



The Center for Arts in Natick
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presents

Opera del West

in

Once upon an Opera

An Opera program for families
Saturday, September 15, 2007

Director and Author: Rebecca Grimes
Music Director and Pianist: Eve Budnick

Little Red Riding Hood

Seymour Barab

Little Red – Elaine Crane

Hansel and Gretel

Engelbert Humperdinck

Hansel – Glorivy Arroyo, Gretel – Kristi Vrooman,

Sandman – Rebecca Grimes

The Magic Flute

W. A. Mozart

Queen – Natalie Polito

La Cenerentola (Cinderella)

Giacomo Rossini

Don Magnifico – Bülent Güneralp, Dandini – Joshua Taylor,

Prince Ramiro – Gregory Hanson, Cenerentola – Megan Roth,

Tisbe – Rachel Hauge, Clorinda - Stephanie Mann

The Magic Flute

W.A. Mozart

Papageno – Joshua Taylor, Papagena – Beth Gzregorzewski

Flutist – Andrew Budnick

Opera del West was born from the idea of bringing opera to the western suburbs of Boston. Our mission is to create high-quality performances for Metrowest audiences, while providing meaningful professional opportunities for local musicians. Recent projects included A night of one-act operas and an evening of opera scenes.

Opera del West is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your tax-deductible contributions are greatly appreciated. Check our website at www.operadelwest.org for information on donating.

Opera del West Cast and Staff Bios:

Elaine Crane (Little Red) has sung numerous roles in opera, operetta and musical theatre, ranging from Countess in *The Marriage of Figaro*, to Guenevere in *Camelot*, to many G&S heroines including Josephine in *H.M.S. Pinafore* and Yum-Yum in *The Mikado*. She is also the executive director of Worcester Opera Works, which will be performing a double-bill of comic one-act operas in February, 2008 in the Worcester area. She invites you to visit her websites, www.elainecrane.com and www.worcesteroperaworks.com, and thanks Opera del West for bringing the joy of opera to children.

A versatile musician, soprano **Kristi Vrooman** (Gretel) has performed opera, oratorio and chamber music in Europe, Canada, and the US. Originally from Missouri where she received Bachelors degrees in Voice and French Horn, Miss Vrooman recently finished graduate studies in voice at the New England Conservatory. Currently she resides in Arlington where she enjoys working as a freelance musician and voice teacher.

Glorivy Arroyo, (Hansel) mezzo-soprano, has sung with Opera Boston, Treasure Coast Opera, Opera Providence, Utah Opera, Utah Symphony, Boston Modern Orchestra Project, and most recently appeared in New Jersey Opera's Summerfest 2007 production of "The Magic Flute". She was last seen with Opera del West in their inaugural concert of scenes as Octavian (Der Rosenkavalier) and currently hosts and headlines Opera Boston's cabaret series, "Opera Boston Underground".

Hailed as one of the “rising stars of the greater Boston opera scene” by Boston’s *In Newsweekly*, soprano **Natalie Polito** is in high demand throughout New England. This November, she will be heard as Violetta (*La Traviata*) with South Shore Conservatory's Opera by the Bay. A favorite role, Ms. Polito sang the Queen of the Night (*Die Zauberflöte*) this summer at the Intermezzo Young Artist Program, under the direction of David Grabarkewitz of New York City Opera.

Bülent Güneralp, (Don Magnifico) bass-baritone, has performed as a soloist in many operas, oratorios and concerts in his native Turkey, the United States and Japan, with organizations including CRR Symphony Orchestra in Istanbul, Tokyo City Opera Orchestra, New Bedford Symphony Orchestra, Opera del West, Boston Opera Collaborative, Longwood Opera, Mass Theatrica, Masterworks Chorale, Riverside Theatre Works and Orient Heights Music, at venues including Boston Symphony Hall, Tokyo City Opera, Sanders Theater

and Zeiterion Theater. Further information, recordings, and future engagements can be found at www.bulentguneralp.com.

Gregory Hanson (Prince Ramiro) graduated from Gordon College with a Bachelor Degree in Computer Science. His most recent performance was Parpignol in Puccini's "La Boheme" as well as currently performing with the Lakes Region Opera this summer. He is now pursuing a solo career while studying voice with Craig Hart, protégé of Jerome Hines.

Mezzo-soprano **Rachel Hauge** (Tisbe) is an Oregon native and a 2007 Boston University graduate with a Master of Music degree in vocal performance. While at BU Ms. Hauge performed the role La Zelatrice in Suor *Angelica*, covered the role of Foreign Singer in *Postcard from Morocco*, and joined the ensemble for *La Bohème*. Ms. Hauge is a student of Penelope Bitzas.

Mezzo-soprano **Megan Roth** (Cenerentola) is delighted to be singing with Opera del West as 3rd Knitter in A GAME OF CHANCE and the title character in LA CENERENTOLA in the scenes showcase in September. Her most prominent roles include Sesto (Giulio Cesare), Rosina (Il barbiere di Siviglia), Charlotte (Werther), Isolier (Le Comte Ory), and Cherubino (Le nozze di Figaro). Ms. Roth holds an Artist Certificate in Opera and Master's degree in performance from Florida State University, and a Bachelor's degree in performance from DePaul University.

Soprano **Beth Grzegorzewski** (Papagena) obtained her MM in Opera Performance at The Boston Conservatory following a BM in Voice Performance at Georgia State University. Beth has performed in various operas including The Marriage of Figaro (Susanna), *Così fan tutte* (Despina), The Gondoliers (Fiametta), Il Barbieri di Siviglia (Rosina), Orpheo ed Euridice (Amore), Little Women (Amy March), The Tender Land (Mrs. Splinters), With Blood, With Ink (Sor Isabel), Hansel and Gretel (Gretel cover, Dew Fairy), and Alice in Wonderful (White Rabbit), in addition to many partial opera roles. She is looking forward to performing in the operas La Traviata with Opera by the Bay as Annina this fall and Falstaff with Amici Opera as Nannetta in the spring of 2008.

Joshua Taylor (Dandini, Papageno), baritone, is a native of North Carolina and a current Masters candidate at Boston University's College of Fine Arts. Operatic credits include Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, Faninal in *Der Rosenkavalier*, and Gherardo in *Gianni Schicchi*. As a choral scholar at Boston University's Marsh Chapel, Joshua has been a featured soloist in presentations of several Bach cantatas

with that organization's choir and collegium orchestra. Joshua is a student of Professor James Demler.

Eve K. Budnick is the music director and co-founder of Opera del West. She is currently the Opera Coach and Diction Instructor at the University of Connecticut. Last year she prepared students for a full production of *The Magic Flute*. She is also a Staff Pianist and Vocal Coach at Boston University and the Lyric Diction Instructor for New England Conservatory's Continuing Education Department. Eve has been the Music Director for Boston productions of *Don Pasquale* and *Riders to the Sea*, as well as Opera Scenes Programs for Boston University Opera Institute, New England Conservatory Opera Workshop, and New England Conservatory Summer Opera Workshop. She played offstage organ for the Boston University production of *Romeo et Juliette* and Harpsichord for a recent production of *Radamisto*. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Musicology from Princeton University, a Master's Degree in Vocal Accompaniment from Boston University, and a Graduate Diploma in Collaborative Piano from New England. Eve lives in Wayland with her husband and two sons.

Texas native **Rebecca Grimes** divides her professional time between performing, directing, and teaching. As a director, Ms. Grimes has directed opera scenes programs for the University of Connecticut and Opera del West. Light-lyric soprano, Ms. Grimes' stage credits include The Plaintiff in *Trial by Jury*, Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*, Belinda in *Dido and Aeneas*, Second Knitter in *Game of Chance*, Ciesca in *Gianni Schicchi*, The Shepherdess in *L'enfant et le Sortilège*, Rosina in *La vera costanza*, and most recently Susanna in Worcester Opera Works' production of *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Solo oratorio appearances include the *Mozart Mass in C Minor*, Brahms' *Ein Deutes Requiem*, Faure *Requiem*, Handel's *Messiah*, and Bach Cantatas 106 and 51. Ms. Grimes will be performing and recording John Cooper's *Peace Cantata* later this year in Amherst, MA. She teaches at the University of Connecticut where she is completing her DMA in Vocal Performance. Ms. Grimes lives in Northborough with her husband, Eric, and their two children.

Dan Shore (Rehearsal Pianist) is an opera composer and playwright whose works include *The Beautiful Bridegroom*, *Travel*, *The Chorus Girl*, *Downtown Diner*, *Works of Mercy*, and the forthcoming *Lady Orchid*, as well as numerous children's musicals. He is an alumnus of the BMI-Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop and a Fulbright scholar, and he holds a B.M. and M.M. from the New England Conservatory. Currently completing his Ph.D. at the CUNY Graduate Center, Dan teaches at Emerson College.