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Concert: Opera Workshop presents: Great American Poets of the 20th Century

Opera Workshop

Brian DeMaris

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Opera Workshop presents:
Great American Poets of the 20th Century

Brian DeMaris, music director
David Lefkowich, stage director
Blaise Bryski, vocal coach

Assisted by
Sam Martin, pianist
Sean Harvey, percussionist

Hockett Family Recital Hall
Wednesday November 28th, 2012
8:15 pm
Now in its second century, the Ithaca College School of Music affirms its fundamental belief that music and the arts are essential components of the human experience. The School of Music prepares students to be world-class professionals and the music leaders of tomorrow - ready to transform individuals and communities by advancing the art of music.


Program

The Mother Of Us All: Prologue
Libretto by Gertrude Stein (1874-1946)  
Virgil Thomson (1896-1989)

Susan B. Anthony - Shelley Attadgie
Anne - Zohaniris Torres Rosado
Gertrude Stein - Michelle Cosentino
Virgil Thomson - Dave Klodowski
Pianist - Sam Martin
Stage Manager - Jenna Fishback
Props/Costumes - Stephen Wilkins
Super Titles - Megan Ort

In this prologue, Gertrude Stein and Virgil Thomson set to task composing their opera, which chronicles the life of Susan B. Anthony.

Street Scene: Quartet and Ice Cream Sextet
Libretto by Langston Hughes (1902-1967)  
Kurt Weill (1900-1950)

Mrs. Fiorentino - Shaylyn Gibson
Mrs. Jones - Janine Colletti
Mrs. Olsen - Jessica Bennett
Lippo Fiorentino - Kevin Fortin
Henry Davis - Thomas Riley
Mr. Jones - Brett Pond
Mr. Olsen - Fred Diengott
Steve Sankey - Joseph Fritz
Mrs. Maurrant - Shelley Attadgie
Mr. Maurrant - Stephen Wilkins
Pianist - Sam Martin
Stage Manager - Taylor Braggins
Props/Costumes - Brett Pond
Super Titles - Eric Flyte

Street Scene is considered a "Broadway opera," the term coined by the composer himself. Weill and Hughes intended for the work to be a synthesis of European opera and American musical theatre. The story takes place in a 1946 Lower East Side immigrant neighborhood in Manhattan.
The opera *Transformations* is based on Anne Sexton's collection of poetry published under the same name. Sexton was involved in conceiving the operatic work with composer Conrad Susa. Based on Grimm's Fairy Tales, the work centers on themes of mental illness, sexuality, and WWII.

*The Death Of Klinghoffer*, with music by John Adams and libretto by Alice Goodman, dramatizes the hijacking of an Italian cruise ship, the *Achille Lauro*, by four members of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLO) and the murder of Jewish-American passenger Leon Klinghoffer. The attack was committed on October 7, 1985 as retaliation for the Israeli bombing of the PLO headquarters in Tunis, the capital of Tunisia, a few days earlier.
Hydrogen Jukebox is a chamber opera by Philip Glass and Allen Ginsberg that resulted from their first collaboration on this very scene, Wichita Vortex Sutra. Glass composed this solo piano piece to underscore an excerpt from Ginsberg's anti-war poem by the same name, in which Ginsberg pleads that we use our words for love and peace, and not for war and hate.

The Rake's Progress: Finale and Epilogue
Libretto by W. H. Auden (1907-1973) 
Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971)

Tom Rakewell left the love of his life, Anne Trulove, to head to London to secure a promised fortune. In London, he lived frivolously with Nick Shadow (who, unbeknownst to Tom is actually the devil), married Baba the bearded lady, and all but forgot his life with Anne. Just before this scene, Tom defeated the devil, Nick Shadow, in a game of cards that held his soul on the line. Before returning to Hell, however, Shadow casts Tom to be forevermore insane. Here, Tom resides in Bedlam in a mental hospital; he and Anne are about to meet for the first time since he left for London.
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