



LATEBREAKING MEDIA ALERT

March 31, 2005

Spring Opera: Bill of Fare

Thursday, April 7, 8 pm; Friday, April 8, 8 pm; Saturday, April 9, 8 pm

A Hand of Bridge by Samuel Barber and an excerpt from *The Marriage of Figaro* by Mozart, as well as handful of concert arias. All performances in English.

PONCHO Concert Hall, 710 East Roy Street, Seattle

Tickets: Adults \$15, \$7.50 students, seniors & Cornish College alumni.

Tickets can be purchased through Ticket Window at 206.325.6500, www.ticketwindowonline.com or in person at Ticket Window's box offices located in the Pike Place Market, Harvard Market, and Bellevue's Meydenbauer Center.

SEATTLE, WA – Cornish College of the Arts Music and Performance Production Departments team up to present the Spring Opera, *A Bill of Fare*. A three part performance, this event features works by Samuel Barber, Mozart as well as well as a handful of concert arias, all performed in English.

A Hand of Bridge by Samuel Barber will be presented as a short, witty “opera” featuring four soloists and a piano. During a weekly bridge game between two couples, unexpected relationships and the resulting emotional conflicts are revealed.

Act II from *The Marriage of Figaro* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is a comedy of romance and intrigue, in which Susanna and the Countess team up with a scheme to foil the Count's amorous intentions. The Countess will seduce her husband back, so Susanna can marry her fiancée, Figaro. Unknown to them, the Count has a plan as well. When poor, young, and "always-in-love" Cherubino gets caught in the middle, hijinks ensue!

A handful of concert arias will also be performed, including Kurt Weill's "What Good Will the Moon Be?" from *Street Scene* and Handel's "Piangero" from *Giulio Cesare*.

Musical Direction by Natalie Lerch. Stage Direction by Natalie Lerch and Michael Delos.

Natalie Lerch has performed many soprano roles, including Lady Ella in *Patience*, Miss Pinkerton in *The Old Maid and the Thief*, Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*, Casilda in *The Gondoliers*, Peep Bo in *The Mikado*, and Mrs. Grose in *The Turn of the Screw*. Natalie won the Concerto/Aria Competition and performed *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* by Samuel Barber with the Ohio University Orchestra. She has also performed a jazz version of *Un bel di vedremo* from *Madama Butterfly*, with the Jazz Ensemble from the Federal University of Rio in Rio de Janeiro, Brasil and with The Jazz Police at the Tacoma Jazz Festival. Natalie participated in a workshop production of Monteverdi's *Orfeo* in Orvieto, Italy. As a national member of National Association of Teachers and of Singing (NATS) Natalie has sung in master classes for Renée Fleming, Julianne Baird and Dale Moore. Natalie has performed across the nation, as well as in Italy, Canada and Brazil.

She received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Eastman School of Music, a Master of Music from Ohio University, and a Bachelor of Music degree from the UAA in Alaska. Natalie is Associate Professor of Voice at Cornish College of the Arts, where she teaches Musical Theater Workshop; Italian, French and German Diction for Singers. Currently, Natalie sings with Divalicious, a girl-group made up of four sopranos.

ABOUT CORNISH COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Cornish College of the Arts is the premier, accredited arts college in the Northwest, inspiring the highest standards of artistic and academic excellence. Founded in 1914 by Nellie Cornish, Cornish College is the only private, accredited college in the region offering baccalaureate degrees in visual and performing arts. Cornish College offers a Bachelor of Music and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in art, dance, design, theater and performance production. Uniquely, Cornish College provides a rigorous educational environment for the cultivation of technical mastery, artistic integrity and practical knowledge. The faculty at Cornish is comprised of practicing master artists and professional educators, renowned in their respective fields. The college maintains a low student to faculty ratio, allowing for individualized teaching and mentoring. Cornish College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges and the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

Over the years, Cornish has hosted a parade of important artists in the roles of students, teachers or as visiting artists-in-residence, including John Cage, Merce Cunningham, Martha Graham, Ping Chong, Kenny Werner, Obo Addy, Mark Morris, Meredith Monk, Rinde Eckert, Bebe Miller, Ruth St. Denis, Ted Shawn, Robin Holcomb, Chet Huntley, Syvilla Fort, Ralph Towner, Thornton Wilder, Lou Harrison, Bill Frisell, Morris Graves, Jane Ira Bloom, Kraig Patterson, Musicians Accord, Bun Ching Lam, Brendan Fraser, Myra Melford, Sharon Isbin, Joanne Brackeen, Oliver Lake, California Ear Unit, Colorado Quartet, and Gary Peacock, among others.

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