KSU Opera Theater presents

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.

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**The Three Hermits**  
STEPHEN PAULUS  
(libretto, Michael Dennis Browne)  
Stage direction by Eileen Moremen  

**cast**

- **Bishop**  |  Timothy Marshall  
- **Mother**  |  Emily Crisp  
- **Sister Angelica**  |  Victoria Caracci  
- **Sister Miriam**  |  Emily Bateman  
- **Fisherman**  |  Cody Hixon  
- **Captain**  |  Sean Eliason  
- **Pilgrim #1**  |  Hallie Ashford Skelton  
- **Pilgrim boy**  |  Elena Prestwood  
- **Pilgrim #2**  |  Caleb Stack  
- **Pilgrim girl**  |  Hannah Smith
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 Crosse
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  |  Director of KSU Opera Theater, Voice Faculty
Todd Wedge     |  Assistant Director, Voice Faculty
Nathaniel F. Parker |  Orchestra Conductor
Leslie Blackwell |  Director of Choral Activities / Chamber Singers
Judy Cole      |  Coach / Accompanist, Artist-in-Residence
Arie Motschman |  Coach / Accompanist

acknowledgements

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

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Benjamin Wadsworth
Jeff Yunek

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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

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Susan M. Grant Robinson, Associate Director for Administration
Joseph Greenway, Technical Director
Dan Hesketh, Digital Media Specialist
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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
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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