

DISCOVER OPERA!

A Bel Canto Cricket in Times Square

Teachers College, Cowin Center

April 3, 2009

10.30am

A musical parody based on the award-winning book:
A Cricket in Times Square by George Selden
Adapted and written by Mark Janas and the *DISCOVER OPERA!* cast
from Manhattan School of Music

Mark Janas, *Music Director*
Gordon Ostrowski, *Stage Director*
David Gillam, *Set Designer*
Peter Napolitano, *Lyrics & Script Advisor*

THE CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):

PAUL (A TIMES SQUARE SHUTTLE CONDUCTOR)	TIMOTHY SPRINGS
MARIO BELLINI (A 10-YEAR-OLD BOY)	MARC DAY
LINDY WAGNER (A 10-YEAR-OLD GIRL)	MOLLY SPOONER
MAMA BELLINI (MARIO'S MOTHER)	JANAE FRANK
PAPA BELLINI (MARIO'S FATHER)	MATTHEW KRENZ
MR. SMEDLEY (A MUSIC TEACHER)	EVAN BENNETT
HILDY WAGNER (LINDY'S MOTHER)	JANE HOFFMAN
TUCKER MOUSE (A SUBWAY MOUSE)	BEVIN HILL
HARRIET CAT (A SUBWAY CAT)	LYNSEY BUCKELEW
SAI FONG (CHINESE WISEMAN)	TIMOTHY SPRINGS
CHESTER CRICKET (A CONNECTICUT CRICKET)	LAUREN EIGENBRODE
MICKY (MAN BEHIND THE LUNCH COUNTER)	TIMOTHY SPRINGS
NEW YORK TIMES REPORTER	TIMOTHY SPRINGS
LEON PRYCE (STAR BARITONE OF THE METROPOLITAN OPERA)	TIMOTHY SPRINGS

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Cast Biographies: A *Bel Canto* Cricket in Times Square

Evan Bennett (Mr. Smedley) is a 23-year-old baritone from Springfield, Missouri, home to Brad Pitt! In addition to singing, Evan also plays piano and cello. He likes decorating cakes and throwing big parties, and enjoys listening to Celine Dion, Regina Spektor, and Queen.

Lynsey Buckelew (Harriet Cat) is a 23-year-old mezzo-soprano from the peanut capital of the world, Dothan, Alabama. She started singing when she was only 6 years old, and also plays the saxophone. She enjoys cooking, watching the TV show *Lost*, and playing with her cats. When not singing classical music, Lynsey enjoys listening to Beyoncé, Radiohead, and Flight of the Conchords. She loves traveling and has been to Italy and Germany. Her friends call her “Buck.”

Marc Day (Mario Bellini) is a 23-year-old tenor from Salt Lake City, Utah. In addition to singing, Marc also plays piano. He enjoys fishing, golfing, cooking, swimming, and fixing problems. Marc likes listening to Bob Marley, Pink Floyd, and Cream.

Lauren Eigenbrode (Chester Cricket) is a 24-year-old soprano from Piedmont, California, home of a bird-calling contest in which the prize is a trip to New York to be on the David Letterman show! Lauren also plays clarinet, oboe, and piano. She likes listening to Britney Spears and Mana and watching reality TV shows. She really enjoys playing Wiffleball and soccer, she played for the U.S. futsal (indoor soccer) team.

Janae Frank (Mama Bellini) is a 22-year-old mezzo-soprano from Bakersfield, California. In addition to singing, she plays piano and guitar. She loves dancing, going to the theater, cooking, camping, fishing, shopping, and surfing. Janae likes listening to Beyoncé, Jason Mraz, and the Beatles. She loves to travel and has been to Italy, France, and Spain.

Bevin Hill (Tucker Mouse) is a 23-year-old soprano from Atlanta, Georgia, home of the '96 Summer Olympics and the band Outkast. She began singing as soon as she was born and tried to play the piano soon after. She likes to read, play tennis, do crossword puzzles, act, dance to loud music, and somersault – yes, somersault! Bevin loves listening to Beyoncé and the Beatles. She is part of the Echota Native American Tribe from Alabama.

Jane Hoffman (Hildy Wagner) is a 24-year-old soprano from Pasadena, California, home of the Rose Bowl Parade, which takes place every New Year's Day. She loves movies, television, cooking, and knitting. When she's not singing, she likes listening to Joni Mitchell, Radiohead, Kanye West, and Ben Folds.

Matthew Krenz (Papa Bellini) is a 21-year-old tenor from Lincroft, New Jersey. In addition to singing opera Matthew also composes and plays piano. He enjoys going to the Metropolitan Opera and seeing his favorite bands in concert.

Molly Spooner (Lindy Walker) grew up in Albany, New York State's capital! She began singing when she was four years old and also plays the piano. She enjoys skiing, hiking, dancing, cooking, and playing with her golden retriever, Cooper. When Molly lived in Albany, she taught music and chorus to middle school and high school students for three years, and also directed the musical at her high school. When not singing soprano arias, Molly likes listening to The Strokes, Justin Timberlake, and Beyoncé.

Timothy Springs (Paul, Sai Fong, Mickey, The Reporter, and Leon) is a 20-year-old baritone from Columbia, South Carolina, home of palm trees and beaches. In addition to singing Timothy also enjoys running, going to shows, soccer, and cooking. He loves travel and has performed on the European tour of *Porgy and Bess* to Italy, Russia, Poland, Greece, Latvia, and Estonia. Timothy likes to listen to Beyoncé, John Mayer, and Kanye West.

Faculty, Composer and Crew Biographies:

Gordon Ostrowski (Stage Director) is Assistant Dean of Opera at Manhattan School of Music and is proud to be a native Michigander. He played the alto saxophone in the marching and concert bands at Carsonville High School. He made his theatrical debut in his junior class play portraying Mr. Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice*. One of his fondest memories is watching on TV the U.S. debut of the Beatles on the Ed Sullivan show in 1964. After graduating from Central Michigan University with a degree in English Literature, he taught high school in Clawson, Michigan where he directed all of the class plays. He has been a stage director and avid theatergoer ever since.

Mark Janas (Music Director) is a pianist and conductor from Indiana. Mark's musical endeavors have taken him all around the world, including Australia, England, Israel, Spain, Italy, and even Yugoslavia. Mark enjoys writing musicals, music directing musicals, conducting musicals, attending musicals, and dreaming up new musicals, among other things involving musicals. He has been playing the piano for longer than most of you have been alive, but he's not tired of it yet. He also enjoys The New York Times crossword puzzles and working out.

David Gillam (Set Designer) David has been involved in all aspects of art and theater from the age of 9. Since studying performing arts at Buffalo State College, he has been actively working as a designer in New York for 15 years. He has written, directed, produced, performed, and designed costumes, sets, & props. Some of his many clients have included the Connecticut Ballet, Saks Fifth Ave., Bloomingdale's, The Sally Jessie Raphael Show, T – Fal, & Creed.

Peter Napolitano (Lyric and Libretto consultant) has wanted to write musicals since he first saw Disney's "Mary Poppins" at Radio City Music Hall in 1964! His words have been sung and spoken by such Broadway and cabaret performers as Faith Prince, Marni Nixon, Tovah Feldshuh, Nancy Dussault, Estelle Getty, Liz Callaway, Charles Busch, Christine Pedi, Julie Reyburn and many more. He is currently working on two musicals: *The Lady in Penthouse B*, with music by Matthew Ward, and a new version of "The Adventures of Pinocchio" called *Pinocchio of Chelsea*, with music by Discover Opera director Mark Janas.

Manhattan School of Music Outreach Programs: Arts-in-Education

Founded 90 years ago as a community music school, Manhattan School of Music has offered outreach programs since its inception. In 1993, the School inaugurated a comprehensive and multifaceted outreach program, MUSIC IN ACTION: An Arts-in-Education and Community Engagement Program, to inspire and uplift new audiences in diverse communities and environments in the metropolitan New York City area. The Manhattan School of Music Arts-in-Education Program provides music education programs in New York City schools, serving over 1,500 schoolchildren each year. It aims to create a climate in our partner schools where music is valued as a catalyst for the intellectual, emotional, and social development of children and strives to provide a foundation for the establishment of comprehensive, self-sustaining music programs in public schools.

Today's performance is part of our opera residency program, which is currently being performed in our neighborhood partner schools. The productions include performances of a variety of vocal genres and an introduction to the basic elements and vocabulary of folksongs, musical theater, and opera.

VOCABULARY LIST

aria	a solo song in opera
baritone	the middle male voice type
bass	the lowest male voice type
<i>bel canto</i>	Italian for “beautiful singing”; it describes a style of opera singing from Italy
cast	the group of singers, actors and actresses in an opera or dramatic production
dress rehearsal	a final practice for a performance
duet	a piece of music for two instruments or two voices
ensemble	a group of singers or instrumentalists performing together
mezzo-soprano	the lower female voice type
musical theater	a play with songs and spoken dialogue, such as a Broadway show
opera	a play set to music in which most of the words are sung
quartet	a piece of music for four voices or four instruments
quintet	a piece of music for five voices or five instruments
recitative	sung dialogue in opera
scale	an ordered group of ascending or descending musical notes usually sung or played for practice
sextet	a piece of music for six voices or six instruments
soprano	the highest female voice type
tenor	the highest male voice type
trio	a piece of music for three voices or three instruments