

## PLOT SYNOPSIS

### PROLOGUE

The Prologue introduces “a curious story, written in faded ink”, the personal account of a young governess. She had been sent by a handsome, wealthy stranger to instruct his orphaned relatives, a boy and a girl, at a country house long ago...

### ACT I

On her journey to Bly House, the Governess ponders her position's uncertainties: the orphaned children, the old housekeeper, and the main condition of her employment, that she should never bother the children's guardian for any reason.

The children - Miles and Flora - together with the housekeeper, Mrs Grose, welcome the Governess. Mrs Grose assures her they are clever and good. The children are excited to show off the house. The Governess feels at home.

Weeks later, the Governess receives a letter from Miles's school dismissing him for mysterious transgressions. Mrs Grose's protestations and the sight of the children playing innocently reassure her. She decides to take no action. Mrs Grose offers support.

Enjoying a warm summer evening in the grounds, the Governess suddenly sees a figure on the tower whom she first imagines to be the children's relative, then suspects may be a madman or an intruder.

As the children are playing indoors, the Governess sees the man again, gazing in at the window. She tells Mrs Grose, who identifies him as Quint, the master's former valet. He had “made free” with Miles, as well as with the Governess's predecessor, the late Miss Jessel. Quint is also now dead. Horror-struck, the Governess fears he has come back for Miles, and swears to protect the children.

More time passes. One day, during the children's lessons, Flora begins to act up and Miles sings a strange song. This adds to the growing unease of the Governess.

Sitting by the lake with Flora one day, the Governess sees her staring across the water. Miss Jessel has appeared on the other side. Sending Flora away, the Governess now begins to believe both children may be lost to her.

Quint calls to Miles, and Miss Jessel to Flora. The Governess grapples with what she sees and believes, and flees to find Mrs Grose. They come back to the children, and the Governess demands to know what Miles was doing.

### INTERMISSION

### ACT II

Miss Jessel confronts Quint, accusing him of betrayal. He mocks her, revealing he yearns for a young, male friend. Jessel announces she will join in a similar quest. The Governess admits that she is lost in a labyrinth.

In the churchyard before a Sunday service, the children act out disconcerting scenes. The Governess realizes they must be complicit with Quint and Jessel. She has an upsetting conversation with Miles and resolves to flee.

The Governess runs to her bedroom to pack but finds Miss Jessel, who sings of restlessness and suffering. The Governess resolves to stay and, though it was forbidden, writes a letter to her employer telling all.

In Miles's bedroom, the Governess tells him she has written to his guardian. That night, Quint is heard encouraging Miles to retrieve the letter. He complies.

During Miles's piano practice, the Governess realizes that Flora has slipped away - to meet, she suspects, Miss Jessel. She and Mrs Grose leave Miles, who seems to be in a trance of his own, in search of her.

At the lake, the Governess accuses Flora of seeing Miss Jessel. Flora denies it, and Mrs Grose leads her away. The Governess fears she has lost the housekeeper's support.

Mrs Grose announces she will leave with Flora, after an awful night. She also informs the Governess that her letter was never sent.

The Governess confronts Miles, while Quint warns him to remain silent. She forces Miles to name the one responsible for all their misery. Miles blurts out the name, then is wrapped up in the Governess's arms. She soon realizes he is dead.

The Governess sings the strange, evocative song he once sang to her.

UWOpera  
presents

# THE TURN OF THE SCREW

BENJAMIN BRITTEN

Paul Davenport Theatre, Talbot College  
Western University  
November 15 & 16, 2018 (8 p.m.)  
November 17 & 18, 2018 (2 p.m.)

Western  Music  
Don Wright Faculty of Music

# The Turn of the Screw

Music by BENJAMIN BRITTEN  
Libretto by MYFANWY PIPER

## CAST

Michael Cavanagh, *Stage Director*

	<b>November 15 &amp; 17</b>	<b>November 16 &amp; 18</b>
<i>The Governess</i>	Brianna DeSantis	Sarah Walsh
<i>Mrs. Grose</i>	Shaelyn Archibald	Catherine Dupressoir
<i>Flora</i>	Taryn Wichenko	Andrea Nolan
<i>Miles</i>	Hilda Lam	Josée Landry
<i>The Prologue/Peter Quint</i>	Sharang Sharma	Marcel van Helden
<i>Miss Jessel</i>	Rachel Berg	Alyssa Woolhether

*Servants:* Rowan Buratti, Nohl Egan, Grace Hakala, Simon Ison, Cameron Mazzei, Joshua Patrick

## ORCHESTRA

Simone Luti, *Music Director*

<i>Flute, Piccolo and Alto Flute</i> Sharon Kahan	<i>Horn</i> Dylon Pastoor	<i>Cello</i> Marianna Grigg
<i>Oboe</i> Jessica Arenas	<i>Violin I</i> Frangel Lopez-Cesena	<i>Double Bass</i> Andrew Kosty
<i>Clarinet and Bass Clarinet</i> Luc Vaillancourt	<i>Violin II</i> Kelvin Mun Jillian Yang	<i>Percussion</i> Jake Schindler
<i>Bassoon</i> Margaret Fay	<i>Viola</i> Jeffrey Komar	<i>Harp</i> Kathleen Gahagan
		<i>Piano and Celesta</i> Petya Stavreva

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## PRODUCTION TEAM

*Producer:* Theodore Baerg  
*Director:* Michael Cavanagh  
*Music Director:* Simone Luti  
*Head Coach:* Simone Luti  
*Repetiteurs:* Laura Altenmueller, Luis Gonzalez, Matthew Pope, Petya Stavreva  
*Set Designer:* Fred Perruzza  
*Scenic Artist:* Eric Bunnell  
*Costume Designer:* Lisa Magill  
*Costume Co-ordinator:* Julie McGill

*Lighting Designer:* Chelsea Vanoverbeke  
*Assistant Directors:* Michal Aloni, Alex Mathews  
*Stage Manager:* Adam Iannetta  
*Assistant Stage Managers:* Caelyn Hill, Leah MacDonald, Meggie McKay, Samantha Skelding  
*Theatre Manager:* Louis D'Alton  
*Theatre Technician:* Bryan Hart

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## OPERA COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

We welcome you to the 2018-19 season of UWOpera. This promises to be a rewarding and exciting season beginning with Benjamin Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* followed in January/February by Mozart's timeless and beloved, *Le Nozze di Figaro*. On March 8 and 9 we will offer our "Opera and Musical Theatre Gala". This will include many favourites well known to all. In addition, we will present scenes from Victor Davies' *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe*, a timely and tragic story of a Canadian Indigenous woman, which had its world premiere last year in Toronto. Don't miss the opportunity to see and hear many of Canada's finest young musicians.

- Professor Theodore Baerg



Photo: *Le Nozze di Figaro*, UWOpera production February 2011

## UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS

### Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*

January 25 (8 p.m.), 26 (2 p.m.)  
February 1 (8 p.m.) 2 & 3 (2 p.m.)

### Opera and Musical Theatre Favourites: Spring Gala

March 8 (8 p.m.) & 9 (2 p.m.)

[music.uwo.ca/events/opera.html](http://music.uwo.ca/events/opera.html)