30th Anniversary

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Artwork by Mishael Lee

Bizet's CARMEN

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INTERMOUNTAIN OPERA ASSOCIATION

Welcome To our 30th year of The Opera

President's Message

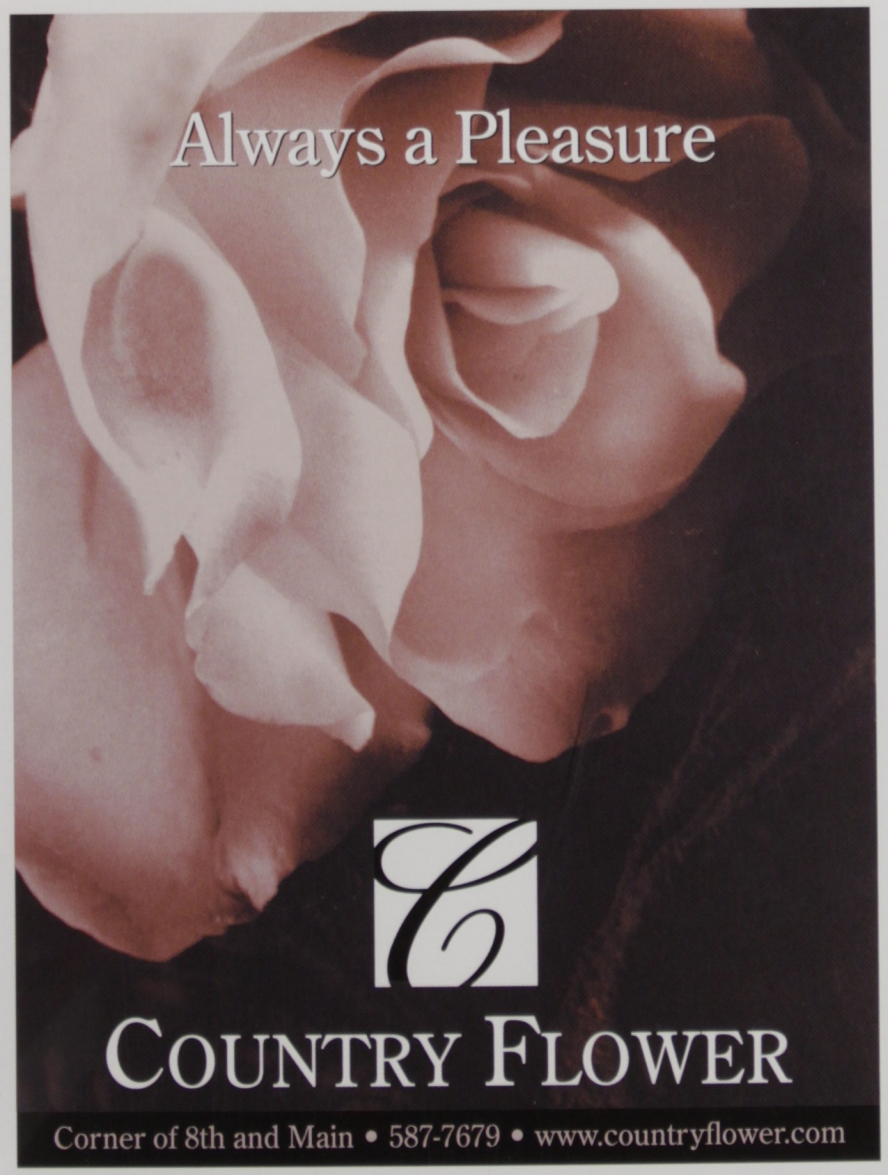


The Board of Directors of the Intermountain Opera Association welcomes you to our first "Season of Opera" and the 30th Year of professional opera in Bozeman. As the Gallatin Valley grows, so must the IOA change and grow. To this end we have launched several new projects. The first major one is developing a system to allow purchase of tickets through the Internet in an effort to reach new audiences. Secondly, we have developed a growth plan to guide us as we move into the future. Thirdly, we are increasing our efforts to connect with our schools to educate young people on the joys of opera.

All of the above efforts -- and there are more underway -- put us right in step with the increasing popularity of opera nationwide which has become obvious from the rave reviews accorded to the telecasts of live opera presented in movie houses all over the country by leading opera companies such as the Metropolitan Opera of New York and the San Francisco Opera Company. These reviews tell us that patrons who would like to see operas but are unable to afford high seat prices in major cities love the intimacy of the movie theaters where faces and action can be seen up close. We believe we are offering the best of all possible opera-viewing opportunities here in Bozeman. Though the Willson is not a perfect venue, our low seat prices, the relatively small auditorium, and our supertitles allow opera lovers in our region to truly enjoy our superb, live professional productions.

My thanks to a very dedicated and talented Board of Directors, advisors, and staff for all the time they put into making IOA one of the best regional operas in the country.

Janet Young, President IOA



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John Banovich - Artist

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OVERTURE

INTERMOUNTAIN OPERA ASSOCIATION

Message from the Artistic Director



Dear Friends,
Welcome to Intermountain Opera's 30th year of professional, fully staged opera in Bozeman. In celebration, we invite our audiences to join us for our inaugural Season of Opera. We begin with this May's production of *Carmen* and continue the festivities with *Die Fledermaus* in October.

Carmen is arguably one of the world's most popular operas. It has everything we expect in great opera - beautiful melodies, passionate characters, dramatic tension, energetic dance and colorful orchestration. Bizet and his librettists transport us to 19th century Spain where the story of the gypsy Carmen unfolds. Even if you have never attended an opera, these tunes may be familiar because the musical score has been adapted to a popular orchestral suite and even numerous television commercials.

Die Fledermaus is the ultimate party. What a great way to celebrate our first official season and launch the next 30 years of opera in Bozeman! This bubbly celebration of Strauss' best loved operetta takes place in Vienna when the waltz was king. The plot includes a wayward husband, his beautiful wife, her passionate ex-boyfriend, a super rich prince who is bored with the world, a maid who would rather be an actress and a wronged friend with a batty plan for revenge. The comedy flows as freely as the champagne. Our dates are October 10th and 12th. If you haven't already subscribed to our Season of Opera, be sure to mark the dates on your calendar.

Once again, we have assembled a cast of internationally acclaimed artists from around the country and brought them to Bozeman for an intense rehearsal period with our talented local performers, chorus and orchestra. This year, we are pleased to include several young artists who graduated from Montana State University and first experienced opera in our chorus. What makes live opera so special is the synthesis of theater, dance, and symphonic music, supporting the powerful communication of the human voice without microphones or speakers. This is your opera company and we invite your participation and continued support. Thank you for being here and supporting our collective endeavor, the magic that is opera!

Sincerely,

Linda Curtis



30th Anniversary

Intermountain Opera Association Presents

CARMEN



By Georges Bizet

Libretto Text by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halevy

Adapted from the novel by Prosper Merimee

Produced by the Intermountain Opera Association

Sets, Costumes and Supertitles by Robert Stivanello

Conducted by Julian Dawson

Directed by Steven Daigle

Choreographed by Rosa Mercedes

Lighting Design by Michael Hillenius

Production Coordinated by Margaret Cone

Cast in order of appearance

Morales ..... Christopher Johnson

Micaela ..... Jennifer Welch-Babidge

Zuniga ..... Jeffrey Buchman

Don José ..... Scott Piper

Carmen ..... Audrey Babcock

Frasquita ..... Wendy Monson

Mercedes ..... Catherine Viscardi

Escamillo ..... Carlos Archuleta

El Remendado ..... Jon Harney

El Dancairo ..... Lukas Graf

The Dancer ..... Rosa Mercedes

Partial funding for this project was provided by Montana Cultural Trust,
Montana Arts Council and National Endowment for the Arts

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NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

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SYNOPSIS

Act One: Square in Sevilla

A group of soldiers mills around a square in Sevilla. The peasant girl Micaela arrives looking for her sweetheart, Don José. The soldiers try to persuade her to wait, telling her that he will be back soon, but she declines. The relief soldiers, including José, arrive and the guard changes. Factory bells ring, signaling a break for the girls from the cigarette factory. One of the girls, the saucy gypsy Carmen, sings the famous *Habanera* and flirts with a seemingly indifferent Don José. Before leaving, Carmen tosses José a flower. After the girls have returned to work, José picks up the flower and comments on Carmen's mysterious charms. Micaela returns with a message for José from his mother. Suddenly an uproar occurs in the factory and Carmen is accused of stabbing another girl. The officer, Zuniga, arrests her and orders José to stand guard. Carmen succeeds in bewitching her captor, promising in the lilting *Seguidilla* to meet him if he frees her. He does so and is himself arrested.

Intermission

Act Two: Lillas Pastia's Inn

Carmen and her friends are enjoying themselves at Lillas Pastia's tavern where smugglers gather. Escamillo, a famous toreador, enters, sings his boastful *Toreador's Song* and makes a pass at Carmen, as does Captain Zuniga. The haughty gypsy turns them both down. She also refuses the invitation, sung in the brilliant quintet, from the smugglers to join them in a plot. She is waiting for Don José to be released. When he arrives she is about to dance and sing for him, but the bugle sounds, summoning him back to camp. She argues that if he truly loved her he would stay. Zuniga bursts in, orders José back, but José threatens his superior with a sword and thus must flee with the smugglers and Carmen to the mountains.

Intermission

Act Three: In the mountains

José is restless and discontented although he has been welcomed by the smugglers. He longs for his former life and is distressed by Carmen's indifference to him. Carmen and her two friends tell their fortunes with cards that predict the friends will find wealth and happiness, but Carmen and Don José will die. Micaela enters quietly and, frightened by a gunshot, hides. The smugglers return just in time to stop an altercation between the jealous Don José and Escamillo, who has come to find Carmen. Micaela is discovered hiding and persuades Don José to come with her as his mother is dying.

Intermission

Act Four: Outside the bullring

Escamillo and Carmen arrive together as an enthusiastic crowd gathers for the impending bullfight. Carmen promises the toreador she will be his if he is successful in the fight. He departs and Carmen's friends enter, warning her that the jealous Don José is in the crowd. Proudly she retorts that she is not afraid. A bedraggled Don José arrives and begs Carmen for her love. She rejects him disdainfully and throws him a ring he has given her. Everyone else leaves for the bullring, and as the crowd explodes into cheers for Escamillo's victory, José thrusts his knife into Carmen, killing her.

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The Artists



AUDREY BABCOCK
Mezzo-Soprano
Carmen

RECENT ACTIVITIES

- *Carmen*, title role, Westfield Symphony and New York Opera
- *Cavalleria Rusticana*, "Lola", Washington Concert Opera
- *Madama Butterfly*, "Suzuki", Mobile Opera
- *The Rape of Lucretia*, title role, Santa Fe Opera Apprentice Artists Showcase
- *La Cenerentola, "*Tisbe*",* Wolf Trap Opera
- Sung with Seattle Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Florida Grand Opera, New World Symphony

AWARDS & REVIEWS

- George London Award
- Opera Index Encouragement Award
- Fritz and Lavinia Jensen Foundation Award
- Awards in several competitions
- "Strutting comic sensation," as "Mrs. Lovett, Sweeney Todd," Washington Post Review

UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

- *Rigoletto*, "Maddalena", Florida Grand Opera
- One-woman cabaret, *Kurt Weill* music, *"Lily"*, Duplex, NY



SCOTT PIPER
Tenor
Don José

Returning for his 2nd role with Intermountain Opera

RECENT ACTIVITIES

- *Carmen,* "Don Jose", NYC Opera
- *Tosca,* "Cavaradossi", Utah Opera
- *La Boheme,* "Rodolfo", Seattle Opera and Opera Birmingham
- *Carmen,* "Don Jose", Tulsa, Des Moines Metro Operas
- North American Premiere of Mercandante's *Orazi & Curiazi* Minnesota Opera
- *Manon Lescaut,* "Des Grieux", Intermountain Opera

UPCOMING ROLES

- *La Traviata,* "Alfredo", Jacksonville Symphony;
- *I Capuleti e I Montecchi,* "Tebaldo", and *Madama Butterfly,* "Pinkerton", Florentine Opera
- *La Boheme,* "Rodolfo", New Israeli Opera



CARLOS ARCHULETA
Baritone
Escamillo

RECENT ACTIVITIES

- *Carmen*, "Escamillo," NYC, Tulsa & Dayton Operas
- *Il Trovatore*, "Count di Luna" & *Luisa Fernanda* "Nogales," Washington National Opera
- *Pagliacci*, "Silvio," & *Carmina Burana*, soloist, Orlando Opera
- *The Magic Flute*, "Papageno," Minnesota Opera
- *La Belle Helene*, "Agamemnon," & *Accuser*, "Madame Mao" (world premiere), Santa Fe Opera
- *Carmina Burana*, soloist, Utah Opera
- *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, "Figaro," Lyric Opera of San Antonio

UPCOMING ROLES

- *Carmen*, "Escamillo," Royal Albert Hall, London, UK
- *Florencia en el Amazonas*, "Alvaro," Cincinnati Opera



JENNIFER WELCH-BABIDGE
Soprano
Micaela

Returning for her 2nd role with Intermountain Opera

RECENT ACTIVITIES

- *Fidelio*, "Marzelline," Metropolitan Opera
- *Don Pasquale*, "Norina", Houston Grand Opera
- *Pearl Fishers*, "Leila", Opera Carolina
- *Le Nozze di Figaro*, "Suzanna", Utah Festival Opera
- *Die Fledermaus*, "Adele", San Francisco Opera and debut in Japan under Seiji Ozawa at Saito Kinen Festival in same role
- Winner of prestigious ARIA Award and Richard Tucker Career Grant, both in 2001



JEFFREY BUCHMAN
Baritone
Zuniga

- *Carmen,* "Zuniga", Tulsa Opera
- Faure's *Requiem,* Mozart's *Vesperae Solenne De Confessore,* Carnegie Hall
- *Madama Butterfly,* "Sharpless", Hong Kong Opera
- *LaBoheme,* "Marcello", Kentucky Symphony, Florida Grand Opera, Washington Summer Opera, Fresno Int. Grand Opera, Phoenix Metro Opera
- Studio Artist of the Year, Central City, CO, Opera

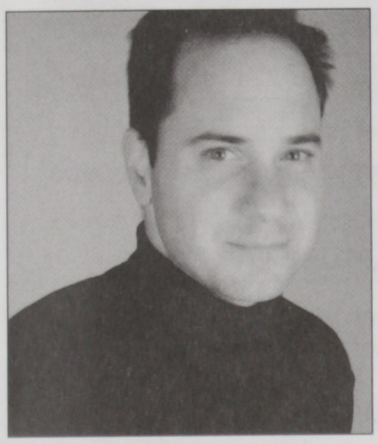
The Artists

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WENDY MONSON
Soprano
Frasquita
RECENT ACTIVITIES

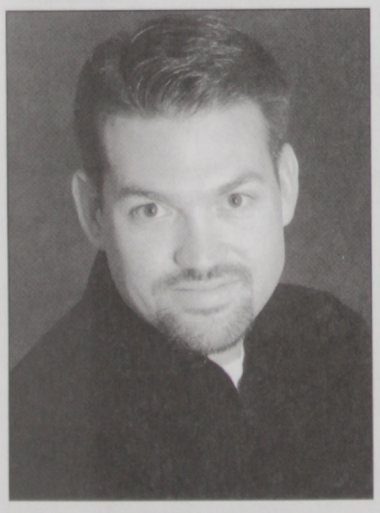
- 9th season with IOA
- *The Magic Flute* "First Lady", IOA, 2007
- *Oklahoma* "Laurey", Montana TheatreWorks
- *The Fantasticks* "Luisa", Montana TheatreWorks
- Title roles in opera/theatre scenes workshops



JON HARNEY
Tenor
El Remandado
Returning for his 2nd role with Intermountain Opera

- IOA Chorus Master since 2002
- MSU Assistant Professor of Music, teaching studio voice, opera/musical theater workshop and music history
- Montana State University Chorus Director
- M.M. and D.M.A. degrees in vocal performance, Luther College and University of Minnesota
- Studied with Clifton Ware.
- One of 12 teachers nationwide selected to participate in 2002 internship under master teacher Elaine Bonazzi
- More than 25 principal & supporting roles in opera, operetta and major works with orchestra and chorus

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LUKAS GRAF
Baritone
El Dancairo
RECENT ACTIVITIES

- 5 times IOA chorus member
- *Dead Man Walking*, "Owen Hart", University of Colorado (CU)
- *West Side Story*, "Diesel", CU
- *Les Miserables*, Musical Director, Missoula Community Theatre
- IOA Scholarship Recipient, 1996-2001
- Studying for M.Mus, Performance & Pedagogy and M.Mus, Choral Conducting, (CU)
- B.A. Mus., MSU, 2001



CATHERINE VISCARDI
Soprano
Mercedes
RECENT ACTIVITIES

- Soloist, St. James Music Series, Bozeman J.S. Bach's *Magnificat*, soloist, Bozeman Symphony Mozart's *Requiem*, soloist, Greater Bridgeport (CT) Symphony
- Handel's *Messiah*, soloist, Norwalk & Allentown Symphonies
- Young Artist Residencies: Ash Lawn Opera (VA), Portland (OR) Opera; *Magic Flute*, "Queen of the Night", in outreach productions
- Holds music degrees from Vassar College (NY) & Mannes College of Music (NY)



CHRIS JOHNSON
Baritone
Morales

- Fourth year with IOA
- Currently master's student, Indiana University Jacobs School of Music
- Native of Billings, MT
- BA Music, MSU
- 2004 Concerto/Aria Competition winner, MSU
- Award winner, District Metropolitan Opera Auditions, Coeur d'Alene Symphony Young Artists Competion

---



ROSA MERCEDES
Dancer/Choreographer

- Born & raised in Barcelona Spain
- Work featured by Metropolitan Opera, Opera di Roma, Michigan Opera Theatre, Cincinnati Opera, Baltimore Opera, Washington Summer Opera, Florentine Opera, Austin Lyric Opera, Dallas Opera, Florida Grand Opera.

OPERA PRODUCTIONS

- *Samson et Dalila, Aida, Carmen, La Traviata, La Gioconda, Die Fledermaus, Salome, Aida, Ballo in Maschera, Die Zauberflote, Coronazione Di Poppea, Romeo et Juliette, Don Giovanni, Turandot, The Merry Widow, La Vida Breve*



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Determination

Tonight, after months of preparation and dozens of people combining their own imagination, skill, and talent, this live performance appears before us.

Success

To all the cast, crew, orchestra, and "behind the scenes" people who put forth an exceptional effort to make quality opera happen in Bozeman, thank you.

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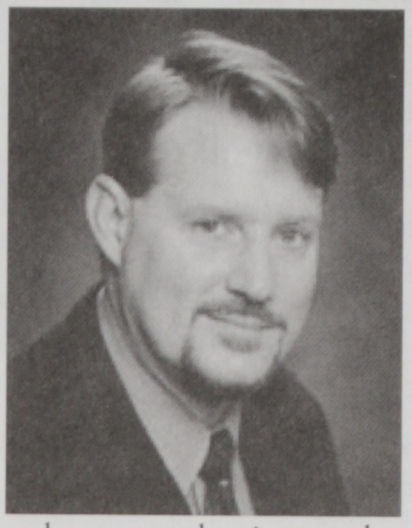
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THE STAFF

Director Steven Daigle



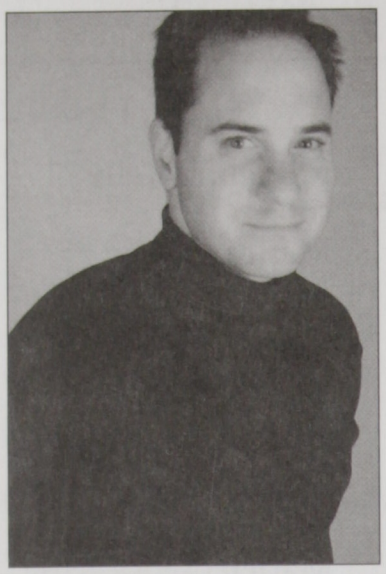
- Intermountain Opera First season
- Associate professor of opera, Eastman School of Music
- Head of Eastman Opera Program
- Dramatic Director, Eastman Opera Theatre
- Part of the artistic staff for more than 200 lyric theater productions and production stage manager for more than 400 operatic productions
- M.M. degree in opera stage directing, Florida State University
- Bachelor's degree in vocal education and performance, Southeastern Louisiana U.
- Faculty, Kent State University 1989-96
- Acting Director Opera Theater program, Oberlin Conservatory 1994, 1996-97
- Faculty, Oberlin in Italy Program, Urbania, Italy Summer 1998

Conductor Julian Dawson



- Intermountain Opera, fourth season
- Born in Dublin, Ireland, of British parents
- Staff Accompanist for BBC, Scotland
- Associate Conductor, Royal Scottish National Orchestra and Scottish Opera
- Coach and Associate Conductor, Glyndebourne Opera, England
- Director of Orchestras and Opera at Illinois State University
- Brevard Music Center Opera Conductor, nine seasons
- Principal Coach: Chicago Opera Theater
- Conductor: Mikado, Pirates of Penzance, The Magic Flute, Intermountain Opera
- La Bella dormente net bosco, Respighi, Urbania, Italy, 2006
- L'Egisto, Cavalli, De Paul Opera Theatre, Chicago, 2005

Choral Director Jon Harney



- IOA Chorus Master since 2002
- MSU Assistant Professor of Music, teaching studio voice, opera musical theater workshop and music history
- Montana State University Chorus Director
- M.M. and D.M.A. degrees in vocal performance, Luther College and University of Minnesota
- Studied with Clifton Ware.
- One of 12 teachers nationwide selected to participate in 2002 internship under master teacher Elaine Bonazzi.
- More than 25 principal & supporting roles in opera operetta and major works with orchestra and chorus.

Children's Chorus Director Charlotte Colliver



RECENT ACTIVITIES

- Choir Director, SacajaweaMiddle School
- Director of choirs, vocal soloist, Organist, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Belgrade, MT
- Choir, voice and piano adjudicator across state of Montana
- Middle school choir clinician across state
- Aida, soloist, IOA

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Susan & Greg Gianforte, Jane & John Hodges, Anna & Eric Lindeen, Barbara & Norm Lloyd, Bea & Jim Taylor



INTERMOUNTAIN OPERA ASSOCIATION

THE CHORUS

Soprano
Maria Kazachenko
Michelle Hager
Tabby Spencer
Ellen Trygstad
Suzanne Wilson

Alto
Karla Nielsen
Shelly Eaves
Eugenie Drayton
Morgan Jones
Meghan Walker
Ellen Stephenson

Tenor
Travis Mills
Shane Colvin
Jacob Fjare
Telmar Lochridge
Evan Pederson
Pedro Pinardo

Bass/Baritone
Bruce Rich
David Summerfield
DJ Jones
Bill Price
John Tengelson

CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Cecilia Bohr
Katie Dickensheets
Eric Friesenhahn
David Gaetano
Arlen Guest
Amber Halstad
Madeline Harney
Emily Johnson
Madeline Kelly
Maddy Kroff
Verena Lawrence
Alec Marshall
Lexi Monson
Madeleine Rassaby
Tami Renner
Ryan Wasia
Rian Zetzer



Children's Chorus Rehearsal

INTERMOUNTAIN OPERA ASSOCIATION

THE ORCHESTRA

Violin I
Carrie Krause, Concertmaster
Stephen Cepeda, Assistant Concertmaster
Susan Platt
Ian Nicklin
Sharon Eversman

Violin II
Christa Sheasby, Principal
Jennifer Frye
Jennifer Yung
Kayla Pierce

Viola
Mary Carson, Principal
Matthew LaRocca
Robert Anderson

Cello
Ilse-Mari Lee, Principal
Peter Landeen, Asst. Principal

Bass
Jon Ford, Principal

Bassoon
Susan Wadsworth

Flute
Susan Makeever, Principal
Karen Yonowitz

Oboe
Lorna Nelson

Clarinet
Greg Young, Principal
Mary Ann Jacobson

French Horn
Sherry Linnerooth, Principal
Brooke Morgan

Trumpet
Jerry Makeever, Principal
Dan Wood
Mathew Makeever - on stage

Trombone
Kim Bares, 1st Trombone
Amanda Bares, 2nd Trombone

Percussion
Jeffrey Vick, Principal
Mark Sullivan

Harp
Angela Guthrie

INTERMOUNTAIN OPERA ASSOCIATION

OUTREACH

In addition to delighting opera lovers with professional performances for 30 years, Intermountain Opera Association reaches out to our community and beyond in numerous other ways. Some examples of IOA outreach over the years include:

- Incentives to MSU students through scholarships and awards
- Sponsorship of a poster art contest at Bozeman High School
- Provision of opera videos and magazines to Bozeman Public Library and Bozeman High School Library
- Free public classes prior to the opera
- Co-sponsorship with Wonderlust, an adult educational organization, of free classes and lectures
- Sponsorship of opera programming on Yellowstone Public Radio and Public Television
- In-school visits from cast members
- Field trip to Willson School for pupils to learn about staging an opera
- Participation in Rich–Media Web-based education for rural students in conjunction with MSU's Burns Communication Center
- Collaboration with MSU business students in marketing survey

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1045 Reeves Rd E. Suite B
Bozeman, MT 59715
585-7878

Anne Schlenker
1735 Oak St, Suite D
Bozeman, MT 59715
994-9189

Matt Blades
2001 Stadium Dr, Suite C
Bozeman, MT 59715
556-8164

Trenton Huntsinger
91 West Madison, Suite A
Belgrade, MT 59714
388-0665

Greg Rotert
3508 Laramie Dr., Suite 4
Bozeman, MT 59718
586-5879

Justin J. Davis
676 Ferguson, Suite 3
Bozeman, MT 59718
586-8640

PRODUCTION STAFF

Sets, Costumes, Supertitles	Robert Stivanello
Conductor	Julian Dawson
Stage Director	Steven Daigle
Artistic Director	Linda Curtis
Choreographer	Rosa Mercedes
Production Coordinator	Margaret Cone
Choral Director	Jon Harney
Children's Chorus Director	Charlotte Colliver
Orchestral Coordinator	Susan Platt
Pianist	Kenneth Christensen
Choral Accompanist	Judith Diana
Stage Technical Manager & Lighting Designer	Michael Hillenius
Assistant Stage Manager	Kenneth Christensen
Costumes	Liz Babbitt
Makeup & Hair	Stephanie Morales
Props	Margaret Cone, Liz Babbitt
Supertitles Coordinator	Carole McClean
Willson Coordinator	Michael Hillenius

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Jack Day
Martha Biel
Jon Harney
Coco Douma
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Lee Hains
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Sleeping Giant Middle School, Livingston • Sheridan High School, Sheridan

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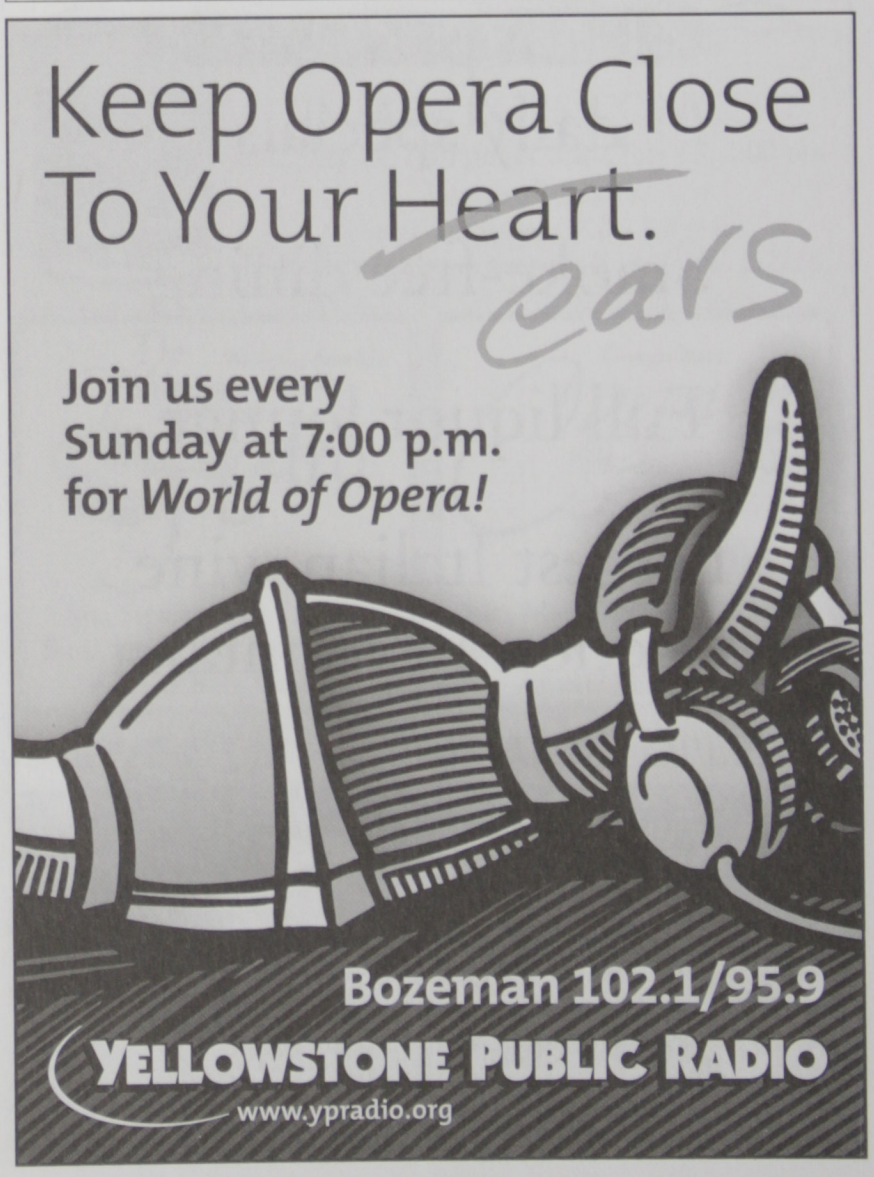
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INTERMOUNTAIN OPERA ASSOCIATION

Intermountain Opera Endowment Fund

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From a rather inauspicious beginning thirty years ago the Intermountain Opera Association has achieved a stature and prominence as the premier presenter of top caliber operatic performances throughout much of the intermountain west, consistently featuring outstanding musical talent drawn from the major operatic venues of the nation.

It is to the perpetuity of this remarkable legacy to the arts community, thus established, that the **Intermountain Opera Endowment Fund** has been created. To assist in assuring the future of opera production at the current level of quality as a treasured art form and to honor the dedication of many over the years, especially Mrs. Robert W. Martin Jr., who have made this success possible, your gift will truly assist in securing that future.

Presently the fund has received initial pledges of $45,000, which will immediately be used to begin an expanded program, offering more than one annual production to include Chamber and Light Opera. At the same time it will be used to initiate and pursue educational opportunities and programs for the schools and universities that will serve to introduce and expand exposure in and for the community that has offered such generous support since IOA's inception.

To begin achieving the goals listed above there are many ways to begin contributing and to begin financially assuring that opera and operatic education will continue here in Southwest Montana, they include: Planned Giving • Lump Sum Gifts • Estate Gifts • Deferred Gifts

Remember all charitable gifts are tax deductible for both Federal and State tax returns, as well there are many special tax exclusions regarding charitable contributions.

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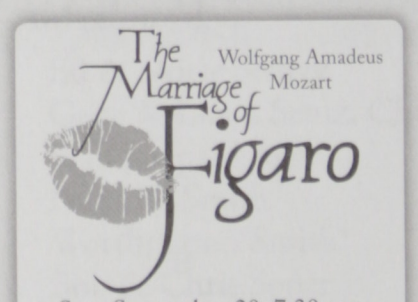
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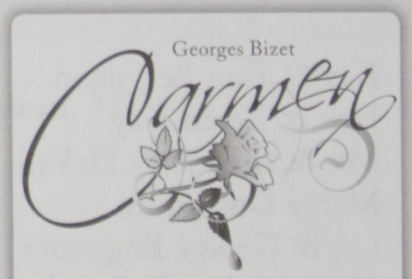


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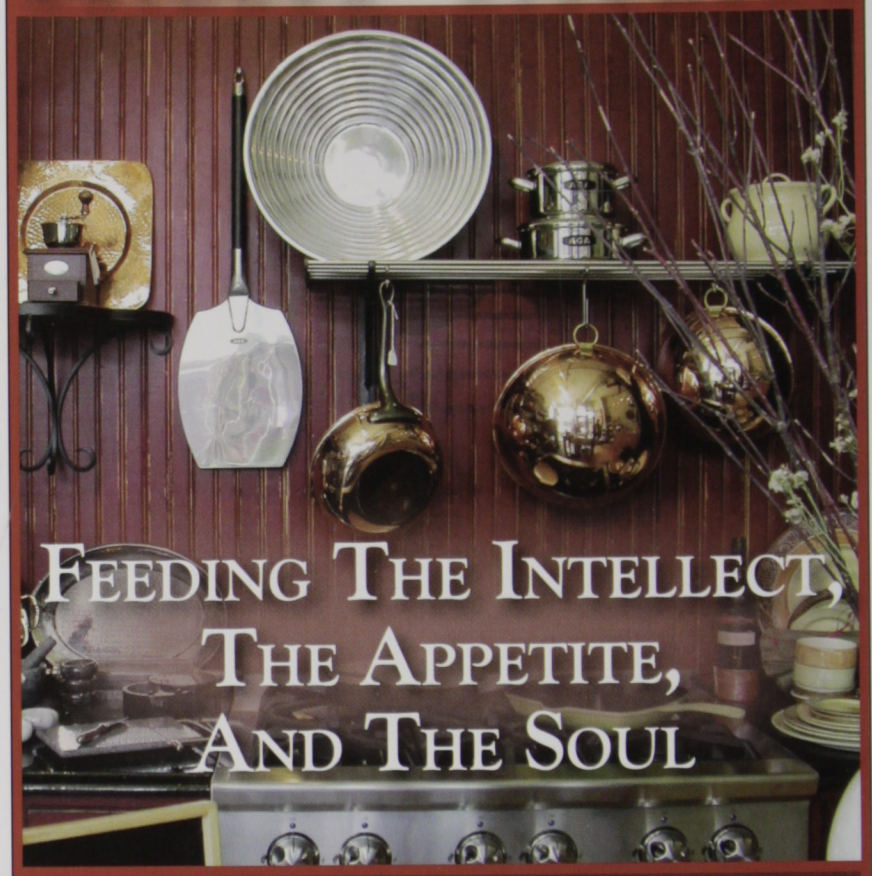


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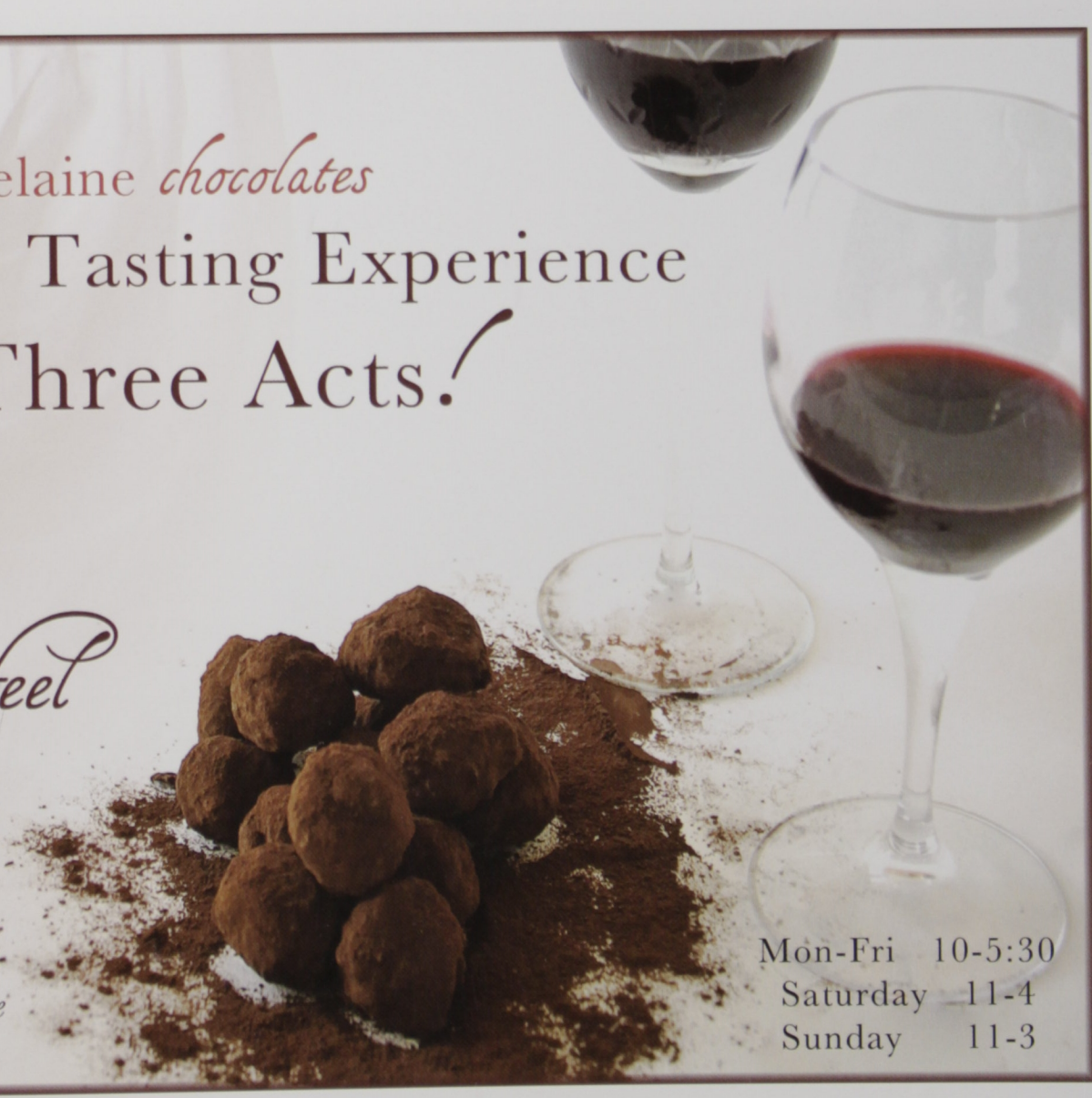
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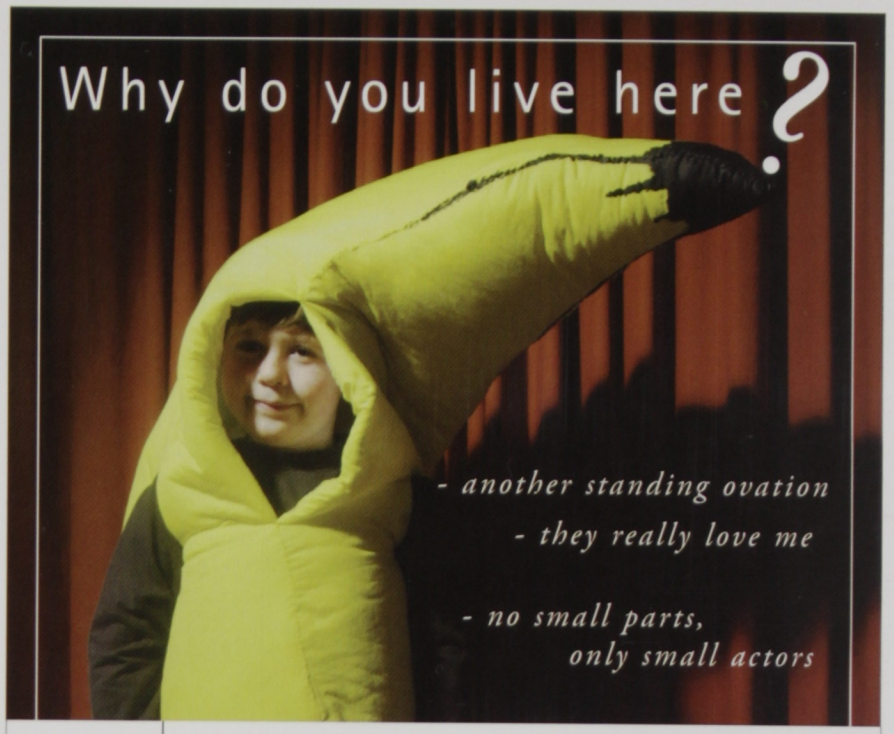
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