THE OPERA PROJECT

Gian Carlo Menotti's one-act opera

From the composer of such classics as Amahl and the Night Visitors, The Medium and The Telephone comes this delightful children's opera with an important message.

Featuring Tyler Kim in the title role along with EJ Galvin, Savannah Gordon, Kaeli Groenert, Tahseen Haq, Bartolomeo Lopiccolo, Ugochi Nriaka, Daniel Xie and members of the University Chamber Singers

Directed by Elizabeth Margolius
Trevor Kahlbaugh piano

GENERAL PUBLIC: $10
STUDENTS, FACULTY-STAFF & SENIORS: $5

TICKETS: (518) 442-3997
WWW.ALBANY.EDU/PAC
The Department of Music and Theatre
presents

THE BOY WHO GREW TOO FAST

by
Gian-Carlo Menotti

CAST LIST
(In order of appearance)

Miss Hope………………………………..Kaeli Groenert*
Lizzie……………………………………EJ Galvin*
Mrs. Skosvodmonit…………………Savannah Gordon
Poponel………………………………Tyler Kim
Dr. Schrinck…………………………Bartolomeo Lopiccolo
Ms. Proctor…………………………..Ugochi Nriaka
Mad Dog…………………………….Daniel Xie*
Ricky…………………………………..Connor Gordon*

Chorus:
Tina Haq*
Anthony Leva*
Brion Virgil*
Connor Gordon*
Ugochi Nriaka
Bartolomeo Lopiccolo
Daniel Xie*

Piano
Trevor Kahlbaugh

*Denotes Member of the University Chamber Singers
About the Composer

Gian Carlo Menotti was one of the most influential composers of American opera in the twentieth century. He created a large body of work, and seven of his operas and one operatic ballet are secure in the canon of contemporary opera. He wrote all of his own librettos, as well as librettos for Samuel Barber and Lukas Foss. Starting with The Medium in 1946, he directed the premieres of all his operas and went on to become an internationally acclaimed opera director. One of his most substantial achievements was the creation of the Festival of Two Worlds in Spoleto, Italy, in 1958, and he later initiated extensions of the festival in Charleston, SC, and Melbourne, Australia. Although he is best known for his operas, his works include ballets, concerti, orchestral, and chamber music and a large body of choral music. Critical opinion of his significance as a composer and librettist is divided; his is credited with single-handedly reviving interest in opera among the American public in the mid-twentieth century, but his work also has detractors, who characterize his music as derivative and sentimental, and his dramaturgy as manipulative. The strengths of his music include the deft psychological illumination of the drama on-stage, transparent orchestration, fluent and idiomatic vocal writing, genuinely expressive recitative, and a gift for memorable melody.

“The Boy Who Grew Too Fast” was first performed in 1982 by Opera Delaware at the Grand Opera House in Wilmington. It has since grown in popularity and has become a popular children’s opera in efforts to introduce children to opera, combat bullying, and encourage children to be happy with who they are.
Synopsis

A nine-year-old boy who has just moved to town is mocked by his classmates because of his immense size and his name, Poponel Skosvodomonit. Miss Hope, his new teacher, tells the boy of Dr. Schrinck, who has invented a shrinking machine. Miss Hope takes the boy to the doctor, who says he will be able to help Poponel reach a normal size but at a price – the boy must conform to everyone else’s actions. When Mad Dog, a terrorist, comes to the school and demands a hostage, only Poponel volunteers. His act makes him grow until he overwhelms the terrorist (taken from Opera America).

About the Director

Elizabeth Margolius is a Chicago based multiple Jeff Award-nominated stage and movement director with a primary focus in developing and directing new and rarely produced musical theatre, operetta, and opera. She has worked with theatres throughout the country in various capacities including the Santa Fe Opera, Florida Studio Theatre, the Virginia Shakespeare Festival, and New York’s Encompass New Opera Theatre. Elizabeth has been a guest director and master artist at numerous colleges and universities including the University of Northern Iowa, Harper College (Illinois) Converse College (South Carolina), DePaul University (Chicago), SUNY Albany, and Skidmore College (New York).

Elizabeth is an alumna of the 2004 and 2005 Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab in New York, a 2007 recipient of a full directorial scholarship at the Wesley Balk Opera-Music Theater Institute in Minneapolis, a 2009 respondent and workshop artist for the Kennedy Center’s American College Theatre Festival, and a 2010 finalist for the Charles Abbott Fellowship. She is the Co-Founder and Artistic Director Emeritus of DirectorsLabChicago, a forum for emerging nationally and internationally based stage directors. Elizabeth is an associate member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.
Special Thanks to:

Elizabeth Margolius
Fran Wittmann
Dr. William Gray
Trevor Kahlbaugh
Dr. Nancy Newman
PAC Staff
Bernadette Socha
Pat Ferlo
Bryan Robinson
John Knapp
Kim Engel

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If so, contact: FWITTMANN@ALBANY.EDU
UPCOMING EVENTS

Victoria von Arx
Monday, April 24 at 7pm
$8 general public / $4 students, seniors and UAlbany faculty-staff

Vadim Astrakhan
Wednesday, April 26 at 3pm
Free admission
The renowned specialist on the great Russian bard Vladimir Vysotsky (1938–1980) performs his songs in English.

One Spirit, One Voice
Wednesday, May 3 at 7:30pm
$6 general public
$3 students, seniors and UAlbany faculty-staff
The University Chamber Singers and guests perform a cappella music for chamber choir and music for chamber choir, soloists and chamber instrumentalists.

Senior Recital: Noni Murphy, soprano
Saturday, May 6 at 3pm
Free admission

- Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the management and its staff.
- The use of photographic or recording devices of any kind during this performance is strictly prohibited.
- There is no food or drink allowed in the theatres, nor is smoking allowed in University at Albany buildings.
- To avoid disrupting the performance, kindly disable any noise-making electronic devices you may have with you. Please refrain from texting.
- Please take time to note the location of the fire exits nearest to you. In the event of an emergency, an announcement will be made from the stage. Please proceed to the nearest exit in a calm and orderly fashion.