UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
Opera Theatre

PRESENTS

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 broom maker: 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


ANGELS: Mary Ellen Bonham, Marjorie Carrigan, Miriam Felman, Sandra Ferguson, Leslie Geballe, Arlene Glickman, Mickey Gustin, Thea Hayashi, Susan Hartsten, Ann Lyda, Dorothy Neill, Bonnie Orth, Heidi Spaeth, Jill Turner, Mary Jo Tonda, Barbara Lacy.


**THE STORY:**

**R. #1 (1214)**

**ACT I . . . THE COTTAGE**

Once upon a time a poor broom maker 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. 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.

**R. #2 (1215)**

**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 bulks 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 (1216)**

**R. #4 (1267)**

**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.
THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC OPERA STAFF

Conductor and Director ................................................. Stanley Chapple
Stage Director .......................................................... Ralph Rossinbom
Choreographer ........................................................... Martha Nishitani
Company Managers ....................................................... Gene Sundsten
Repetiteurs ..................................................................... Bill Clark
Stage Manager ............................................................. Howard Nelson
Production Assistants ..................................................... Richard McCoy

THE SCHOOL OF DRAMA PRODUCTION STAFF

Courtesy of Glenn Hughes, Executive Director

Art Director ............................................................ Alanton Davis
Technical Director ...................................................... Warren C. Lounsbury
Costumiere ............................................................... James Crider
Design and Painting ..................................................... John Caster
Scenery ........................................................................ Tom Cook
Lighting ....................................................................... Nolan Dehner
Properties ..................................................................... Kayce Mulligan

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