

# Opera class performs modern love scenes

New class offered again spring semester

By CORINNA QUILLIAM  
Contributing writer

High notes, shimmering vibratos, emotional scenes and torrid love affairs are the norm for any opera — and a particular WSU class.

Opera Workshop, offered by the School of Music and Theater Arts, will be holding a performance of various 20th century American opera scenes Tuesday, under the direction of Julie Wieck.

Wieck decided on the 20th century American composers because of the style of music.

"The music is more popular and easier for the students to sing," she said.

Since this is her first year teaching at WSU, Wieck did not know what to expect from the voices she would be working with, she said.

Although some directors choose many short scenes, Wieck decided to have fewer scenes, each lasting about 15 minutes.

"Short scenes may be more interesting for the audience, but the longer scenes give the students the opportunity to develop their characters," she said.

Wieck feels an opera workshop program should not only teach students how to develop stage presence and movement, but give them the chance to investigate operatic roles as well.

Starting out with a wide range of operas, Wieck narrowed the performance down to four, each dealing with possible stages of a relationship between a man and a woman.

"Street Scene," by Kurt Weill, will be the first excerpt performed, featuring eight cast members. Revolving primarily around characters Danny Buchanan and Anna Maurrant, in this scene Danny sings of the trials of impending fatherhood while neighborhood women laugh at his nervous antics. Anna then sings about the joy of pregnancy and childbirth and the previous troubles she has endured.

Anna is "an eternal optimist," said Shelby Davis, who will be performing the role. Anna wants life to be beautiful and easy, but reality is intruding, she said.

Her solo, referred to as an aria, tells of her torment over the fact that life is not fun, Davis said.

The second act is "The Old Maid and the Thief" by Gian-Carlo Menotti.

A story about the absence of love and the lengths to which people will go to get it, the scene opens with the maid, Laetitia, lamenting her loveless life. Then Bob, a wanderer taken in by Laetitia and Miss Todd, the old maid, talks about belonging to the open road and decides to leave.

## OPERA WORKSHOP CONCERT

• Free performance takes place 8 p.m. Tuesday in Bryan Hall

### • Scenes:

1. "Street Scene," by Kurt Weill
2. "The Old Maid and the Thief," by Gian-Carlo Menotti
3. "Trouble in Tahiti," by Leonard Bernstein
4. "The Telephone," by Gian-Carlo Menotti

The women, both clearly infatuated with Bob, must come up with a plan to make him stay and fill the void in their lives.

"Trouble in Tahiti," by Leonard Bernstein, is the third scene. One of the more emotional scenes, it portrays a married couple no longer able to talk to one another. Sam and

Dinah start the scene with what seems to be their typical morning argument, but after they go their separate ways, Dinah tells her psychiatrist of a dream she had of lost love.

After a surprise meeting in the street, they part once again, only to stop and begin remembering the love they once shared. This scene has an added twist provided by a trio that introduces the scene with a jazzy number, offering a complete contrast to the opera.

The final scene is centered around a telephone, lending the opera its name, "The Telephone," also by Menotti. This scene shows the beginning stages of a romance, but one constantly interrupted by the phone ringing or Lucy needing to call a friend.

Ben, the frustrated boyfriend, tries to tell Lucy he loves her but is never able to. After his proclamations are cut short several times, he leaves, the only way he seems to be able to get her attention.

Kris Kirkevold, playing the role of Ben, said this scene is his favorite. "This scene is the most lyrical and has the prettiest music," he said.

Each scene brings to life the problems many people in the real world face each day. The combination of singing and acting is a treat for either the seasoned theatergoer or those who have never attended.

The 12 students performing in the scenes auditioned at the beginning of the semester and will do so again if they wish to participate next semester. This class, Music 428, gives students with little or no experience the chance to learn opera, Wieck said.

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JULIE WIECK  
Director

## CORRECTION

In the Thursday edition of The Daily Evergreen, the story jumped to Page 9, "County: Meyer annexation cited as example of poor planning," said that Kaye Straight said the annexation was an example of poor planning. She actually said it was an example of poor planning process.

# ASWSU



**Entertainment:** ASWSU Entertainment & LAPS present: An evening of spoken Word w/ HENRY ROLLINS, November 21 in the CUB Ballroom @ 7pm. Tickets available in Lecture Notes on the 2nd Floor of CUB.



**Films:** Trainspotting Dec. 6th & 7th, 7 & 9:30pm CUB Auditorium. Just in time for Christmas!



**BAJA SEA KAYAKING!-ORC:** Leaving Dec. 22nd Returning Jan. 8th(?). No Experience Necessary; However, If interested need to attend Dec. 4th Sea Kayaking Class. Pre-Trip Meeting 7:00pm ORC, CUB B-22 Thurs. November 21 st. Come swim with 75 pound Halibut, eat excellent food, & light off 1/2 sticks of dynamite.



**Student Legal Services:** Applications are available for student interns at Student Legal Services for the Spring '97 Semester. Pick yours up at the SLS Office CUB 314. All Applications are Due Friday Nov. 22nd @ 12:00pm.



**Ku-au-mah:** (Means Cougar in Nez Perce Language) Meeting Nov. 20th @ 6pm, in the Native American Student Center. Everyone welcome!



**ASWSU Senate:** Today is Stimson Hall FREE FUN FRIDAY! Everyone is welcome. •Free games in CUB Game Room from 5pm to 8pm. •Free movies at 7pm & 9:30pm in CUB Aud. •Free Dance from 8pm.-Midnight in CUB Ballroom. •Taco Bell will remain open until 10pm. •Subway will give away free cold-cut combos.



**Ski Club:** Whistler/Blackcomb, Jan. 5th-10th. Sign Up Deadline: \$359.00 is due by 4pm on Tuesday, December 3, 1996. + \$25.00 damage deposit Sign up at Activities/Recreational Sports Dept., CUB 337, phone 335-9666.



**Coffeehouse:** Shawn Wilson, Saxophone player from Moscow. Tues. Nov. 19 12-1pm in Lair & 7:30-9pm in the DEN



**Veterans Affairs:** ASWSU Veterans Affairs Committee Web News Letter: <http://www.wsu.edu:8080/~vacomm/nl/> General Information: <http://www.wsu.edu:8080/~vacomm/>



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**GLBA:** Are you interested in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Issues? Do you have Gay family or friends? Come to ALLIES - Thurs. 11/21 at 4:00pm CUB B-17. Call 339-6388 for more information