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Music for Lovers and Other Strangers VI, February 11, 2006

Glenn Block Director
Illinois State University

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Illinois State University
College of Fine Arts
School of Music

Music for Lovers and Other Strangers VI

"NIGHT IN VIENNA"

Illinois State University Symphony Orchestra
Glenn Block, *Music Director*

Featuring:

Michelle Vought, *soprano*
Kathleen Randles, *mezzo soprano*
Christopher Hollingsworth, *tenor*

Center for the Performing Arts
February 11, 2006
Saturday Evening
7:00 p. m.

This is the seventy-seventh program of the 2005-2006 season.

Program

Please turn off cell phones and pagers for the duration of the concert. Thank You.

Overture to *Die Fledermaus*

Johann Strauss, Jr.
(1825-1899)

Suite from *The Firebird* (1911, rev. 1919)

Introduction: The Firebird and Her Dance; Variation of The Firebird
The Princesses' Round Dance: Khorovode
Infernal Dance of King Katschei
Berceuse
Finale

Igor Stravinsky
(1882-1971)

~ Intermission ~

from *Die Fledermaus* Czárdás

Johann Strauss, Jr.

Michelle Vought, *soprano*

Chacun à son goût (Prince Orlofsky's Song)

Kathleen Randles, *mezzo soprano*

from *La Bohème* Mimi's Aria

Giacomo Puccini
(1858-1924)

Michelle Vought, *soprano*

from *Les Misérables* Bring Him Home

Claude-Michel Schönberg
Alain Boublil

Christopher Hollingsworth, *tenor*

Mattinata

Ruggero Leoncavallo
(1857-1919)

Christopher Hollingsworth, *tenor*

Ideale

Francesco Tosti
(1846-1916)

Christopher Hollingsworth, *tenor*

from *Eileen* Thine Alone

Victor Herbert
(1859-1924)

Michelle Vought, *soprano*
Christopher Hollingsworth, *tenor*

Program Notes

Stravinsky's *Firebird*

The Suite opens with a mysterious Introduction. While wandering in the forest at night, the Prince Ivan encounters a magic *Firebird*, whose appearance is portrayed by quicksilver orchestral figures and gossamer instrumentation. The Prince is captivated by the Firebird's beauty and captures her. However, the Prince takes pity on the Firebird and sets her free. In gratitude, the *Firebird* gives the Prince one of her feathers and promises to aid him in his hour of need.

The Prince comes to the courtyard of an enchanted castle, where he finds thirteen beautiful Princesses, captives of the evil magician Katschei. Their dance begins with the flutes softly intoning a theme that will return in the majestic Finale. The oboe introduces the principal melody of the Princesses' dance, which maintains the utmost delicacy throughout. The Princesses warn Prince Ivan not to enter the castle, for Katschei has the power to turn intruders to stone. The Prince boldly ignores their warnings and enters the castle.

The Prince is suddenly confronted by Katschei's horrible servants, and ultimately, the magician himself. Katschei tries to turn the Prince into stone, but the hero produces the Firebird's magic feather. The *Firebird* appears and forces Katschei and his followers into a frenetic dance. The entire dance maintains a frightening level of energy and intensity that subsides only after a closing orchestral culmination.

When Katschei and his followers are exhausted, the *Firebird* lulls them to sleep. The solo bassoon, accompanied by the harp and strings, plays a haunting melody. An ascending harp glissando leads to a more impassioned section, followed by a return of the bassoon melody.

Katschei and his retinue are destroyed. All of the prisoners are set free, including the Thirteenth Princess, whom the Prince weds. Over string tremolos, a solo horn plays a variation of the theme that was first presented by the flutes in the Princesses' Round. Other members of the orchestra incorporate the melody, as the Finale builds to a grandiose climax.

Notes by Kenneth H. Meltzer

Upcoming Orchestral Events

Illinois State University Orchestra with Guests York High School
February 24, 2006 @ 8:00 p.m.
Music by Stravinsky, Holst, & Gould

Illinois State University Chamber Orchestra & Concert Choir
Tuesday, March 7, 2006 - 8:00 PM
Guest Faculty Artist, Kim Risinger, flute
Music by Bach, Handel & Prokofiev

Biographical Notes

Michelle Vought, soprano, serves as Associate Professor of Voice and Opera at Illinois State University. She has earned an excellent reputation throughout the country as a performer in opera, oratorio, and musical theater. She has performed with many opera companies, including Cincinnati Opera, West Coast Opera, Kentucky Opera, Whitewater Opera, Charlottesville Opera, Brevard Opera, Sorg Opera, and the Northern Kentucky Opera. Some of her roles include the Queen of the Night and First Lady (*Die Zauberflöte*), Musetta (*La Bohème*), Micaela (*Carmen*), Violetta (*La Traviata*), Gretel (*Hansel and Gretel*), Flora (*The Knot Garden*), Armida (*Rinaldo*), Konstanze (*Die Entführung aus dem Serail*), and Nannetta (*Falstaff*). She has also performed extensively in the operetta and musical theater genres.

A specialist in contemporary music, Ms. Vought has performed widely in the repertoire both at the national and international levels. Recognized for her expertise in the genre, she has been invited to perform and lecture at various conferences throughout the United States and in Limerick, Ireland, Toronto, Canada, and Newfoundland, Canada. In addition, she has done six recordings for the International Vienna Modern Masters label, a recording company which specializes in contemporary music.

A cancer survivor herself, Ms. Vought is especially proud of her cancer benefit concerts from which she has generated over \$10,000 for individual cancer patients. She completed her Doctorate of Musical Arts in vocal performance at the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati.

Kathleen Randles, mezzo soprano, has received critical acclaim for her work in opera, oratorio, and recital. She has appeared with numerous regional opera companies such as Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Glimmerglass Opera, Opera Illinois, and Dayton Opera. She has also appeared in concert with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, the Champaign-Urbana Symphony, and the Milliken-Decatur Symphony. Her stage roles include Augusta in *The Ballad of Baby Doe*, Tisbe in *La Cenerentola*, and Dame Quickly in *Falstaff*. She also specializes in the comic contralto roles in the operettas of Gilbert & Sullivan, most recently with Prairie Fire Theatre in Bloomington. Dr. Randles has a reputation for her emotionally compelling performances as a recitalist, and has appeared in recitals across the country. She holds degrees in voice performance from The Ohio State University and Northwestern University.

Christopher Hollingsworth, tenor, joined the ISU School of Music faculty in fall of 2004 as an Assistant Professor in Voice and Co-director of the Opera Practicum. Mr. Hollingsworth has appeared with various regional opera companies in the United States. His operatic credits include leading and featured roles in *Don Giovanni*, *Così fan tutte*, *The Magic Flute*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Kismet*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Romeo et Juliette*, *Carmen*, *La Traviata*, *Les Contes d'Hoffman*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Street Scene*, and *Amahl and the Night Visitors*.

Musical theatre credits include leading roles in *Joseph*, *Showboat*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, and *Big River*. Mr. Hollingsworth has also appeared with several regional orchestras as Tenor soloist in the *Messiah*, *Elijah*, *Christmas Oratorio*, *Saint Nicholas Cantata*, Mozart's *Mass in C*, and Haydn's *Lord Nelson's Mass*. He has also appeared as the Tenor soloist in Brahms' *Neue Liebeslieder Walzer* and *Zigeunerlieder*. He holds a B.M. in Performance from DePauw University, an M.Mus in Opera/Voice from Binghamton University, and has recently finished his D.M.A. in Performance and Literature at University of Illinois. Dr. Hollingsworth has served on the faculty at Syracuse University as Adjunct Professor of Voice

and Opera and at Lycoming College as an Adjunct Lecturer in Voice. In 2002, He made his first appearance with the Illinois State Symphony as tenor soloist in Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*. In February 2003, he sang Alfredo in a semi-staged version of *La Traviata*. Most recently he appeared as the tenor soloist in Beethoven's *Mass in C* with the Illinois State Symphony. In September 2005 he created the role of Nat in a world premiere of Nancy van de Vate's *Where the Cross is Made*. This opera will be released on the Vienna Modern Masters Label in 2006.

As a director, Dr. Hollingsworth created and directed Tri-Cities Youth Musical Theater Workshop which has served over sixty youth in the Southern Tier of New York since 1997. He produced scenes shows and was the Stage Director for *Fiddler on the Roof Jr.* Upon arrival in Champaign, Illinois, he acted as a stage director and vocal coach for the musical theater division of ISYM for two summers. Dr. Hollingsworth continued his involvement here in Bloomington-Normal with X-Plore Theatre through the Academy for Music and the Arts where he now serves as the Director for the Theatre wing. Recently, he has mounted a fully staged musical production of *The Sound of Music*. In November, he assumed the role of Musical Director for the Singing Y'ers which has a long and rich tradition here in Bloomington-Normal.

Glenn Block, conductor, has served as the Director of Orchestras and Opera and Professor of Conducting at Illinois State University since 1990. In addition, he is in his 23rd year as Music Director of the Youth Symphony of Kansas City. Prior to his appointment at Illinois State in the fall of 1990, Dr. Block served for 15 years as Director of Orchestras and Professor of Conducting at the Conservatory of Music of the University of Missouri - Kansas City and Music Director of the Kansas City Civic Orchestra. Born in Brooklyn, Dr. Block was educated at the Eastman School of Music. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California at San Diego.

A frequent guest conductor, he has appeared in over 42 states with all-state and professional orchestras. Foreign guest conducting has included concerts and master classes at the Fountainebleau Conservatoire in France, and concerts in Spain, Canada, Colombia, Estonia, Russia, Italy, Hungary, Austria and Czechoslovakia. He has served on the Boards of Directors for both the Conductors Guild and the Youth Orchestra Division of the American Symphony Orchestra League. The Youth Symphony of Kansas City and Dr. Block made their Carnegie Hall debut in June, 1997.

Dr. Block has served on the faculty of the National Music Camp at Interlochen as Resident Conductor of the World Youth Symphony Orchestra, and at the Interlochen Arts Academy as Visiting Conductor. In addition, he has served as Music Director of the Summer Festival Orchestra at the Rocky Ridge Music Center in Estes Park, Colorado.

In the summer of 2000, Dr. Block and the Youth Symphony of Kansas City were featured as the Festival Orchestra at the Western Slopes Music Festival in Crested Butte, Colorado and at festivals in northern Italy and Tuscany. In the summer of 2001, Dr. Block was been invited to return to Italy to guest conduct at a series of Italian music festivals with Italian orchestras and to teach conducting at the Accademia Boccherini in Lucca. Dr. Block and the Youth Symphony of Kansas City return to Italy during the summer of 2006 for a series of concerts at Italian summer festivals.

ISU Symphony Orchestra

Violin I

Mark Ericksen, *concertmaster*
Victoria Kuchta, *asst. concertmaster*
Antony Verner, *asst. concertmaster*
Christina Anderson
Sunhyung Cho
Hye-Ock Kim
Jennifer Kluchenek
Kate Markowski
Taylor Nix
Hyosun Yoon

Violin II

Vonique Wilson, *principal*
Alexander Choban
Rebekah Kronborg-Mogil
Arcadia Kust
Sun-Young Lee
David Victor

Viola

Colleen Kuraszek, *principal*
Colleen Doyle
Ashlei Isaiah
Pamela Kaufman

Cello

Aleisha Verner, *principal*
Juliane Festag
Gretchen Hornickel
Nate Kappes
Kim Wedesky

Double Bass

Dorian Jackman, *principal*
Mallory Alekna
David Genty
Chris Griffith
Karl Kieser
Jacob Mariani
Brandon Mooberry
Michael White

Flute

Emily Brooks, *principal*
Rachel Wiersbe
Erin Laco, *piccolo*

Oboe

Laura Israelsen, *principal*
Anna Keehan

Clarinet

Christina Quatrini, *principal*
Patrick Steadman
Jennifer Bendy, *bass clarinet*

Bassoon

Amy Zordan, *principal*
Michelle Sawyer

Horn

Anna Henry, *principal*
Christine Smeltzer
Tawnya Smith
Krista Reese
Kayla Jahnke

Trumpet

Joel Adair, *principal*
Timothy Dillow
Cary Ruclie

Trombone

Bradley Harris, *principal*
Matthew Gabriel
John Garvens, *bass*

Tuba

Erick Somogi, *principal*

Timpani

Michael Malgoza, *principal*

Percussion

Ryan Borden
Zachary Fosnaugh
Benjamin Stiers
Lawrence Rogers

Keyboard

Laura Lizut, *principal*

Harp

Julia Jamieson, *principal*
Katrina Koszczuk

Staff

Jennifer Kluchenek, *manager*
Pamela Kaufman, *librarian*
Victoria Kuchta, *tour manager, asst. manager*
Mark Eriksen, *webmaster*
Chris Griffith, *public relations*

Orchestra Committee

Colleen Kuraszek, *co-chair*
Amy Zordan, *co-chair*
David Victor
Kim Wedesky