THE BOB COLE CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC AT	CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH AND THE COLLEGE OF THE ARTS PROUDLY PRESENT:

THE OPERA INSTITUTE

OPERA SCENES

STAGE DIRECTOR: ELI VILLANUEVA
MUSICAL DIRECTOR: BRIAN FARRELL
PIANISTS: GUK-HUI HAN, BRIAN FARRELL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2018 2:00PM

GERALD R. DANIEL RECITAL HALL

PLEASE SILENCE ALL ELECTRONIC MOBILE DEVICES.
Welcome to Opera Scenes 2018 at The Bob Cole Conservatory!

This year Eli and I chose a program revolving around the theme of Desires and Consequence. Our story begins with Scene 2 from Puccini’s beloved Suor Angelica. In the spring, the Opera Institute will present Poulenc’s Dialogues des Carmélites, which also takes place in an 18th-century convent and also tells a deeply moving story of a nun’s faith and courage in the face of death.

After Suor Angelica, we present scenes from operas by Mozart, Massenet, Offenbach, Gounod, and two American composers: Douglas Moore and Carlisle Floyd. Carlisle Floyd’s immensely popular Susannah tells the story of a young girl from Tennessee who is cruelly shunned by her church. The poignant scene we are performing this afternoon is the moment Susannah realizes that she is no longer welcome at church gatherings. Susannah is a rare treat because it’s one of the only operas to be sung with a southern drawl!

It has been a joy for both Eli and myself to work with an incredibly talented pool of singers here at The Bob Cole Conservatory. I am always amazed at the dramatic ability, vocal talent, and professionalism of this small group of performers.

Please enjoy this afternoon’s program, and many thanks for your support!

Sincerely,

Brian Farrell
Opera Institute
Bob Cole Conservatory of Music

“Desire & Consequence”

“Our world begins with the morning rituals of a convent: women in service of the Abby and of each other. During the process of their chores the topic of desire comes up. The universe calls on another group with their own desires. Suor Angelica claims she has no desires, but she is mistaken...”

—Hindu Rig Veda
Men have seen this community of cloistered women and desires grow. Two young men attempt to approach the women, only to be challenged by a guardian.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Act 1—”Marsch, marsch, marsch” from *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* (1782)

Osmin: Tim Cervenka
Belmonte: Slater Astle
Pedrillo: Cesar Ballardo

Unsuccessful, the two retreat to the safety of the group. However, another man’s desire compels him to try... He wishes to approach Sour Angelica, whom he desires, and it seems she desires him...

Act 1—Scene 1 from *Die Zauberflöte* (1791)

Tamino: Dominic Preston
First Lady: Belinda Gonzalez
Second Lady: Valentina Bocca
Third Lady: Ashley Likins

The three ladies part and the gate is open. The men are free to approach and they all do—except Tamino. Angelica/Butterfly prepares the space with flowers for his return.

Giacomo Puccini

Act 2— Flower duet from *Madama Butterfly* (1904)

Cio-Cio-San: Madeleine Adragna
Suzuki: Christina Choate

The two have prepared the space and a celebration slowly emerges from the people who are present. Overjoyed by the stirrings of their desires, people begin to be free with their urges. Some are still learning what their desires are and what to do about them...
Jules Massenet

Act 1—Scene from Manon (1884)
Manon: Mariah Maglalang
Lescaut: Justin Baptista
Bretigny: Tim Cervenka
Guillot: Cesar Ballardo
Poussette: Emily Booth
Javotte: Candelaria Dangerfield
Rosette: Nancy Morgan
2 Guardsmen: Slater Astle, Dominic Preston

Jacques Offenbach

Act 1—Excerpts from Les Contes d’Hoffmann (1881)
Olympia: Emily Booth
Hoffmann: Dominic Preston
Spalanzani: Cesar Ballardo
Cochenille: Slater Astle
Nicklausse: Nancy Morgan
Chorus: Ensemble

Two men suddenly collapse from their desires and a doctor is needed.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Act 1—Finale from Cosi fan tutte (1790)
Fiordiligi: Selene Fernandez
Dorabella: Christina Choate
Despina: Mariah Maglalang
Don Alfonso: Tim Cervenka
Ferrando: Thomas Murphy O’Hara
Guglielmo: Justin Baptista

When others see the struggles the two men are having with their desires, they blame the one person who let this happen by allowing the gate to be opened...

Carlisle Floyd

Picnic Scene from Susannah (1955)
Susannah Polk: Anneka Remp
Elder McLean: Tim Cervenka
Elder Gleaton: Slater Astle
Elder Hayes: Dominic Preston
Elder Ott: Justin Baptista
First Man: Cesar Ballardo
Mrs. McLean: Madeleine Adragna
Mrs. Gleaton: Valentina Bocca
Mrs. Hayes: Candelaria Dangerfield
Mrs. Ott: Ashley Likins

During all this judgement, no one notices two people coming together, until it is too late...
The desire for normalcy forces the community back to their side of the gate, while the two lovers must say goodbye for now.

Charles Gounod
Act 4—Duet from Roméo et Juliette (1867)
Roméo: Thomas Murphy O’Hara
Juliette: Selene Fernandez

Stage Director Eli Villanueva possesses outstanding credentials as a performer and is a respected name as a stage director and published composer. He has appeared internationally in leading baritone roles including Figaro in The Barber of Seville, Marcello and Schaunard in La Bohème, and Falke in Die Fledermaus with the San Francisco Opera Center, LA Opera, and for the Cultural Arts Festival in Cortona, Italy. For the LA Opera, Mr. Villanueva directed the acclaimed production of Noye’s Fludde at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in downtown Los Angeles conducted by Maestro James Conlon. This event combined a community cast and orchestra of over 200 as well as professional artists from LA Opera. He is resident stage director for LA Opera’s acclaimed Education and Community Programs department. For their In-School Opera programs, he teaches and directs more than 1,500 students annually in original productions. These one-act operas include his very popular compositions, Figaro’s American Adventure and The Marriage of Figueroa, working with his brother LeRoy Villanueva as librettist. Mr. Villanueva’s compositions are praised for their appeal to both audiences and performers. In addition, compositions ranging from solo vocal to choral works to popular handbell songs, can be found through publishing companies like Fred Bock Music and Laurendale Associates. Mr. Villanueva has appeared as guest stage director for universities throughout Southern California.
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