

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

 presents 

THE GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
OPERA THEATER

Patricia Miller, *faculty producer*
Carla Rae Cook, *artistic director*

The Impresario's Attic
or,
Love Lost and Found at the Opera House

Featuring scenes by Humperdinck, Monteverdi, Moore, Mozart, Donizetti,
Puccini, Bizet, Gilbert and Sullivan, R. Strauss, and Bernstein.

Libretto by Rick Davis

Friday, December 8, 2006 at 8:00 pm
Saturday, December 9, 2006 at 8:00 pm

Harris Theater

Rick Davis, *stage director/designer*
Laurel Dunayer, *costumer*
Betsy Boynton, *staff first hand*
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Michael Crabill, *music director/accompanist*
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Dan Hobson, *production manager*
Venus Perez, *master electrician*
Sean Ordway, *light board operator*

Jennifer Harris, Melissa Topscher, *assistant directors*

A note from the Director

Where does an opera director go when his heart gets broken? What's the one place in the world where love is always blossoming, being torn asunder, and finding redemption? This is the question around which we've built tonight's program.

The Impresario's Attic is a place full of Opera Ghosts—singers, scenes, tunes, moments, bits of costume, fragments of memory—to which our forlorn Impresario retreats to repair his wounded heart. And because so much of the operatic literature revolves around just that very problem, he finds no shortage of experiences and insights that shed light (and some darkness as well) on his fragile situation.

We hope you will enjoy the journey from heartbreak to reconciliation on which our Impresario takes us tonight, as the wide world of opera once again reveals its infinite capacity to delight, move, and enthrall us.

—Rick Davis, *stage director*

PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO TURN OFF PAGERS, CELLULAR PHONES, AND SIGNAL WATCHES DURING PERFORMANCES.
THE TAKING OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND THE USE OF RECORDING EQUIPMENT ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE THEATER.

OPERA SCENES

Hansel and Gretel

Engelbert Humperdinck (1854-1921)

	Friday, December 8	Saturday, December 9
Hansel	Rebecca Roberts	Jennifer Peters
Gretel	Christine Padoa	Lisa Marier
Sandman	Lisa Marier	Erin Brown

L'icoronazione di Poppea

Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643)

Final Duet		
	Friday, December 8	Saturday, December 9
Nerone	Wayne Jennings Allan Chan	Wayne Jennings Allan Chan
Poppea	Brian Minnick Erin Brown Jeanne Erikson Christian Yingling	Brian Minnick Erin Brown Jeanne Erikson Christian Yingling

The Ballad of Baby Doe

Douglas Moore (1893-1969)

	Friday, December 8	Saturday, December 9
Duets/Quintets		
Baby Doe	Sarah Mayo	Claire Sampson
Augusta Tabor	Anne O'Dell	Frances Mitchem
Tabor	Nigel Tangredi	Nigel Tangredi
Sarah	Kathryn Neenan	Katelyn Sexton
Emily	Lisa Marier	Rebecca Roberts
Mary	Erin Brown	Christian Yingling
Effie	Jennifer Peters	Barbara Triscritti

Le Nozze di Figaro

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

	Friday, December 8	Saturday, December 9
Susanna	Katelyn Sexton	Jeanne Erikson
Countess	Shavawn Dowling	Emily Castle-Dunn

L'Elisir d'amore

Gaetano Donizetti (1797-1848)

	Friday, December 8	Saturday, December 9
Adina	Sarah Mayo	Sarah Mayo
Nemorino	Wayne Jennings	Thomas Lynn

La Rondine

Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)

	Friday, December 8	Saturday, December 9
Magda	Alia Waheed	Shavawn Dowling
Lisette	Sarah Mayo	Claire Sampson
Prunier	Allan Chan	Wayne Jennings
Ruggero	Ilker Eginli	Ilker Eginli

Carmen

Georges Bizet (1838-1875)

Quintet		
	Friday, December 8	Saturday, December 9
Carmen	Anne O'Dell	Frances Mitchem
Frasquita	Kathryn Neenan	Erin Brown
Mercedes	Rebecca Roberts	Jennifer Peters
Remendado	Wayne Jennings	Wayne Jennings
Dancairo	Brian Minnick	Thomas Linn

MEET THE FACULTY and STAFF

Timothy M. Chew, lighting designer

Tim teaches lighting design and lighting technology for Mason's Theater Department. His previous designs for GMU Opera include *A Fledermaus Festival*, *Suor Angelica*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *L'Ormino* and *The Magic Flute*. He is delighted to work with the company again.

Carla Rae Cook, artistic director

Dramatic mezzo-soprano Carla Rae Cook has been hailed as one of the "upcoming Wagnerians of our century." She has sung with the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, Chicago Lyric Opera, Seattle Opera Bremen Opera, in Europe and throughout the United States. Recently, she sang with Placido Domingo as Waltraute in *Die Walküre* with the Washington National Opera and will be making her debut at the Bayreuth Festival in their 2008 Ring Production. She is currently Artistic Director for the Opera program at George Mason University and is a member of the vocal faculty.

Michael Crabill, music director

A music sought-after music director, opera coach and recital accompanist, Michael Crabill has rehearsed opera productions for the Vlaamse Kameropera (Belgium), the Kennedy Center, National Opera company, Opera International of Washington, and Opera Americana, and served as music director for opera productions in Italy of Opera Academy of Rome and Studio Lirico. In academia, he has prepared opera productions for University of South Carolina, American University, George Mason University, and Howard University.

Rick Davis, stage director

Rick Davis is associate dean of Mason's College of Visual and Performing Arts and artistic director of Theater of the First Amendment as well as artistic director of the Center for the Arts. In addition to his work in theater, Rick has directed opera across the country, including productions at Opera Idaho, Lake George Opera, Capital City Opera, the IN Series and others, and has enjoyed collaborating with GMU Opera for more than ten years.

Laurel Dunayer, costume shop supervisor

After receiving her M.F.A. in Costume Design from the University of Illinois, Mrs. Dunayer moved to New York City where she worked at Carelli Costumes, a professional costume shop that builds costumes mainly for Broadway productions. Some of her favorite productions there included "Kiss Me Kate," "The Rocky Horror Show" and "Thoroughly Modern Millie." Mrs. Dunayer has been a Master Draper at the Colorado Shakespeare Festival for the past six summers and has a freelance business making costumes, a frequent client is Arena Stage in Washington, D.C.

Patricia Miller, faculty producer

Faculty producer Patricia Miller is an international operatic and concert mezzo soprano who has appeared with leading opera companies and symphony orchestras on seven continents. Her European operatic debut as Isabella in Rossini's *L'Italiano in Algeri*, in Basel, Switzerland, was also her American debut with the San Francisco Opera. She was selected by Beverly Sills to sing the title role in Bizet's *Carmen* with New York City Opera, and has sung over 60 productions, including the world tour with the Peter Brook production. Ms. Miller is the Director of Vocal Studies at George Mason University and faculty producer of the George Mason University Opera, and was recently awarded the Sojourner Truth Award for Leadership and Teaching.

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