present

The UNLV Opera Theatre

BRILLIANT STROKES,
DESPERATE MEASURES

a program of opera scenes

CHRISTINE SEITZ AND SERDAR ILBAN, DIRECTORS

GARY THOMAS, MUSICAL DIRECTOR

HAPPY ROBEY, LIGHTING DESIGNER

MOLLY GOODWIN, STAGE MANAGER

Tuesday, November 22, 2005, 7:30 pm
Wednesday, November 23, 2005, 7:30 pm

Black Box Theatre
Ham Fine Arts Building
UNLV campus
A Midsummer Night's Dream (1960)  
Benjamin Britten  
Libretto adapted from William Shakespeare by Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears  

Act I, opening  
Fairies - Marcia Gardner, Samantha Giancola, Lohol Gonzales, Kali Hannah, Ley Uustre, Caitlin Little, Heather Morrison, Maureen Seymour, Jennifer Turner  
Puck - Michael Posa  
Tytania - Jennifer Bryant  
Oberon - Renato Estacio  

In the dark and mischievous woods outside Athens, Puck interrupts the fairies of the forest with news that his master, Oberon, King of the Fairies, is coming into their midst. Oberon and Tytania, Queen of the Fairies, are locked in a power struggle over a young boy who under Tytania’s protection.

Merry Wives of Windsor (1849)  
Otto Nicolai  
Libretto by Solomon Hermann von Mosenthal after the play by William Shakespeare  

Act I, #1 duet  
Mrs. Ford - Christina Jenkins (Tabitha Liggett)  
Mrs. Page - Jeanette Fontaine (Lynne Ricci)  

Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Page have been sent identical love letters from Falstaff. They discover this information together and plot to have their revenge on the fat old knight.

Serse (Xerxes) (1738)  
George Friedrich Handel  
Libretto by Niccolò Minato  
Act II, scene IX and #46 duet  
Romilda - Marilyn Slade  
Arsamene - Renato Estacio  

Arsamene is convinced that Romilda is trying to trick him into leaving, so that she can be with Xerxes. Romilda pleads her innocence, but Arsamene coldly accuses her of infidelity.

Le Nozze di Figaro (1786)  
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
Libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte  
Act II, recitative and #13 trio  
Susanna – Marilyn Slade (Christina Williams)  
Countess – LaWanda Spencer (Joanne Jettner)  
Count – Christopher Reames (Carroll Johnson)  

The Count demands entrance into his wife’s rooms, wondering why she has locked the door. (The Countess has been entertaining Cherubino, and has shoved him into a closet before opening the door.) The Count hears a noise coming from the closet and demands to know who it is. The Countess frantically tells him that it is Susanna. The Count accuses the Countess of harboring a lover, while Susanna, hiding from the Count’s view, wonders how the situation can be resolved.

Cosi fan tutte (1790)  
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
Libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte  
Act I, recitative and #10 trio  
Fiordiligi – Christina Williams  
Dorabella – Lynne Ricci  
Don Alfonso – Ryan Perez-Carillo  

Don Alfonso joins Fiordiligi and Dorabella in a prayer for their lovers who they believe have embarked upon a ship bound for war.

Il Matrimonio Segreto (1792)  
Domenico Cimarosa  
Libretto by Giovanni Bertati  
Act I Finale  
Stage Director: Serdar Ilban  

Tuesday cast:  
Elisetta – Heather Morrison (Samantha Giancola)  
Carolina – Kali Hannah (Maureen Seymour)  
Fidalma – Marilyn Slade  
Paolino – Ivan Hardin (Erickson Franco)  
Count Robinson – Walter Bigham (Devon Hale)  
Geronimo – Noe Mata (Ian Cullison)  

The dysfunctional family of a wealthy merchant, Geronimo, is reaching its breaking point. Geronimo’s daughters, Elisetta and Carolina, extremely dislike one another. Elisetta believes that she is being courted by Count Robinson, who would rather play his charms on Carolina, who has secretely been married to her father’s clerk, Paolino. Fidalma, Geronimo’s sister, is under the assumption that she is in charge of the household, and Geronimo, almost completely deaf, is unaware of the chaos suffusing his household.

Wednesday cast:  
Icy Illustre (Caitlin Little)  
Lohol Gonzales (Jennifer Turner)  
Erickson Franco (Ivan Hardin)  
Devon Hale (Walter Bigham)  
Ian Cullison (Noe Mata)
The Ballad of Baby Doe (1956)
Libretto by John Latouche
Act I, scene v

Augusta – Marcia Gardner
Friend 1 – Heather Morrison, Samantha Giancola, Kali Hannah
Friend 2 – Lucy Istrate, Maureen Seymour
Friend 3 – Jennifer Turner, Loidi Gonzales
Friend 4 – Caitlin Little

Augusta Tabor has invited her friends for tea in the parlor of her beautiful home in Leadville, Colorado. Knowing that her husband is having an affair, she tries to deflect the gossip from affecting her dignity. Succumbing to the heated gossip of her friends, she vows revenge on Horace Tabor.

Don Pasquale (1843)
Libretto by Giovanni Ruffini
Act I recitative and #4 duet

Norina – Sarah Kim
Dr. Malatesta – Christopher Reames

Dr. Malatesta, physician to Don Pasquale, visits Norina, a wealthy young widow, at her home. Norina has just received a letter from her fiancé Ernesto, saying that he has been disinherited by his uncle, Don Pasquale, and that Pasquale has decided to take a wife of his own. Dr. Malatesta comforts Norina and together they plot to transform her into Don Pasquale’s intended bride, a part that she is eager to undertake if she might ultimately win Ernesto.

Fidelio (1814)
Libretto by Joseph Sonnleithner
Act I dialogue and duet #8

Pizarro – Kristopher Jordan
Rocco – Ryan Perez-Carrillo

Don Pizarro reads a dispatch in his office at the prison stating that the minister plans to visit and question him about prisoners being held without cause. Pizarro has imprisoned Florestan for political reasons. Pizarro calls his jailer, Rocco, and attempts to enlist his support in the murder of Florestan to protect himself from the wrath of the minister.
Falstaff has been lured to Herne's Oak in the middle of the forest at midnight, thinking that he will have a private assignation with Alice Ford. Instead, all the residents of Windsor, disguised as fairies and goblins, assault him verbally and physically, and he is forced to publicly repent his crimes. In the middle of the chaos, he finally recognizes his former servant, Bardolph, and he discovers that he has been duped once again. Ford, eager to advance his own scheme of having his daughter, Nannetta, marry Dr. Caius, stages an "impromptu" wedding ceremony. Alice Ford slyly asks if another couple can join in the ceremony, and Ford magnanimously agrees. As Ford blesses both couples, they unmask, and everyone discovers that Dr. Caius' bride is none other than the reprobate, Bardolph. Ford angrily realizes that Nannetta and her beloved, Fenton were the other couple. Alice begs Ford to forgive them both, and Falstaff leads everyone in a final chorus "Tutto nel mondo è burla (All the world is a joke)."

Chorus: members of MUSE 104, MUSE 404 and MUSE 604

Technical Direction: Dino Taronis
Technical assistance: David Cheetham
Props: Stephanie Thorpe
Supertitle translating and formatting: Christine Seitz
Supertitle translation for The Secret Marriage: Serdar Ilhan
Supertitle Cueing: Stephanie Thorpe
Program Synopses: Stephanie Thorpe
Poster Design and Layout: Stephanie Thorpe, Michael Posa

Special Thanks to:
Performing Arts Society of Nevada

UNLV Vocal Faculty:
Dr. Alfonse Anderson
Juline Bseol-Gilmore
Michael Cochrane
Dr. Tod Fitzpatrick
Serdar Ilhan
Dr. Carol Kimball
Prof. Christine Seitz
Gary Thomas
Candace Kirson
Brackley Frayer
Robert Goddale
Dino Taronis
David Cheetham