

The University of Washington Opera Theatre

presents

# *The Royal Auction*

by Ernest Kanitz

R#1 (1808)

Libretto by Sidney Shrager  
and Alexander Chorney

R#2 (1809)

# *Amahl and the Night Visitors*

by Gian-Carlo Menotti

December 6, 7, 9, 10, 1960

8:00 p.m.

University Playhouse

R#1 (1806)

R#2 (1807)

# The Royal Auction

by Ernest Kanitz

Libretto by Sidney Shrager and Alexander Chorney

## CAST (In order of appearance):

Sally Jones—sweetheart of Count Michael.....Doris Richards, *soprano*  
Boris—the butler.....Chris Trembanis, *bass*  
Count Michael—pretender to the throne of Microtania  
John De Merchant, *baritone*  
General De Luro—chief advisor to the Count.....William Winden, *bass*  
Iris Stoner—daughter of a pickle relish millionaire.....Nancy Boone, *soprano*  
Mrs. Walburton—a well-known party giver.....Joan Winden, *mezzo-soprano*  
Kitty De Vries—daughter of a Boston bean millionaire  
Geraldine Nein, *mezzo-soprano*  
Captain Antonio—a special messenger.....Vernon Corliss, *tenor*

Scene I: Late afternoon. The Reception room of Count Michael's chateau on the Riviera.

Scene II: That evening.

## THE STORY

Sally Jones, an American school teacher in love with Count Michael, overhears General De Luro attempt to convince the Count that it is necessary for him to replenish the depleted Microtanian treasury by choosing a wealthy American girl for a bride. Although the Count wishes to marry Sally he decides that, for the good of his country, he must put himself up for auction. He will go to the highest bidder. Sally decides to fight for Michael. At a reception that evening, Count Michael regrets his previous decision and attempts to postpone his choice as long as possible. The first to arrive is Iris Stoner. She is hurried into an adjoining room as Mrs. Walburton and her protégé, Kitty De Vries, make their entrance. Kitty and Mrs. Walburton are pushed into other rooms as Sally arrives. When the ladies finally all burst into the reception room demanding a decision, the Count informs them that the revolution to return him to the throne has failed. Iris, Kitty, and Mrs. Walburton all refuse to have anything more to do with a mere count, and Michael is now free to marry Sally.

At this moment Captain Antonio, a special messenger, arrives unexpectedly to announce that the revolution has been successful and that the Count's subjects are clamouring for his return to the throne. Although he is now desirable to all, Count Michael decides to give up the throne, go America with Sally, and become just plain Mike Massarotti.

INTERMISSION

# Amahl and the Night Visitors

by Gian-Carlo Menotti

Conducted by Richard Ferrin

## CAST (in order of appearance)

Amahl.....Louis Carlson or Robert Hammond  
His Mother.....Donna Fennel  
King Kaspar.....Mahlon Schanzonbach  
King Melchior.....Alan Lund  
King Balthazar.....William Winden  
The Page.....Ed Catton  
The Shepherds.....Annette Bowman, Marlene Agostino,  
Geraldine Nein, Vernon Corliss, Chris Trembanis  
Dancers.....Marjorie Carrigan, Jacqueline Cecil, Sandra Neels,  
Marcia Sakamoto, Frank Ordway, Michael Sears

Scene: A Shepherd's hut and the yard outside.

## THE STORY

Somewhere in the world lives a crippled little shepherd called Amahl, and his mother, an impoverished widow. Nothing is left to them of the little they ever had and they are now faced with hunger and cold in their empty house. Three Wise Men, on their way to Bethlehem, stop at the hut and ask to be taken in for the night. Amahl and his mother welcome them as well as they can. They are both astonished at the splendor of the men's robes and at the gifts they are carrying with them. When Amahl's mother realizes that the Three Kings are looking for a newborn babe and that the expensive gifts are destined for him, she becomes bitter and envious. She cannot understand why at least some of the gifts are not to be bestowed upon her own child, who is so poor and sickly. Under cover of darkness, while the Three Kings are asleep, she attempts to steal some of the gold from them, but is discovered. When she explains to the Three Kings that she needs this gold to feed her starving child, she is readily forgiven. With great tenderness they try to explain to her who this newborn child is and how much he needs the love of every human being to build his coming kingdom. Touched by their words, the poor widow not only gives back the stolen gold, but wishes she could add a gift of her own. Little Amahl comes to her rescue. He impulsively hands to the Three Kings his wooden crutch, his most precious possession, and, in doing so, is miraculously cured of his lameness. As dawn appears in the sky, the Three Kings make ready to resume their journey. Amahl begs his mother to let him join them. She finally allows him to follow the Kings to Bethlehem to adore and give thanks to the Christ Child.

**School of Drama Production Staff:**

Art Director and Technical Supervisor.....John Ashby Conway  
Assistant Art Director.....Alanson Davis  
Technical Director.....Warren C. Lounsbury  
Costumer.....James Crider  
Assistant Costumer.....Joan Muzzy  
Scene Technician.....Scott Strobe  
Electrician.....E. Allen Kent  
Properties.....Jerry Baylor

**School of Music Opera Theatre Staff:**

Director and Conductor.....Stanley Chapple  
Associate Conductor.....Richard Ferrin  
Stage Director.....Ralph Rosinbum  
Choreographer.....Martha Nishitani  
Repetiteurs.....Peter Vike  
William Clarke  
Stage Manager.....Ed Catton

**Sponsored by the University of Washington School of Music and the Office of  
Lectures and Concerts, Division of Continuing Education.**