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 of 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)  
Libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte  
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
Act II, recitative and #13 trio

Susanna - Marilyn Slade (Christina Williams)  
Countess - LaWanda Spikes (Joanne Jennett)  
Count - Christopher Reames (Cornell 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)  
Libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte  
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
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)  
Libretto by Giovanni Bertati  
Domenico Cimarosa  
Act I Finale  
Stage Director: Serdar Ilhan

Tuesday cast:  
Elisetta - Heather Morrison (Samantha Giancola)  
Carolina - Kali Hannah (Maureen Seymour)  
Fidalma - Marcia Gardner  
Paoilino - Ivan Hardin (Erickson Franco)  
Count Robinson - Walter Biggham (Devon Hale)  
Geronimo - Noe Mata (Ian Cullison)

The dysfunctional family of a wealthy merchant, Geronimo, is reaching its breaking point. Geronimo's daughter, 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.
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 - lcy Ilitore, Maureen Seymour
Friend 3 - Jennifer Turner, Loh61 Gonzalez
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

Dr. Malatesta - Christopher Reames
Norina - Sarah Kim

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 Sonnleitner
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 Liggitt (Lamina Porter)
Musetta - Elizabeth Sekora (Lori 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 (1893)
Libretto by Arrigo Boito after the play by Shakespeare
Act IV finale

Falstaff - Karnell Johnson (Kristopher Jordan)
Alice Ford - Joanne Jennett (LaWanda Spicer)
Nannetta - Lamia Porter (Edina Thomas)
Meg Page - Jeanna Fontaine
Mistress Quickly - Valerie Ore
Ford - Douglas Carpenter
Fenton - Bryce Myerhoff
Dr. Caius - Dominick Chenes
Bardolph - Micael Posa
Page - Kristopher Jordan
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

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