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
PROGRAM

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 Gonzalez, 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 Salomon 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 Niccolo 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 Jennet)
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 – Marcia Gardner
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 ply his charms on Carolina, who has secretly 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:

Elisetta – Icy Illustre (Caitlin Little)
Carolina – Lohol Gonzalez (Jennifer Turner)
Fidalma – Marcia Gardner
Paolino – Erickson Franco (Ivan Hardin)
Count Robinson – Devon Hale (Walter Bigham)
Geronimo – 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 - Ivey Ilarte, Maureen Seymour
Friend 3 - Jennifer Turner, Loh61 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 Gaetano Donizetti
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 Ludwig van Beethoven
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.

The Turn of the Screw (1956)
Libretto by Myfanwy Piper after the novel by Henry James
Act II, scene iii

Governess - Edina Thomas (Jennifer Bryant)
Miss Jessel - Lorin Taylor (Christina Jenkins)

The children of a wealthy estate home in Bly have acquired a new governess. The previous governess, Miss Jessel, and her lover, Quint, are dead and have returned as ghostly apparitions, plotting their revenge upon the household. The Governess finds Miss Jessel in the schoolroom, grieving over her tragic demise. The Governess decides that the time has come to write to her employer and inform him of these supernatural events.

La Bohème (1896)
Libretto by Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica
Act III quartet

Mimi - Tabitha Liggett (Lamia Porter)
Musetta - Elizabeth Sekora (Lorin Taylor)
Rodolfo - Dominick Chenes
Marcello - Doug Carpenter

Mimi reveals herself to Rodolfo outside the tavern, having heard him tell Marcello that he is leaving her because she is dying. She tries to tell her lover farewell but they decide to stay together until spring while Musetta and Marcello come out of the tavern and squabble heatedly.
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 shyly 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

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Program Synopses: Stephanie Thorpe
Poster Design and Layout: Stephanie Thorpe, Michael Posa

Special Thanks to:
Performing Arts Society of Nevada

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