

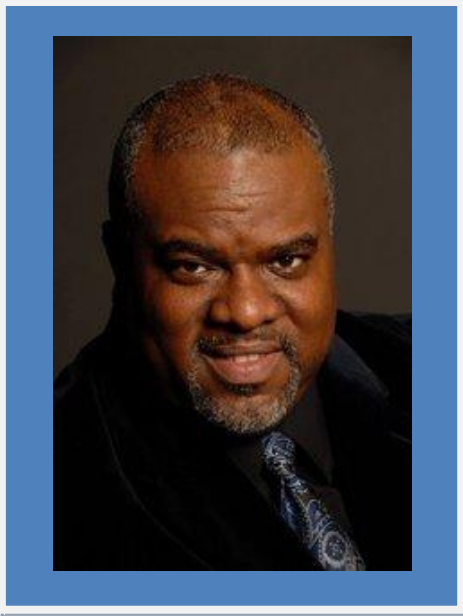
Bravi Tutti!

October 9, 2010

Morgan State University Opera Workshop Newsletter

Vol. 1 Issue 1

Greetings from the Artistic Director



Hello Friends,

We are entering the 7th Season of Opera Workshop here at Morgan State University and hope you will come and support us once again. We had a productive and exciting 2009-2010 academic year and an adventurous summer.

Last season we brought to you a beautiful production of Henry Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* and our 2nd Opera Gala in Gilliam Concert Hall with the Chesapeake Youth Orchestra. We launched the first ever 2010 Baltimore Summer Opera Workshop at Morgan with four performance, 5 master classes and our new series "Wisdom from the Journey", and a dramatic fireworks filled Labor Day Weekend Finale with the Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra at Freeman Stage at Bayside in Selbyville Delaware. This is a taste of what we will continue to bring to you for years to come.

On tap for the 2010-2011 Season is the Holiday opera *Amahl and the Night Visitors* by Gian-Carlo Menotti, two master classes featuring bass and Professor Emeritus of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and editor and compiler of the Anthology of Art Songs by Black American Composers and the New Negro Spiritual Collection, Dr. Willis Patterson and renowned baritone and the first African American voice teacher at Peabody Conservatory, Mr. William Ray, "Wisdom from the Journey" with Dr. Patterson, the spring 2011 Opera Gala featuring an unprecedented performance by pianist Chester Burke performing Rachmaninoff's Symphony No. 2 and Opera Arias, Scenes and Choruses of Bizet, Puccini, Verdi, Britten and more with the Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra and our friend and colleague Maestro Julien Benichou.

I hope you will join us!!

Peace,

Vincent Dion Stringer,

Lecturer and Director of Opera Workshop



Fall 2010

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, November 2, 2010

4-6:00 PM – Recital Hall

Master Class on Art Songs
Dr. Willis Patterson

Wednesday, November 3, 2010

11:00 AM – Recital Hall

"Wisdom from the Journey"
Speaker: Dr. Willis Patterson

Thursday, November 4, 2010

4-6:00 PM – Recital Hall

Master Class on Arias
Mr. William Ray

Amahl and the Night Visitors

By Gian-Carlo Menotti

Thursday, November 18, 2010

10:00 AM – Matinee (Schools)

7:00 PM –Opening Night

Friday, November 19, 2010 7:00 PM

Saturday, November 20, 2010

1:00 PM Matinee

7:00 PM Final performance

Recital Hall at Murphy

Spring 2011 Opera Gala

Sunday, March 13, 2011

5:00 PM Gilliam Concert Hall

Department of Fine and Performing Arts

Dr. Eric Conway Chairperson

Morgan State University Opera Workshop

1700 East Cold Spring Lane Baltimore, Maryland, 21251

(Phone) 443-885-4316 (Fax) 443-885-8312

www.msuopera.org

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Amahl and the Night Visitors

The Cast

Amahl, a crippled boy age 12

Malachi White,

Maryland State Boys Choir

Cameron Potts

Montebello Junior Academy

The Mother

Christen Brown, BA, Class of '11

Brittani McNeill, MA, Class of '12

Ashley Perry, BA, Class of '11

Candace Potts, BA, Class of '12

King Kaspar

Clarence Bell, BA, Class of '11

Ricardo Horsey, BA, Class of '12

Imhotep McLean, MA, Class of '12

King Melchior

Demetrius Taylor, MA, Class of '12

James Sweetney, BA, Class of '13

King Balthazar

Angelo Johnson, MA, Class of '11

Devan Brockenberry, BA, Class of '14

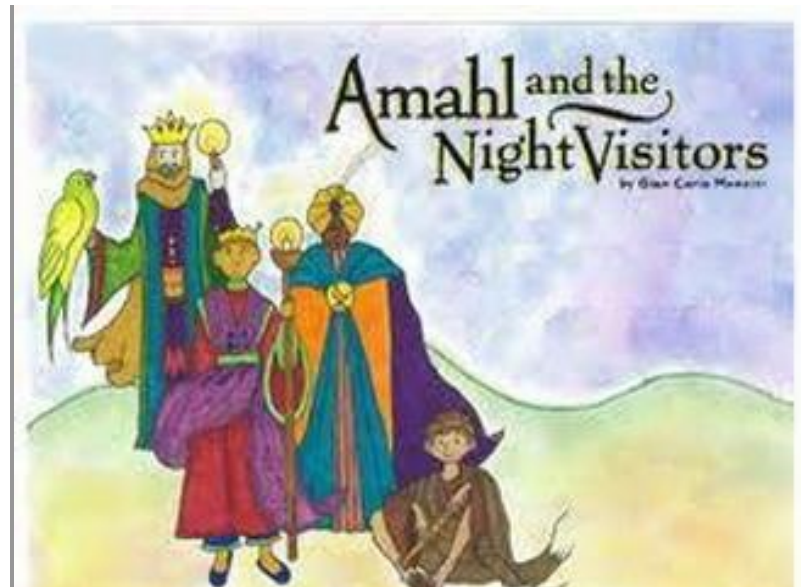
The Page

Willie Carter, BA, Class of '13

Frederick Odom, BA, Class of '12

Téron Prioleau, BA, Class of '11

A chorus Shepherds and Villagers



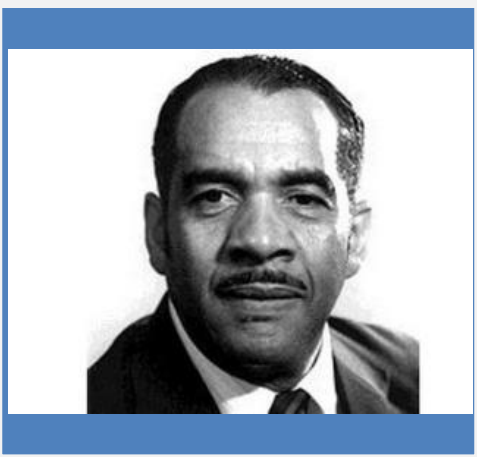
Synopsis

Amahl and the Night Visitors is an opera in one act by Gian Carlo Menotti with an original English libretto by the composer. Menotti wrote *Amahl* with the stage in mind, even though it was intended for television broadcast. It was commissioned by NBC [television] and first performed on December 24, 1951 in New York City, at NBC in Rockefeller Center, where it was broadcast live on television as the debut production of the Hallmark Hall of Fame. It was the first opera specifically composed for television in America. The opera is now a popular Christmas classic.

The opera is set in Bethlehem, in the first century, just after the birth of Christ. The story begins when the very modest home shared by Amahl -- a physically-challenged boy -- and his mother is visited by three splendidly-dressed kings who need to rest, as they in the midst of a long journey to visit a wondrous child . . .

Dr. Willis Patterson

Dr. Willis C. Patterson, professor emeritus of voice and past associate dean, joined the faculty of the University of Michigan in 1968 after having taught at Southern University (Louisiana) and Virginia State College. Dr. Patterson has concertized extensively in the U.S. and Europe and has appeared as bass soloist with major American orchestras. He was a Fulbright Fellow and a winner of the Marian Anderson Award for young singers. Dr. Patterson, who appeared as King Balthazar on NBC-TV in its production of Menotti's opera *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, has been seen professionally in such operas as Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, Beethoven's *Fidelio* and Puccini's *La Boheme*. He has served as president of the National Association of Negro Musicians and as executive secretary of the National Black Music Caucus.



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William Ray, Baritone

William Ray, born in Lexington, Kentucky, began his vocal training in his home town. He continued his studies at Kentucky State University, Frankfort, Kentucky; Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, from which he received his Bachelor's degree; Case Western Reserve, Cleveland, Ohio; Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts (Master's Degree); Academy of Music, Vienna, Austria; and the Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany.

While performing at the Karamu Theater in Cleveland, Ohio he was offered operatic contracts to sing in Vienna, Austria and Frankfurt, Germany. These appearances led to engagements in other major opera houses, with major orchestras and conductors. For 25 years, Mr. Ray sang throughout Austria, East and West Germany, Italy, France, Scandinavia, the Netherlands, and Russia, in opera, concerts, and oratorios.

Having become knowledgeable in European languages, Mr. Ray appeared in various roles as an actor and singer on German and Austrian stages, radio, and television.

In 1982, William Ray joined the Peabody Conservatory of Music, as Professor of Voice. He continues to return to Europe for concert appearances.

2011 Spring Opera Gala at Morgan

Sunday, March 13, 2011
5:00 PM

Gilliam Concert Hall

www.murphyfineartscenter.org

Morgan State Opera Workshop
and the Chesapeake Youth
Symphony Orchestra
Julien Benichou, conductor

Rachmaninoff Symphony No.2
With Chester Burke, piano
&

Arias, Scenes and Choruses
Bizet, Puccini, Verdi, Britten and
more...

Highlights from the 2010

Baltimore Summer Opera Workshop



TOP: Angel Strong-Archer, Ben Taylor and
Julien Benichou with MSO Pops at Freeman
Stage.

MIDDLE: Idomeneo with Devin Mercer, Antonio
Chase, Angel Strong-Archer and Portia Pitts
Dream Lovers Cast w/Derrick Thompson, Allison
Jones, Brittani McNeill and Devin Mercer

BOTTOM: 2010 BSOW Participants - Front Row:
Portia Pitts, Christopher Chappelle, Brittani McNeill,
Allison Jones, Ruby Weston, Antonio Chase, Candace
Potts. Back Row: Ben Taylor, Kendrick Lee, Angel
Strong-Archer, Brigid Lally, Devin Mercer and
Derrick Thompson



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MSUOW Fall 2010 Production Staff

Vincent Dion Stringer, Artistic Director

Samuel Springer, Music Director

Charles T. Hayes, Chorus Master

Thomas Allen, Production Manager

Shakyla Johnson, Stage Manager

Dan Long, Stage Craft Designer

Sharlene Clinton, Costumer

Keisha Holmes, Lighting Designer

Dayna Quincy, Pops Manager

Ronald McFadden, House Manager

Dale Alston, MFAC Public Relations Manager

Terrone Hill, Public Relations Assistant

Did you know? ...

- ❖ The Italians often say **"In bocca al lupo!"** when wishing a student luck on exam or performance. It means: "in the mouth of the lion"
- ❖ **"Break a Leg!"**- The leg is the part from which the main curtain hung. To 'break a leg' was to have the curtain raised and lowered so many times as to break it, and of course the curtain would be abused as such if you had such a particularly impressive performance that the audience prolonged the curtain call by continuously applauding and thus calling you back onto stage (in between which the curtain was raised and lowered many times).
- ❖ **"Toi, toi, toi!"** Is often said in opera houses everywhere but originates in Germany. It means "I am glad we are in the battle side by side, I wish you luck!" or **"Alles gute! and Hals und Beinbruch!** Have the same meaning.

2010 BSOW



**Menotti's
The Telephone**
*Joanna Ford
Derrick Thompson*

Verdi's *Rigoletto* Quartet

*Antonio Chase
Candace Potts
Benjamin Taylor
Raquel Gregory-Jennings*



**"Wisdom
From the
Journey"**

Dr. Conway, Dr. Toppin, Mr. Comegys, Mrs. Holloman and Mr. Stringer



Labor Day Fireworks at Freeman Stage at Bayside



2010 BSOW Students and Faculty