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UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
OPERA THEATRE PRESENTS

gian  
carlo  
menoffi

**THE UNICORN,  
THE GORGON  
and  
THE MANTICORE**

*or The Three Sundays of A Poet (A Madrigal Fable)*

giacomo  
puccini

(third act only)

**LA BOHEME**

*(in commemoration of the centennial of the composer's birth)*

June 3 & 4, 1958

• 8:00 p.m.

• Meany Hall

R # 1 (1277) & R # 2 (1278)

## The Unicorn, The Gorgon and The Manticore

OR THE THREE SUNDAYS OF A POET

(A Madrigal Fable for Chorus, Dancers and Nine Instruments)

*Music and Libretto by Gian Carlo Menotti*

*Choreography by Martha Nishitani*

### DANCERS:

The Count and Countess..... Louis Roedel and Carolyn Peterson  
Their Son..... Susan De  
The Mayor and His Wife..... Linden Chlarson and Barbara Lacy  
The Doctor and His Wife..... William Sohns and Marjorie Carrigan  
Man in the Castle (The Poet)..... John P. Stipanela  
The Virgin..... Midge Bowman  
The Unicorn..... Ron Galbreath  
The Gorgon..... Robert Kingston  
The Manticore..... Midge Bowman  
The Dwarf..... Carol Lynn Chong  
The Nursemaids and Pages..... Mary Capps and Irene Johnston

### CHAMBER CHOIR

Wayne Aller  
Lora Lee Brown  
Gloria Bryson  
Joan Catoni  
Janet Day  
Ann Erickson  
Sharon Feetham  
Annette Gerry  
Tommy Goleeke  
Wallace Goleeke  
James Impett  
John Iverson  
Marli Janssen

### DIRECTED BY MIRIAM TERRY

William Marvin  
Donald Moynan  
Vera Neufeld  
Claudia Reimer  
Glenna Jean Rust  
Dave Sannerud  
Donald Sayre  
Patricia Schwartz  
Sally Stenerson  
Lorna Stern  
Thomas Tavener  
Donald Turner  
Phyllis Unosawa

### THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC OPERA STAFF

Conductor and Director..... Stanley Chapple  
Stage Director..... Ralph Rosinbum  
Choreographer..... Martha Nishitani  
Stage Manager..... Howard Nelson  
Repetiteur..... Bill Clarke

### THE SCHOOL OF DRAMA PRODUCTION STAFF

*Courtesy of Glenn Hughes, Executive Director*

Art Director and Technical Supervisor..... John Ashby Conway  
Assistant Art Director..... Alanson Davis  
Technical Director..... Warren C. Lounsbury  
Costumier..... James Crider  
Assistant Costumier..... Larry Zirkle  
Properties..... Don Adams  
Electrician..... Norman Boulanger  
Scene Technicians..... John Custer, Nolan Dehner, and Dale Palmer

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

R #3 (1279)

"This Madrigal Fable tells the story of a strange Man in the Castle (the poet) who 'shunned the Countess' parties . . . yawned at town meetings, and would not let the Doctor take his pulse and did not go to church on Sundays.'

"When he is seen on Sunday 'leading by a silver chain a captive Unicorn,' he is mocked by the Townsfolk and tempted by the virgin. Soon, following the lead of the Count and Countess, all imitate him and every respectable couple is seen promenading a Unicorn.

"On the second Sunday, the poet appears with a Gorgon 'stately and proud.' As to the fate of the Unicorn, he answers the queries of Townsfolk by saying that since the Unicorn 'only liked to gambol and tease' he 'quickly grew tired of the fun' and 'peppered and grilled him.' Soon shocked surprise turns to envy and Gorgons are the rage.

"On the third Sunday, the poet appears at a picnic with the 'lonely Manticore.' He tells the scandalized Townsfolk that the Gorgon 'died of murder.' Although at first everyone declares that 'the man must be out of his mind,' the Townsfolk again bow to his influence; and having secretly disposed of their Gorgons, they bring the Manticore into fashion.

"When the poet 'is seen no more walking on Sundays his Manticore' the Townsfolk, sure that the beast has met the same fate as the Unicorn and the Gorgon, form a committee and march on the Castle to 'stop all these crimes.'

"There they find the poet dying in the 'faithful and harmonious company' of the three animals, 'pain-wrought children of a poet's fancy.' They are the dreams of youth (the Unicorn), manhood (the Gorgon), and old age (the Manticore). These creations were easily discarded by his imitators as they were adopted by them only as passing whims. But in the poet's heart they remain intact, for they were the very essence of his life.

"The entire meaning of the fable is contained in the final words of the dying poet."

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Commissioned by the Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Foundation in the Library of Congress and first performed in the Coolidge Auditorium October 21, 1956.

INTERMISSION

## La Boheme by Giacomo Puccini

(Sung in Italian) • Libretto by Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica

### Cast, in order of appearance

Mimi.....Peggy Nessel, soprano  
Marcello.....Howard Nelson, bass  
Rodolfo.....Robert McGrath, tenor  
Musetta.....Sharon Feetham, soprano

### Customs Officials, scavengers, and townspeople:

Allan Lund, Joseph La Rocque, Joan Falskow, Donna Mathews, Emilie Berendsen, Eleanor Feetham.

### Act III A gate to the City of Paris (the Barriere d'Enfer)

The scene is a bleak, wintry dawn at one of the toll gates to the city. At one side of the snow-blanketed square stands a tavern, over the entrance of which, as a signboard, hangs Marcello's picture of the Red Sea. From within the tavern come sounds of revelry. Outside the barrier a motley crowd of scavengers, dairy women and peasants have gathered demanding to be let through. A customs officer warming himself at a brazier saunters over to the barrier and admits them. From a side street leading out of the Latin Quarter comes Mimi, shivering with cold. A fit of violent coughing seizes her as she asks one of the officers where she can find Marcello. The officer points to the tavern and Mimi sends a woman to call him. Marcello rushes to Mimi's side pleased to see her and tells her that he and Musetta now live at the tavern: he has found sign-painting more profitable than art, and Musetta gives music lessons. Mimi tells Marcello she needs his help desperately, for Rodolfo has grown insanely jealous and the constant bickering has made life unbearable. In a tender duet with Mimi, Marcello expresses his sympathy, and her frequent coughing only deepens his concern.

When Rodolfo comes from the tavern to call Marcello, Mimi hides and overhears him complain to Marcello about their quarreling. Just as he announces his decision to give her up, Mimi reveals her presence by another coughing fit, and Rodolfo rushes to embrace her, his love returning at the sight of her pale, fragile beauty. But she breaks away, and sings a touching little farewell song, in which she says she bears him no ill will, that she will be grateful if he will wrap up her few things and send them to her.

Meanwhile Marcello has re-entered the tavern and caught Musetta in the act of flirting. This brings on a quarrel, which the couple continue in the street. As Mimi and Rodolfo bid each other good-by their friends almost reach the point of blows in their quarrel. The curtain closes with Rodolfo and Mimi resolving to wait for another spring before parting.