KSU OPERA THEATRE presents

Thomas Pasatieri’s

THE HOTEL CASABLANCA

with the KSU Symphony Orchestra

Friday and Saturday, November 14 and 15, 2014 at 8:00 p.m.
Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center, Morgan Hall
Thirty-sixth Concert of the 2014-15 Concert Season
program

Act I

Intermission

Act II

cast

Performance on Friday, November 14
Tallulah Carter	Siobhan Rodriguez
Tom Carter	Timothy Marshall
Charles Carter	Forrest Starr
Lucy Perez	Camille Hathaway
Raul Perez	Danny Crowe
Burton	Joseph McBrayer
Tobias	Sean Eliason
Miss Pooder	Elena Prestwood
Veronique	Victoria Caracci

Performance on Saturday, November 15
Tallulah Carter	Emily Crisp
Tom Carter	Timothy Marshall
Charles Carter	Forrest Starr
Lucy Perez	Julie Mitchell
Raul Perez	Terrell Flemings
Burton	Joseph McBrayer
Tobias	Sean Eliason
Miss Pooder	Karen Martin
Veronique	Amy Hebel

Understudies
Tallulah Carter	Rachel Stein
Lucy Perez	Leah Sexton
Miss Pooder	Christina Vehar
Veronique	Ashley Naffziger
ksu symphony orchestra

Michael Alexander, conductor

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<th>Flute</th>
<th>Oboe</th>
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<th>Bassoon</th>
<th>Horn</th>
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The KSU Symphony Orchestra will divide in half and each group will play for one of the performances.
Welcome to this production of Thomas Pasatieri’s, *The Hotel Casablanca*. This opera was originally commissioned by the San Francisco Opera’s Merola Program and dually premiered there and at the University of Kentucky in August 2007. Inspired by Georges Feydeau’s French farcical play, “A Flea in Her Ear,” Pasatieri set his comic opera in 1940’s Texas. The action transpires at the Double-T Ranch and a seedy hotel, The Hotel Casablanca, where an enchanting array of assorted and eccentric guests add to the mayhem. For added interest, he references great classic operas within the music and storyline: *The Marriage of Figaro, Carmen, Tosca, Madame Butterfly,* and *Otello*.

The composer/librettist Thomas Pasatieri began composing at age 10 and while a teenager, he studied with Nadia Boulanger. He entered the Juilliard School of Music at age 16 and eventually became the school's first recipient of a doctoral degree. Pasatieri has taught composition at the Juilliard School, the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and the Manhattan School of Music. From 1980 through 1984, he held the post of Artistic Director at the Atlanta Opera. He has composed 24 operas, the best known, *The Seagull,* was composed in 1972. In
Set in Texas in 1948 on the Double T Ranch, the story opens the morning after a Texas-sized barbeque given by Tom and Tallulah to welcome three guests to the ranch: Charles, Tom’s nephew from New York; Lucy Perez, Tallulah’s former vaudeville partner, and Lucy’s husband, Raul Perez, a very successful breeder of prize bulls. We see Charles in silk pajamas nursing a hangover while the helpful butler, Burton, explains why everything is bigger in Texas. The two leave to find coffee for Charles.

Tallulah enters carrying a package containing the red, white, and blue suspenders she had given to Tom. They have been returned from the notorious Hotel Casablanca - Tallulah assumes the worst. Lucy bounds in, blubbering about the party last night, only to find her friend distraught with marital doubt. Lucy suggests that Tallulah write an anonymous letter to Tom inviting him to a tryst at the Hotel Casablanca. Lucy writes the letter on Lucy’s behalf and seals it with a kiss. The ladies then decide to go to the hotel together in disguises.

Tom Carter enters telling Burton to set out brandy and cigars for a meeting with Raul Perez about the purchase of a new bull. Tom notices the suspenders, which he had lent to his nephew Charles, and is furious that the young man would be so careless as to leave them lying around. Tom is concerned with Charles in his “city” ways and wonders whether his nephew likes women. After a talk with the young man, he sends his nephew off to change into more “manly” clothes for horseback riding.

The letter arrives just as Tom, Raul, and the ranch manager, Tobias, begin their meeting. Tom reads it aloud and decides the letter must be for Tobias, since no one would dare to write such a letter to a married man. Tom sends Tobias off in his own Cadillac to meet the passionate stranger at the hotel.

While Tom and Tobias fetch the keys to the car, Raul looks at the letter and recognizes Lucy’s lipstick and handwriting. He assumes the worst and vows vengeance by shooting the lovers with one bullet: “Goes in his back, comes out hers.” Tom enters and tells Raul where the hotel is. When Raul rushes out, Tom
realizes that there is trouble brewing. He calls for Charles and Burton to get in the jeep and they all rush off to the hotel. Charles turns as the act closes to tell us that he is going to the Hotel Casablanca, again…

**act II**

The Hotel Casablanca has seen better times, but its new owner, Miss Pooder, envisions it as a grand hotel. She has fired all the former employees and explains her plan to her new employee, Daisy. Daisy has her own dreams of Hollywood and has renamed herself Veronique. Miss Pooder steps out to search for more help, and Veronique begins her new job by answering the phone. In that call, we learn that Muffy, her predecessor, was not so much a desk clerk as a lady of the evening or - more aptly - of the afternoon.

Tallulah and Lucy enter the hotel. Veronique, thinking this is a costume party, points them to the executive suite. Tobias arrives, flowers in hand and, as Veronique ushers him to the room, Tallulah and Lucy hide behind the bed. Raul enters the hotel, and Veronique, seeing him disguised in mask and cape, sends him to the executive suite as Miss Pooder returns to the front desk with her arms full of flowers.

When Raul enters the executive suite, he rushes to the bed and, mistaking Tobias for Lucy, kisses him on the back of the head. Lucy and Tallulah are discovered and a chase ensues, Raul still hungry for revenge against the confused Tobias. As they rush from the room they run into Miss Pooder. Veronique hides while Tom, Burton, and Charles arrive to save the day.
School of Music Faculty and Staff

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John Culvahouse
Charles Jackson
Charles Laux
Alison Mann
Angela McKee
Richard McKee
Harry Price
Terri Talley
Amber Weldon-Stephens

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Kayleen Justus
Dane Philipsen

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Jennifer Mitchell
Laurence Sherr
Benjamin Wadsworth
Jeff Yunek

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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
Thomas Witte, Horn
Tom Gibson, Trombone
Brian Hecht, Bass Trombone
Bernard Flythe, Tuba/Euphonium
John Lawless, Percussion

Strings
Helen Kim, Violin
Kenn Wagner, Violin
Catherine Lynn, Viola
Allyson Fleck, Viola, Chamber Music
Charae Krueger, Cello
James Barket, Double Bass
Joseph McFadden, Double Bass
Elisabeth Remy Johnson, Harp
Mary Akerman, Classical Guitar

Voice
Jessica Jones
Adam Kirkpatrick
Eileen Moremen
Oral Moses
Leah Partridge
Valerie Walters
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

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Leslie J. Blackwell, Choral Activities
Alison Mann, Choral Activities
Oral Moses, Gospel Choir
Eileen Moremen, Opera
Michael Alexander, Orchestras
Charles Laux, Orchestras
Debra Traficante, Concert Band
David T. Kehler, Wind Ensemble

School of Music Staff
Julia Becker, Administrative Specialist III
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
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

The School of Music at KSU has dedicated, vibrant, and talented faculty and staff that are completely devoted to teaching, performing, scholarship, and serving our community. It is an incredibly exciting place to study, boasting state-of-the-art facilities with opportunities to produce and explore music in a dynamic place that is ahead of the curve for what it means to be a musician in the 21st century. Our students come from the leading musical honor organizations across the region and are poised to lead the cultural offerings and musical education in our area and beyond for years to come.

We welcome you to attend a concert, meet our faculty and staff, and feel the energy and excitement that our students exude. We are fully committed to our purpose as educators, performers, and scholars. We hope that you will find as much enjoyment in our product as we do in producing it.

Michael Alexander
Interim Director, KSU School of Music

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http://community.kennesaw.edu/GiveToMusic

upcoming events

Unless otherwise noted, all events are held in Morgan Concert Hall and begin at 8 p.m.

Monday, November 17
Trumpet and Trombone Choirs

Tuesday, November 18
Jazz Ensembles

Wednesday, November 19
Wind Ensemble with Charae Krueger, cello

Thursday, November 20
Philharmonic and Concert Band

Tuesday, December 2
Faculty Jazz Parliament

Thursday, December 4
Choral Holiday Concert

We welcome all guests with special needs and offer the following services: easy access, companion seating locations, accessible restrooms, and assisted listening devices. Please contact a patron services representative at 470-578-6650 to request services.