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### Favorite Opera Choruses

James Major Director  
*Illinois State University*

Kathleen Keenan-Takagi Director

Sue Ann Stutheit Director

Glenn Block Conductor

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Music Department  
Illinois State University

# "Favorite Opera Choruses"

Illinois State University

Civic Chorale

Concert Choir

Treble Choir

University Choir

Madrigal Singers

James Major, *Director*

Kathleen Keenan-Takagi, *Director*

Sue Ann Stutheit, *Director*

and

Symphony Orchestra

Glenn Block, *Conductor*

Braden Auditorium  
Sunday Evening  
May 2, 1999  
7:00 p.m.

The one-hundred sixty-fourth program of the 1998-99 season.

*Program*

from *The Magic Flute*  
Overture

Anne Decker, *Conducting*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
(1756-1791)

from *Tannhäuser*  
"Pilgrims Chorus"

Richard Wagner  
(1813-1883)

from *Nabucco*  
"Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves"

Giuseppe Verdi  
(1813-1901)

from *Carmen*  
"Toreador Song"

John Koch, *Baritone*

Georges Bizet  
(1838-1875)

from *Madama Butterfly*  
"Humming Chorus"

Giacomo Puccini  
(1858-1924)

from *The Magic Flute*  
"Queen of the Night"

Michelle Vought, *Soprano*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

from *Lohengrin*  
"Bridal Chorus"

Richard Wagner

from *Die Fledermaus*  
"Czardas"

Michelle Vought, *Soprano*

Johann Strauss, Jr.  
(1864-1949)

from *Tannhäuser*  
"Entry of the Guests"

Brian Dollinger, *Conducting*

Richard Wagner

*Intermission*

from *Prince Igor*  
"Polyvtisian Dances"

Alexander Borodin  
(1833-1887)

from *Il Trovatore*  
"Anvil Chorus"

Giuseppe Verdi

from *Die Meistersinger*  
"Wach auf!"

Richard Wagner

from *Faust*  
"Soldier's Chorus"

Charles Gounod  
(1818-1893)

from *Aida, Act II Finale*  
"Triumphal March"

Giuseppe Verdi

ISU Civic Chorale  
ISU Concert Choir  
ISU Treble Choir  
ISU University Choir  
ISU Madrigal Singers  
ISU Symphony Orchestra  
Glenn Block, *Conducting*

## Program Notes

### Wagner: *Tannhäuser*

The action of this opera takes place in the early thirteenth century near Eisenach (Bach's future birthplace). The story revolves around the tension between spiritual and erotic love, embodied in a song contest between Wolfram von Eschenbach and Tannhäuser. The Pilgrims' Chorus (its theme already heard in the Overture) comes in Act 3 as a group of aged pilgrims return from Rome.

### Verdi: *Nabucco*

Verdi wrote in 1879 that he was given the libretto for Nabucco (after it had been rejected by Nicolai) and when he looked at it, it fell open at 'Va, pensiero'. The opera's triumphant success was due at least in part to the melody to which he set this paraphrase of Psalm 137. It is recounted that all the stage-hands at the first run of performances would gather every night in the wings to hear the great chorus. It is sung by the Israelites as they lament the loss of their homeland, and was soon widely interpreted as a political gesture, becoming the anthem of Italian patriotism. At Verdi's funeral the crowd spontaneously sang this chorus. The narrative, which derives from a French play produced in Paris in 1836, is set around the biblical story of the Jews in Babylonian exile in 586 BC.

### Bizet: *Carmen*

At the inn of Lillas Pastia, Carmen leads the merriment and Don Jose's old commanding officer, Captain Zuniga, is prominent among the guests trying to get close to Carmen. He does not succeed, for she prefers much less respectable company! Suddenly a popular athlete appears on the scene. He is Escamillo, the toreador; and of course, he sings his Toreador Song. He is taken with Carmen and she falls for him.

### Puccini: *Madama Butterfly*

The opera, based on an allegedly true incident turned into a play by the American dramatist David Belasco, is set in Nagasaki, Japan. An American naval officer, Pinkerton, has enticed a Japanese geisha, Butterfly, to marry him. Duty soon takes him away, and when he returns three years later, he has an American wife. Butterfly is told this, but cannot believe it. The Humming Chorus is sung as the moon shines into her bedroom while she and her child sleep. Next day the truth becomes clear to her and broken-hearted, she kills herself.

### Mozart: *The Magic Flute*

In the garden in Act II, Monostatos is gloating over the lovely Pamina as she lies asleep, practically at his mercy. Just in time, her mother, the Queen of the Night, interferes. In her terrific "Revenge Aria", she demands that her daughter murder

Sarastro. She hurls a dagger to Pamina for the purpose and swears that, should she fail, her daughter shall be disowned.

### Wagner: *Lohengrin*

The opera is set in Antwerp in the early tenth century. Elsa has been promised in marriage to a mysterious knight as his reward for championing her. She, however, is disturbed by his condition that she must never ask him his true name or origin. The wedding celebrations begin Act 3. After the prelude, the curtain rises on an empty bridal chamber. Elsa and Lohengrin are escorted into the chamber to the music of this chorus. Their retinue leaves during the last few bars. Elsa is desquied by her husband's anonymity and forces him to reveal that he is Lohengrin, son of Parsifal. He returns to Montsalvat, the temple of the Holy Grail, borne away in a boat which had appeared drawn by a swan, now miraculously transformed into Elsa's murdered brother Gottfried, restored to life and proclaimed by the departing Lohengrin as Duke of Brabant.

### Strauss: *Die Fledermaus*

Rosalinda enters the party in Act II, wearing a mask and disguised as a Hungarian countess. When her husband, Rudolpho, questions her nationality, she offers proof by singing a passionate aria in the style of a Hungarian Czardas.

### Borodin: *Prince Igor*

Borodin was by profession a chemist and was able to compose only in his spare time. He worked for eighteen years on Prince Igor, but it was incomplete at his death and was finished by Rimsky-Korsakov and Glazunov. The Polovtsian Dances, however, were completed and orchestrated by Borodin himself. The libretto, by the composer, is based on an old Russian chronicle and relates to an incident in 1185, at a time of conflict between Russia and the Tartars. Igor, prince of Severk, is defeated by Khan Konchak of the Polovtsi, who holds him as an honoured and respected captive. The dances at the end of Act 2 are performed by the slave dancers of the Khan to entertain Prince Igor.

### Verdi: *Il Trovatore*

The opera is set in Spain in the early fifteenth century and is based on a play by Antonio Garcia Gutierrez that had been an immediate success in 1836. The Anvil Chorus opens Act 2: gypsies (who earn their living as tinkers) are striking their anvils and singing in praise of the approaching dawn and the pleasures of work, wine, and women.

Wagner: *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*

Like Tannhäuser, this opera is built around a song contest, but set rather later, in the sixteenth century, by which time the tradition of German guild-singers was no longer aristocratic. Two older masters, the cobbler poet Sachs and the town clerk Beckmesser, are confronted by a revolutionary youngster, Walther. The prize at the mid-summer song contest is Eva, with whom Walther is passionately in love. Walther wins; the pedantic Beckmesser cannot understand the new style and loses. Sachs recognizes that he is of the older generation (so foregoes winning Eva for himself), but reminds the crowd that the impetuosity of youth needs artistic discipline in order to uphold the tradition of true German art. The procession of the mastersingers is heard in Act 3 as the two assemble for the contest; Sachs appears, and the crowd spontaneously acclaims him, breaking into a rendition of one of his compositions, 'Wach auf', a song in praise of the dawn. The text is by the historical Hans Sachs, the dawn referred to being Luther's Reformation.

Gounod: *Faust*

Gounod's opera on the Faust legend, set in sixteenth-century Germany, concentrates primarily on a theme introduced by Goethe. The aged philosopher Faust is enticed by the vision of a young and beautiful woman, Marguerite, to accept the gift of youth offered by Mephistopheles. Faust sees her walking home from church, then courts her indirectly by offering a casket of jewels provided by Mephistopheles; she responds with the famous Jewel Song. They fall in love but he deserts her. Guiltily pregnant, she goes to church to pray, but Mephistopheles convinces her that she is doomed. The soldiers return from war and, in 'Deposons les armes', sing of victory. The scene leads to a brawl in which Faust kills Marguerite's brother. She is imprisoned for killing her child. Faust visits her, but she invokes the angels rather than escape with him. The Soldiers' chorus comes near the beginning of Act 3 as the troops are told they will assault the enemy next day.

Verdi: *Aida*

The Khedive of Egypt tried to get a new opera from Verdi for the opening of the Cairo Opera house and the Suez Canal in 1869, but had to be content with an existing work, *Rigoletto*. Two years later Verdi did give Cairo their new opera, *Aida*; the idea came from a noted Egyptologist, Auguste Mariette. The action is set in Egypt during the time of the Pharaohs, and, despite the local colour, uses situations familiar from countless opera plots. It includes a magnificent march and series of dances in honour of the king, providing a massive scene of state pomp before the private tragedy which takes up the rest of the opera.

ISU Symphony Orchestra

Glenn Block, *Music Director*

**VIOLIN I**

•Jennifer Smith - Concertmaster  
Al Bartosik  
Stephane Deimer  
Wenyan Dong  
Julia Edwards  
Michelle Kang  
Benjamin Roberts  
Stephanie Schmidtgall

**VIOLIN II**

•Jennifer Louie  
Christopher Barnyak  
Elizabeth Hunt  
Keith Larkowski  
Michelle Scroggins  
Jennifer Vestuto  
Rick Warner  
Michelle Warber

**VIOLA**

•Peggy Weiss  
Christina Butzen  
Mandy DeSutter  
Steve Hampton  
Dana Schwartz

**CELLO**

•Charles Stephan  
Charles Davenport  
Jim Pesek  
Ha Young Lim  
Kimberly Martin  
Nicole Novak  
Shakira Smith  
Aaron Fleisher

**DOUBLE BASS**

•Brian Dollinger  
Benjamin Sullivan  
Jeffrey Johnson  
Eric Krell  
Grant Souder

**FLUTE**

•Sabina M. White  
Jennifer Smith (piccolo)  
Amy Perschall

**OBOE**

•Deana Rumsey  
Jennifer Schraml (English Horn)

**CLARINET**

•Debi Flowers  
Kathy Platek

**BASSOON**

•Scott E. Reynolds  
Laura Maland

**HORN**

•Ryan Heseltine  
Darcie Condon  
Molly Gholson  
Jennifer Herron  
Victor Pesavento

**TRUMPET**

•John P. Sierakowski  
John Hoagland  
Chad Morris

**TROMBONE**

•Gary Hollander  
Erich Deptolla  
Benjamin Bredemeier (bass)



**TUBA**

•Steven Holgate

**TIMPANI**

•Michael Dickson

**PERCUSSION**

•Michael Bonowicz

Michael Cole

Michael Mercer

• denotes principal.

**STAFF**

Anne Decker, Brian Dollinger,

*Assistant Conductors*

Kimberly Martin, *Orchestra Manager / Librarian*

**ORCHESTRA COMMITTEE**

Kimberly Martin, *Chair*

Stephane Deimer

Anne Decker

Brian Dollinger

Molly Gholson

Sabina White

**ISU INSTRUMENTAL FACULTY**

Kim Reisinger, *Flute*

Judy Dicker, *Oboe*

Aris Chavez, *Clarinet*

James Boitos, *Saxophone*

Michael Dicker, *Bassoon*

Joe Neisler, *Horn*

Amy Gilreath, *Trumpet*

Steve Parsons, *Trombone*

David Collier, *Percussion*

Sarah Gentry, *Violin*

Kate Hamilton, *Viola*

Greg Hamilton, *Cello*

William Koehler, *Double Bass*

Angelo Favis, *Guitar*

**COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS**

Ron Mottram, *Acting Dean*

**DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC**

Arved Larsen, *Chair*

**ISU Civic Chorale**

James Major, *Director*

Patty Foltz, *Accompanist*

Christina Anderson

Louis Andrew

Emily Antrim

Erin Aplington

Sally Bailey

Darcy Bean

Rachel Brew

Kathryn Brosseau

Judith A. Brown

Judy L. Brown

Lillian Bucher

Wayne Caldwell

Carol Campbell

Crystal Champion

Christie Chapman

Benjamin Cubberly

Julie Darling

Monica Dees

Lola DeVore

Marie DiGiammarino

Sandra Doty

Ryan Golloway

Karen Gingerich

Harold Goyen Jr.

Cheri Grizzard

Ellen Hagen

Tara Hall

Dick Hanson

John Hensley

Marjorie Hobbs

Cory Howell

Arlene Johnson

Margret Jones

Cynthia Karr

Charles Kerwin

George Kidder

Doug Lamb

Kristine Larson

Sonja Larson-Strieff

Krissy Linde

Beulah Lowery

Marya Manak

Janice Martinez

Mindy Maves

Kay Mays

Mitch Mays

Jerry McGinnis

Meredith Melton

Riann Messenger

Stephanie Miressi

Marge Moasier

Tara Nogle

Kathleen O'Meara

Susan Palmer

Phillis Parr

Barry Parsell

Shanna Patrick

Allen Popowski

Judith Ronan

Pat Rosenbaum

Paula Rosenbaum

Jennifer Rusk

Angela Samuelson

David Sauvageau

Jack Schroeder

Mary Selk

Jennifer Shuck

laura Slow

Kim Snyder

Ann Sokan

Dawn Stack

Jeff Stenge

Aaron Tappan

Marcia Thomas

Syleema Thompson

Andy Tillema

Robert Tridle

Linda Tsang

Janet Tulley

Michelle Udell

Luke Ulrich

Jennifer Vellella

Jean Wallace

Sharon Warren

Martha Wells

Hyunhee Woo

Roslyn Wylie

## ISU Concert Choir

James Major, *Director*

Dora Bizjak, *Accompanist*

Shawn Degenhart, *Assistant Conductor*

Tom Mindock, *Assistant Conductor*

Janna Peterson, *Assistant Conductor*

Benjamin Cubberly, *Administrative Assistant*

### *Soprano*

Dora Bizjak  
Jennifer Bailey  
Christy Bookwalter  
Lea Ann Dalldorf  
Erica Devitt  
Kimberly Eilts  
Corinne Erdman  
Amy Hendricks  
Stacie Hunt  
Gretchen Kemp  
Nozomi Nagasaka  
Janna Peterson  
Leslie Pomykala  
Amanda Reindl  
Stephanie Sahs  
Lauren Stenzel  
Heather West  
Lindsey Worthington  
Cynthia Zentner

Emily Safford  
Ragen Sanner  
Elizabeth Stimac  
Emily Vizer

### *Tenor*

Steve Bayer  
Jonathan Beer  
Njall Casserly  
Stephen Donnell  
Brett Garner  
David Gray  
Joshua Masterman  
Tom Mindock  
Josh Palmer  
Steve Peter  
Jason Tucholke  
Aaron Zinter

### *Bass*

Aaron Baecker  
Scott Bartnik  
Kevin Boyer  
Ross Crean  
Benjamin Cubberly  
K. J. Cunz  
Shawn Degenhart  
Nathan Durbin  
Chris Elven  
Ryan Galloway  
Kent Krause  
Dan Maslowski  
Kevin Michelini  
Jonathan Smith  
Tim Soszko  
Jason Svejda  
Erik Tomlin  
Joshua Wiltse

### *Alto*

Katie Bay  
Arianna Brown  
Bridget Burrell  
Angie Chamberlain  
Lindy Daniels  
Angela Haeseker  
Tori Hicks  
Mary Jane King  
Krista Koske  
Elizabeth Marvin  
Sharol McNeilus  
Kathryn Milner  
LaMetra Murdock  
Laura Noonan  
Faith Rinker

## ISU Treble Choir

Sue Ann Stutheit, *Director*

Amanda Bruce, *Accompanist*

Stephanie Adreasen  
Linsay Bellow  
Jane Borchers  
Amanda Bruce  
Kathleen Brumbaugh  
Erin Dalton  
Julia Edwards  
Christine Gekas  
Alison Ginsberg  
Hanna Hansen  
Jessica Haris  
Jennifer Krippelz  
Lindsay Kurtz  
Amber Lasik  
Jennifer Lierly  
Kathleen Leahy  
Danica Levy  
Cory Malcolm  
Meredith Melton  
Arienne Miranda  
Erin Miller  
Stephanie Miressi  
Anne Nelson  
Kelly Neuls  
Elizabeth Nystedt  
Molly Olson  
Melissa Reed  
Amanda Reese  
Colleen Rychelowski  
Erin Salm  
Jill Sawicki  
Amy Schrage  
Michelle Scroggins  
Caprice Vargas  
Beth Young

## ISU University Choir

Kathleen Keenan-Takagi, *Director*

Dora Bizjak, *Accompanist*

Dana Aubry	Kristine Larson
Ellen Becker	Rebecca Libby
Deana Brown	Gregory Lutz
P. Terrance Brown	Kristina Martens
Amanda Bruce	Beth Martin
Amanda Carlson	Janice Martinez
Angela Chamness	Gwendolyn Marzano
Evelyn Claahsen	Beth McDannel
Travis Darby	Riann Messenger
Amy Daugherty	Lynette Monjes
Christopher Elven	Brian Nobel
Jill Foehner	Elaine Nussbaum
Carleen Glasgow	Stephanie Olesch
Sandy Graff	Molly Olson
Nicole Griffin	Nilda Perez
Jennifer Gunter	Rebecca Reed
Sarah Hahn	Jennifer Ringwald
Samantha Hannold	Kathleen Ryan
Katrina Henkel	Alexiz Salgado
Alexander Henry	David Sauvageau
Brittany Hochstettler	Katie Smith
Dina Hutchinson	Erin Studer
Brandon Joy	Jill Sturz
Katherine Kowalczyk	Jaime Volk
Justin Kurfman	Emily Wait
Hyon Kwak	Morgan Whitcomb
Shaun Landreth	Carrie Wysicki

## Madrigal Singers

James Major, *Director*

Janna Peterson, *Assistant Conductor*

Shawn Degenhart, *Assistant Conductor*

Stephanie Bonte, *Assistant Conductor*

Benjamin Cubberly, *Administrative Assistant*

### *Soprano*

Stephanie Bonte

Rachel Devitt

Janna Peterson

Heather West

### *Alto*

Julie Fallon

Angela Haesecker

Ragen Sanner

Sondra Trumble

### *Tenor*

Rondal Drummond

Andrew Jensen

Jeremy Painter

Andy Steadman

### *Bass*

Benjamin Cubberly

Shawn Degenhart

Scott Grobstein

Jonathan Smith

## Choral Faculty

James Major, *Director of Choral Activities*

Kathleen Keenan - Takagi

Sue Ann Stutheit

## Voice Faculty

John Koch, *Area Coordinator*

William McDonald

Kathleen Randles

Sue Ann Stutheit

Michelle Vought



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