

*LEON WILSON CLARK
OPERA SERIES*

*SHEPHERD SCHOOL OPERA
WORKSHOP CLASS*

presents a program of

OPERA SCENES

Richard Bado, conductor

Debra Dickinson, stage director

*Susan Lorette Dunn, Grant Loehnig,
Jonathan Z. Ludwig, Susanne Mentzer, and
Youn Ju Namkoong, musical preparation*

*Johannes Le Roux, Grant Loehnig,
and Youn Ju Namkoong, pianists*

*Thursday, January 29, and
Saturday, January 31, 2009*

7:30 p.m.

Wortham Opera Theatre

RICE UNIVERSITY

the
Shepherd
School
of Music

PROGRAM

LE NOZZE DI FIGARO

Music by Wolfgang Amadè Mozart;
libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte; premiere 1786

Va là, vecchia pedante

Susanna – Ann Marshall
Cherubino – Sarah Larsen
Count – Stephen Anthony Ray
Basilio – Eric Longo
Pianist – Youn Ju Namkoong

I CAPULETI ED I MONTECCHI

Music by Vincenzo Bellini;
libretto by Felice Romani; premiere 1830

Miglior patria avrem di questa

Giulietta – Corissa Leonard
Romeo – Sishel Claverie
Pianist – Grant Loehnig

ALCINA

Music by George Frideric Handel;
anonymous libretto; premiere 1735

Non è amor, nè gelosia

Alcina – Annamarie Zmolek
Ruggiero – Rebecca Henry
Bradamante – Alison Campagna
Pianist – Youn Ju Namkoong

ALBERT HERRING

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

There you are!

Sid – Geordie Alexander
Albert – Aaron Blake
Nancy – Sarah Mesko
Emma – Shelley Cantrick
Pianist – Grant Loehnig

EUGENE ONEGIN

Music by Pyotr Tchaikovsky;
libretto by Konstantin Shilovsky; premiere 1879

O! Kak mnye tyazhelo!

Tatyana – Julia Bell
Onegin – Mark Whatley
Pianist – Grant Loehnig

INTERMISSION

LA CLEMENZA DI TITO

*Music by Wolfgang Amadè Mozart;
libretto by Pietro Metastasio; premiere 1791*

Ah perdona al primo affetto

*Annio – Rebecca Henderson
Servilia – Lauren Snouffer
Pianist – Grant Loehnig*

DON PASQUALE

*Music by Gaetano Donizetti;
libretto by Giovanni Ruffini; premiere 1843*

Pronta io son

*Norina – Alexandra Ford
Malatesta – Samuel Schultz
Pianist – Johannes Le Roux*

SUSANNAH

Music and libretto by Carlisle Floyd; premiere 1955

Little Bat, what you doin' here?

*Susannah Polk – Mary-Jane Lee
Little Bat – Zachary Devin
Sam Polk – Aaron Blake
Pianist – Youn Ju Namkoong*

ARABELLA

*Music by Richard Strauss;
libretto by Hugo von Hofmannsthal; premiere 1933*

Und du wirst mein Gebieter sein

*Arabella – Amanda Grooms
Mandryka – Stephen Anthony Ray
Pianist – Grant Loehnig*

THE TENDER LAND

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

We've been north, we've been south ...

*Top – Geordie Alexander
Martin – Eric Longo
Laurie – Julie Marx
Grandpa – David Keck
Ma – Alison Campagna
Pianists – Grant Loehnig, Youn Ju Namkoong*

The performance is approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes with one intermission.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*This production is made possible by a generous endowment from
the late Dr. Leon Wilson Clark. Special thanks to
Barbara Dolney for costume assistance.*

ARTISTIC STAFF

Conductor Richard Bado
Stage Director Debra Dickinson
Lighting Designer Troy McLaughlin
Musical Preparation Susan Lorette Dunn, Grant Loehnig,
Jonathan Z. Ludwig, Susanne Mentzer,
Youn Ju Namkoong

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director Troy McLaughlin
Stage Manager, Properties Master Alex Stutler
Surtitled Operator Joseph Quigley
Running Crew Brian Haase, Adam Lau

Surtitles created by the performers in each scene.

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
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
Grant Loehnig, Artist Teacher of Opera Studies
Susanne Mentzer, Professor of Voice
Youn Ju Namkoong, Staff Pianist
Karen Reeves, Opera Program Administrator

UPCOMING OPERA EVENTS

February 19

An Evening with Renée Fleming – The Shepherd School Opera Gala
Renée Fleming, soprano
with Richard Bado, pianist and Director of Opera Studies,
followed by a performance with the Shepherd School Symphony Orchestra,
Larry Rachleff, conductor and Music Director.
Tickets required. Individual tickets start at \$1,000.

This event will focus on increasing endowed scholarship funds for
Shepherd School students, and particularly the School's opera program.
For more information and tickets, call 713-348-3492.

March 19 and 21

Shepherd School Opera and the Shepherd School Chamber Orchestra
*present **Don Giovanni** by Wolfgang Amadè Mozart.*
Stude Concert Hall. Both performances at 8:00 p.m.
Admission (reserved seating): \$14; \$11 for students and
senior citizens. Call 713-348-8000 for tickets.
Shepherd Society members can receive two complimentary tickets
for the March 19th performance. Call 713-348-3492.

BIOGRAPHIES

Baritone **GEORDIE ALEXANDER** is a first year master's student at The Shepherd School of Music, studying with Dr. Stephen King. A native of New York, he recently graduated from SUNY Fredonia with a bachelor's degree in Music Education. For the past two summers he has participated in the Aspen Music Festival and School. Recent roles of note include Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, Escamillo in *Carmen*, Maximilian in *Candide* and Pinellino in *Gianni Schicchi*.

JULIA BELL is a first-year graduate student at The Shepherd School of Music, where she studies with Kathleen Kaun. She received her bachelor's degree from the Royal College of Music in London, England. Past productions include *Anna Bolena*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Dialogues des Carmélites*, and *Norma*. Ms. Bell will be covering the role of Donna Anna in the Shepherd School's spring production of *Don Giovanni*.

Tenor **AARON BLAKE** received his bachelor's degree from The Juilliard School of Music. Currently a student of Dr. Stephen King, he has won many competitions, including First Prize in The Florida Grand Opera Competition and the Verdi Concerto Competition of the Aspen Music Festival. He was a finalist in the Chicago Lyric Opera Ryan Opera Center auditions and the 2008 Metropolitan Opera Auditions in the Southwest Region. Mr. Blake has portrayed Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte* at The Juilliard School, Arturo in *Lucia di Lammermoor* at the Aspen Music Festival, and Ernesto in The Santa Fe Opera's spring tour of Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*. While at the Shepherd School he has performed il Contino Belfiore in *La finta giardiniera*, Sam Kaplan in *Street Scene*, Nemorino in *L'elisir d'amore*, and Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi*. This spring Mr. Blake will portray Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*.

ALISON CAMPAGNA received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Vocal Performance, magna cum laude, from Pepperdine University. She is a member of the Music Honor Society Phi Kappa Lambda and won second place at the Café 322 Vocal Competition in Pasadena, California. Past operatic credits include *A Hand of Bridge*, *The Bartered Bride*, *The Crucible*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *Così fan tutte*, and *Gianni Schicchi*. Ms. Campagna is an alumna of the prestigious OperaWorks program and the Redwoods Opera Workshop Scenes program. At the Shepherd School she is pursuing a master's degree in voice under the tutelage of Susanne Mentzer.

SHELLEY CANTRICK is currently a junior vocal performance major studying with Kathleen Kaun. Her most recent Shepherd School Opera engagements have included singing in the off-stage chorus in *Sāvitrī*, the chorus of *L'elisir d'amore*, and in last fall's scenes program: Beth in *Little Women* and Meleagro in *Atalanta*. In December she was a soloist for the Shepherd School's performance of Bach's *Magnificat*.

Mezzo-soprano **SISHEL CLAVERIE** was born in Mexico City, and was a member of the International Mexican Art Society (SIVAM) for four years. In 2003, she performed as Meg in the international premiere of *Little Women* by Mark Adamo. In spring 2008 she graduated from the University of Houston with a major in vocal performance. While at the Moores Opera Center, Ms. Claverie performed several roles including the title role in *Chérubin*, Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, Zita in *Gianni Schicchi*, and Desideria in *The Saint of Bleeker Street*. She recently performed as a soloist with the Woodlands Symphony Orchestra and has also presented early music recitals with the Moores Collegium in collaboration with Ars Lyrica Houston. As a two-time winner of the Moores Concerto Competition, she performed Berlioz's *Les Nuits d'été* and Ravel's *Shéhérazade* with the Moores Symphony Orchestra. She continues her vocal training with Susanne Mentzer while pursuing a master's degree in voice at the Shepherd School.

ZACHARY DEVIN is a first-year graduate student at The Shepherd School of Music where he studies with Kathleen Kaun. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Music at Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois, where he studied with Terry Stone. Most recently he has performed the roles of Ralph Rackstraw in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, Tamino in *The Magic Flute*, and Satyavān in *Sāvitrī*. Mr. Devin will be covering the role of Don Ottavio in the Shepherd School's production of *Don Giovanni* this spring.

ALEXANDRA FORD is a native of the United Kingdom. Ms. Ford has performed with many English and American choirs touring in Prague, Germany, Austria, New York, Australia, and Canada, such as The Meistersingers and The Bedales Choir. She completed her Bachelor of Music degree at The Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Ohio. Recent Oberlin Conservatory performances include Titania in *The Fairy Queen*, Yum Yum in *The Mikado*, Tatyana in scenes from *Eugene Onegin*, Beth in *Little Women* and Poppea in *The Coronation of Poppea*. Ms. Ford has also performed as a soloist with the Cleveland Orchestra. She is currently pursuing her Master of Music degree at the Shepherd School, where she sang the role of Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi* last fall. She is a student of Dr. Stephen King.

Saint Louis native AMANDA GROOMS is a second-year graduate student. While at the Shepherd School, she has performed the roles of Adina in *L'elisir d'amore*, Armida in Handel's *Rinaldo*, and she will be singing the role of Donna Elvira in the spring opera *Don Giovanni*. Ms. Grooms has performed with the Aspen Music Festival, Opera Theatre Saint Louis, Opera Birmingham, Sarasota Opera, Milwaukee Opera Theatre, and Opera Vivente. In addition to opera, she has made concert appearances in Salzburg, Vienna, Milan, Milwaukee, Chicago, and Saint Louis. Her recent awards include second place in the Young Patronesses of the Opera Competition, finalist in the West Palm Beach Opera Competition, the 2006 Encouragement Prize from the Sullivan Foundation, and the Top Prize Scholarship from the Arleen Auger Memorial Fund. Ms. Grooms is a student of Dr. Stephen King.

REBECCA HENDERSON, originally from Lubbock, Texas, is a junior studying with Susanne Mentzer. At the Shepherd School of Music, she has performed in the choruses of *Rinaldo*, *L'elisir d'amore*, and *Sāvitrī*. In the fall scenes program, Ms. Henderson sang the role of Meg in *Little Women*. This past December she was a soloist for the Shepherd School's performance of Bach's *Magnificat*.

A native of Washington, D.C., mezzo-soprano REBECCA HENRY appeared as Pitti-Sing in *The Mikado* and the Third Spirit in *The Magic Flute* at the Brevard Music Center last summer. At the Shepherd School she has previously appeared as Charlene Hildebrand in *Street Scene*, as a Fury in *La Calisto*, as Carmen in *Carmen*, and Dorabella in *Così fan tutte* in previous scenes programs. She has also been a member of the choruses of *L'elisir d'amore*, *Rinaldo*, *Hansel and Gretel*, and *Sāvitrī*. This past December she was a soloist for the Shepherd School's performance of Bach's *Magnificat*. Ms. Henry is a senior, studying voice with Kathleen Kaun.

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RICE

BIOGRAPHIES CONTINUED:

DAVID KECK, a native of Vermont, has explored many fields of vocal performance, from musical theater and opera to song recital and contemporary vocal performance art. While at the Shepherd School he has performed the roles of Dulcamara in *L'elisir d'amore* and Betto di Signo in *Gianni Schicchi*. Two years ago, Mr. Keck made his debut with Opera Theatre of Saint Louis in *La Traviata* and has recently been seen as Nerbulone in the American premiere of Cavalli's *Eliogabalo*, as Superintendent Budd in *Albert Herring*, and Sarastro in *Die Zauberflöte*. Mr. Keck received his Bachelor of Arts degree at Columbia College in English and Comparative Literature, and followed this with diploma studies at The Juilliard School. Mr. Keck is a student of Dr. Stephen King, and will be singing the role of the Commendatore in the Shepherd School's spring production of *Don Giovanni*.

MARY-JANE LEE is a native of Sandy, Utah. She is a first-year master's student at the Shepherd School in the studio of Dr. Stephen King. She completed her Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance at Utah State University's Caine School of the Arts. Most recently Ms. Lee performed Micaëla in *Carmen* with the Chautauqua Institution. Other recent performances include Adina in *L'elisir d'amore*, the Mother in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, the title role in *The Ballad of Baby Doe*, and Luisa Fernanda with the Utah State University Opera Theater. Last fall Ms. Lee performed the role of Ciesca in *Gianni Schicchi*. She will cover the role of Donna Elvira in the Shepherd School's production of *Don Giovanni* this spring.

CORISSA LEONARD recently graduated from DePaul University in Chicago with a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance. While at DePaul, she studied with Amy Conn and Elizabeth Gottlieb. Ms. Leonard was most recently seen as Mrs. Gleaton in *Susannah* at the 2007 Brevard Music Festival. She has also performed in productions of *Carmen*, *Candide*, and *La Bohème*. Last fall she performed the role of Nella in the Shepherd School production of *Gianni Schicchi*. Ms. Leonard is a first-year master's student who studies voice with Kathleen Kaun.

Tenor ERIC LONGO, a native of Philadelphia, is a first-year graduate student studying with Kathleen Kaun. Mr. Longo recently graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Carnegie Mellon University. His most recent roles include Mayor Upfold in *Albert Herring*, Henrik in *A Little Night Music*, and last fall sang Gherardo in the Shepherd School production of *Gianni Schicchi*.

ANN MARSHALL, soprano, is a first-year graduate student in the studio of Susanne Mentzer. Ms. Marshall received her Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from Utah State University. While a student there she was a winner in the Concerto Competition and was awarded the Outstanding Opera Award for her performance as Salud in *La Vida Breve*. Favorite roles include Marie in *The Bartered Bride*, Miss Todd in *The Old Maid and the Thief* and Mother in *Ragtime*. Ms. Marshall has also been involved in several opera outreach programs and has traveled to England and Guatemala to promote music education and awareness. This spring she is covering the role of Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*.

JULIE MARX, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, is a junior vocal performance major at the Shepherd School. She is a student of Susanne Mentzer. While a student at the Shepherd School, Ms. Marx has performed in *Street Scene*, *Rinaldo*, and *L'elisir d'amore*, and recently sang the role of Gherardino in *Gianni Schicchi*.

SARAH MESKO, a native of Arkansas, is a first-year graduate student of Dr. Stephen King. She earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Flute Performance and Vocal Performance from the University of Arkansas. Recent roles include *Dorothee* in *Cendrillon*, *Mercédès* in *Carmen*, *Hansel* in *Hansel and Gretel*, and *Le Prince Charmant* in *Cendrillon*. Ms. Mesko has appeared as a soloist with the North Arkansas and Fort Smith Symphonies, the Aspen Music Festival Sinfonia, and the Hot Springs Music Festival, Arkansas, and Arkansas Youth Symphony Orchestras. Her diverse concert repertoire includes the world premiere of Richard Wernick's *A Song for Phil*, written in memory of Philip West and Jan DeGaetani. Ms. Mesko is a recent First Prize Winner of both the National Society of Arts and Letters Vocal Competition and the Franco-American Vocal Academy Grand Concours de Chant. She will sing Bach's *Mass in B Minor* with the Fort Smith Symphony later this spring and will cover the title role of *Rinaldo* at Central City Opera this summer.

STEPHEN ANTHONY RAY is a first-year graduate student at the Shepherd School. He completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in music at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. Mr. Ray has received numerous vocal awards, most notably his advancement to the Grand Finals of the 2008 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. He has participated in master classes with Marilyn Horne, Sherrill Milnes, Warren Jones, and Heidi Grant Murphy. Mr. Ray was a fellow for the 2007 season of the Music Academy of the West. Last fall Mr. Ray sang the role of Death in *Sāvītri*, and will cover the role of Don Giovanni in the Shepherd School's spring production of *Don Giovanni*. His upcoming performances include the baritone solos for Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra in 2009.

Baritone *SAMUEL SCHULTZ* is a student of Dr. Stephen King. He has performed the roles of Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, Belcore in *L'elisir d'amore*, George Jones in *Street Scene*, Mr. Bluff in *The Impresario*, Guccio in *Gianni Schicchi*, and understudied Pooh-Bah in *The Mikado*. His solo concert repertoire includes performances of Handel's *Messiah*, the Fauré *Requiem*, the Saint-Saëns *Christmas Oratorio*, Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*, and Poulenc's *Rapsodie nègre*. His scene work includes Papageno in *Die Zauberflöte*, Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Tarquinius in *The Rape of Lucretia* and Il Conte in *Le nozze di Figaro*. As an alumnus of the United States Senate Page Program, he has had the privilege to sing for United States Congress.

A native of Austin, soprano *LAUREN SNOUFFER* is a fourth-year undergraduate at the Shepherd School. Since she began her studies here, she has performed in the choruses of *La Calisto*, *Street Scene*, and *Sāvītri*, and as Giannetta in *L'elisir d'amore*. She has appeared as a soloist with the Rice Chorale and Shepherd School orchestras in their performances of Handel's *Messiah* and Mozart's *Vesperae Solennae*, as well as Fauré's *Requiem* and Saint-Saëns' *Christmas Oratorio*. Last summer she performed the role of the Dew Fairy in *Hansel and Gretel* at the Aspen Music Festival, where she is also a New Horizons fellow until 2010. Ms. Snouffer will be performing the role of Zerlina in the Shepherd School's production of *Don Giovanni* this March.

Baritone MARK WHATLEY, a native of Georgia, is a doctoral student at the Shepherd School and a student of Stephen King. He holds degrees in voice from Belmont University and the University of Kentucky. Mr. Whatley has performed with numerous opera companies, such as Glimmerglass Opera, Opera North, Nashville Opera, Opera Birmingham, Augusta Opera, Chattanooga Opera, Opera Festival di Roma, Opera Company of Brooklyn, Colorado Opera Troupe, and Aspen Opera Theatre. He has been heard in a variety of roles of which his favorites include Marcello in *La bohème*, Almaviva in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, Harlekin in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Escamillo in *Carmen*, Belcore in *L'elisir d'amore*, and Strephon in *Iolanthe*. He recently performed both Fritz and Frank in Summer Opera's production of *Die tote Stadt* in Washington, D.C. Mr. Whatley enjoys performing oratorio repertoire, including Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Handel's *Messiah*, Bach's *Matthäus-Passion*, Haydn's *The Creation*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, and requiem masses by Brahms, Fauré, Duruflé, and Mozart. He also enjoys a diverse recital repertoire. He has been a winner in numerous competitions, most notably placing first in the Metropolitan Opera MidSouth Regional auditions and appearing as one of nine national finalists in a concert with the Met Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Julius Rudel in 2002. This April, he will perform *Carmina Burana* with the Nashville Symphony and Ballet.

ANNAMARIE ZMOLEK is a first-year master's student at the Shepherd School, where she studies with Kathleen Kaun. As an undergraduate student at the Eastman School of Music, she portrayed Mrs. Gleaton in *Susannah*, Nightingale in *Nightingale*, and Lisette in *La Rondine*. A Colorado native, she has sung the roles of the Countess in *Le nozze di Figaro* and Frasquita in *Carmen* with Opera Theatre of the Rockies. She studied with Martile Rowland at the Vocal Arts Symposium. In her summers there, she appeared in scenes as Lucia in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Gilda in *Rigoletto*, Beth in *Little Women*, and Elvira in *I Puritani*. She won first prize in the 2008 Denver Lyric Opera Guild Competition. Ms. Zmolek will sing the role of Donna Anna in the Shepherd School's production of *Don Giovanni* this spring. This summer Ms. Zmolek will be an apprentice with Central City Opera, where she will sing the student performance of the title role in *Lucia di Lammermoor*.