



SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 10/14/2015

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**SUU OPERA PRESENTS “THE MEDIUM”
AND OPERA AND MUSICAL THEATRE SCENES
NOVEMBER 11-14, 2015**

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah: An acclaimed one-act opera and diverse scenes from the opera and musical theatre stages make for a stunning evening of vocal performance. **SUU Opera** presents Gian Carlo Menotti’s ***The Medium*** with classic scenes from the opera and musical theatre repertoire. Featuring stage and vocal direction by **Professor Carol Ann Modesitt**, this **SUU Opera** production, produced by the Department of Music, runs **November 11-14**, at **7:30 pm** in the intimate **Thorley Recital Hall** within **SUU’s Music Building**. Tickets are **\$6 for adults, \$4 for SUU Alumni with card, and \$3 for children. SUU Faculty, Staff and Students are free with a valid student I.D.**

The Medium, featuring words and music by **Gian Carlo Menotti**, was commissioned by New York’s Columbia University where it was produced in May 1946. The opera drew instant acclaim and was subsequently produced professionally in New York as part of a double bill in winter 1947 before transferring to Broadway’s Ethel Barrymore Theater running for over 200 performances with a revival in 1950 running over 100 additional performances.

A supernatural operatic treat, ***The Medium*** is an atmospheric chamber opera guaranteed to excite anyone with a bent for musicalized melodrama. The piece centers on Madame Flora (known as Baba), a charlatan spiritualist who conducts phony séances in her parlor. Assisted by her daughter and a deaf-mute orphan boy she took in off the street, Madame Flora cons grieving parents into believing that they are communicating with the spirits of their dead children. However on a particular night, Madame Flora’s fake séance is visited by an unsettling phantom leading the medium to question her sanity. Set in New Orleans, the hour-long opera echoes the sensibilities of a Southern gothic short story. Sung in accessible English, Menotti’s score abounds in influences from American vernacular and jazz music, making for the kind of musical piece equally at home in a either Broadway theater or the Metropolitan Opera House.

The cast for *The Medium* features alternating singers in certain roles. **Madi Davis** and **Rebecca Dayley** alternate in the role of Madame Flora (Baba). Her daughter, Monica, is sung by **Michelle Reid** and **Ashlee Shipp**. The role of Toby, the mute assistant, is performed by **Ben Cano**. The role of Mrs. Gobineau is sung by **Gabrielle Szczerbiak** and **Leslie Perkins**, while Mr. Gobineau is sung by **Jordan Sanders**. **Jen Davis** and **Shayla Rowley** alternate as Mrs. Nolan.

Featuring music by Mozart, Puccini, Cole Porter and Frank Wildhorn, the evening includes a series of scenes from the opera repertoire and songs from the musical theatre. From the opera realm, **Jocelyn Taylor** and **Corlissa Jensen** sing a scene from Otto Nicolai and Salomon Hermann Mosenthal's *Merry Wives of Windsor* based on the classic William Shakespeare comedy. A pair of scenes from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's delightful *The Marriage of Figaro* are sung by **Jen Davis**, **Clairissa Dalton**, **Macey Naumann** and **Kalina Stokes**. Exquisite duets from Léo Delibes *Lakmé* performed by **Amanda Gagnon** and **Corlissa Jensen**, Gaetano Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* sung by **Ben Lieske** and **Macey Naumann** and Giacomo Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* sung by **Claire Robinson** and **Lindsey Lopez** are also on the program. Contemporary opera is represented with selections from Michael Ching's *Speed Dating Tonight!* performed by **Amanda Gagnon**, **Cameron Pruett**, **Jordan Sanders** and **Jocelyn Taylor**.

From the musical theatre stage there is "The Honeymoon Is Over" from Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt's delightful *I Do! I Do!* performed by **Jeremy Ream** and **Emily Day**. The rousing "Brush Up Your Shakespeare" from Cole Porter's beloved *Kiss Me, Kate* is sung by **Ben Cano**, **Ben Lieske** and **Jordan Sanders**. A scene from Frank Wildhorn's *Jekyll and Hyde* will be sung by **Andrea Church** and **Gabrielle Szczerbiak** and a selection from Claude-Michel Schönberg and Alain Boubill's *Martin Guerre* is sung by **Bertrand Keatley Smith** and **Ben Lieske**.

Experience an evening of diverse vocal performance by attending this SUU Opera presentation. For more information on the SUU College of Performing and Visual Arts events, please visit www.suu.edu/pva/arts.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

Southern Utah University's College of Performing and Visual Arts is home to nationally-accredited departments of Art and Design, Music, Theatre Arts, and Dance. The College offers 17 degrees, including liberal arts Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science, professional Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Fine Arts in art and theatre, and Arts Administration Master of Arts and Master of Fine Arts. It houses the Center for Shakespeare Studies, which offers a degree minor. More than 60 full- and part-time faculty and staff teach and mentor over 550 arts majors. Over 1100 students enroll each year in more than 195 arts classes. The College presents 100 performances, lectures, presentations, and exhibitions annually. Its affiliate organizations include the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery, Utah Shakespeare Festival, and the SUU

Ballroom Dance Company. For more information about the College of Performing and Visual Arts, visit www.suu.edu/pva.arts.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS: SUU OPERA: *The MEDIUM*, OPERA & MUSICAL THEATRE SCENES

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WHO: Southern Utah University, Department of Music

WHEN: Wed-Sat, November 11-14, 2015

TIME: 7:30pm

WHERE: Thorley Recital Hall, Music Building, Southern Utah University, Cedar City, UT

TICKETS: (435) 586-7872, M-F 8 am-4:30 pm, online: www.suu.edu/arts, or at the door

PRICES: Adults: \$6, SUU Alumni with card: \$4, Youth \$3
SUU Faculty, Staff and Students are free with a valid student I.D.

INFO: www.suu.edu/pva/arts