

THE UNCG SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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*presents*

THE  
OLD  
MAID  
&  
The Thief

Gian-Carlo Menotti

FEBRUARY 2-4, 2001  
RECITAL HALL  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC BUILDING

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
School of Music  
presents:

**The Old Maid and the Thief**

A Grotesque Opera in 14 Scenes

Music and libretto by  
**Gian-Carlo Menotti**

**Cast**

(in order of vocal appearance)

Miss Todd.....Rebecca Putland  
Miss Pinkerton.....Lori Lee Formby  
Laetitia, Miss Todd's maid.....Amy Castor  
Bob, a vagabond.....D. Paul Strickland

Miss Todd cover.....Aviva B. Ezring

The action takes place in a small town, somewhere in the United States.

First performed for the NBC Radio Network on April 22, 1939

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**Production Staff**

Producer/Stage Director.....David Holley  
Musical Director/Pianist.....Christy Wisuthseriwong\*  
Technical Advisor/Lighting Execution..Eric Stevie  
Set Construction.....Marlaina Seay  
Jeff Gillis  
Set/Lighting design.....David Holley  
Stage Manager .....Hilary Webb  
Stage Crew.....Julie Celona  
Jennifer Odom  
Natalie Smith

\*In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the  
Master's Degree in Accompanying

## Synopsis

Miss Todd (an old spinster) and her friend Miss Pinkerton (the town gossip) are interrupted while having tea by the arrival of a young man named Bob - a drifter. After dismissing Miss Pinkerton, Laetitia (Miss Todd's young maid) invites him in. They offer him a warm meal and a night's lodging, which turns into a full week, as they become infatuated with him.

Miss Pinkerton informs Miss Todd that a criminal has escaped from the nearby prison, and Miss Todd is horrified when Bob matches the thief's description! She and Laetitia decide they must get rid of their boarder, but every time they set eyes on him, they swoon and lose their determination to evict him. They even break into the liquor store when he asks them for some liquor.

When Miss Todd declares her love for him, he laughs in her face - Bob doesn't love her at all. When she runs out to call the police, he and Laetitia decide that (although he is not the thief about whom the town is gossiping) he will live up to his "reputation," by stealing everything Miss Todd owns and they run off together.

## Artists' Biographies

**Amy Castor** (Laetitia), soprano, graduated from the Eastman School of Music where she sang Gertrude in *Dialogues of the Carmelites* and covered Cherubino in *The Marriage of Figaro*. Last summer Amy sang the title role in *Amelia al Ballo* at the Centro Studi Italiani Opera Festival in Urbania, Italy and will be performing the one-woman drama *Flower and Hawk* this spring at UNCG. Appearances with UNCG Opera Theatre include Anna Gomez in *The Consul*, The Maiden in *The Wise Women* and the role of "Studio" in *Talk Opera*. Amy won first place at the 2000 NC-state NATS competition and second place at the Regional level.

**Aviva B. Ezring** (Miss Todd cover), originally from Charlotte, is a senior Vocal Performance major at UNCG. A mezzo-soprano, Aviva sang the title role in *Carmenella* for over 1500 elementary school children with the UNCG Opera Theatre's Tour to the Schools last fall. Additional appearances with the UNCG Opera Theatre include her portrayals of Vera Boronel in last Spring's production of *The Consul* and as an Angel in Conrad Susa's *The Wise Women*. Aviva has sung in the ensembles of *Tosca*, *Carmen*, *Don Pasquale* and *Un Ballo in Maschera* with the Greensboro Opera Company, and is three-time state and regional winner of the NATS competition.

**Lori Lee Formby** (Miss Pinkerton) is originally from Shreveport, LA and is in the D.M.A. program at UNCG. She earned her Bachelor of Music degree at Centenary College and her Master's Degree at Penn State University. Her past roles include the title role in *Susannah*, Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel*, and Mabel in *Pirates of Penzance*. Lori has performed solos with the Conroe Symphony Orchestra as well as the Shreveport Symphony Orchestra.

**Rebecca Putland** (Miss Todd) was born in France and raised in England. After completing undergraduate degrees in Art history and Vocal Performance at Oberlin, she earned her M.M. in Vocal Performance at UNCG. Rebecca is now pursuing a D.M.A. in Vocal Performance and was the stage director of UNCG's 2000 production of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Her past roles at UNCG include Mere Marie in *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, Grandmother in *Little Red Riding Hood*, the Mother in *Amahl* and Madame de la Haltiere in *Cendrillon*. She has performed in concert with the Augusta Symphony and Choral Society, and has been the soloist in Brahms' *Liebeslieder Waltzes*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass*, Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Handel's *Messiah*.

**D. Paul Strickland** (Bob) is a junior pursuing a Vocal Performance degree at UNCG. Later this month, Paul will sing the role of Fiorello in *The Barber of Seville* for the Greensboro Opera, with whom he has also appeared in the ensembles of *Tosca*, *Don Pasquale* and *Un Ballo in Maschera*. His past credits at UNCG include the role of the Toreador Prince in UNCG's 2000 Tour to the Schools production of *Carmenella*, and Mr. Kofner in last Spring's award-winning production of *The Consul*. His stage experience includes musical theatre roles such as Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof* and The Baker in *Into the Woods*.

**Christy Wisuthseriwong** (Musical Director and Repetiteur) is a native of Raleigh, where she received her Bachelor's Degree in piano performance from Meredith College. This production serves as her Master's Degree recital in accompanying at UNCG; Christy has been solely responsible for coaching the singers and playing all rehearsals and performances. She served as the rehearsal pianist/accompanist for the UNCG Opera Theatre productions of *The Wise Women*, *The Consul* (for which she was also the orchestral pianist), and various scenes programs. Christy also served an accompanist for Greensboro Opera Company's production of *Un Ballo in Maschera*.

## Upcoming UNCG Opera Events

Jacques Offenbach's  
**ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD**

April 5, 6 & 8, 2001

Taylor Theatre

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
**GREENSBORO**