UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
OPERA THEATRE PRESENTS

Gian Carlo Menotti

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
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 Do
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. Stipanala
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
Repertueur ......................................................................... Bill Clarke

THE SCHOOL OF DRAMA PRODUCTION STAFF
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.
His 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 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."

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