



**COLLEGE OF
PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS**

SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY

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***Naamah's Ark* Offers Opportunity for SUU's CPVA Students**

Written by Ashley H Pollock

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah: The Department of Music at SUU presents *Naamah's Ark* in two very exciting locations. The first performance will be held in correlation with the National Opera Association Conference on Friday, January 4, 2019 at the Cathedral of the Madeleine in Salt Lake City at 7:30 p.m. The second performance will be held on Saturday, January 12, 2019 at the Randall L. Jones Theatre in Cedar City at 2:30 p.m. Tickets to the Cedar City performance are \$10 for adults and \$5 for youth. 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 concert or online at www.suu.edu/pva.

Dr. Lawrence Johnson, Chair for the Department of Music at SUU, explains, "The Department of Music is proud to be part of sponsoring this enormous project, involving the SUU choirs, alumni students' choirs, instrumentalists and dancers! Performing a collage of different styles and languages by a present day composer based on a different perspective of the biblical story of the ark just makes the entire event that much more engaging and exciting. You won't want to miss this amazing collaboration of a new musical work!"

Carol Ann Modesitt, Director of this production of *Naamah's Ark*, tells more of the story, "This is indeed a unique perspective on the story of Noah and the Flood. It explores new concepts as to what happened on the ark and after the rain stopped. Noah's wife tells the story from her perspective. The music explores many styles which are all part of the story telling."

Composer of *Naamah's Ark*, Marisa Michelson, takes her interpretation of Noah's wife, Naamah, and tells the story of the Ark. She and librettist, Royce Vavrek, explore what Naamah might have experienced and felt about the journey and what happened after they hit land.

Michael Crotty, choreographer for *Naamah's Ark*, shares, "*Naamah's Ark* presented an ideal opportunity to foster collaboration between faculty and students. Embedded in the work is the notion of inclusion and glimpses of hope amid dire straits."

Gwyn Smith, junior Elementary Education major from Murray, Utah, includes, "The most rewarding part of preparing for this concert has been working with so many people of all practices to bring the story to life. When we worked with the choir for the first time it was so exciting. They brought an energy to the performance that we as dancers don't get to experience very often. We don't get the opportunity to have live music when we perform on a regular basis. It definitely changes the dynamic and makes the performance feel more full and lively."

Enjoy the sound of a new and unique telling of the story of the Ark from Naamah's perspective. For more information, 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 includes graduate programs in the fields of arts administration (MFA, MA), music education (MME), and music technology (MM). More than 60 full-time faculty and staff are engaged in teaching and mentoring nearly 700 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: *Naamah's Ark* Offers Opportunity for SUU's CPVA Students

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Who: Department of Music, Department of Theatre Arts and Dance, Southern Utah University

When: Friday, January 4, 2019 at the Cathedral of the Madeleine in Salt Lake City at 7:30 p.m. The second performance will be held on Saturday, January 12, 2019 at the Randall L. Jones in Cedar City at 2:30 p.m.

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

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