

UNLV

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA LAS VEGAS

College of Fine Arts
Department of Music

UNLV Opera Theatre

Presents

*An Evening
of
Opera Scenes*

Luana DeVol, director

Sheronda McKee, Edwin Cotton, Micheal Smith, student directors

Richard Weiss, piano

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

7:30pm

Doc Rando Recital Hall

Beam Music Center

Program

La Traviata, Act I, #3 Ensemble "Libiamo," and #4
Micheal Smith, director and conductor

Giuseppe Verdi
(1813-1901)
Francesco Maria Piave

Violetta Valery	Sheronda McKee
Alfredo	Edwin Cotton
Gaston	Erickson Franco
Flora	Nicole Harris
Baron	Michael Elliot
Doctor	Brandon Teal
Marquis	Nathan Van Arsdale
Chorus	Students of the Opera Workshop

Violetta, a beautiful courtesan, is giving one of her splendid parties. A young man, Alfredo, has worshipped her from afar for over a year and offers a toast to honor the hostess. She responds to his salute by praising the glories of love and youth. Violetta suffers from consumption and asks her guests to go to the ballroom while she rests a moment. Alfredo remains behind full of concern for her. He begs her to leave her way of life, and to let him love her and take care of her. She is attracted by his ardor, but rejects his idea of love. However, she gives him a camellia, which she asks him to return to her when it has faded.

Don Carlo, ACT III, Scene and Quartet "Giustizia, Sire!"

Giuseppe Verdi
(1813-1901)
François-Joseph Méry and Camille Du Locle
Achille de Lauzières and Angelo Zanardini

Elisabeth de Valois	Zipporah Peddle
Princess Eboli	Amanda Mura
Rodrigo, Marquis de Posa	Brandon Teal
Phillip II, King of Spain	Nathan Van Arsdale

Noble ladies of the Spanish Royal Court have subtly but not unnoticeably snubbed Elisabeth, as the "French" Queen. Princess Eboli, former courtesan to Phillip, has gone so far as to steal the Queen's jewelry box and brought it to the King. Phillip has discovered a portrait of his son, Don Carlo, among her jewelry. Elisabeth bursts into the King's chambers, and demands that he defend her against the injustices. He asks her if she is missing something, perhaps her jewelry box? She defends the discovery of Carlo's portrait reminding the King that she was once betrothed to Carlo. The argument escalates and Phillip accuses her of adultery causing the Queen to faint. Phillip calls for assistance. Eboli, assisting the Queen, is full of remorse, and the noble Rodrigo, puts at risk his own life by securing an incriminating note from Carlo.

Die Zauberflöte, Act I, Quartet "Zu Hülfe, zu Hülfe,"
Aria "Dies Bildnis," and Aria "O zittre nicht"
Sheronda McKee, director

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)
Emmanuel Schickaneder

Tamino	Micheal Smith
First Lady	Amanda Mura
Second Lady	Maureen Seymour
Third Lady	Linda Jackley
Königin	Wendy Moss

A giant serpent pursues Prince Tamino and he faints in terror. The Three Ladies, defenders of the Queen of the Night and her kingdom, had disguised themselves as the monster. They quickly become enamored of the handsome young Prince and each contrives to stay alone with him. The prince awakens, and the ladies bring him a portrait of the Queen's daughter, Pamina. Tamino falls deeply in love. Suddenly the Queen arrives and pleads with Tamino to rescue her daughter from her captors.

Pagliacci, Duet, "Nedda!...Silvio, a quest ora"

Ruggiero Leoncavallo
(1858-1919)

Nedda	Sheronda McKee
Silvio	Brandon Teal

Nedda is married to Canio, an older, possessive and cruel man, who is the leader of their traveling theatrical troupe. Nedda has just fought off the obscene advances of Tonio, a twisted and bitter member of the troupe. She hears her lover, Silvio, a young villager, approaching. Silvio comes to plead with Nedda to leave her wretched life and run away with him. Although afraid of the idea at first, her passion soon persuades her to risk it.

Die Zauberflöte, Act II, Aria "Ein Mädchen oder Weibchen,"
and Duet "Pa-pa-pa"
Edwin Cotton, director

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)
Emmanuel Schickaneder

Papageno	Michael Elliot
Papagena	Melody Wilson
Speaker	Nathan Van Arsdale
Three Spirits	Dominique Pollina
	Casey Gardner
	Stephanie Redman

Papageno, a bird catcher for the Queen of the Night, yearns for a wife. Suddenly an old woman appears and informs Papageno that he must take her as his wife or be banished forever to a solitary life with only bread and water to sustain him. Papageno agrees and suddenly the old woman is transformed into the young and beautiful Papagena. But, Papageno has not yet proved himself worthy and the young woman is whisked away. In his disappointment, Papageno resolves, and is about to succeed, to leave this world forever when suddenly three spirits appear. They remind Papageno that he has something to assist him in difficulties. Papageno remembers his magic bells and plays them for a happy end with his Papagena.

INTERMISSION

Die Fledermaus, Act II, Orlovsky Aria, "Ich lade gern mir Gäste ein,"
and Adele Aria, "Mein Herr Marquis"

Johann Strauss
(1825-1899)
Carl Haffner and Richard Genée

(In order of appearance)

Carikoni	Lamia Porter
Ivan	Nathan Van Arsdale
Melanie	Dominique Pollina
Faustine	Sheronda McKee
Ali Bey	Edwin Cotton
Murray	Michael Elliot
Felicitas	Wendy Moss
Sidi	Stephanie Redman
Ida	Melody Wilson
Adele	Kristine Newman
Orlovsky	Valerie Ore
Falke	Brandon Teal
Eisenstein	Micheal Smith
Party Guests	Opera Workshop Ensemble

Gabriel von Eisenstein and his friend, Dr. Falke, attended a costume ball a year ago and enjoyed too much champagne. Dr. Falke awoke the next morning on a public park bench to find himself deserted by Eisenstein, and was forced to walk all the way home dressed in his bat costume, much to his great embarrassment and the amusement of onlookers. Falke has waited a year for his revenge on Eisenstein and has devised an intricate plot to accomplish it. He has arranged for all of the players in his drama to attend a soiree at the home of the forever bored Prince Orlovsky. The first player arrives in the form of Eisenstein's maid Adele, who has encountered her sister Ida. The two are confused over who invited the maid, but Adele has no intention to leave. Orlovsky sends them off to gamble with Carikoni. Eisenstein arrives looking for the beautiful woman Falke has promised will be at the party. Orlovsky insists that they drink vodka as he sings of his Russian drinking traditions. At the return of Ida and Adele, Eisenstein commits the faux pas of remarking on the resemblance of Adele to his wife's chambermaid. But Adele, to the good-natured embarrassment of Eisenstein, plays her role to the hilt much to the amusement of Orlovsky and the assembled guests. Falke has had his (Bat's) revenge.

Cendrillon, Act III, Ensemble "C'est vrai!"

Duet "Ma pauvre enfant chérie!"
Aria "Maintenant, je suis mieux"

Jules Massenet
(1842-1912)
Henri Cain

Cendrillon	Sarah Fulco
Noemie	Melody Wilson
Dorothee	Maureen Seymour
Mme. De la Haltiere	Wendy Moss
Pandolfe	Michael Elliot

Cendrillon has just returned from the enchanted ball where she met and instantly fell in love with the Prince. When her father appears, berated by his enraged second wife and her two over-indulged daughters, she withdraws. Her stepmother is infuriated with her father because he has dared to say kind things about the mysterious and beautiful young woman who appeared at the ball, captured the Prince's heart, and then disappeared. Cendrillon ventures into the room and the women descend upon her. They regale her with stories of the disasters they encountered at the ball, and then amuse themselves by ridiculing Cendrillon. When

Cendrillon asks what the Prince's reaction was to the mystifying young woman who appeared at the ball, they tell her falsely he thought she was an imposter who was only fit for hanging. Cendrillon is overcome by anguish and becomes faint. Her father rushes to her aid and, in a rage at his stepdaughters' mistreatment, manages to drive his overwrought wife and her daughters from the room. He then comforts Cendrillon, saying they will leave this miserable place and return together to their own farm where they were once so happy. He leaves to prepare for their departure, but Cendrillon has decided that she must leave alone with her heavy grief at the Prince's apparent mistrust of her. She bids farewell to her home, to her beloved birds and chair where her Mother once comforted her, and leaves to die under the enchanted oak tree.

Die Entführung aus dem Serail, Act I, #10

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)
Christoph Friedrich Bretzner

Belmonte	Micheal Smith
Pedrillo	Edwin Cotton
Osmin	Nathan Van Arsdale

Belmonte, a Spanish nobleman, and his servant Pedrillo are attempting to enter the palace of Pasha Selim to rescue their beloveds, Konstanze and Blondchen. The women have been abducted by pirates, and sold to the Pasha for his harem. Osmin, the Pasha's pompous and foolish overseer, blocks the Palace gate. After many thwarted attempts to distract Osmin, Belmonte and Pedrillo finally succeed in eluding him and enter the palace grounds.

Vanessa, Act III, Quintet "You must hurry if we are to reach the station"

Samuel Barber
(1910-1981)
Gian Carlo Menotti

Vanessa	Zipporah Peddle
Erika	Sarah Fulco
Baroness	Amanda Mura
Anatol	Micheal Smith
Doctor	Brandon Teal
Clara (silent role)	Daniella Toscana

The opera *Vanessa* is set in a northern European country circa 1905. Vanessa is a beautiful, high-strung woman in her late thirties. Twenty years ago, in the bloom of her youth, she fell in love with a young man named Anatol who left her, vowing to return. The years have passed, and he has not reappeared. Vanessa has spent the years waiting, living in the past, dressed in black and veiled, with all the mirrors of the house draped so that time could be suspended and she could not see herself age. Her mother, the Baroness, stopped speaking to her because Vanessa would not face the bitter truths of her life. As the opera opens, Vanessa, wild with excitement, is awaiting the long-anticipated arrival of Anatol. When he appears, it is not her Anatol but rather his son, also named Anatol. Upon his arrival, Vanessa's niece Erika meets him, and he soon seduces her. Erika falls in love with him but is keenly aware of his weaknesses, and when he proposes to her, she refuses him, much to the disapproval of her grandmother, the Baroness. Anatol now turns his attentions to Vanessa, and they become engaged and decide to leave together for the Continent. Joined by their family friend, the Doctor, they sing the ethereal quintet "To leave, to break, to find, to keep, to stay, to wait, to hope, to dream."

Anna Gomez	Maureen Seymour
Magda Sorel	Lamia Porter
Vera Boronel	Daniella Toscana
Secretary	Linda Jackley
Mr. Kofner	Brandon Teal

The Consul takes place in an unnamed country that is governed by a repressive regime. John Sorel, a revolutionary who is working to overthrow this political system, has been forced to flee the country, leaving behind his mother, his wife Magda and their baby. Magda, desperate to join John, visits the consulate every day to try to obtain visas for the family and is repeatedly turned away for not having the proper papers. The Secretary in charge of the office of the consulate is unmoved by Magda's plight and informs her that she still lacks some necessary documents. Overcome by the hopelessness of her situation, Magda pours out her grief and anger in a powerful and eloquent condemnation of tyranny.

Acknowledgements

Mahina Johnson – Graduate Teaching Assistant, Opera
Daniella Toscana
Richard Weiss and Stewart Cramer
Mackenzie Gallinger, Christina Douglas, Edwin Cotton

We kindly request that the members of the audience refrain from using cameras or other recording devices during the performance.
Those carrying pagers and cellular phones must turn them off prior to the performance.
Please take time to locate the nearest emergency exit before the performance begins.
No Smoking in the auditorium or lobby.

About the Directors and Assistants

Edwin Joseph Cotton began his musical career at a very young age. A native of New York City, Edwin became a member of Boys Choir of Harlem when he was in high school and toured with the group for its worldwide performances. Mr. Cotton attended Morehouse College where he continued to travel with the college's Glee Club for four more years. After touring with the Atlanta Opera in Europe, he moved to Las Vegas to pursue his Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance. In Fall 2008 he made his debut with UNLV Opera Theatre as Mr. Erlansson in *A Little Night Music*. Edwin is a student of Dr. Alfonse Anderson.

Luana DeVol, internationally renowned dramatic soprano, is the newest addition to the UNLV voice faculty. Born in California, she made her professional debut with the San Francisco Opera in 1983 when, as cover, she was called to sing for a sick colleague. The following year she left for Europe to accept her engagement as principal soloist of the Aachen Stadttheater. In 1987, she joined the roster of the Mannheim Nationaltheater, and since 1991 has appeared as guest artist with the major companies of Europe, such as the Vienna Staatsoper, Salzburg Festival, Bayerische Staatsoper, Semper Oper in Dresden, Deutsche Oper am Rhein, Nederlandse Oper, La Scala in Milan, Madrid Oper, Teatro Liceu in Barcelona, and Oper Zurich, as well as in the theaters of other World capitals such as Buenos Aires, Mexico City and Tokyo. Most recently, she appeared in Abu Dhabi of the United Arab Emirates in a Wagner concert, which featured artists of the Bayreuth Festival. Conductors with whom she has sung include Lorin Maazel, Kurt Masur, James Levine, Wolfgang Sawallisch, Christian Thielemann, Daniel Barenboim and Donald Runnicles.

A resident of Henderson since 1996, she is no stranger to UNLV having given Master Classes for the University in 1996, 2006 and 2007. Since 2005, she has given Master Classes to the winners of the annual Henry Holt Scholarship Fund Competition, held under the auspices of West Bay Opera of Palo Alto, California. DeVol has lectured for the University of Maryland Heidelberg, has been a panel member in discussions for the Bayreuth Young Artists as well as for the Wagner Society of New York City, and has provided a lecture and Q&A session for the San Francisco Conservatory.

Her many honors include Singer of the Year twice by *Opernwelt*, a magazine that conducts an annual survey of the leading critics of Europe, and was made an honorary member in the Wagner Societies of Trier and Karlsruhe. She has adjudicated for the San Francisco American Art Song competition, the Francisco Vinas Singing Competition in Barcelona, and for the National Association of Teachers of Singing. She is currently the Secretary for NATS, Las Vegas Chapter.

Mahina Johnson is a graduate student studying with Dr. Alfonse Anderson. As the Graduate Teaching Assistant to the Opera Department, she has designed the posters and programs for every production and concert since 2007. She has performed the roles of Santuzza from *Cavalleria Rusticana*, Desirée Armfeldt from *A Little Night Music*, Fiordiligi from *Così fan tutte*, Dido from *Dido and Aeneas*, and several scenes from *Faust*, *Die Fledermaus*, *La Traviata*, and *The Turn of the Screw*, among others. Mahina has served as a professional soloist and ensemble member in many church and concert venues in the cities of Las Vegas, San Diego, and her hometown, Honolulu. She studied and performed at the American Institute for Musical Studies in Graz, Austria in the summer of 2008, and will return this summer to continue her studies. Mahina received her BA in Music with concentrations in Vocal Performance and Music Education from Point Loma Nazarene University in 2003, and will graduate from UNLV with her MM in Vocal Performance in 2009.

Sheronda McKee is a Graduate Student studying under Dr. Alfonse Anderson. Her recent performances include Violetta (*La Traviata*), Nedda (*Pagliacci*), Königin der Nacht (*Die Zauberflöte*), Romilda (*Serse*), Mrs. Nordstrom (*A Little Night Music*), Lucy (*The Telephone*), Ännchen (*Der Freischütz*). Her international experiences include 2007 in Flagstaff, AZ, 2008 in Fidenza, Italy and this summer she will be traveling to 2009 AIMS Opera in Graz, Austria. Sheronda has also performed as the featured soprano soloist in Handel's *Messiah* and Mozart's *Requiem* during her Undergraduate Studies at Northern Arizona University. She was also the recipient of the 2008 Henry Kroemer Warner Memorial Vocal Scholarship.

Micheal Smith is in his first year at UNLV pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree. He completed his Master's Degree in Vocal Performance at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music in 2008, and his Bachelors Degree in Vocal Performance at California State University, Northridge. Micheal made his debut with UNLV Opera Theatre as Mr. Erlanson in *A Little Night Music* in 2008, and performed in their last production as Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi*. This past summer he attended the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. Micheal has sung the role of Damis in Kirk Mechem's *Tartuffe*, Pedrillo in Mozart's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, and Monostatos in *Die Zauberflöte*. Micheal is a student of Dr. Alfonse Anderson.

Richard Weiss has recently moved to Las Vegas from Santa Barbara where he served as the Assistant Artistic Director of Opera Santa Barbara. He graduated from UCLA where he earned an MFA in Music, and later, his Ph.D in History of Theater. He has directed many plays, specializing in Shakespearean repertoire. Mr. Weiss also has an extensive musical theatre and opera background. He was recently named the Artistic Director of American Pacific Opera Group. Richard served as music director in Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* and the rehearsal accompanist for *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Gianni Schicchi*.