KSU Opera Theater presents

Night of Miracles

Opera Theater Double Feature

Sister Angelica & The Three Hermits
Two One-Act Operas with
KSU Symphony Orchestra

Friday and Saturday, November 13 and 14, 2015, at 8:00 p.m.
Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center, Morgan Hall
Thirty-seventh and Thirty-eighth Concerts of the 2015-16 Concert Season
Suor Angelica
GIACOMO PUCCINI
(libretto, Giovacchino Forzano / English version, Herbert Withers)
Stage direction by Todd Wedge

cast

Sister Angelica
Siobhan Rodriguez (Friday)
Amy Smithwick (Saturday)

Princess
Camille Hathaway (Friday)
Leah Sexton (Saturday)

The Monitor
Elena Prestwood

The Mistress of the Novices
Rachel Stein

Sister Genevieve
Ashley Naffziger

Sister Lucilla
Hallie Ashford Skelton

Sister Osmina
Maria McDonald

Sister Dolcina
Deondria West

Lay-Sister
Christina Ruth Grace Vehar

Nursing Sister
Elizabeth Shaver

1st Tourière
Victoria Caracci

2nd Tourière
Ziara Greene

The Novice
Hannah Smith

The Abbess
Leah Sexton (Friday)
Camille Hathaway (Saturday)

Statue of the Virgin Mary
Sierra Manson
Suor Angelica | Giacomo Puccini

Suor Angelica’s somber tale recounts the life of a young woman whose obedience to tradition ultimately ends in tragedy. Unable to bear the shame of a pregnant and unwed mother, Angelica’s noble family forces her into monastic isolation as penance for her supposed "sins." For seven years, Sister Angelica aches to hear news of her son and family, but her aunt’s sudden visit is far from the reunion she has yearned for. Instead, Angelica is brusquely told that she is expected to relinquish her inheritance for her sister’s wedding. Begging for news of the son, she is coldly told that the son she never knew has been dead for two years. The distraught Angelica realizes that only in death will she be reunited with her beloved son. Using her knowledge of medicinal herbs, she concocts a potion that will end her life. It is only after drinking the poison that Angelica realizes she has committed one of the Church’s gravest sins – suicide. As she uses her last breaths to beg the Virgin Mary for forgiveness, she hallucinates a reunion with her son.

Puccini’s masterful union of melody and realistic drama (a movement known as verismo) is arguably best captured in this short opera – making a difficult subject matter simultaneously easier to behold and all the more heartrending.

The Three Hermits

STEPHEN PAULUS
(libretto, Michael Dennis Browne)
Stage direction by Eileen Moremen

cast

Bishop
Mother
Sister Angelica
Sister Miriam
Fisherman
Captain
Pilgrim #1
Pilgrim boy
Pilgrim #2
Pilgrim girl

Timothy Marshall
Emily Crisp
Victoria Caracci
Emily Bateman
Cody Hixon
Sean Eliason
Hallie Ashford Skelton
Elena Prestwood
Caleb Stack
Hannah Smith
The Three Hermits | Stephan Paulus

_The Three Hermits_, by Grammy-Winning 21st Century American composer Stephen Paulus, is an uplifting opera based on a parable of the same name by Leo Tolstoy. As a Russian Orthodox Bishop and his pilgrims travel aboard a ship across Siberia’s White Sea, the story of three childlike and innocent Hermits, living on a remote island, calls the Bishop to wonder and quest for answers. He journeys to them, eventually humbled as the three old men unknowingly perform a great miracle. In the libretto by Michael Dennis Browne, the story takes on a wider view than just a ship of pilgrims. They embody the spiritual floundering and redemption of their Bishop, using Russian Orthodox liturgy for reflection, ala Greek chorus. The now nationally known "Pilgrim’s Hymn" closes this operatic drama.

We hope you enjoy this contemporary work with its timeless appeal.
ksu symphony orchestra
Nathaniel F. Parker, Music Director and Conductor

FLUTES
Melissa Rolón
Catherine Rothery

PICCOLO
Melissa Rolón

OBOE
Rachel Rabeneck

CLARINET
Ryan Tang

BASSOON
Dustin Price

HORNS
Kristen Arnold
Dennis Korwek

TRUMPET
Mark Fucito

BASS TROMBONE
Samuel Boeger

TIMPANI
Michael Berry
Lane Hunter

PERCUSSION
Michael Berry
Mitch Gillis
Lane Hunter
Michael Ollman
Cooper Sewell

HARP
Amanda Melton

KEYBOARD
Arie Motschman
Jordan Sommer

FIRST VIOLINS
Andre Barnes
Maalik Glover
Lauren Greene
Ryan Gregory *
Rachel LaRocca

SECOND VIOLINS
Micah David +
Nassar Edwards
Nicholas Felder
Steffanny Marcellina
Justin Rawlings

VIOLAS
Audine Crose
Rachel Fishback +
Samantha Tang

CELLOS
Riley Duggan
Esme Mason
Michael Roberts +
Michael Thomas

BASSES
Daniel Kim +

SYMPHONY ASSISTANTS
David Metrio
Michael Roberts

* Concertmaster
+ Principal

Rotational seating is used in wind and percussion sections.
opera theater staff

Eileen Moremen  I  Director of KSU Opera Theater, Voice Faculty
Todd Wedge  I  Assistant Director, Voice Faculty
Nathaniel F. Parker  I  Orchestra Conductor
Leslie Blackwell  I  Director of Choral Activities / Chamber Singers
Judy Cole  I  Coach / Accompanist, Artist-in-Residence
Arie Motschman  I  Coach / Accompanist

acknowledgements

Joseph Greenway  I  Lighting, Bailey Center Staff
Dan Hesketh  I  Web Graphics and PR, Bailey Center Staff
Josh Stone  I  Poster Art, COTA Staff
Michael Dennis Browne  I  Librettist / Poet, Visiting Artist
Chuck Hudson  I  Visiting Artist, Character Coaching
Michael Nutter  I  Capitol City Opera, Costumes
Kenyan Shiver  I  KSU Scene Shop, Set Pieces
Jamie Bullins  I  Design Advisor
Rick Lombardo  I  Director of KSU Theatre Department, Costumes
Richard Brown  I  Set Piece Construction
Julia Becker  I  Financial Advisor
Norcostco Costumes
Stephanie Brassard  I  Russian Icon Painter
Jessica Jones  I  Voice Faculty
Oral Moses  I  Voice Faculty
Leah Partridge  I  Voice Faculty
Valerie Walters-Gold  I  Voice Faculty
Jana Young  I  Voice Faculty
Victoria Caracci  I  Student Assistant
KSU Chamber Singers
KSU Symphony Orchestra
# School of Music Faculty and Staff

## Director
Stephen W. Plate

## Music Education
Judith Beale  
Janet Boner  
Kathleen Creasy  
John Culvahouse  
Charles Jackson  
Charles Laux  
Alison Mann  
Angela McKee  
Richard McKee  
Cory Meals  
Harry Price  
Terri Talley  
Amber Weldon-Stephens

## Music History & Appreciation
Drew Dolan  
Edward Eanes  
Heather Hart  
Kayleen Justus

## Music Theory, Composition & Technology
Judith Cole  
Kelly Francis  
Jennifer Mitchell  
Laurence Sherr  
Benjamin Wadsworth  
Jeff Yunek

## Woodwinds
Robert Cronin, Flute  
Todd Skitch, Flute  
Christina Smith, Flute  
Elizabeth Koch Tiscione, Oboe  
John Warren, Clarinet, Chamber Music  
Laura Najarian, Bassoon  
Sam Skelton, Saxophone

## Brass and Percussion
Doug Lindsey, Trumpet, Chamber Music  
Mike Tiscione, Trumpet  
Jason Eklund, Horn  
Tom Gibson, Trombone  
Brian Hecht, Bass Trombone  
Martin Cochran, Euphonium  
Bernard Flythe, Tuba/Euphonium  
John Lawless, Percussion

## Strings
Helen Kim, Violin  
Kenn Wagner, Violin  
Justin Bruns, Chamber Music  
Catherine Lynn, Viola  
Paul Murphy, Viola  
Charae Krueger, Cello  
James Barket, Double Bass  
Elisabeth Remy Johnson, Harp  
Mary Akerman, Classical Guitar

## Voice
Jessica Jones  
Eileen Moremen  
Oral Moses  
Leah Partridge  
Valerie Walters  
Todd Wedge  
Jana Young

## Piano
Judith Cole, Collaborative Piano & Musical Theatre  
Julie Coucheron  
Robert Henry  
John Marsh, Class Piano  
David Watkins  
Soohyun Yun

## Jazz
Justin Chesarek, Jazz Percussion  
Wes Funderburk, Jazz Trombone, Jazz Ensembles  
Tyrone Jackson, Jazz Piano  
Marc Miller, Jazz Bass  
Sam Skelton, Jazz Ensembles  
Lester Walker, Jazz Trumpet  
Trey Wright, Jazz Guitar, Jazz Combos

## Ensembles & Conductors
Leslie J. Blackwell, Choral Activities  
Alison Mann, Choral Activities  
Cory Meals, Concert Band, Marching Band  
Oral Moses, Gospel Choir  
Eileen Moremen, Opera  
Nathaniel Parker, Symphony Orchestra  
Charles Laux, Philharmonic Orchestra  
Debra Traficante, Concert Band, Marching Band  
David Kehler, Wind Ensemble

## School of Music Staff
Julia Becker, Administrative Specialist III  
Kimberly Beckham, Coordinator of Band Operations and Outreach  
David Daly, Director of Programming and Facilities  
Susan M. Grant Robinson, Associate Director for Administration  
Joseph Greenway, Technical Director  
Dan Hesketh, Digital Media Specialist  
June Mauser, Administrative Associate II  
Andrew Solomonson, Facility Operations Manager

## Ensembles in Residence
Atlanta Percussion Trio  
KSU Faculty Jazz Parliament  
Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus  
KSU Faculty Chamber Players  
KSU Faculty String Trio  
KSU Community and Alumni Choir
about the school of music

Welcome to our campus! The School of Music is an exciting place to live, learn and work. Housed in the College of the Arts, the School is infused with masterfully skilled and dedicated performing teachers who care deeply about their profession, our programs, our community and every student involved in music and the arts. Our facilities are aesthetically functional and well equipped, our professional staff first-class, and our motivation perfect; to prepare students to be accomplished, creative arts leaders - diversely trained, acutely challenged and well-practiced to ensure employability and empowerment to take the 21st-century music world by storm.

Our students come to us from the leading musical arts and honors organizations from across the southeast, and as a School of Music, we are dedicated to the purpose of furthering the arts and cultural offerings of our region and beyond.

Please take the time to meet our faculty, students and staff. Interact with them, talk shop with them - their enthusiasm is contagious whether on or off the stage. I look forward to a long and rewarding relationship, and with your involvement as an audience member and patron, there are no limits to what we can become. If we can be of assistance to you, simply ask.

Stephen W. Plate, DMA
Director, School of Music
Kennesaw State University

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