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THE ANN & FRANK BUMSTEAD SEASON

THE MAN WHO MISTOOK HIS WIFE FOR A HAT

I want to welcome you tonight to a very different type of opera. Nashville Opera prides itself on presenting not just the classics of opera, but also works that are sometimes seen as less mainstream. I feel these are important pieces, and if it weren't for Nashville Opera producing them, they may never be seen in Nashville, and certainly not experienced by our audiences.

Michael Nyman's *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* originally premiered at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, on October 27, 1986. The opera is adapted from the critically acclaimed book of the same name by Oliver Sacks. With this chamber opera, Michael Nyman brilliantly captures the wonder and mystery of the inner workings of the human brain, and then offers us all the opportunity to experience the humanity behind the science.

Nyman was born in Stratford, London in 1944. He studied at King's College London and was accepted at the Royal Academy of Music in September 1961, focusing on piano and seventeenth-century baroque music. After school, he began a career in music criticism, where he is generally acknowledged to have been the first to apply the term "minimalism" to music in a 1968 article in *The Spectator*.

As a composer, he discovered his musical aesthetic playing Leporello's aria, "Madamina, il catalogo è questo" from Mozart's *Don Giovanni* on his piano in the style of Jerry Lee Lewis. "This dictated the dynamic, articulation, and texture of everything I've subsequently done."

In the 1970s, Nyman was a member of the Portsmouth Sinfonia – the self-described World's Worst Orchestra – playing on their recordings and in their concerts. He was the featured pianist on the orchestra's recording of "Bridge Over Troubled Water" on the Martin Lewis-produced *20 Classic Rock Classics* album, on which the Portsmouth Sinfonia gave their unique interpretations of the pop and rock repertoire of the 1950s–1970s.

In his scores for Peter Greenaway's films, Nyman drew frequently on early music sources: composer Henry Purcell in *The Draughtsman's Contract* and *The Cook, the Thief, His Wife & Her Lover*; Heinrich Ignaz Franz von Biber in *A Zed and Two Noughts*; Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in *Drowning by Numbers*; and John Dowland in *Prospero's Books*.

Nyman's popularity greatly increased after he wrote the score to Jane Campion's award-winning 1993 film *The Piano*. The soundtrack album became a classical music best-seller, and Nyman was nominated for both a British Academy Award and a Golden Globe.

Nyman stated that he prefers to write opera rather than other sorts of music. His operas include *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*; *Letters, Riddles and Writs*; *Noises, Sounds & Sweet Airs*; *Facing Goya*; *Man and Boy*; *Dada*; *Love Counts*; and *Sparkie: Cage and Beyond*. He has also written six concerti, four string quartets, and many other works of chamber music. Many of these works were written for his Michael Nyman Band, with which he often tours as a performing pianist.

Later in his career, Michael Nyman caused a mini-scandal by creating a work called *I Sonetti Lussuriosi (8 Lust Songs)*, a musical setting of 8 pieces of a collection of erotic poetry from Pietro Aretino's *I Sonetti Lussuriosi*. On May 8, 2008 at Cadogan Hall, at the start of the concert which featured the songs, the General Manager frantically sprinted thru the audience, snatching away all the printed programs that he could. The staff had inadvertently published a translation of the songs in the program, and the company was concerned with being charged with distributing obscene materials.

While tonight's opera does not need a parental guidance warning, it does promise to be a deeply emotional experience, and a fascinating example of a highly original piece of music theatre.

Thank you for joining us for *The Man Who Mistook his Wife for a Hat*.

JOHN HOOMES
CEO & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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Pictured from left to right: Alpha Nkechi, Saranya Eambsam
Photos: Will Shires for Nashville Opera

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Friends of Nashville Opera
announce the thirtieth annual
La Bella Notte

Saturday, February 10, 2024

Cocktails at 6:30 p.m.

Dinner at 8:00 p.m.

The Fisher Center for the Performing Arts

Julie and John Schneider
Chairmen

THE MAN WHO MISTOOK HIS WIFE FOR A HAT

THE ANN & FRANK BUMSTEAD SEASON

NOVEMBER 10, 11, 12, 2023

Noah Liff Opera Center Studio

Music by Michael Nyman

Libretto by Christopher Rawlence

Adapted from the case study of the same name
by Dr. Oliver Sacks

Premiered at Institute of Contemporary Arts, London
October 27, 1986

Directed by John Hoomes

Conducted by Dean Williamson

Featuring the Nashville Opera Orchestra

CAST

In order of vocal appearance

DR. S Tyler Nelson

DR. P Matthew Treviño

MRS. P Caroline Worra*

* Nashville Opera Debut

NASHVILLE OPERA ORCHESTRA

Dean Williamson, Conductor
Anne Dickson Rogers, Contractor

First Violin Christina McGann
Second Violin Carolyn Wann Bailey
Viola Carl Larson
Cello Sari Reist
Cello Meghan Berindean
Harp Erin Brooker-Miller
Piano Jonathan King

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Costume Design Pam Lisenby

Scenic Painter Erica Edmonson

Wig and Makeup Design Sondra Nottingham

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Technical Director Robert Helvey

Director of Artistic Administration Anne Dickson Rogers

Production Stage Manager Sara Ackerman

Assistant Stage Manager Sara Johnson

Stage Running Crew Kelly Scheuman

Wig & Makeup Crew Dakota Williams

Rehearsal Pianist Jonathan King

Supertitles Hannah Marcoe

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NASHVILLE SCENE nFOCUS

The Story



i. Prologue

The neurologist, Dr. S, delivers an address concerning his approach to neurology and introduces the case of Dr. P.

ii. The First Examination

Dr. and Mrs. P arrive at Dr. S' neurological clinic, having been referred by an ophthalmologist. A series of routine neurological tests is performed, answering next to nothing. As the couple prepare to leave, Dr. P makes mistakes that alarm Dr. S, who resolves to see him again.

iii. The House Call

Baffled by his first meeting with Dr. P, Dr. S decides that the patient's home may be the most effective observational environment. A variety of visual exercises are engaged in, designed to reveal the true nature of Dr. P's condition.

iv. Testing Visual Memory

Dr. S asks Dr. P to describe, from one end to the other, the layout and buildings of a local street both know well.

v. Paintings as Pathology? An Argument

Dr. S discovers that Dr. P is a talented amateur painter. While examining a portfolio of Dr. P's works, he concludes that Dr. P's illness is evident throughout his paintings, which have evolved from figurative to wholly abstract. This conclusion angers Mrs. P, who insists the change in her husband's painting style is an expression of his artistic development, not his deepening illness.

vi. The Prescription

As Dr. P enjoys his tea, Mrs. P explains to Dr. S how her husband manages, through music, to cope with his daily life in spite of his problems of perception.

vii. Epilogue

Dr. S delivers his concluding remarks on the case.

TALKBACK AFTER THE SHOW

Please feel free to stay for an intimate question-and-answer session with John Hoomes, Dean Williamson, and cast members.

Artists



Stage Director

JOHN HOOMES

Nashville Opera CEO & Artistic Director

1995-Present

Nashville Opera

The Lighthouse, Samson and Delilah, Elmer Gantry, Aida, Don Giovanni, Andrea Chénier, The Fall of the House of Usher, The Girl of the Golden West, The Difficulty of Crossing a Field, The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat, Romulus Hunt, Florencia en el Amazonas, Hydrogen Jukebox, Così fan tutte, Glory Denied, Three Way, María de Buenos Aires, Tales of Hoffmann, The Cradle Will Rock, Beach Party Cinderella, Favorite Son, Rigoletto Noir, Das Rheingold, La Bohème, The Medium, Stuck Elevator, The Pirates of Penzance, Pagliacci

Recent

*Florencia en el Amazonas – New York City Opera and Pensacola Opera
Elmer Gantry, Don Giovanni – Florentine Opera
Three Way – American Opera Projects, Brooklyn Academy of Music*

Upcoming

*La Traviata - Opera North Carolina
Die Fledermaus - Opera Pensacola*

Hometown

Mobile, Alabama

Residence

Nashville, Tennessee



Conductor

DEAN WILLIAMSON

Nashville Opera Music Director

2015-Present

Nashville Opera

Romeo and Juliet, Samson and Delilah, The Girl of the Golden West, The Difficulty of Crossing a Field, Cinderella, The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat, The Barber of Seville, Romulus Hunt, Florencia en el Amazonas, Hydrogen Jukebox, Three Way, María de Buenos Aires, Madame Butterfly, Beach Party Cinderella, Rigoletto Noir, Das Rheingold, La Bohème, The Medium, Stuck Elevator, The Pirates of Penzance, Pagliacci

Recent

*Florencia en el Amazonas – New York City Opera
La Cenerentola – Arizona Opera
Three Way – American Opera Projects, Brooklyn Academy of Music Merola Grand Finals Concert – San Francisco Opera
Madama Butterfly – Opera Idaho
Le Nozze di Figaro – Arizona Opera
Il barbiere di Siviglia - Opera Saratoga
Don Giovanni - Inland Opera Northwest*

Hometown

Taipei, Taiwan

Residence

Seattle, Washington



Dr. P

MATTHEW TREVIÑO

Bass

Nashville Opera

Three Way 2017

Romulus Hunt 2014

The Man Who Mistook His Wife For a Hat 2013

La Traviata 2011

Andrea Chenier 2010

Tosca 2009

Recent

Bonze in *Madama Butterfly* - Opera de Montréal

Frère Laurent in *Romeo et Juliette* - Florentine Opera

Dottore Grenvil in *La Traviata* - Calgary Opera

Upcoming

Bartolo in *Le Nozze di Figaro* - Calgary Opera

Soloist in Verdi's *Requiem* - Toronto Mendelssohn Choir

Hometown: Austin, TX

Residence: Montreal, Canada



Mrs. P

CAROLINE WORRA *

Soprano

Nashville Opera

Debut

Recent

Older Alyce in *Glory Denied* - Opera Roanoke

Hanna in *The Merry Widow* - Charlottesville Opera

Aunt Lydia in *The Handmaid's Tale* - Boston Lyric Opera

Hometown: Onalaska, WI

Residence: Stamford, CT



Dr. S

TYLER NELSON

Tenor

Nashville Opera

Das Rheingold 2022

Recent

Tamino in *The Magic Flute* - Opera Orlando

Catacambo / Candide (cover) in *Candide* - Atlanta Opera

Upcoming

Tenor Soloist in *Messiah* - Nashville Symphony

Hometown: Salt Lake City, UT

Residence: Nashville, TN



Lighting and Video Designer

BARRY STEELE

Nashville Opera

Der Rosenkavalier, Salome, The Lighthouse, La Voix Humaine, Lucia di Lammermoor, Faust, Surrender Road, Turandot (2006, 2015), Romeo and Juliet, Madame Butterfly, Samson and Delilah, The Fall of the House of Usher, Andrea Chénier, The Girl of the Golden West, The Difficulty of Crossing a Field, The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat, Otello, La Bohème (2014), Romulus Hunt, Florencia en el Amazonas, Hydrogen Jukebox, Don Giovanni, Glory Denied, Three Way, Carmen, María de Buenos Aires, Susannah, Tales of Hoffmann, The Cradle Will Rock, Rigoletto Noir, Das Rheingold, La Bohème, The Medium, Stuck Elevator, The Pirates of Penzance, Pagliacci

Upcoming

The Barber of Seville - Arizona Opera

Roméo et Juliette - Arizona Opera

La Bohème - Florida Grand Opera

Hometown/Residence: St. Petersburg, FL



Costume Designer

PAM LISENBY

Nashville Opera

Susannah, The Pearl Fishers, Salome, Amahl and the Night Visitors, Hansel and Gretel, The Difficulty of Crossing a Field, The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat (2013), Romulus Hunt, Hydrogren Jukebox, Maria de Buenos Aires.

Recent

Taylor Swift Eras Tour (2023), Brandy Clark - Americana Awards (2023), Brenda Lee & Trisha Yearwood - ABC Opry Christmas Special (2023), Ken Marlowe - People's Choice Country Music Awards (2023), High Valley - Canadian Country Music Awards (2023), Meghan Patrick - Canadian Country Music Awards (2023), Parker McCollum - ACM Awards (2023), David Lee Murphy - Songwriters' Honors Awards (2023), Maren Morris - CMA Awards (2022), Carolyn Dawn Johnson - Ryman (2022), Brett Eldridge "Songs About You" Album Cover (2022), Luke Combs' Middle of Somewhere Tour (2022)

Hometown/Residence: Nashville, TN



Wig & Makeup Designer

SONDRA NOTTINGHAM

Nashville Opera

La Bohème, Florencia en el Amazonas, Salome, Elmer Gantry, Il Trovatore, The Student Prince, The Fall of the House of Usher, Rigoletto, The Girl of the Golden West, Madame Butterfly, The Difficulty of Crossing a Field, The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat, Romulus Hunt, Glory Denied, Tales of Hoffmann, The Cradle Will Rock, Madame Butterfly, Pepito, Amahl and the Night Visitors, Turn of the Screw, Beach Party Cinderella, One Vote Won, Favorite Son, Rigoletto Noir, Das Rheingold, La Bohème, The Medium, Stuck Elevator, The Pirates of Penzance, Pagliacci

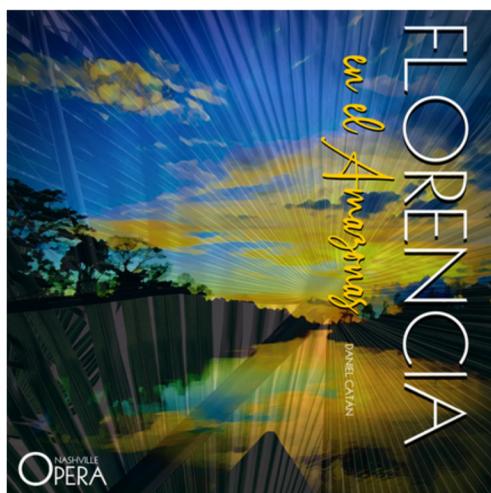
Recent

*Abduction from the Seraglio, Ariadne auf Naxos - St. Petersburg Opera
Das Rheingold, La Traviata - North Carolina Opera
Turandot, Dead Man Walking - Shreveport Opera
Witches of Venice, Il Postino, Figaro, The Long Walk - Opera Saratoga
Carmen, Un Ballo in Maschera - Opera Tampa
Three Way - American Opera Projects, Brooklyn Academy of Music*

Hometown: Hardinsburg, KY

Residence: Nashville, TN

Upcoming



FLORENCIA EN EL AMAZONAS

JANUARY 26, 27, 28, 2024
TPAC - POLK THEATER

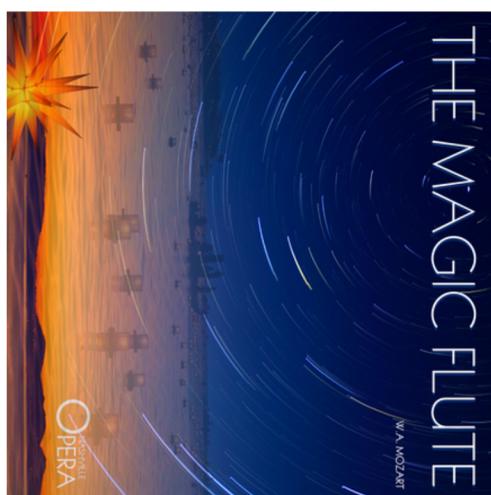
Journey once more down the Amazon River into the mysteries of the human heart and the desperate search for lost love. This sensual voyage into magical realism is reminiscent of the scores of Puccini and Ravel. Your heart will soar like the blue sapphire butterflies hidden amid the tropical rain forest.



THE THREE LITTLE PIGS

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Since 1995, Nashville Opera's Education Tour has traveled across Middle Tennessee and introduced nearly 800,000 children to the magic of opera. The 2024 Tour takes John Davies' classic retelling of THE THREE LITTLE PIGS to schools, with messages of cooperation and the power of reading - all set to the music of Mozart!



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