Amahl and the Night Visitors

Gian Carlo Menotti

1-3 November 2019
Village Hall
Cast

Amahl………………………………………….Logan Goss
Mother………………………………………………Gina Lincoln
Melchior………………………………………………Jamie Palmer
Kaspar………………………………………………Brett Rowe
Balthazar…………………………………………Christopher Salvador
Page…………………………………………………Bryce Weber
Shepherds/Shepherdesses……………………………\textit{I Cantori}
Dancing Shepherds………………Brianna Bryan, Laura Egolf,
                        Andre González, Amelia Pekar,
                        Alejandro Quetel, Alyssa Rumbaoa,
                        Jared Sexton, Chase Wiedemann
Crew

Vocal/Stage Director.......................... Dr. Christine Janis
Music Director.............................. Dr. Kraig Scott
Stage Director.............................. Abigail Wissink
Movement Director......................... Daniel Rose
Stage Manager/Props Mistress.............. Clairra Eastwood
Costume Design............................. Kaelyn Plata
Lighting Design............................. Kyle Lambert
House Managers......................... Chelsea and Kyle Elssmann
Set Design.............................. Dr. Christine Janis, Abigail Wissink
Scenic Design............................ Heidi Kissinger
Poster Design............................. Adeline Tomarere
Light Board Operator..................... Catherine Thomsen
Sound Design/Operation................... Campus Sound
_I Cantori_ Coordination.................... Amelia Pekar
Set Construction........... Nathan Pittenger, Clairra Eastwood,
Abigail Wissink, Kenneth Lincoln,
Jonathan and Jared Singer,
Dr. Kraig Scott, Christopher Salvador,
Jamie Palmer, Alejandro Quetel,
Chase Wiedemann, Evan Neal,
Steve Janis, Daniel Rose,
Karl Thompson
Don Corbin
Orchestra

Conductor.................................................................Dr. Kraig Scott
Violin.................................................................Amy Dodds
                                                   Hannah Schafer
                                                   Ardeth Erickson
                                                   Holly Carpenter
Viola.................................................................Lyn Ritz
Cello.................................................................Benjamin Gish
Bass.................................................................Julia Woods
Flute.................................................................Lori Parnicky
Oboe.................................................................Jesse Cohen
Harp.................................................................Emma Dodds
Piano.................................................................Trevor Natiuk
Percussion.........................................................Koby Haigerty

I Cantori

Alejandro Quetel .................................................Alexa Davidson
Alexandra Bazan ..................................................Alyssa Rumbaoa
Amanda Gerling ....................................................Amelia Pekar
Andre González ...................................................Ben Griffin
Brianna Bryan .......................................................Cameron Bierwagen
Cameron Penaflorida .............................................Chase Wiedemann
Chloe Cook ..........................................................David Shepherd
Devon Border-Freymuller .......................................Don Corbin
Eli Chung ..............................................................Ethan Edwards
Hannah Follett ......................................................Hannah Gordon
Jacob Mayes ........................................................Jared Sexton
Jared Singer ........................................................Jonathan Singer
Josh Price ..............................................................Kayla Devai
Kimberley Owen ....................................................Laura Egolf
Lauren Threadgill ....................................................Nicholas Ault
Nicole Paypa .........................................................Paige Sawyer
Peter Thompsen .....................................................Sharon Luchak
Tamara Kibukeyvich .............................................Tori Redic
Director’s Note

*Amahl and the Night Visitors* is one of my favorite operas. I have dreamed of doing it here at Walla Walla University for several years and am grateful for the opportunity to share our production with you. When one sets out to do this show, the biggest challenge is finding a young boy to be Amahl - one who is musical enough to handle the intricate rhythms and harmonies found in the score, and one who has the vocal range (and whose voice won't change in the middle of the rehearsal period). We lucked out with our Amahl, Logan Goss. It has been a joy to work with such a hard-working and dedicated young man. Current music majors and two recent graduates, plus Walla Walla University's select choir, *I Cantori*, round out this amazing cast.

Last spring when we starting planning this opera, I never imagined that I would be directing and producing *Amahl*. While I have sung countless opera and musical theatre roles, I have never before directed, let alone produced, a complete show. Many pieces need to come together to bring a show to life, and I have been blessed through this process with colleagues who are as committed as I am to presenting a beautiful opera. Many thanks to my co-director and producer, Abigail Wissink, for teaching me the ropes of what needs to happen behind the scenes and helping to put all the pieces together. Thanks also to Kraig Scott for his masterful work with *I Cantori* and the orchestra.

Thank you for coming. Enjoy the show.

Dr. Christine Janis, Vocal and Stage Director
Director’s Note

It is a joy to offer this Christmas story early – on the first three days of November. But Christmas, at least a commercialized version of it, is already all around us. Menotti’s wonderful opera reminds us of what it really means to give and receive. In this space I need to give some credit and thanks.

Although the cast of our musicals has always drawn from the ranks of I Cantori (the select choir of Walla Walla University), I am especially excited this year to have the entire choir involved in this production. It is a joy to produce this show with them. All of the leads are also members of I Cantori (or very recent graduates) with the exception of our Amahl. Special thanks also to Dr. Christine Janis for her great vocal instruction of all these singers.

I also want to thank Abigail Wissink, our talented young director, who also sang in I Cantori for many years. Her understanding and experience in drama brought this show to life. Finally, this opera would not be possible without a live pit (balcony pit!) and I am indebted to the masterful musicians who comprise our orchestra. These talented local artists are also dear friends with whom I’ve had the joy to collaborate over many years.

The Kings carried gifts on their journey, the shepherds gave gifts to the Kings, the mother freely shared her hospitality, and Amahl gave away his valuable handmade crutch. Thank you for joining us to receive the gift of Menotti’s music. I encourage you to take some time this season to consider what gifts you can bestow, and on whom.

Dr. Kraig Scott, Music Director
Director’s Note

Bringing an opera to life is a project that I never imagined for myself, but when Dr. Janis asked me to join the directing team I knew that I was about to have a great experience. As you can imagine, the amount of work that it takes to create a show like this can be a bit staggering, but with this group of people it didn’t feel like work at all. Working with skilled people who all want to make the show the best it can be is something I hope for with each production, and this little opera has some of the most skilled and hard-working people I’ve had the pleasure to meet.

Thank you to Dr. Janis and Dr. Scott, who were gracious enough to think of their former student to work with them on this project. Thank you to Nathan Pittenger and Kyle Lambert, for unlocking doors and setting lights and filling in the gaps of my technical knowledge. Thank you to Kaelyn Plata, who made this show possible with her endless hours of work to costume over 40 people for this production. Thank you to Logan, Gina, Jamie, Brett, Chris, and Bryce for doing everything I asked and more. And finally, thank you to I Cantori. On top of your regular rehearsals and performances, you all brought your skill, passion, dance moves, set building skills, character work, and smiles to this show, and we could not have done it without you.

Abigail Wissink, Stage Director
GINA LINCOLN is a super senior majoring in vocal performance and mathematics. Her previous roles include those in *Guys and Dolls*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, and in the 2019 spring play *A Wrinkle in Time*. She is excited to hone her (less-than-refined) motherly instincts on the stage as Amahl's mother, and she hopes you enjoy the show!

LOGAN GOSS is 11 years old. He is in choir and was one of the main characters, Piki, in a class play called *The White Spider’s Gift*. He has performed in many talent shows and programs, and has performed in almost all of his school’s Cinco de Mayo programs. He has a black lab named Blue, a black cat, and two guinea pigs. He loves cooking, eating desserts, singing, and playing with his friends on the playground. His favorite subjects (in order) are writing, math, and music. His favorite book series is *Harry Potter* and his favorite movie is Max.

JAMIE PALMER is a sophomore music education major. He has been singing in choirs since he was four years old. Jamie sings baritone in University Singers and *I Cantori* and plays clarinet in Wind Symphony here at Walla Walla University. This is his first operatic role and he is excited for you to be here.

BRETT ROWE is a first-year graduate student pursuing a Master's in Teaching Certification. He is a recent graduate of Walla Walla University with majors in music and English. This is his first dramatic production, and he is excited to bring the role of the quirky King Kaspar to life, with inspiration from his own distinct enthusiasms.
CHRISTOPHER SALVADOR is a junior majoring in organ performance. His thespian roots range from British comedy—depicting the duplicitous Algernon in *The Importance of Being Earnest*—to musical Broadway as the morally conflicted Inspector Javert in *Les Misérables*. Deviating from his villainous roles, Christopher looks forward to presenting Balthazar’s (to quote Dr. Christine Janis) “yummy bass”.

BRYCE WEBER is a recent graduate from Walla Walla University's music department, who on occasion was also seen in wwudrama. Last fall he was Schroeder from *You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, and in the spring was seen as Calvin from *A Wrinkle in Time*. He is excited to be back as the Page for this production.
Crew Bios

CLAIRA EASTWOOD is a sophomore global communications major with minors in drama and psychology. This is her first official WWU backstage experience, and she is so excited to be stage managing this lovely, lovely show. She hopes you enjoy your time here and can’t hear her happy tears at all this beautiful music.

DANIEL ROSE has performed, choreographed, costume designed, and directed over 200 theatrical productions throughout his career. A few of his favorites include White Christmas, Godspell, 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Grease, Cendrillon, Beauty and the Beast, and Annie. He loves working with young adults because of their fully realized passions, and could not have asked for a better team for this show.

KAELYNN PLATA is a senior art major and this is the fifth production that she has costumed for. She wants to pursue a career in costume design and hopes to one day design for film or theater. She really enjoyed being a part of the crew that brought this opera to life.

KYLE LAMBERT will theoretically graduate from WWU this spring. After six years of studying mechanical engineering by day and theatre at night with a side gig in Denmark, he figures it’s about time. In the meantime, he is thrilled to still be a part of wwu drama and to bring the story of the manger to life. His last show was A Wrinkle in Time in spring 2019, for which he won an award for his lighting design.
Special Thanks

Jane Coffey
Dr. Angela Ferguson
Kristin Hessler
Kevin Loomer
Flor Smith
Bonnie Roemer
Adeline Tomarere
Chelsea and Kyle Elssmann
Auri Yates
Nathan Pittenger
Jonathan and Jared Singer
Kenneth Lincoln
Heidi Kissinger
Kaelyn Plata
Valley Vision
Gary’s Paint and Decorating
WA-HI Drama
WWCC Department of Theatre Arts
WWU Department of Communications
Upcoming Events

*MUSIC AT 7:*
Student Recital
Tuesday, 19 November 2019, 7 p.m.
Melvin K. West Fine Arts Center Auditorium

HOLIDAY CONCERT:
Steel Band and Big Band
Wednesday, 4 December 2019, 7:30 p.m.
Melvin K. West Fine Arts Auditorium

CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Friday, 6 December 2019, 6 & 8 p.m.
Walla Walla University Church

EVENSONG
Saturday, 7 December 2019, 4:00 p.m.
Walla Walla University Church

GUEST AND FACULTY RECITAL
Po-Chuan Chiang, *piano*
Cristian Neacsu, *violin*
Saturday, 19 January 2020, 7 p.m.
Melvin K. West Fine Arts Auditorium

The music department calendar may be viewed at:
http://music.wallawalla.edu