

No. 90  
Betty

THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND THE OFFICE OF LECTURES AND CONCERTS

Present

THE OPERA WORKSHOP

RALPH ROSINBUM, *director*

Judy Diana, *musical director and accompanist*

Monday, June 6, 1977

Studio Theater, 8:00 PM

*Tape No. 1-8552*

PROGRAM

HANSEL AND GRETEL (Act I, Scene 2)

Music by Engelbert Humperdinck

Text by Adelheid Wette

English Translation by Constance Bache

Time and Place: Fourteenth Century, Germany.

Once upon a time a poor broommaker and his wife lived in a lonesome cottage in the Harz Mountains with their son, Hansel, and daughter, Gretel. When the story begins, the father and mother have gone away to the neighboring village, leaving the children at work in the house. But work is tiresome, especially when one is hungry, and so Hansel and Gretel start romping about the room. At the height of their frolic their mother returns. She is angry with them for neglecting their work and so she sends them out into the forest to pick wild strawberries for supper. Later that evening, after disposing of his brooms at a good profit, the father returns. He asks for the children and is horrified when his wife tells him they have gone into the woods. He describes the wicked witch who lures children with magic things to eat. The upset mother and father then hurry out into the night to look for their children.

CAST:

Hansel.....Tom Szekley  
Gretel.....Jenny Abramson  
Mother.....Chrystal Merriwether  
Father.....Lee Leavy

IL TROVATORE (Act IV, Scene 2) In Italian

Music by Giuseppe Verdi

Text by Salvatore Cammarano

Conducted by Theodore Deacon

Time and Place: Fifteenth Century, Spain.

The old Count di Luna who had two sons of about the same age burned the mother of the gypsy Azucena at the stake for attempting to bewitch the boys. In retaliation, Azucena abducts one of the sons intending to throw the child into the fire. However in her de-arranged state she accidentally destroys her own child. Telling no one she raises the Count's child (Manrico) as her own.

Meanwhile the old Count di Luna has died and the two sons have grown up neither knowing the identity of the other. The young Count di Luna has fallen in love with Leonora, a court lady, and plans to possess her. She however is in love with Manrico. Learning of Leonora's love for Manrico the count has Manrico thrown into prison with Azucena and sentences them to execution. To save her lover, Leonora promises to yield to the count but swallows poison to prevent him from possessing her.

As the final scene opens, Azucena and Manrico await execution in their dismal cell. Manrico tries to comfort Azucenas as she imagines the flames leaping around her mother many years ago. Exhausted she falls asleep after dreaming of returning to her beloved mountains. Leonora enters to announce that Manrico has been pardoned and urges him to go. He refuses to leave without her and then denounces her for being unfaithful to him. Gasping her innocence, she dies in his arms. As Manrico begs her forgiveness the count appears and in a fury orders him to the block. The count then drags Azucena to the window to witness the execution. As the axe falls she cries out in exultation that her mother is avenged: the count has killed his own brother.

CAST:

Azucena.....Yvonne Naum  
Manrico.....Tom Chambers  
Leonora.....Anastasia Mugarian  
Count di Luna.....Steve White

*Tape No. 2 - 8553*

INTERMISSION

OTELLO (Act IV, Part 1) In Italian

Music by Giuseepe Verdi

Text by Arrigo Boito

Time and Place: Sixteenth Century, Cyprus.

Desdemona, the wife of the Moor Otello, is the innocent victim in a plot to destroy her husband. Convinced of his wife's infidelity, Otello has sent her to bed attended by her faithful confidant, Emilia. Her thoughts turn to death and she sings the song "Willow" which she remembers from her youth; a song of unrequited love. With fear and reluctance she dismisses Emilia. Alone she kneels in prayer then grasping her wedding garment to her she lies down to await Otello.

CAST:

Desdemona.....Judith Page  
Emilia.....Kyra Clefton

LA TRAVIATA (Act II, Scene I)

Music by Francesco Piave

English translation by Ruth and Thomas Martin

Directed by Ray Bannon\*

Time and Place: Nineteenth century, France.

Violetta and Alfredo have been happily living together for three months. However, living expenses are high and Violetta has had to sell some of her possessions in order to pay the bills. When Alfredo learns of this situation, he goes to Paris to raise the money himself. Violetta has been invited to a party with her old friends in Paris, but she refuses; that part of her life is over. Annina announces a visitor; Violetta thinks it is a client for her jewels. It is, instead, Alfredo's father, Giorgio Germont. He asks Violetta to leave his son; their relationship is a disgrace to the family honor and will ruin his daughter's wedding plans. Destroyed, Violetta relents and Germont is touched by her sacrifice.

Left alone, Violetta writes to her friends to accept the party invitation, and then writes a note of, farewell to Alfredo. He enters suddenly, troubled by an imminent visit from his father. Violetta keeps the contents of her letter from him; but as she leaves, cries out that she will always love him. Alfredo finds the letter just as Germont returns. Germont tries to lure his son back to the family, but Alfredo refuses. Spying the invitation, Alfredo rushes to Paris swearing revenge.

CAST:

Violetta.....Jacalyn Schneider  
Alfredo.....Michael DeVries  
Germont.....Chuck Wayne  
Annina.....Janice Ironside

\*In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Opera Direction and Production.

OPERA WORKSHOP PRODUCTION STAFF

Musical Preparation.....Judith Diana  
Stage Manager.....Una Stewart  
Lighting.....Marie Barrett

Furniture, properties, and costumes are courtesy of the School of Drama.