

4-15-2010

## Faculty Recital: Dawn Pierce, mezzo-soprano and Anna Steenerson, soprano

Dawn Pierce

Anna Steenerson

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ITHACA COLLEGE

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SCHOOL OF MUSIC

**FACULTY RECITAL**

**Dawn Pierce, mezzo soprano  
Anna Steenerson, soprano, guest artist  
Charis Dimaris, piano  
Jack Hrkach, narrator**

**Hockett Family Recital Hall  
Thursday, April 15, 2010  
7:00 p.m.**

**ITHACA**

## PROGRAM

Sisters from <i>White Christmas</i> (1954)	Irving Berlin (1888-1989)
Prenderò quel brunettino from <i>Così fan tutte</i> K. 588 (1790)	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)
Abends, will ich schlafen gehn from <i>Hänsel und Gretel</i> (1892)	Engelbert Humperdinck (1854-1921)
Pur ti Miro from <i>L'incoronazione di Poppea</i> SV 308 (1642)	Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643)
Caro! Bella! from <i>Giulio Cesare in Egitto</i> HWV 17 (1724)	George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)
Belle Nuit from <i>Les contes d'Hoffmann</i> (1851)	Jacques Offenbach (1819-1880)
Scuoti quella fronda from <i>Madama Butterfly</i> (1904)	Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)
Viens, Mallika... Sous le dôme épais from <i>Lakmé</i> (1882)	Léo Delibes (1836-1891)

## INTERMISSION

We are Women from <i>Candide</i> (1956)	Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)
This is a lonely town from <i>The Old Maid and the Thief</i> (1939)	Gian Carlo Menotti (1911-2007)
There's Always a Woman from <i>Anyone Can Whistle</i> (1964)	Stephen Sondheim (b. 1930)
The Grass is Always Greener from <i>Woman Of The Year</i> (1981)	John Kander (b. 1927)
Friendship from <i>DuBarry Was a Lady</i> (1939)	Cole Porter (1891-1964)
Mutual Admiration Society from <i>Happy Hunting</i> (1956)	Harold Karr (1918-1979)

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## Performer's Biographies

**Anna Steenerson**, soprano, is a native of Mauldin, South Carolina. After receiving her Masters Degree from Indiana University, she has been a member of the Des Moines Metro Opera as well as a returning Young Artist with Pensacola Opera. Steenerson sang main stage roles with Pensacola including 1st Lady, in *The Magic Flute* and most recently as Despina, in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* and the High Priestess, in Verdi's *Aida*. Previously, at Indiana University, she sang the title roles in Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* and Douglas Moore's *The Ballad of Baby Doe*. While at IU, she also sang the roles of Blanche, in Poulenc's *Dialogue des Carmélites*, Josephine, in Gilbert and Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore*, and Just Jeanette, in Penhorwood's *Too Many Sopranos*.

In 2005 she was thrilled to workshop Ned Rorem's opera *Our Town* and then sang the role of Emily, in the world premiere the following year. Steenerson has also been a soloist with the Indianapolis Symphony. She is a three-time district winner of the South Carolina Metropolitan Opera National Auditions. As a member of the Tulsa Opera 2009-2010 Studio Artist Program, Anna portrayed the role of Adina, in a touring production of Donizetti's *Elixir of Love* as well as sang Gilda, in excerpts of *Rigoletto* for various community concerts around the Tulsa area. Anna is thrilled to be an Apprentice Artist with Lake George Opera and will sing "Luigia," in Donizetti's *Viva La Mamma* during their 2010 season.

Mezzo-soprano **Dawn Pierce** is a native of Olean, New York. She received a performing artist certificate in Opera Performance and a master's degree in Voice from the North Carolina School of the Arts. She holds bachelor degrees in Vocal Performance and Music Education from Ithaca College. She has apprenticed with Lake George Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Opera in the Ozarks and the A.J. Fletcher Opera Institute.

Recently she was seen with Pensacola Opera as Margarite in the world premiere of *The Widow's Lantern*, as Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, and as Second Lady in *The Magic Flute*. Other recent operatic credits include Contessa/Madelon in *Andrea Chenier* with Mobile Opera, Suzuki in *Madama Butterfly* with Capitol Opera, and Carmen in *Carmen* with Opera in the Ozarks. On the lighter side her credits include The Grand Dutchess in *The Student Prince* with Nashville Opera, Franca in *The Light in the Piazza* with Piedmont Opera, and Jo in *Little Women* with Opera in the Ozarks. The A. J. Fletcher Opera Institute featured Ms. Pierce as Lucretia in *Rape of Lucretia*, Idamante in *Idomeneo*, Irene in *Belisario* and Elmire in *Tartuffe*. Dawn presently studies with Penelope Bitzas and Bill Schumann. Her primary teachers have included Marilyn Taylor, Elizabeth Mannion and Carol McAmis. In her free time, Dawn enjoys making jewelry, reading, dancing, pilates and weight training.

Greek international concert pianist and conductor **Charis Dimaras** has presented numerous solo recitals, has collaborated in chamber music concerts, and has been featured as soloist with orchestras throughout Europe, Turkey, Russia, Brazil, and the United States. He has been the recipient of numerous awards and prizes (among them, the British Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Award, the Alexandros S. Onasis Beneficiary Foundation Scholarship and the International Richard-Wagner-Foundation Scholarship), has been featured on New York's WQXR, on several Dutch, Italian and Greek radio stations, and on Greek national television. He has recorded works by Franck, Bartok, Prokofiev and Stravinsky. His latest CD featuring piano works by contemporary Greek composers D. Mitropoulos and Y. Sicilianos was released in the fall of 2009.

Dr. Dimaras, who holds degrees in piano performance from the Royal College of Music in London and from New York's Juilliard School and Manhattan School of Music, is currently associate professor of piano and collaborative studies at Ithaca College. Elsewhere he was the artistic director of an international summer festival of classical music in Sparti, Greece, as well as the artistic director of the Renaissance Academy Chamber Music Concerts in Naples, Florida. During a recent sabbatical leave from Ithaca College, Dr. Dimaras completed an additional master's degree in orchestral conducting at Bard College. Since then, he has appeared as guest conductor on both sides of the Atlantic, with such orchestras as the St. Petersburg Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra and the Symphony Orchestra of the Greek National Opera.

**Jack Hrkach** (Actors Equity, Screen Actors Guild) has performed in Washington, D.C., at the Folger Theatre, the Kennedy Center's Eisenhower Theatre, the Source Theatre, and Maryland's Olney Theatre; at Florida's Caldwell Theatre Company; and at the nearby Cortland Repertory Theatre, among other theaters. He has recorded over 100 "Talking Books" for the Library of Congress, and was a Russian linguist in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War. He received his Ph.D. in theater from the City University of New York, specializing in early American drama. In 1990 he began a career at Ithaca College, where he has taught Introduction to Theater, Theater History, and several upper-level seminars. He has also coordinated the B.A. degree program in drama since his first year at Ithaca. Since 2000 he has taken students on their way to London for the fall semester of their Junior year to the Edinburgh Festival. Jack taught the first H&S Honors Intermediate seminar offered by the Department of Theatre Arts. He will teach it again at the Ithaca College London Center in 2011-12. The topic? "A Tale of Two Theatrical Cities: Literary, Performing & Visual Art and the French Revolution." The class includes London walks and a French Revolution walk in Paris. After that, he retires.