The University of Washington Opera Theatre

presents

**The Royal Auction**
by Ernest Kanitz
libretto by Sidney Shrager and Alexander Chorney

R#1 (1808)
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, baritone
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 protegé, 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 to 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 o’Utch, 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. Lounsberry
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 Rosinburn
Choreographer: Martha Nishitani
Repetiteurs: Peter Vike, William Clarke
Stage Manager: Ed Catton

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