetti's **L'elisir d'amore**.*

*A native of Atlanta, Georgia, DANIEL WILLIAMSON is a student of Susanne Mentzer. Mr. Williamson appeared as Daniel Buchanan in the Shepherd School's production of **Street Scene**, as a Demon in **Hansel and Gretel**, and in the chorus of **Rinaldo**. In 2005, he performed in the children's outreach opera **The Tiger of Chungshan**. He also portrayed Bat Boy in **Bat Boy: The Musical** at Rice University. 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 Léhar's operetta **The Merry Widow**.*