

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Opera Theatre

P R E S E N T S

Hansel
and
Gretel

BY ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1958

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1958

8:00 p.m. MEANY HALL

Hansel and Gretel

by Engelbert Humperdinck

Libretto by Adelheid Wette

Story based on Ludwig Grimm's fairy tale

English translation and adaptation by Constance Bache

CAST

PETER, a poor broommaker.....Howard Nelson, Bass
GERTRUDE, his wife.....Emilie Berendsen, Contralto
HANSEL, their son.....Mary Alexander, Soprano
GRETEL, their daughter..... Emilie Runck Haapanen, Soprano
THE WITCH, who eats children..... Vera Neufeld, Mezzo-soprano
SANDMAN.....Dena Lampropolus, Soprano
DAWN FAIRY.....Carol Milam, Soprano
GINGERBREAD CHILDREN... Shirley Mondt, Mary Ellen Bonham,
Heidi Spaeth, Susan Doar, Leslie Geballe, Arlene Glickman,
Ann Lyda, Annette Gerry, Susan Hartstien, Dorothy Neill,
Bonnie Orth, Brian Partridge, Michael Rosinbum, Jill Turner.
ANGELS. Mary Ellen Bonham, Marjorie Carrigan, Miriam Felman,
Sandra Ferguson, Leslie Geballe, Arlene Glickman, Mickey
Gustin, Thea Hayashi, Susan Hartstien, Ann Lyda, Dorothy
Neill, Bonnie Orth, Heidi Spaeth, Jill Turner, Mary Jo Tonda,
Barbara Lacy.
ENCHANTED FOREST... Yvonne Anderson, Rick Eckley, Lenita
Foster, Brooke Quigley, Faith Quigley, Arlene Rice, Kit Can-
terbury.

THE STORY:

R. #1 (1268)

ACT I . . . THE COTTAGE

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 enters. She is angry with them for neglecting their work and so she sends them out into the forest to pick wild strawberries for supper. Late 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.

R. #2 (1288)

ACT II . . . THE FOREST

Night is falling in the deep woods where Hansel and Gretel have been picking berries. Afraid and in the dark, the children lose their way. As they imagine all sorts of monsters peering out at them, their fear increases. Even the trees of the forest seem to take on fantastic shapes, which clutch and tear at them, as the steep, rocky bulk of the Ilsenstein, a reputed gathering place for evil sprites, looms up before the eyes of the terrified children. The children cower beneath a spreading tree as the Sandman appears and calms them by sprinkling the sand of sleep into their eyes. After saying their prayers the exhausted children fall asleep in each others arms and dream of fourteen angels on a golden stairway descending to watch over them while they sleep.

INTERMISSION

R. #3 (1289)

R. #4 (1300)

ACT III . . . THE WITCH'S HOUSE

As the mist clears, the Dawn Fairy comes to shake dewdrops on the children, who rub their eyes and wake up. Hansel and Gretel are excitedly relating their dreams to each other when suddenly there appears before them a tempting little house made of cake with a wall of gingerbread boys and girls. Forgetting their fear, they begin to nibble hungrily at the house. As they eat, the Witch appears. The frightened children attempt to run away but the Witch casts a magic spell over them with her wand. Hansel is locked in a cage and fed with sweetmeats to fatten him. Meanwhile the Witch tries to persuade Gretel to bend down in front of the oven because she wants to push Gretel in and bake her. Gretel pretends not to understand. When the Witch angrily bends down to show her how, the two children quickly shove her into the oven, bang the door shut and dance around gleefully. There is a tremendous explosion as the spell of the wicked Witch is broken and all the children who have been turned into gingerbread now come back to life. Hansel and Gretel are found by their parents and all ends happily.

