



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Presents

The poster features a whimsical illustration of a gingerbread house with a red roof and a round window, set in a dark forest. Two children, Hansel and Gretel, are seen from behind, walking towards the house. The background is a dark, starry night sky with silhouettes of trees and a small white owl perched on a branch.

TCU School of Music | Opera Studio
presents

Hansel and Gretel

Music by Engelbert Humperdinck | Libretto by Adelheid Wette
Sung in English with projected text over the stage

**October
21 - 22**

Secrest-Wible Blackbox Theatre
7:00 PM

Tickets:
\$10 General Admission
\$5 Children and Students
Free with Current TCU ID

3015 Meranda Avenue
Fort Worth, TX 76109

www.finearts.tcu.edu/music/events-and-programs

TCU
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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Hansel and Gretel

Music by Engelbert Humperdinck and Libretto by Adelheid Wette

Cast:

Hansel:	Aubrey Bosse
Gretel:	Olivia Flores
Peter (Father):	Drew Echols
Gertrude (Mother):	Marcie Ellen Duplantis/Lotta Mushkatblat
The Witch:	Lotta Mushkatblat/Marcie Ellen Duplantis
Sandman:	Sydney Palomo
Dew Fairy:	Catherine DiGrazia
Children:	Anna Borges Alicia Cruz Klark Johnson Alyssa Lewis Courtney Parnitke Jordan Riek Maggie Williams Eli Smith Riley Smith Chloe Harris Joy Harris
Angels:	

Production Team:

Stage Director & Producer: Dr. Corey Trahan	Music Director: Stephen Carey
Set Design and Construction: Robin Owhonda	Set Construction: Robert Fultz III
Lighting Design: Christian Chandler	Lighting Operator: Kaden Burns
Costume Design and Construction: Prof. Twyla Robinson	Costume Crew: Anna Morgan Jordan Riek
Make-up and Wig Design: David Mejja	Surtitle Operator: John Dubois
Poster Design: Eric Laine	Promotion and social media: Faith Adams Catherine Anderson
Props: Anna Borges Cassie Westlund	Ticketing and Ushers: Madilynn Gomez Alex Holder

Synopsis

Courtesy of The Metropolitan Opera website

ACT I

In the broom maker's house. Hansel complains that he is hungry. Gretel shows him some milk a neighbor has given for the family's supper. The children dance. Their mother returns and wants to know why they have done so little work. She accidentally spills the milk and chases the children out into the woods to pick strawberries.

Their father, a broom-maker, returns home drunk. He brings out the food he has bought, then asks where the children have gone. The mother tells him that she has sent them into the woods. He tells her about the Witch who lives there and that the children are in danger. They go out into the woods to look for them.

ACT II

In the woods. Hansel picks strawberries. The children hear a cuckoo singing and eat the strawberries. In the sudden silence of the wood, Hansel admits to Gretel that he has lost the way. The children grow frightened. The Sandman comes to bring them sleep, sprinkling sand over their eyes. The children say their evening prayer. In a dream, they see heavenly angels.

INTERMISSION

ACT III

The gingerbread house. The Dew Fairy comes to wake the children. Gretel wakes Hansel, and they see the gingerbread house. They do not notice the Witch. The Witch decides to fatten Hansel up and puts a spell on him. The oven is hot. Gretel breaks the Witch's spell and sets Hansel free. When the Witch asks her to look in the oven, she pretends she doesn't know how to; the Witch must show her. When the Witch peers into the oven, the children shove her inside and shut the door. The gingerbread children come back to life. The mother and father find the children and all express gratitude for their freedom.

Meet the Artists

Anna Borges is a sophomore vocal performance major under the tutelage of Professor Twyla Robinson. Ms. Borges was involved in two TCU Opera Studio productions in the spring of 2022; she was a part of the ensemble (*Le Modiste*/Friend of Elena) in Nino Rota's *The Italian Straw Hat* and played the role of Dater #33 (UFO) in Michael Ching's *Speed Dating Tonight!* This past summer, Ms. Borges had the privilege of performing the role of Barbarina in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, her Mozart opera debut. Her next stage appearances include Henry Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* (chorus) and Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* (First Spirit). Ms. Borges enjoys singing with TCU's flagship choral ensemble, Concert Chorale. She has been featured

as a soloist in Cantiamo, TCU's treble choir, and as a descantist in University Singers. Along with her voice studies, Ms. Borges is a member of the professional music fraternity Mu Phi Epsilon and works at St. Patrick Cathedral as a choral scholar and section leader.

Aubrey Bosse is thrilled to be singing Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel!* She is a senior studying vocal performance under Dr. Corey Trahan at Texas Christian University. She most recently performed as Charlotte Rosenstock in the world premiere of Blaise Ferrandino's, *A Service of Love* and as both the Waitress and the Hostess in Michael Ching's *Speed Dating Tonight!* Other roles include La Baronessa in Nino Rota's *Il Cappello di Paglia di Firenze*, L'Opinion Publique in Jacques Offenbach's *Orpheus in The Underworld*, Mrs. Grose in Benjamin Britten's *The Turn of The Screw*, Theodorine in Jacques Offenbach's *The Isle of Tulipatan*, and ensemble member in the world premiere of Evan Mack's *Yeltsin! In Texas*. She has sung at the Utah Vocal Arts Academy Summer Opera Festival and the Taos Opera Institute, two esteemed summer programs. She will sing Second Lady in W. A. Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* in the spring with the TCU Opera Studio.

Stephen Carey (pianist/vocal coach) is starting his 4th year as the vocal coach for the TCU Opera Studio. In the 2021-2022 TCU school year, Mr. Carey served as music director and pianist for the double bill of *A Service of Love* (Ferrandino) and *Speed Dating Tonight!* (Ching), music director and conductor for *Il cappello di paglia di Firenze* (Rota), and music director, and pianist, for the double bill of *The Beautiful Bridegroom* (Dan Shore) and *The Island of Tulipatan* (Offenbach). In the 2020-2021 TCU school year, Mr. Carey served as music director and pianist for an online opera scenes program in the fall of 2020. In the spring 2021 semester, he served as music director, and pianist, for four one-act operas, consisting of *Remove Shoes Before Entering* (Michael Ching), *The Island of Tulipatan* (Offenbach), *The Beautiful Bridegroom* (Dan Shore), and *The Four Note Opera* (Tom Johnson). In the 2019-2020 TCU school year, Mr. Carey served as music director, conductor, and pianist for a contemporary opera program and music director and conductor for the world premiere of Evan Mack's opera, *Yeltsin In Texas*. In the 2018-2019 school year, Mr. Carey was the assistant music director of the UNT opera program, where he served as vocal coach in productions of Janacek's *Cunning Little Vixen* and Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* and as music director and conductor for a concert production of Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. From the fall of 2012 through the spring of 2018, Mr. Carey served as the principal pianist/vocal coach with Fort Worth Opera. From the fall of 2001 through the spring of 2012, Mr. Carey served as the assistant artistic director, chorus master, and rehearsal pianist/vocal coach for Opera Memphis. Mr. Carey has previously served on the artistic staff of AIMS in Graz, Opera In The Ozarks, Ashlawn Opera, Chautauqua Opera, and Utah Festival Opera And Musical Theatre. This past summer, Mr. Carey spent his second summer

with Charlottesville Opera, serving as music director for the Ader Emerging Artist Program, cover conductor, and chorus master.

Christian Chandler is a lighting design major at T.C.U. and has designed shows throughout the metroplex. This production marks his first opera as Lighting Designer. He is a student of Professor Michael Skinner.

Alicia Cruz is a junior vocal performance major from San Marcos, TX, performing at TCU. She has been in several productions at TCU, including, *Remove Shoes Before Entering*, *The Italian Straw Hat*, and *Speed Dating*. She will also be a part of operas coming up later this semester and play the Mother in next semester's production of *Little Red Riding Hood*. Alicia has always loved performing, and her passion for music was first realized while growing up singing and playing mariachi music. She was a part of a mariachi band for almost ten years. She is excited about all the exciting things later this year for the opera program and is grateful to be surrounded by a supportive and talented group of peers!

Catherine DiGrazia is a sophomore Vocal Performance major studying under Angela Turner Wilson at TCU. Ms. DiGrazia has performed with TCU Opera Studio in roles including a hat maker in Nino Roti's *Italian Straw Hat* and Dater #14 in Michael Ching's *Speed Dating Tonight*. She had the pleasure of performing with the Texas All-State Mixed Choir as a first chair Soprano 1 for three consecutive years. She has also been awarded Outstanding Performer for three years in Texas State UIL Solo and Ensemble. In 2021, Mrs. DiGrazia competed and was awarded first place for Texoma NATS in the First Year Classical Treble division, where she sang Mozart's "Una donna a quindici anni." Most recently, Ms. DiGrazia sang solos in Janson Gullien and Patrick Vu's recital choirs. After graduating from TCU in May 2025, Ms. DiGrazia plans to attend graduate school to obtain her Master's degree in Vocal Performance.

Marcie Ellen Duplantis' operatic roles include Ellen Orford of Britten's *Peter Grimes*, Miss Jessell in *The Turn of the Screw*, Marcellina and Countess in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, The Witch and Gertrude (Mother) in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, The Mother in Menotti's *Amahl and The Night Visitors*, Erste and Zweite Dame in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, Suor Angelica in Puccini's *Suor Angelica*, Nella in *Gianni Schicchi*, Dinah in Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti*, Fantine in *Les Misérables*, and Desiree in Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* with The Boston Conservatory at Berklee. Duplantis made her United Kingdom debut as a soloist at Great St. Mary's Cathedral in Cambridge, England, and Salisbury Cathedral's Lunchtime Concerts of the Liturgical Year. Duplantis has been staged in regional productions with Shreveport Opera, including Puccini's *Turandot* and *Madame Butterfly*, and Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore*, as well as performed in various capacities at Yale University, The Boston Conservatory, and Interlochen Academy for the Arts.

Drew Echols recently completed the first year of his master's degree in vocal performance at TCU, studying with Dr. James Rodriguez. During that year, he performed the roles of Beaupertuis in Nino Rota's *Il Cappello di Paglia di Firenze* and Dater #22 in Michael Ching's *Speed Dating Tonight!* Appearing locally in St. Stephen's Presbyterian church's production of Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, he sang the role of Melchoir under the direction of Dr. Corey Trahan. Drew received his undergraduate degree from Centenary College of Louisiana, studying with Dr. Gale Odom. While at Centenary, he performed the roles of Frank in *Prince Orlofsky's Ball* (an adaptation of act two of Johann Strauss II's *Die Fledermaus*), Paul in Stephen Sondheim's *Company*, and covered the title role of *Elijah* from Felix Mendelssohn's oratorio. Drew received the Shirley Hawn Outstanding Freshman award from the Hurley School of Music, competed in the semifinals round of the 2017 National Association of Teachers of Singing Southern Region Conference in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and placed second in the freshmen men's category of the 2018 regional NATS competition in Lake Charles, Louisiana. He will sing the role of Papageno in W. A. Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* in the spring with the TCU Opera Studio.

Olivia Flores is thrilled to be playing the role of Gretel in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*. She is a senior at TCU pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance, studying under Professor Angela Turner Wilson. During TCU's summer program, her other performances include Flora in Benjamin Britten's *Turn of the Screw*. She was also seen in the world premiere of Evan Mack and Joshua McGuire's *Yeltsin in Texas!* In her most recent role at TCU, Olivia was seen as Elena in Nino Rota's *Italian Straw Hat*. She will sing the part of Papagena in W. A. Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* in the spring with the TCU Opera Studio. Olivia hopes you will enjoy the show!

Robbie Fultz is a retired Garland firefighter. He is married to Beth Fultz, DCE, at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church. He is the father of 3 daughters. Robbie has three granddaughters and one grandson. He is happy to have the opportunity to build sets and help with the TCU Opera.

Klark Johnson is a junior BM Vocal Performance major from Dallas, Texas. This is Klark's third appearance on stage for TCU Opera after her other performances in TCU Opera's *Il capello di paglia di Firenze* (Hat Maker) and *Speed Dating Tonight* (Triathlon Ann). Klark also performed with Theatre TCU's *Black Excellence TCU Sings*, Theatre TCU's *Black Excellence's Blackout Cabaret*, and several performances with TCU's University Singers and Cantiamo Treble Chorus. Klark is an accomplished singer planning to attend graduate school for vocal performance and directing.

Alyssa Lewis is a junior Vocal Music Education major studying with Professor Angela Turner-Wilson. This is her first year in the opera studio. She is also in University Singers and Chorale. She is an active member of Mu Phi Epsilon and a section leader at the University Christian Church. She is excited to continue performing with TCU opera studio!

Lotta Mushkatblat is in her final year of her BM in Vocal Performance at TCU. Previously, Ms. Mushkatblat studied at The University of California Santa Cruz. While at UCSC, Ms. Mushkatblat performed in multiple Opera Scene programs and fully staged productions as Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*, Marcellina in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Isabel in *Pirates of Penzance*, and Giannetta in *L'elisir d'amore*. At TCU, Ms. Mushkatblat has sung the Card Trio from *Carmen* as *Carmen*, The Contralto in *The Four Note Opera*, Baronessa in *Il cappello di paglia di Firenze* and Steampunk Girl in *Speed Dating Tonight!*. Ms. Mushkatblat has attended the summer Young Artist Programs at MusicFest Perugia, OperaViva, and Musica Proibita Management, where she covered Mimi in *La Boheme*. This season at TCU, she is excited to perform the roles of Witch and Mother in *Hansel and Gretel* and the Mother in *Little Red Riding Hood*.

Robin Owhonda is a recently retired teacher of 27 years. After receiving her MFA from Southern Methodist University, she designed at Casa Manana and freelanced around the Fort Worth/Dallas area. She is rediscovering her love of theatre and set design thanks to TCU Opera.

Sydney Palomo is a graduate student at Texas Christian University studying vocal pedagogy. She graduated from Texas Christian University Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Music Education and a minor in sociology. Throughout her undergraduate career, she was granted various performance and academic opportunities that broadened her knowledge of music education and its importance within our society. Sydney is a prominent advocate for social justice, mental health, and vocal wellness. Sydney believes music is a channel for self-expression and serves as a vehicle to convey and promote prevalent social messages in our efforts to create a better world.

Courtney Parnitke is a junior music education major at TCU from Flower Mound, Texas, studying under Professor Angela Turner Wilson. She is thrilled to be participating in her first opera at TCU. Courtney has previously performed in stage-acting and musical theatre productions, with notable roles such as Cosette in *Les Misérables* and Hedy Larue in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. During her time at TCU, Courtney has also competed in the Texoma regional NATS competition and the DFW NATS chapter competition and was awarded first place in the first-year treble division of DFW NATS in 2021. Courtney thanks our audience for attending the show and supporting opera at TCU!

Jordan Riek (She/Her), mezzo-soprano, is a sophomore music education major at Texas Christian University. She is so excited to be singing with this fantastic cast! She has previously performed the roles of Barbarina in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Madame Thernardier in *Les Miserables*, Tammy in *Hairspray*, and silly girl in *Beauty and the Beast*. Jordan also performed in the ensemble of *Il Cappello di Paglia di Firenze* and as Dancer in *Speed Dating Tonight*. She placed 5th in NATS in the fall of 2020 and made the Texas all-state choir in 2021. Jordan also works as a choral scholar for Arborlawn United Methodist Church in Ft. Worth. Jordan is so grateful for this experience. She would like to thank her TCU music professors and her family.

Prof. Twyla Robinson, soprano, serves TCU as an Assistant Professor of Professional Practice. She combines her teaching with an ongoing performing career. She is a frequent recitalist and has served on the recitalist roster of the Marilyn Horne Foundation. She received her Bachelor of Music from Centenary College of Louisiana, studying with Dr. Gale Odom, and her Master of Music from Indiana University, studying with Costanza Cuccaro. She recently completed a 4-year term as Artist-in-Residence at Centenary College of Louisiana, where she taught the Singers' Workshop, Applied Voice, and directed the operatic and musical theatre productions. She has served as a guest clinician for such organizations as National YoungArts, NATS Texoma, the Marilyn Horne Foundation, Spotlight on Opera, and the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts.

Dr. Corey Trahan is an active performer, educator, and stage director in opera, oratorio, musical theatre, operetta, and recital venues. Recent engagements include a debut at Pensacola Opera as Sir Joseph Porter in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, stage director for Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* and *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, and vocal soloist for Louisiana Delta Ballet's *Power and Grace*. Corey presented a lecture recital, "The Evolution of Broadway in 90 Minutes", for T.C.U.'s 2022 Faculty Lecture Series and will return to Des Moines Metro Opera for their 50th Anniversary Season production of Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Corey was the Biedenharn Endowed Chair in Music at the University of Louisiana, Chair of Musical Theatre at Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand, and an Associate Professor of Theatre/Coordinator of Musical Theatre at Northwestern State University. Currently, Corey is the new Director of T.C.U. Opera and a member of the vocal arts faculty. Corey's academic degrees include a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of North Texas, a Master of Music degree from the University of Houston, and a Bachelor of Music degree from Louisiana State University.
www.coreytrahan.com

Maggie Williams is a senior vocal music education student and leadership scholar at TCU. She participates in student development services, is a member of Mu Phi Epsilon, and performs in TCU's Chorale and University Singers. She joined the opera program in 2018 and has since performed roles in Verdi's *Falstaff*, Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Bizet's *Tragedy of Carmen*, Michael Ching's *Remove Shoes Before Entering*, Dan Shore's *The Beautiful Bridegroom*, and most recently, *The Italian Straw Hat*, composed by Nino Rota. Maggie offers special thanks to Dr. Kim, Dr. Trahan, Dr. Rodriguez, and Professor Robinson for their continued support and trust in her journey in the TCU music department.

SPECIAL THANKS

Dr. Sean Atkinson
Dr. Elizabeth Kirkendoll
Prof. Twyla Robinson
Robin Owhonda
Robert Fultz III
Beth Fultz
Karen Minatra
Nita Ferrell
Lori Stowe
Sarah Walters
St. Stephen Presbyterian Church
TCU Theatre and Prof. Michael Skinner
T.C.U. Vocal Arts Faculty

Join us for our next TCU Opera Studio production on November 7, 2022:



TCU School of Music | Opera Studio

Dido and Aeneas

Music by Engelbert Henry Purcell | Libretto by Nahum Tate
Sung in the original English with projected text over the stage
Produced in collaboration with TCU Collegium Musicum

November
7
PepsiCo Recital Hall
7:00 PM

Tickets: \$10 General Admission | \$5 Children and Students | Free with Current TCU ID