# Colorado State University **UPCOMING EVENTS**

VIRTUOSO SERIES CONCERT: Nuevo Historias With CSU Faculty Peter Sommer, Saxophone and Jazz Compadres 11/9 • Organ Recital Hall • 7:30 pm

> MEDIEVAL MUSIC RECITAL 11/101 • Organ Recital Hall • 7:00pm • FREE

## **GRADUATE STRING QUARTET**

Zinnia Quartet 11/11 • Organ Recital Hall • 7:30 pm

**DANCE:** Fall Dance Concert

11/13 • University Dance Theatre • 7:30 pm 11/14 • University Dance Theatre • 2:00 & 7:30 pm

VIRTUOSO SERIES CONCERT: Faculty Chamber Ensemble

11/16 • Organ Recital Hall • 7:30 pm

## JAZZ ENSEMBLES CONCERT

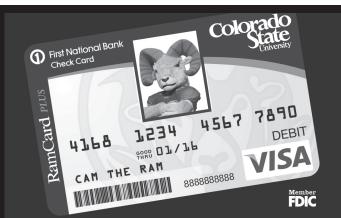
Jazz Ensembles I and II play the Music of Colorado Composers 11/17 • Griffin Concert Hall • 7:30 pm

event calendar • e-newsletter registration

## www.uca.colostate.edu

General Information: (970) 491-5529 Tickets: (970) 491-ARTS (2787)

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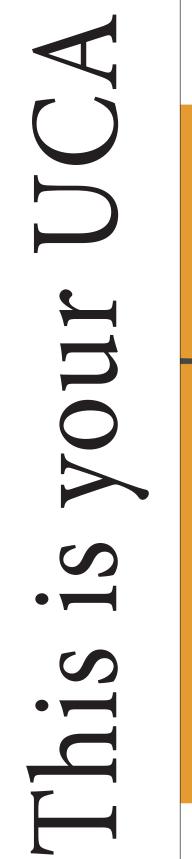
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## Presented by The Charles and Reta Ralph Opera Center

# HANSEL AND GRETEL *by* **ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK**

Stage Director	

Tiffany Blake

Conductors

Mariusz Smolij (11/6 and 11/8) Adam A Torres (11/13 and 11/14)

Repetiteur, Chorus Master and Music Director

Scenic Designer

**Properties Master** 

Lighting Designer

**Costume** Designer

Lauren Coghlan

Christopher Reed

Zhanna Gurvich

Tristan LeMaster

Kristen Borkovec

Laurel Wiley

Maile Speetjens

Hair/Makeup Designer

Production Stage Manager

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## **Organizations**

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## **Organizations**

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## Artistic Director: \$1,870—\$2,499

Jennifer Jarvis Peggy L. Trowbridge Peter D. Springberg and Lynette C. Jung-Springberg

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## CSU OPERA ORCHESTRA

#### First Violins

Paola Acosta\* Lily Lu Rachel Huenther Lydia Oates Katie Gardner Kadi Horn

### Second Violins

Kadin Kostelic\* Graeson VanAnne Tyler Adamthwaite Dmitri Ascarrunz Bailey Bremner

#### <u>Violas</u>

Joy Holz\* Sarah Chicoine Ben Roth Garret Durie <u>Cellos</u> Lydia Hynson\* Julius Hochmuth Jessie Salas Paul Walcott

## <u>Bass</u> Jordan Asker\* Daniel Probasco Zuri Kargbo

<u>Flute</u> Rachelle Crowell\*

<u>Oboe</u> Matt Heimbegner\*

<u>Clarinet</u> Emily Kerski\* Lara Nuss <u>Bassoon</u> Mikavla Baker\*

Horn Ayo Derbyshire\* Camille Glazer, *assistant principal* Nicholas Gledhill

<u>Trumpet</u> Samantha Ferbuyt\* Casey Cole

<u>Trombone</u> Amanda Tatara\*

Timpani Matt Brown

<u>Percussion</u> Matt Hollaway Jose Campuzano Emma Loeffler

## **TECHNICAL CREW**

Production Manager: Hally Albers Technical Director: Jay Seevers Costume Shop Director: Janelle Sutton Master Electrician: Andrew Killion Properties Master: Lauren Coghlan Charge Scenic Artist: Heidi Larson Assistant Stage Manager: Taylor Champion, Garrett Ching Associate Scenic Designer: Shay Dite Assistant Lighting Designer: Bernard Maxwell Assistant Technical Director: Brandon Ingold Costume Shop Manager: Maile Speetjens Assistant Master Electrician: Jessica Whitehead Costume Crafts Manager: Siobhan Gleason Supertitles: Emily Morris Carpentry Crew: Cooper Adams, Heather Adams Aidan Cox, Jessika Gill, Tristan LeMaster, D Sevits, Logan Smith, Ernan Torrez, Alex Zenk

#### Costume Construction Crew: Devin Anders, Tori Green, Molly Langeberg, Isabella Huff, Kinsey Riley, Kayla Ibarra, Kaya Rudolph, Sean O' Reilly, Lauren Scott, Nogah Seidemann, Gabrielle de la Torre, Dani Hansen, DeAnza Banuelos, Mason Weiss, Paula Sutton.

Wardrobe Crew: Stephanie Olsen, Rachel Hamalian, Amber Austin

Electrics Crew: Cierra Amavisca, Taz Arguello, Evelynn Hellman, Connor Hickman Jack Krause, Tristan LeMaster, Adam OConnell, Kent Washington

Paint/Properties

Crew: Cierra Amavisca, Mackenzie Cunningham, Lua Frontczak, Isabella Huff, Chandlier Oppenheimer, Rachel Rhoades, Heather Salyer, Lela Smith

Director Marketing & Publicity: Jennifer Clary

Publicity & Marketing Specialist: Mike Solo

Events Manager: Peter Muller

Assistant Events Manager: Charles Gillard

# Hänsel, a young boy: Ingrid Johnson

Gretel, his sister: Miranda Bashore

Gertrude, their mother: Marissa Rudd

Peter, their father: Justin Little

The Witch: Josh Colonnieves

The Sandman: Shannon Rookey

The Dew Fairy: Talia Fischer

Chorus: Anyaleen Bradley, Ahna Chevalier, Adelle McDaniel, Vanessa Doss, Arika Drake, Talia Fischer, Angie Fitzsimmons, Nina Forsyth, Brenna Fowler, Emily Gehman, Rhonda Goslin, Adrienne Harlow, Ashleigh Janda, Emily Morris, Shannon Rookey, and Hayley Voss

## COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY VOICE FACULTY | COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY DESIGN FACULTY

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The Charles and Reta Ralph Opera Center housed at the state-The Ralph Opera Center performs two fully staged productions of-the-art University Center for the Arts, is named in honor with orchestra each year, as well as multiple opera scenes programs, of Charles and Reta Ralph in recognition of their generous spanning the Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Modern eras. and continuing support of opera at Colorado State University. The Center provides ample performing opportunities for The Ralph's benevolence provides programmatic support undergraduate students. Graduate students fill leadership roles and professional development opportunities, as well as a and may participate in the Opera Fort Collins Apprentice Artist broad scholarship support system for students studying vocal program. Auditions for the Ralph Opera Center are held at the performance. beginning of each semester and are open to all CSU students.

## CAST

Friday, 11/6, 7:30 p.m.Sunday, 11/8, 2:00 p.m.Friday, 11/13, 7:30 p.m.Saturday, 11/14, 7:30 p.m.Ingrid JohnsonEmma GenellMiranda BashoreLydia Bechtel (Understudy: Shannon Rookey)Marissa RuddSarah Sanborn (Understudy: Anyaleen Bradley)Justin LittleSchyler Vargas (Understudy: Luke Thatcher)Josh ColonnievesAnthony WeberShannon RookeyEmily Thomas

Vanessa Doss

Price Johnston, Interim Director of Theatre Roger Hanna, Head of Design & Technology Lauren Coghlan Zhanna Gurvich Maile Speetjens Janelle Sutton

## **PROGRAM NOTE**

*Hänsel und Gretel*, a delightful children's tale set in the mystical German forest of Ilsenstein, is Engelbert Humperdinck's first opera. As many readers of the traditional Grimm Brothers fairytales know, the libretto is the story of a brother and sister who get lost in the woods. The pair stumbles upon a cottage made entirely of gingerbread, and the siblings are eventually spellbound by its occupant, the Knusperhexe (Nibblewitch), who has an appetite for small children.

*Hänsel und Gretel* was originally written as a favor to the composer's sister, Adelheid Wette, who requested Humperdinck write four songs to accompany the story for her children to perform. This idle project eventually lengthened into a singspiel (a light opera with spoken dialogue) dedicated to Humperdinck's new fiancée, and finally blossomed into the full-blown opera we know today. Premiered in 1893 in Berlin with conductor Richard Strauss at the podium, the work quickly became an international hit, and is now frequently performed in English in the United States. Today, however, you will be hearing the opera in its original German with English subtitles. Playful twists abound: while the witch is traditionally played by a mezzo-soprano, the role is embodied by a tenor for this performance.

Though this fairytale is sweet, it holds great depth of meaning. On the surface, the plot is simple, but Humperdinck's music heightens and advances the storyline to a level of great complexity. This can be attributed in great part to the composer's association with another exceptionally notable composer of the romantic era, Richard Wagner. Wagner was Humperdinck's mentor, and their close-knit relationship shows prominently in Humperdinck's operatic masterpiece. Years before working on *Hänsel und Gretel*, the younger composer collaborated closely with the operatic master on *Parsifal*. Humperdinck was Wagner's "closest assistant," even being trusted to write new material for *Parsifal*'s premiere performance. Similarities between *Parsifal* and *Hänsel und Gretel* are abundant. Humperdinck's borrowed techniques include using rhythmic variations for foreshadowing, relying on reoccurring musical motives that tie the storyline and the music closely together, and adhering to traditional German nationalistic opera idioms such as forest settings, mystical qualities, and lessons of morality.

A facet of *Hänsel und Gretel* that firmly places it in the hearts of both adults and children is the use of traditional German folk tunes, which is also prevalent throughout the opera. Gretel sings "Suse, liebe suse," a popular German nursery rhyme, to open Act One. If you have children with you, prompt them to listen for melodies they recognize, and to think of where they may have heard them before. These playful themes encourage listeners not to take Humperdinck too seriously. *Hänsel und Gretel* was written for the enjoyment of its audiences and was meant to entertain all ages, so sit back and enjoy as you are enticed to nibble on this musical delight!

~ Program notes by Liesl Bryant

### Act I

## SYNOPSIS

Hansel and Gretel are left at home to do their chores. Hansel complains about how hungry he is, and Gretel cheers him up by telling him a secret: A neighbor has given their mother a jug of milk, and tonight she'll make a rice pudding for them to eat! Their work is forgotten as they begin to dance and sing.

When their Mother returns, she is furious to find their chores undone. She threatens to beat them, and in her anger, she knocks over the jug of milk. She sends the children to the forest to look for strawberries. Alone, she expresses her sorrow and frustration that she is unable to feed her children, and asks God for help.

Peter, Hansel and Gretel's father, bursts into the house, roaring drunk, and kisses mother roughly. She pushes him away and scolds him for being drunk. He surprises her by taking from his pack a feast: vegetables, butter, flour, sausages, eggs, and even coffee! He explains to her that he successfully sold all of his brooms at the highest prices. Mother tells him of the the broken jug, and he helps her to find the humor in the situation. He asks where the children are, and she tells him that they are in the Ilsenstein forest. Horrified, father tells her that the evil Gingerbread Witch dwells in the forest, luring children with cakes and sweets and turning them into gingerbread. Father and mother rush to the forest to search for their children.

### Act II

Gretel and Hansel play and gather strawberries in the woods. Listening to a cuckoo bird, they eat the berries, pretending to be little birds themselves. Realizing the basket is empty, Gretel scolds Hansel and tries to look for more, but it's too dark for her to see. Hansel tries to find the way back, but he cannot. As the forest darkens, Hansel and Gretel become scared.

The Sandman and woodland creatures come to protect the children and lull them to sleep. The children sing their nightly prayer and then they fall asleep on the forest floor.

#### Act III

The Dew Fairy comes to wake the children. Gretel wakes first, and revels in the beauty of the forest and the birdsong. She wakes the sleepy Hansel and they talk about their mutual dream, of angels protecting them as they slept.

Suddenly they notice glorious gingerbread house!. Unable to resist temptation, they take a little bit of the house and nibble on it. As the children nibble, a voice calls out, and Hansel and Gretel decide that the voice must have been the wind, and they begin to eat the house. The witch comes out of the house and captures Hansel. The witch introduces herself as a friend to children, but Hansel and Gretel are suspicious and try to run away.Using her magic wand, the witch stops them and forces Gretel to tie Hansel to a tree. The witch feeds Hansel in order to fatten him before eating him.

The witch prepares her BBQ to roast the children. She wakes Hansel and asks him show her his finger. He puts out a stick instead. She feels it, and believing him too thin, calls for Gretel to bring out raisins and almonds to feed Hansel. As the witch tries to feed Hansel, Gretel steals the wand from the witch's pocket and frees Hansel from the witches' spell.

The witch tells Gretel to peek inside the oven to see if it is hot enough. Hansel softly calls out to her to be careful. Gretel pretends that she doesn't know what the witch means, and asks the witch to demonstrate. The witch leans into the BBQ and the children spring into action, shoving her into the BBQ.

The gingerbread children appear, asking to be touched. Hansel is afraid, but Gretel strokes one on the cheek, and she wakes. Hansel takes the witch's wand and, waving it, calls out the magic words, completely freeing the children from the spell. The gingerbread children celebrate and thank Hansel and Gretel.

Father is heard in the distance, calling for Hansel and Gretel. He and mother enter and embrace Hansel and Gretel. Meanwhile, the gingerbread children pull the head of the gingerbread witch from the BBQ. Father explains that this is heaven's punishment for evil deeds and reminds them, "When the need is greatest, God the Lord puts out His hand."

