

OPERA THEATER STAFF:

Dr. Russell Young, Director

Eileen Moremen: Producer and Associate Director

Michael Alexander: Conductor

Vocal Coach: Gwen Halstead Brooker

Accompanists: Judy Cole and Valerie Pool

Lighting designer: Mary Parker

Stage Manager: Haley Scott

Stillwell Theater Coordinator/Technical Director: Brad Herring

Poster Art Design: Joshua Stone and Jason Royale

Box office: Kharis Belgrave

Set: Technical Elements: Winfrey Shields

Program: Steve Burton and Evin Hanke

Norcostco Costumes

Special thanks to CAPITOL CITY OPERA for stage furniture and props

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

OPERA THEATER

Presents

THE MEDIUM

by

Gian Carlo Menotti

and

THE STONED GUEST (S.86proof)

by P.D.Q. Bach

Director

RUSSELL YOUNG

Conductor

MICHAEL ALEXANDER

Howard Logan Stillwell Theater

November 5, 6, 7, 8, 2009

Jenn Mack (Donna Ribalda) – is from Duluth, Georgia, and is a senior in the KSU Theater and Performance Studies degree program with a musical theater emphasis. She played leading roles in “The Merry Wives of Windsor” as Alice Ford and “The Yeoman of the Guard” as Phoebe, with other musical theater roles in “Aida”, “Seussical! The Musical”, “The Apple Tree”, “A Grand Night for Singing”, and ensemble in “The Elixir of Love”.

Alicia Maisonet (Mrs. Gobineau) – is a freshman music education major. This is her first opera role, but she has experience on stage in the Broadway play “Cats”, Babbette in “Beauty and the Beast”, “Little Shop of Horrors”, and “Chicago”.

Amanda Nichole Newton (Monica) – is a junior double major in vocal performance and music education at KSU. She was Meg Page in “The Merry Wives of Windsor”, Kate in “The Yeoman of the Guard” at KSU, and has performed Leonora in “The Beautiful Bridegroom” at the 2009 Harrower Summer Opera Workshop. She has also performed in master classes with distinguished singers Nina Hinson, Erie Mills, Jennifer Larmore, Jane Brunell and Mark Embree.

Cody Nichols (Don Octave) – is from Cartersville and is a first year vocal performance major. Cody played Slender in “The Merry Wives of Windsor”, and ensemble in “The Yeoman of the Guard”.

Elizabeth Pettitt (Madame Flora) – is a nationally respected contralto and guest artist with KSU Opera Theater, holding degrees from The University of Georgia and Georgia State University. Her most notable opera roles have been Cherubino in “The Marriage of Figaro”, Suzuki in “Madame Butterfly”, Zita in “Gianni Schicchi”, the Witch in “Hansel and Gretel”, Maddalena in “Rigoletto”, Florence Pike in “Albert Herring”, Mme. De la Haultiere, in “Cendrillon” and Dame Quickly in “Falstaff”. Elizabeth is also a much sought after oratorio soloist and recitalist with upcoming performances in Mendelssohn’s “Elijah” in January and “Romantic and Twentieth Century Art Songs” in February. She resides in Alpharetta with her husband, Wynn and their daughter, Grace.

Michaele Postell (Carmen Ghia) – is from Atlanta and is a sophomore double major in vocal performance and music education. This is her first leading opera role. She sang in the ensemble of “The Merry Wives of Windsor” and also sang for Jennifer Larmore’s KSU master class last semester.

Natalie Rivera (Donna Ribalda)- is a transfer student from Puerto Rico this year. She is in her third year as a vocal performance major and this is her opera debut.

Laura Shirley (Mrs. Nolan) – is a sophomore music education major. Her other opera experience includes the role of Dame Carruthers in “The Yeoman of the Guard”, ensemble in “The Merry Wives of Windsor” and “Amahl and the Night Visitors” and scene productions including singing Donna Elvira, Zita, Patience and Giulietta.

The Performers

Kristen Brent (Monica) – Kristen’s first leading opera role was Anne Page in “The Merry Wives of Windsor”. Theater credits include ensemble in “The Apple Tree”, Sarah Brown in “Guys and Dolls”, and Cinderella in “Cinderella”. She has been soloist with Marietta Master Chorale in Schubert’s Mass in G and the KSU Jazz Ensemble. Kristen is a junior, double majoring at KSU in vocal performance and Music Education.

Ebony E. Collier (Madame Flora) – is a native of Miami, Florida, and a vocal performance major at KSU. Ebony recently transferred from Georgia Perimeter College where she was an active choral singer, appeared with the GPC Jazz Combo, Women’s Chamber Choir and opera scenes, including Julia in “The Newport Rivals”, the Sandman in “Hansel and Gretel”, Dorabella in “Cosi fan tutte”, Suzuki in “Madame Butterfly”, Amneris in “Aida”, and Marcellina in “The Marriage of Figaro”. She has also performed with Peachstate Opera, and is currently a member of KSU Chamber Choir and Gospel Choir.

Brooke Eastlick (Carmen Ghia) – is a native of Plantation, Florida. Brooke is a sophomore vocal performance major at KSU. This is her first leading opera role, but her previous theatrical credits include ensemble singer in “The Merry Wives of Windsor”, “The Merry Widow”, Grace Farrell in “Annie” and Crustacia in “The Little Mermaid”.

Jeffrey David Gibb (Mr. Gobineau & Il Commendatore) - Is a sophomore vocal performance major at KSU. He has performed the title role in “The Mikado”, Professor Bhaer in “Little Women”, Max in Donizetti's “Betly”, Pandolfo in Pergolesi's “The Maid Mistress”, and King Melchior in Menotti's “Amahl and the Night Visitor”. He won top honors in the NATS competition in 2007 and 2010. He will play Escamillo in Peach State Opera's production of Bizet's “Carmen”.

Sarah Harville (Mrs. Gobineau) - is a sophomore vocal performance major at KSU. Last year she was in the ensemble of “The Merry Wives” of Windsor at KSU. Other productions in which she has appeared include, “The Little Shop of Horrors”, “The Insanity of Mary Girard”, and “West Side Story”.

Robert Hays (Mr. Gobineau & Il Commendatore) – is a Senior music education major at KSU, in trombone. After taking Vocal Techniques for his education degree, Robert found that he loved singing and had a new instrument he could develop - his voice. This is his first supporting operatic role, after having sung in the ensemble in “The Merry Wives of Windsor”.

Nehy Alexandra Hogg (Mrs. Nolan) – was a graduate of the Pebblebrook High School Center for Excellence in the Performing Arts where she received numerous performance honors and awards, including CCCEPA’s Best Overall Singer 2007. She is transferring from Loyola College with experience in their opera program in “Orpheus in the Underworld”.

Jeremy Ledbetter (Toby) is a junior music theater major at KSU. His previous roles include Jack Point in “The Yeomen of the Guard”, Howie in “Speech and Debate”, Elvis in “Picasso at the Lapin Agile”, Flip in “The Apple Tree”, Kenny in “Fuddy Mears”, and Goat in “The Robber Bridegroom”.

The Medium

by Gian Carlo Menotti

Cast

Madame Flora (Baba)	Ebony E. Collier (Thurs/Sat) Elizabeth Pettitt (Fri/Sun)
Monica	Amanda Nichole Newton (Thurs/Sat) Kristen Brent (Fri/Sun)
Toby	Jeremy Ledbetter
Mrs. Gobineau	Sarah Harville (Thurs/Sat) Alicia Maisonet (Fri/Sun)
Mr. Gobineau	Jeffrey David Gibb (Thurs/Sat) Robert Hays (Fri/Sun)
Mrs. Nolan	Laura Shirley (Thurs/Sat) Nehy Alexandra Hogg (Fri/Sun)

Libretto and opera written by the composer in 1945, Menotti himself states that after examining persons of such faith and conviction in the process of the supernatural, “it made me examine my own cynicism and led me to wonder at the multiple texture of reality”. The story takes place in a lower-class home whose living room is set up for séances and crude supernatural phenomena. Monica and her friend, Toby, a deaf mute, are playmates that have grown into young adulthood constantly creating a world of make-believe for themselves and the paying clients. Three clients appear and the show begins. Madame Flora creates her trance, the fictitious spirits appear (Monica and Toby in disguise), and all is running smoothly. Suddenly, Madame Flora becomes hysterical, insisting that they all leave. She blames the teenager for a haunting feeling and touch she experienced that was not planned. She cannot let go of her fears and doubts as to who touched her and why. With her sanity in the balance, she becomes violent and obsessive about the truth.

INTERMISSION

The Stoned Guest (S.86 proof)

a half-act opera

by P.D.Q. Bach (alias Peter Schickele)

Cast

Donna Ribalda (a high-born lady of the lowlands) mezzanine-soprano	Jennifer Mack (Thurs/Sat) Natalie Rivera (Fri/Sun)
Carmen Ghia (a woman of ailing repute) off-coloratura	Micheale Postelle (Thurs/Sat) Brooke Eastlick (Fri/Sun)
Don Octave (an itinerant nobleman) bargain counter tenor	Cody Nichols
Il Commendatore (the stoned guest) basso botto	Robert Hays (Thurs/Sat) Jeffrey David Gibb (Fri/Sun)

P.D.Q. Bach (1807-1742)? Was not only the last of the great Johann Sebastian Bach's 20-odd children, he was also the least and the oddest. Any account of his life that fails to mention the fact that one of his ears was slightly pointed would have to be considered seriously deficient. We have evidence of at least three attacks on the genre of opera by this midget among composers: 1) an opera in one unnatural act entitled HANSEL AND GRETEL AND TED AND ALICE; 2) a large work called THE CIVILIAN BARBER, only parts of which have been found; 3) the half-act opera THE STONED GUEST.

THE STONED GUEST was first performed at the *Howdyvolksteater* in Wein-am-Rhein, the town in which P.D.Q. Bach spent the longest period of his creative life, the Soused Period. The initial reception was mixed, with tomatoes and eggs predominating. One of the most notable aspects of the opera is its large canine part (known in the 18th Century as a *barcarolle*), which exceeds in virtuosity even the famous "Woofenpoof Song" from FIDO AND AENEAS. Tradition has it that P.D.Q. himself played the title role, which, if true, proves that type-casting was as common then as it is now. The work is recorded on Vanguard album (VSD6536) in a performance that can only be described as definitive.

Orchestra Personnel

Flute

Holly Botella, Peachtree City
Johnny Brown, Valdosta
Chelsea Estes, Kennesaw
Emily Westbrook, Canton

Oboe

Harrison Benett, Suwanee
Caitlin Dolenc, Hoschton

Clarinet

Brandon Bell, Moultrie
Bora Moon, Seoul, South Korea

Bassoon

Jesse Carlson, Lilburn

Horn

Alex Depew, Kennesaw
Megan Gribble, Marietta
Alex Hansell, Roswell
Melissa Harris, Gainesville
Alison Youngblood, Kennesaw

Trumpet

Turner Millsaps, Peachtree City
Andrew Stevens, Marietta

Trombone

Nathaniel Addicks, Kennesaw
Jordan Sellers, Marietta

Percussion

Pershaud Bolt, Omaha, NE
Jefferson Doyle, Canton
Katelyn King, Kennesaw
Zac Poore, Acworth

Piano

Angela Anzai, Suwanee
Steven Bicknell, Acworth
Joshua Martin, Marietta
Steven Melin, Lawrenceville

Harpichord

Judy Cole
Valerie Pool

Violin I

Adam von Housen, Concertmaster, Woodstock
Emily Ahlenius, Loganville
Brian Fredricks, Kennesaw
Ashley Hamlin, Douglasville
April Johnson, Powder Springs
Alexandra Khaimovich, Almaty, Khazakhstan
Jonathan Martin, Kennesaw
Tyler Mitchell, Powder Springs
William Myers, Kennesaw
Christina Volz, Clarkston

Violin II

Grace Kawamura, Principal, Duluth
Daniel Bermel, San Antonio, TX
Eduardo Bonilla, Powder Springs
Elton Fung, Marietta
Erica Gordon, Marietta
Jessica Hicks, Powder Springs
Natalie Riney, Austell
Jonathan Urizar, Marietta

Viola

Blake Wright, Principal, Marietta
Domenico Hueso, San Diego, CA
Evin Hanke, Alpharetta
Hannah Howard, Acworth
Alan Jaffe, Marietta
Rachael Keplin, Buford
Courtney Varner, Marietta

Cello

Stephanie Tessler, Principal, North Plainfield, NJ
Suzanne Bergs, Lawrenceville
Zac Goad, Seattle, WA
Jordan Jones-Cleaver, Dallas, TX
Ruth Anne Stuckey, Little Rock, AR

Bass

Sam Cauthorn, Principal, Marietta
Louise DuBois, Atlanta
Leo LaMere, Roswell
Matt Lester, Marietta
Jordan Thomas, Marietta

The KSU Orchestra will be split for the opera performances. Half of the orchestra will play November 5 & 7 and half will play November 6 & 8.