



**COLLEGE OF
PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS**

SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY

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World Premiere of *How to Date a Coloratura* Performs at SUU

Written by Ashley H Pollock

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah: The SUU Music Masterworks Series continues with their Spring opera March 21 through 24, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Thorley Recital Hall of SUU's Music Building. The Department of Music will be performing two chamber operas. The first is the world premiere of *How to Date a Coloratura* by Chicago composer, Philip Seward. The second is Gilbert and Sullivan's *Trial by Jury*. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and children. Southern Utah University faculty, staff, and students are free with a valid ID card. Faculty and staff IDs are allowed one guest. Tickets can be purchased at the door the night of the show or online at www.suu.edu/pva.

Professor Carol Ann Modesitt said, "The students and I are so excited to be doing the world premiere of Philip Seward's opera. It has been challenging as well as fun for us to work on this project together. [Seward] has done a wonderful job of keeping the melodies tuneful while maintaining interesting harmonies, and incorporating snippets of other operas throughout the work. Claire Robinson and Ben Lieske, who are playing the lead characters, have risen to the challenge and I think the audience will enjoy the results."

Award winning composer, Philip Seward, has worked as a performer and composer. His work includes operas and music for orchestra and women's chorus. He currently serves as a Senior Lecturer at Columbia College Chicago, heads the Music Lab at writingmusicaltheatre.com in conjunction with the Academy for New Music Theatre in Los Angeles, and serves as music director at St. James Presbyterian Church in Chicago.

Claire Robinson said, "Working on the world premiere of *How to Date a Coloratura* is both exciting and nerve-wracking. Since I am the first person to ever play the role of 'Girl' I have a lot of freedom. In most classic operas, the roles have been done hundreds of times and singers end up conforming to choices made previously. Being the first to play the role, I get the amazing opportunity to make it my own. *How to Date a Coloratura* is charming and fun. It is light-hearted and at times parodies famous operas such as Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* and Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*. It is relatable and has something for everyone. I'm excited to show the community something that has never been done before. It's new for the performers and the audience which makes it exciting."

The evening will continue with the witty *Trial by Jury* written by Gilbert and Sullivan. First performed in 1875, this opera has remained a favorite of all audiences. This opera is performed in one act and will keep the audience in hysterics.

Experience the world premiere of *How to Date a Coloratura* alongside the classic Gilbert and Sullivan comic opera *Trial by Jury*. For more information about the Department of Music at SUU, please visit www.suu.edu/pva/music.

About the College of Performing and Visual Arts

The College of Performing and Visual Arts (CPVA) at Southern Utah University comprises 26 academic programs including liberal arts (BA/BS) and professional (BFA, BM) degrees in art, design, dance, music and theatre. It offers graduate programs in the fields of arts administration, music education, and music technology. More than 60 full- and part-time faculty and staff are engaged in teaching and mentoring over 600 majors in the College. CPVA presents over 100 performances, lectures, presentations, and exhibitions each year and is affiliated with the Southern Utah Museum of Art (SUMA), Utah Shakespeare Festival, and the Center for Shakespeare Studies. Southern Utah University is an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Art & Design (NASAD), National Association of Schools of Dance (NASD), and the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM). For more information about the College of Performing and Visual Arts, visit www.suu.edu/pva.

For Calendar Editors: World Premiere of How to Date a Coloratura Performs at SUU

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Who: Department of Music

When: March 21 through 24, 2018

Time: 7:30 p.m.

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

Tickets: Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and children. Southern Utah University faculty, staff, and students are free with a valid ID card. Faculty and staff IDs are allowed one guest. Tickets can be purchased at the door the night of the show or online at www.suu.edu/pva.

Info: For more information, please visit www.suu.edu/pva.

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