

THE RALPH OPERA PROGRAM PRESENTS

GIACOMO PUCCINI'S

Gianni Schicchi

+

OPERA SCENES

APRIL 10 & 12, 2026 | STUDIO THEATRE

DIRECTOR: DR. TIFFANY BLAKE

MUSICAL DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR: DR. TIM BURNS

PIANIST: DR. JUHYUN LEE



**COLORADO STATE
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ORIGINAL OPERA SCENES, CREATED BY THE STUDENTS
APRIL 10 AND 12, 2026 | STUDIO THEATRE

“The Perilous Plight of Pipigiggio”

featuring Caccini’s *Amarilli*, and arias from Mozart’s *Le nozze di Figaro*,
Handel’s *Serse*, Scarlatti’s *Il Pompeo*

Caleb Green, Brooklyn McDonald, Mateo Novoa, Tirzah Rowe

“Promposal”

featuring arias from Handel’s *Alcina* and *Giulio Cesare* and Mozart’s *Le Clemenza di Tito*
Cecily Mash, Andrew Ressetar, Sophia Welker

“Le tragédie de Annie Mae”

featuring arias from Puccini’s *Turandot*, Macagni’s *L’amico Fritz*, and Verdi’s *MacBeth*

Abbi Brundrett, Matthew Mortensen, Emily Quiroga

INTERMISSION

GIANNI SCHICCHI, GIACOMO PUCCINI

Gianni Schicci

Lauretta

Rinuccio

Zita

Simone

Marco

La Ciesca

Gherardo

Nella

Gherardino

Dr. Spinelloccio/Notary

Buoso Donati

Deklin Herman

Sophia Welker

Matthew Mortensen

Cecily Mash

Caleb Green

Andrew Ressetar

Emily Quiroga

Brooklyn McDonald

Abbi Brundrett

Tirzah Rowe

Mateo Novoa

Koryn McManus

PRODUCTION TEAM:

Stage Director: Tiffany Blake

Conductor and Music Director: Tim Burns

Pianist: Juhyun Lee

Scenic Designer: Julia Slagle

Assistant Scenic Designer: Evan Riffe

Properties Designer: Tyler Offner

Lighting Designer: Margo Chupp

Associate Lighting: Koryn McManus

Assistant Lighting: Zack Taylor

Costume Designer: Molly Ardnt

Production Stage Manager: Bella Conahan

Assistant Stage Managers: Anna Higgins and Lee Solis

English Translation: Kenneth Jacobs and Tiffany Blake

Supertitles: Abbi Brundrett

Intimacy Coordinator: Charlotte Daysh

Crew

Wardrobe Crew: Anna Dean, Ani MacNicol

Lighting Board Operator: Soren Holmes

Deck Crew: Ella Peterson, Shane Preston

Supertitle Operator: Tiffany Blake

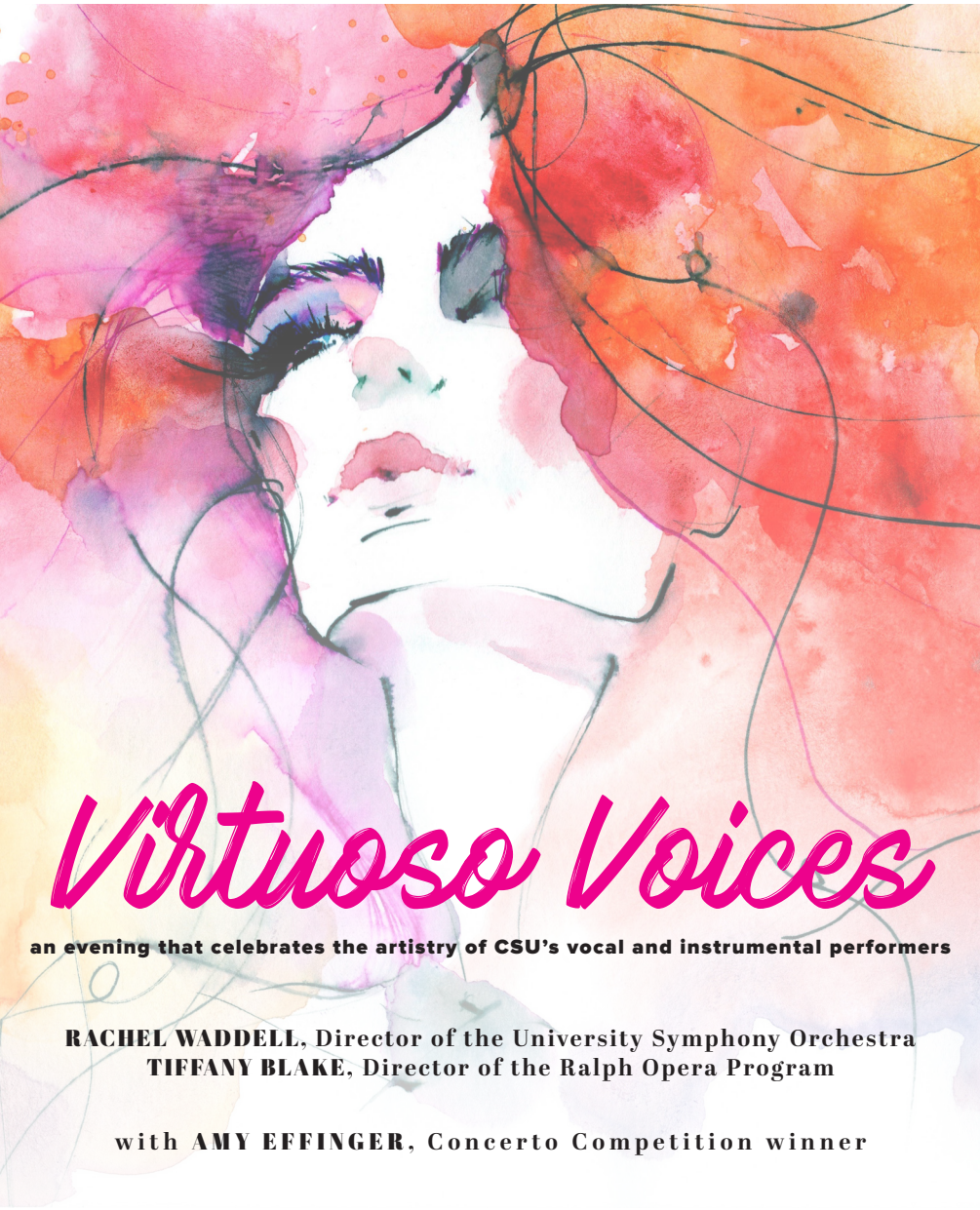
DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Updating or revising opera plots or settings can often meet with terrible results. I hope the revisions I've made to Puccini's little one-act gem will not have such results. Moving the action from the original setting of 15th century Florence, Italy to 1980's Hollywood seemed a fun way to demonstrate that some moral vices like greed, malice, and dishonesty can span the ages, as can the universal feeling of love that motivates both young Rinuccio and the crafty Gianni Schicchi. No matter the methods, all can agree that the morally corrupt relatives of Buoso Donati deserve their come-uppance!

SYNOPSIS

The Donati family, a very prominent family in 1980s Hollywood, is set to inherit the estate of their family patriarch, Buoso Donati, but here are rumors that the old man has left nearly everything to the church. The family begins a frantic search for Buoso's will. Young Rinuccio finds it and makes his Aunt Zita promise to let him marry his beloved Lauretta if there is enough money. They read the will, which proves the rumors were true, and the relatives finally shed genuine tears. Rinuccio suggests that Lauretta's father, Gianni Schicchi, a shrewd self-made man, can help them. Upon his arrival, Gianni learns that Buoso has passed and the family has been cut out of the will. Disgusted by the hypocrisy and avarice of the family, Schicchi is about to leave, but decides to stay when Lauretta proclaims her intention to marry Rinuccio and begs her father to help. The family faces their first obstacle when Dr. Spinelloccio shows up to check on Buoso, but Gianni helps them cover up the fact that Buoso is dead. After this clever move, the family decides to trust Gianni as he comes up with a plan to disguise himself as Buoso, call in a notary, and change the will to favor the Donatis. They are ecstatic until they realize that they all want the three most valuable items: Buoso's mansion, his oil fields in Texas, and his 1960 Jaguar. After a lengthy fight over who should get these items, the family decides to entrust this decision to Gianni. The relatives each try to get a promise from Schicchi that he will leave the best parts of the estate to them. Schicchi agrees with every secret request but warns that they must keep the secret forever or face criminal charges. When the notary arrives, the creation of the new will starts smoothly; the notary believes Gianni's imitation of Buoso and everyone receives a portion of Buoso's estate. However, Gianni saves the best for last, bequeathing the mansion, the oil fields, and the Jaguar all to himself. Naturally, the family is furious and begins to riot. While the Donatis do not get everything they wanted, Gianni gets to enjoy his brand-new, luxurious life, and Rinuccio and Lauretta can live happily ever after.

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RACHEL WADDELL, Director of the University Symphony Orchestra
TIFFANY BLAKE, Director of the Ralph Opera Program

with **AMY EFFINGER**, Concerto Competition winner

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