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11-13-2015

## The Raspberry War

USU Opera Theatre

Robert Boury

W. S. Gilbert

Arthur Sullivan

Madeleine St. Romaine

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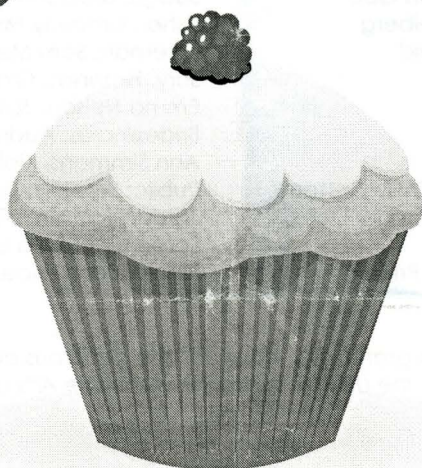
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Emily Skelton

USU Opera Theatre Presents the Premiere of

# THE RASPBERRY WAR



*in special collaboration with composer Dr. Robert Boury*  
& TRIAL BY JURY BY GILBERT & SULLIVAN

**NOV. 13 AND 14 | 7:30 PM | FA 214**  
**CHASE FINE ARTS CENTER, USU CAMPUS**  
**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**



## The Raspberry War

Music by Robert Boury, Libretto by Madeleine St. Romaine

&

## Trial by Jury

Music by Arthur Sullivan, Book by W.S. Gilbert

presented by USU Opera Theatre

### Credits:

#### The Raspberry War

Musical/Stage Director: Dallas K Heaton

Stage Manager: Amanda Glancy

Assistant Stage Manager/Food

Coordinator: Sara Low

Cupcake Prop: Hayley Chronister

Lighting Operator: Sarah Gee

Alianora: Rebecca Soelberg

Embet: Allison Henscheid

Kethra: Kiah Brown

Herrick: Devin Davis

Vel: Belen Moyano

Ros: Hannah Jackson

Critics: Andrew Taylor, Emily Cottam,

Kayla Hansen, Nicole Vander Does,

Sarah Greenwood

Rehearsal Pianist: John Price

#### Trial by Jury

Musical/Stage Director: Dallas K Heaton

Stage Manager: Sarah Greenwood

Angelina (Plaintiff): Allysa Packard

Edwin (Defendant): Benjamin Kruttsch

Counsel: Emily Cottam

Judge: Brad Summers

Usher: Kimberly Muhlestein

Foreman: Sam Meredith

Jury: Amanda Glancy, Emily Floyd,

Emma Nelson, Josh Musselman

Bridesmaids: Audrey Erickson, Kaylee

Ann Simmons, Kiah Brown

Public: Brooklyn Dyer, Jeunée Roberts,

Jordan Tolman, Nichole McCarthy,

Sarah Gee, Sara Low

Pianist: John Price

*USU Opera Theatre also gratefully recognizes the generous contribution of time and resources given by the USU Department of Theatre Arts and USU Production Services.*

### About USU Opera Theatre:

USU Opera Theatre is the Caine College of the Arts' dramatic musical ensemble. Under the direction of Dallas Heaton, the ensemble produces full shows and scenes of opera, operetta and musical theater, providing developing singers the opportunity to acquire and refine the skills that singing actors need to be successful, versatile performers and multi-faceted pedagogues. We invite you to join us next semester as we present a special collaborative production of Francesca Caccini's *La Liberazione di Ruggiero dall'Isola di Alcina* with USU's Performance Practice Institute and the Carter Family Marionettes on March 18-19 and Jason Robert Brown's *Songs for a New World* on April 8-9. Find more details online: <http://opera.usu.edu>

### Brief Synopsis:

#### Raspberry War

Part 1: The Crisis (Alianora's house & patio)

Alianora fancies herself a great cook until her friends remind her of her lack of talent. Indignant, she proposes a cooking contest.

Part 2: The Menu (Embet's living room)

Embet, Kethra, and Herrick call themselves 'Team Tasty' and expect to win with ease. They brainstorm with plans for their menu, 'Dream Food.'

Part 3: Dishtale (Vel's living room)

Vel and Ros decide to use Vel's Hungarian ancestry for inspiration for their menu. In order to give their team the extra edge, they work in a fantastical story about Vel's Hungarian grandmother.

Part 4: Combat Raspberry (Alianora's kitchen)

The teams present their entries for the judges as tensions rise. After realizing there has been some critical misunderstandings, a food fight breaks out.

*~10 minute intermission~*

#### Trial by Jury

Setting: The Court of the Exchequer, London

Edwin, having broken off his engagement to Angelina, is sued by her and taken to court. Before a very biased jury and semi-disinterested judge each pleads their case, with Edwin seeking freedom and Angelina financial compensation and vengeance. The proceedings reach an abrupt halt due to the impulsive judge, unexpectedly resulting in a happy ending for all.

#### Raspberry War Composer's Note:

In 1990, I was invited to be the Composer in Residence at the two-week-long Peter Harrower Opera Festival held at Georgia State University in Atlanta. I was assigned a librettist who had just finished a year with a theater troupe who went to the public schools and solicited stories from the children, which she then turned into short plays that the actors would perform for the students the following week. Her name is Madeleine St. Romaine, and since that time, she and I have written three other operas that might entertain children and adults, *Grandmother Spider*, *Seastruck* and most recently, *The Raspberry War*. The first two were composed for and performed by the Chotard Institute in Little Rock, Arkansas. Their goal is to prepare middle school and high school students to flourish in music departments where they have been accepted with the same degree of preparedness as their peers in piano, violin or trumpet. They perform a short opera every semester. The singers learn how to prepare for lessons, how to analyze and learn vocal scores, how to work with an accompanist and in all ways become young professionals.

This, our third Opera Breve in our trilogy, *The Raspberry War* became out of reach for the new applicants to the school as the previous generation had graduated. So St. Romaine and I are delighted that Utah State University will premiere the work.

*Robert Boury*

### **Composer Bio:**

Robert Boury is an American composer and pianist. Boury was part of the revival of Ragtime led by William Albright and William Bolcom in the late sixties. Boury has composed many types of instrumental works and in a variety of medias and genres, such as solo/duet piano works, art songs, both comic opera/opera seria, choral works, ragtime works, orchestral works and electric/acoustic pieces. As a professor of music and resident composer at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, he is an active musician, devoted teacher, and frequently volunteers in schools and churches to share his music.

Boury has composed music for his university's alma mater, as well as for opera and theater events produced at University of Arkansas at Little Rock. His many art songs and chamber music pieces have been performed regionally, nationally and internationally as well. Robert Boury is known for his beautiful art songs and cycles which are highly-regarded and sung by students and professionals nationwide. Most recently, Robert Boury composed music for his university's production of Beckett's *Endgame* (2011) and Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* (2013). He has continually been a visiting composer in the public schools in Little Rock since 1995, doing songwriting with children K-12.

### **Librettist Bio:**

Madeleine St. Romain is a writer and multidisciplinary artist. With composer Nicole Chamberlain, she wrote *Rabbit Tales* for the Atlanta Opera. She was a librettist for the Atlanta Opera's 24 Hour Opera in 2012, January 2013, and November 2013 and January 2015. With composer Robert Boury, she has written four family operas, *Cedar Tree and River Water*, *Grandmother Spider Steals the Sun*, *Seastruck*, and *The Raspberry War*. Madeleine's visual art has been shown in Eyedrum, Radial Art Space, and the Dalton Gallery. She has performed with Women on Fire and the Acme Theatre Company in venues throughout the Southeast. Madeleine was born in New Orleans and now lives in Atlanta with her musician husband Jeff Tyson and a lot of books.

## CAINE COLLEGE *of the* ARTS

*Excellence with Integrity*

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Caine College of the Arts serves the people of the State of Utah and supports the mission of Utah State University by cultivating artistic and academic excellence, by preparing our students to realize their full creative potential as artists and citizens, by increasing the visibility of the college and university, and by fostering professionalism and collegial relationships in all aspects of our operations.