

GRANT PARK ORCHESTRA AND CHORUS

Carlos Kalmar Artistic Director and Principal Conductor

Christopher Bell Chorus Director



Wednesday, August 15, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Jay Pritzker Pavilion

RYAN OPERA CENTER: THE OLD MAID AND THE THIEF

Grant Park Orchestra

Carlos Kalmar Conductor

Julia Faulkner Director

Artists of the Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center

Ann Toomey Soprano

Whitney Morrison Soprano

Lauren Decker Contralto

Christopher Kenney Baritone

Gian Carlo Menotti

The Old Maid and the Thief

ANN TOOMEY

WHITNEY MORRISON

LAUREN DECKER

CHRISTOPHER KENNEY

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THE PATRICK G. AND SHIRLEY W. RYAN OPERA CENTER is the professional artist development program for Lyric Opera of Chicago. Since its inception in 1974, the Ryan Opera Center has been recognized as one of the premier programs of its kind in the world. That standing is maintained by providing the finest up-and-coming singers and pianists with unparalleled training and experience. The program is administered by Dan Novak, director; Craig Terry, music director; Julia Faulkner, director of vocal studies; and Renée Fleming, advisor. Each year the Ryan Opera Center selects 12-15 gifted young artists from more than 400 applicants to join its program. Beginning in the spring, they arrive in Chicago to join the full-year residency program, under the guidance of Mr. Novak, Mr. Terry, Ms. Faulkner and Ms. Fleming, as well as Anthony Freud, Sir Andrew Davis and numerous other opera professionals. Ensemble members are immediately immersed in the world of opera and vocal performance. Coaching sessions and master classes are augmented by performance and understudy experience in Lyric Opera's regular season productions, as well as other Ryan Opera Center concerts and recitals.



ANN TOOMEY (Laetitia), a Michigan native and third-year Ryan Opera Center member, completed her master's degree at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, where she appeared in *Così fan tutte*, Jack Perla's new opera *Shalimar the Clown*, and Brahms' *A German Requiem*. Ms. Toomey holds a bachelor's degree from Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan, where she was heard in *Così fan tutte*, *Gianni Schicchi*, Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 and Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass*. She was also a member

of the Gerdine Young Artist program at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis in 2015, singing in *La rondine* and understudying the title role in Tobias Picker's *Emmeline*. Ann Toomey was a 2016 national semifinalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and an award recipient in the 2015 Corbett Opera Scholarship Competition at UCC-CM. Last season, she performed in the Harris Theater's "Beyond the Aria" series and debuted with Lyric Opera of Chicago in *Die Zauberflöte*; in the upcoming season she appears with Lyric Opera in *Elektra*.



WHITNEY MORRISON (Miss Pinkerton), a Chicago native and second-year Ryan Opera Center member, earned her bachelor's degree in vocal music and pedagogy at Alabama's Oakwood University, where she portrayed Miss Pinkerton in Menotti's *The Old Maid and the Thief*. Ms. Morrison's training also includes study at the Eastman School and at Germany's Neil Semer Vocal Institute. Among her performance credits are an appearance at the Rochester Institute of Technology's celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s

legacy, "MLK Expressions"; her debut at Rochester's Kodak Hall singing Gershwin's *My Man's Gone Now* with the Eastman Wind Ensemble;

and *Don Giovanni* with Chicago's Floating Opera Company. Whitney Morrison has won top prizes in the National Classical Singer University Competition, R. Nathaniel Dett Club NANM Scholarship Competition, and Musicians Club of Women Competition. She has also received a Richard F. Gold Career Grant and is a two-time recipient of the UNCF John Lennon Endowed Scholarship. Last season at Lyric Opera of Chicago, Ms. Morrison sang in *Rigoletto* and *Die Walküre*, and this year appears in *Idomeneo* and *Elektra*.



LAUREN DECKER (Miss Todd), a Wisconsin native and third-year Ryan Opera Center member, was a national semifinalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and received the Lola Fletcher Scholarship from the American Opera Society of Chicago. Ms. Decker holds a bachelor's degree in vocal performance from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She participated in the Up North Vocal Institute (Boyne Falls, Michigan), where she performed in Barber's *A*

Hand of Bridge; spent two summers at Dolora Zajick's Institute for Young Dramatic Voices; and participated in the American Wagner Project (Washington, D.C.). Her recent appearances include a gala performance at the Harare International Festival of the Arts in Zimbabwe, Verdi's Requiem with the Apollo Chorus of Chicago, and the Harris Theater's "Beyond the Aria" series. At Lyric Opera, Lauren Decker has performed in *Die Zauberflöte*, *Rigoletto*, *Die Walküre* and *I Puritani*, and in this season will be heard in *Il trovatore*, *Elektra* and *La traviata*.



CHRISTOPHER KENNEY (Bob), a native of Hawley, Minnesota, joins the Ryan Opera Center for his first season in 2018-2019. Most recently, he was a member of Washington National Opera's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program. While there, he performed in *The Barber of Seville*, *The Little Prince* and the premiere of Missy Mazzoli's *Proving Up*. He was also a soloist in Bernstein's *Songfest* with the National Symphony Orchestra. His previous opera appearances include

Die Zauberflöte, *Rigoletto*, *Così fan tutte*, *Don Giovanni* and the title role in Anton Rubinstein's *The Demon*. In summer 2017, Mr. Kenney was an apprentice at Santa Fe Opera. He is a three-time winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council District Auditions and winner of the 2014 Alltech Vocal Scholarship Competition. Christopher Kenney is an alumnus of Concordia College, University of Kentucky and Philadelphia's Academy of Vocal Arts. He debuts with Lyric Opera of Chicago in the upcoming season's *Cendrillon* and *La traviata*.





Gian Carlo Menotti (1911–2007)

THE OLD MAID AND THE THIEF (1939)

Scored for: two sopranos, solo contralto, solo baritone, piccolo, flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, two horns, two trumpets, trombone, timpani, percussion, piano and strings

Performance time: 60 minutes

First Grant Park Orchestra performance: August 7, 1953; Leo Kopp, conductor; Adelaide Bishop, Henrietta Chase, Mary Kreste and Thomas Tipton, soloists

Time: 1939. Place: Miss Todd's house in a suburban neighborhood.

SCENE 1. In Miss Todd's parlor, Miss Pinkerton arrives for an afternoon of chat. The conversation progresses from the weather to gossip to former loves. They are interrupted by a knock on the door. Miss Pinkerton leaves and Laetitia, Miss Todd's maid, ushers in Bob, a stranger. Miss Todd is generous to the stranger and invites him to stay overnight. **SCENE 2.** In the kitchen, Miss Todd and Laetitia exchange impressions of their visitor and wonder what to do about the gossipy neighbors. **SCENE 3.** Laetitia serves Bob breakfast in bed and urges him to stay for a week, but tells him that to prevent a neighborhood scandal, he shall be known as a cousin from Australia. Bob agrees. **SCENE 4.** In the street, Miss Pinkerton warns Miss Todd that a thief has just escaped from the county jail. Miss Todd is taken aback when she learns that the convict's description matches Bob's. **SCENE 5.** Miss Todd and Laetitia deliberate on whether to turn Bob in or keep him a secret. Worried about charges of housing a criminal, they decide to keep him. They also decide that they will "borrow" money from the Women's Club treasury and bribe him to stay. **SCENE 6.** While mending Bob's trousers, Laetitia sings, "What a curse for a woman is a timid man." **SCENE 7.** Miss Pinkerton, panicked, announces that there have been reports of robberies in the neighborhood. Diverting to the topic of the weather, she sneaks in a question about the "Australian cousin." **SCENE 8.** Bob, restless in his room, decides to leave despite his daily stipend. When Laetitia comes in, she begs him to reconsider and he says things might be a little more bearable if he had a drink. **SCENE 9.** Laetitia tells Miss Todd that Bob will leave unless he gets some liquor. Since Miss Todd directs the Prohibition Committee, she cannot be seen buying alcohol. **SCENE 10.** At 2:00 in the morning, Laetitia and Miss Todd break into the liquor store and steal several bottles of gin. **SCENE 11.** The next morning, back in the parlor, Miss Pinkerton brings news of the previous night's theft. The drunken Bob bursts into the room, and Miss Todd quickly ushers Miss Pinkerton out. **SCENE 12.** Now that Bob has been exposed, Laetitia and Miss Todd urge him to run away, but he claims to have done nothing wrong. When they confess they have been stealing for his sake, Miss Todd asks, "Would you see me in prison?" He replies, "I don't see any reason for keeping you out." Outraged, Miss Todd leaves to call the police. **SCENE 13.** Left alone to guard Bob, Laetitia suggests that they steal Miss Todd's car and run away together. They ransack the house and escape. **SCENE 14.** Miss Todd returns, realizes what has happened, and faints.