

THE RALPH OPERA PROGRAM PRESENTS:

THE OLD MAID AND THE THIEF

AN OPERA IN ONE ACT BY GIAN-CARLO MENOTTI

DIRECTED BY TIFFANY BLAKE

FEATURING CSU THEATRE STUDENTS



Colorado State University

THE OLD MAID AND THE THIEF

AN OPERA IN ONE ACT BY GIAN-CARLO MENOTTI

OPERA CAST:

Miss Todd: Emily Anderson

Laetitia: Mykayla Fitzpatrick

Bob: Patrick Saiff

Miss Pinkerton: Lucy Logan

COMMERCIALS CAST:

Fritz Nickels: Scotty Powell

Vivian Parker: Kaitlin Kennedy

Barney Calhoun: Will Hazel

Pianist and Musical Director: Chris Crans

Director: Tiffany Blake

Commercial Director: Amy Scholl

Commercial Curator: Walt Jones

Sound Designer: Mason Dill

Commercial Sound Designer: Patrick Middlebrook

Recording Engineer: David Walters

Sound Supervisor: Chris Carignan

Sound Design Mentor: Price Johnston

The *Old Maid and the Thief*, which premiered in 1939, was commissioned by NBC, and was one of the earliest operas to be composed expressly for radio performance. The composer, Gian-Carlo Menotti, served also as its librettist, and the plot was inspired by a visit to his partner and fellow composer Samuel Barber's hometown. Menotti found that beneath its quaint, "All-American" veneer, the town was a hot bed of gossip and small-town intrigue.

The piece is now largely performed by University opera programs in staged productions, but its inception as a radio production makes it a perfect vehicle for showcasing the talents of our music and theatre students in this time of COVID performance restrictions. We have taken the proverbial "lemons" served up to us by COVID, and created artistic and educational "lemonade", helping the students to learn how to act with their voices, and appealing to a bygone era lacking screens, which required much more of the imagination. Thank you for joining us and enjoy the show!



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