

Three Nights at the Opera

Part One

Thursday, October 21, 2021, 7:30 p.m.
Wright Leppien Opera House

featuring

Student and Faculty Soloists

Professor James Schippers, collaborative pianist

The Alma Chorale
Professor Cera Babb, conductor

The Alma Choir
Professor Will Nichols, conductor

Welcome Friends

The Alma College Music Department is delighted to present the first of the College's *Three Nights at the Opera House* scheduled this fall. The grant that makes these evenings possible is the brain child of Ben Peterson, professor of history, and Sheryle Dixon, the college's director of grants and sponsored programs. We are grateful to them for their scholarship and leadership.

Our charge has been to recreate the kind of musical entertainment that was so popular in the Opera House in the early years of the 20th century. The college newspaper, *The Weekly Almanian*, tells of evenings of great musical variety that featured Alma College students and their professors in performances of classical music, grand opera, popular songs of the day — and offers testimony to the great popularity, and frequent Alma College productions, of the operettas by Gilbert and Sullivan.

Our wish is for you to relax into a slower, quieter time with no smart phones, no streaming services, no COVID...a time where Almanians gathered to share an evening of music with one another in this place.

Will Nichols
Alma College Music Department



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Program

Alma College Chorale

Er Ist Gekommen in Sturm und Regen (1841) Clara Schumann

*He came in storm and rain
My anxious heart beat against his
How could I have known that his path
Should unite itself with mine?*

Witches' Chorus (*Macbeth* – 1847)..... Giuseppe Verdi

Will you love me in December as you do in May? (1905) Ernest Ball

MacKenzie Breitner '24, soprano
Ian James '24, Blake Jonassen '22, Brendan Murdie '22

Three PoemsEmily Dickinson

“Hope” is the thing with feathers — Read by Taylor Stenger '24
I'm Nobody! Who are you? — Read by Erin Dodds '23
Besides the Autumn poets sing — Read by Jenna Vargas '23

Danse Russe (*Trois mouvements de Petrouchka* – 1911-21).....Igor Stravinsky

Professor James Schippers, piano

Come and Trip It (*L'Allegro* – 1740).....G. F. Handel

Corbin Lantzer '23, tenor

Art is Calling for Me (*The Enchantress* – 1911).....Victor Herbert

Kara Tredway, '22 soprano

Vocalise (1915)Sergei Rachmaninoff

Dr. Takeshi Abo, violin

On the Road to Mandalay (1907).....Rudyard Kipling / Oley Speaks

Bradley Skellenger '22, bass

If (1895-1910).....Rudyard Kipling

Read by David Troyer

A Bird in a Gilded Cage (1900) Arthur Lamb / Harry vonTilzer

Professor Vicki Walker, soprano

The Alma Choir

Scenes from H.M.S. Pinafore (1878)Gilbert and Sullivan

We Sail the Ocean Blue
I Am the Captain of the Pinafore
Captain Corcoran — Danny Barr '22

I Am the Monarch of the Sea
When I Was a Lad
Sir Joseph Porter — Emeritus Professor Scott Messing
Cousin Hebe — Gi Shrewsbury '23