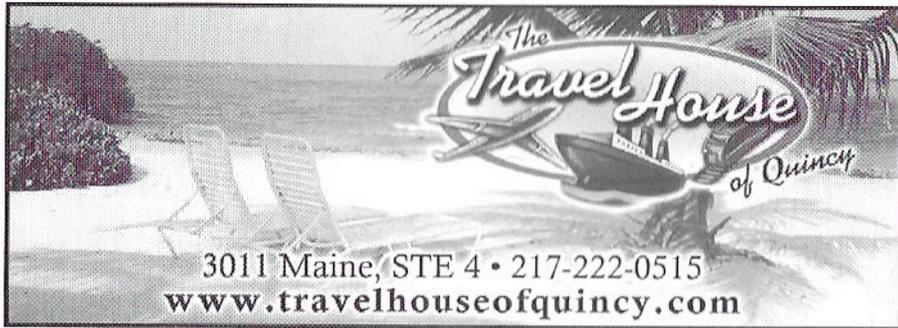


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 Brian Gehrich, Violin
 Helga Winold, Cello

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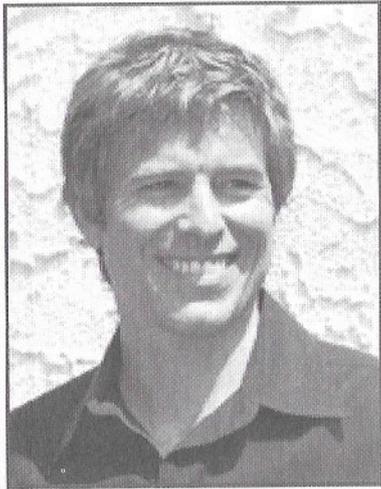


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Meet the Author



James Still

Author

*The Heavens Are Hung
in Black*

The play explores the struggles within Abraham Lincoln's mind in 1862 as he grieved the loss of his son, Willie, and prepared to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. Commissioned for the Grand Reopening of Ford's Theatre in 2009.

Staged Reading of *The Heavens Are Hung in Black*

Monday, Feb. 23, 7:30 pm • MacHugh Theatre, Quincy University

Reception to follow

Question & Answer Session

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 7:30 pm • MacHugh Theatre, Quincy University

Reception to follow

Open to the public without charge; limited seating.



Mr. Still's residency is sponsored by the
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The Muddy River Opera Company
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The World Premiere of
A new musical

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Lee Goldsmith

Music by
Roger Anderson

Orchestration by
Greg Anthony

Friday, February 20, 2009 8:00 PM

Sunday, February 22, 2009 2:00 PM

Quincy Community Theatre
Quincy, Illinois

This production is partially sponsored by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, and the Marion Gardner Jackson Trust Arts Fund and the Business and Individual Members of the Quincy Society of Fine Arts



This program is partially
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Cast

(In order of appearance)

ABE LINCOLN.....Samuel Hepler
MENTOR GRAHAM, New Salem schoolteacher.....Greg Lewis
JIM RUTLEDGE, New Salem tavern owner.....William J.B. Winn
ANN RUTLEDGE, his daughter.....Elise LaBarge
DENTON OFFUTT, New Salem storekeeper.....Russell Goodell
JACK ARMSTRONG, one of the 'Clary's Grove Boys'.....Kevin Jobe
ANOTHER CLARY'S GROVE BOY.....Jason Stone
MRS. CAMERON, New Salem townswoman.....Emily DePauw
1st CAMERON DAUGHTER.....Camber Flick
2nd CAMERON DAUGHTER.....Kayla Robison
MARY TODD, a visitor in Springfield.....Joy Boland
ELIZABETH EDWARDS, her sister.....Michelle Bickhaus
NINIAN EDWARDS, Elizabeth's husband, a Springfield politician.....Charles Scholz
1st MALE GUEST.....Kevin Payne
2nd MALE GUEST.....Gerry Wagner
BILLY HERNDON, a young lawyer.....Robert Boldin
1st LADY GUEST.....Emily Goodwin
2nd LADY GUEST.....Ann Pfaffe
MARY'S DANCING PARTNER.....Drew Quintero
A SPRINGFIELD CITIZEN.....Greg Lewis
HIS WIFE.....Beth Parchim
ROBERT LINCOLN.....Ian Taylor
WILLIE LINCOLN.....Landon Reed
TAD LINCOLN.....Jay Stalder
MR. BROOKS, a New York reporter.....Leo Bistak
MR. BRIGGS, a New York politician.....Jason Stone
MATTHEW BRADY, a photographer.....Kevin Payne
JASON ROGERS, a young man.....Jacob Rokusek
1st ILLINOIS DELEGATE.....Leo Bistak
2nd ILLINOIS DELEGATE.....Gerry Wagner
A TELEGRAPH OPERATOR.....William J.B. Winn

ENSEMBLE

Jasmine Anders, Leo Bistak, Amber Bosomworth, Roberta Bostrom,
Sarah Breyne, Emily DePauw, Alaina Donley, Camber Flick, Justin Gibbons,
Russell Goodell, Emily Goodwin, Kevin Jobe, Kevin Payne, Ann Pfaffe,
Kayla Robison, Meg Stalder, Jason Stone, Gerry Wagner, Amy Walker,
Rebecca Walker, William J.B. Winn, Elizabeth Zaerr, Kelsey Zaerr

DANCERS

Melissa Lang, Drew Quintero

Orchestra

CONDUCTOR.....Scott Schoonover
VIOLIN I, Concert Master.....Brian Gehrich
Jane Polett
Vicki Daggett
VIOLIN II.....Kamen Petkov
Joan Mast
VIOLA.....Kae Blecha
Allison Schlipman
CELLO.....Douglas Reeve
BASS.....Kennedy Moore
FLUTE/PICCOLO.....Roberta Huff
OBOE.....Marianne Peters
CLARINET.....Jean Murray
BASSOON.....Cathy Flick
HORN.....Christina Werling
TRUMPET.....Keith Wiemelt
TUBA.....Dennis Bingheim
TROMBONE.....Christopher Wilhite
PIANIST.....Leonora Gehrich
GUITAR.....Jesse Mazzocoli
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Conductor/Music Director	Scott Schoonover
Artistic Director	Avril Marie Bernzen
Stage Manager	Alexis Diver
Set Designer/Lighting	Paul Denckla
Costume Designer	Catherine Wagner
	Stage Door Costumes
Dance Sequences	Drew Quintero
Chorus Rehearsal Accompanists	Scott Schoonover
	Russell Goodell
	Jason Stone
	Tamara Myers
Orchestra/Rehearsal Accompanist	Leonora Gehrich
Orchestra Liaison	Vicki Daggett
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Synopsis of Scenes

ACT ONE

- SCENE ONE: A slave auction, New Orleans, 1829.
- SCENE TWO: Main Street of New Salem, Summer, 1831.
- SCENE THREE: A Saturday night at the Rutledge Tavern, New Salem, Autumn, 1831.
- SCENE FOUR: Denton Offutt's store, New Salem, Winter, 1832.
- SCENE FIVE: Various parts of New Salem, Summer, 1832.
- SCENE SIX: A wooded part of the Rutledge farm, New Salem, Summer, 1835.
- SCENE SEVEN: The same, Autumn, 1835.
- SCENE EIGHT: A Cotillion Ball at the American House Hotel, Springfield, 1840.

Fifteen Minute Intermission

ACT TWO

- SCENE ONE: Various parts of Springfield, 1840.
- SCENE TWO: Law office of Lincoln and Herndon, Springfield, 1848.
- SCENE THREE: The Lincoln home, Springfield, Christmas Eve, 1859.
- SCENE FOUR: Matthew Brady's photography studio, New York City, February, 1860.
- SCENE FIVE: Outside "The Wigwam", Chicago's convention hall, May, 1860.
- SCENE SIX: The Springfield telegraph office, Election Night, November, 1860.
- SCENE SEVEN: The Lincoln home, Springfield, the morning of February 11th, 1861.

Musical Numbers

ACT ONE

FIFTEEN HOUSES, A HUNDRED PEOPLE.	Denton, Mentor, Ann Jim, townspeople
HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY.	Abe
A GIRL LIKE HER.	Abe
CORN.	Denton, Jack tavern patrons
WHO ARE YOU?	Abe
A MAN LIKE HIM.	Ann
TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY SEVEN TO THREE.	Jack, Jim townspeople
A GIRL LIKE YOU.	Abe
A GIRL LIKE YOU (Reprise)	Abe
MRS. ABRAHAM LINCOLN.	Mary
WHAT AM I BID.	Billy

ACT TWO

MRS. ABRAHAM LINCOLN (Reprise)	Mary
SOMEONE.	Abe
WHAT WOULD I DO WITH DAUGHTERS.	Abe, Bob, Willie, Tad
A MOMENT LIKE THIS ONE.	Abe, Mary
WHO, ABE? YOU, ABE!	Billy, Delegates
HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY (Reprise)	Abe
WHO ARE YOU? (Reprise).	Abe

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Story Synopsis

ACT ONE

Scene One (Prelude)

In 1829 New Orleans a nineteen-year-old Abe Lincoln witnesses a slave auction.

Scene Two

Three years later, Abe is working as a store clerk in the struggling river town of New Salem, Illinois (Fifteen Houses). Abe feels close to the tavern owner's daughter, Ann Rutledge, and tells her of his origins (Hardin County, Kentucky). He also finds a friend and tutor in Mentor Graham, the town schoolteacher.

Scene Three

Visiting the Rutledge tavern one night, Abe realizes that he has fallen in love with Ann (A Girl Like Her) yet cannot imagine her ever returning his feelings. Abe is challenged to wrestle by one of the town's bullies and surprises everyone by pinning the challenger to the tavern floor. In order to make peace with his customers, Jim Rutledge buys everyone a round of drinks (Corn).

Scene Four

Abe has become a voracious reader and particularly taken with Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England. Though many people in New Salem recognize his brilliance, Abe struggles to find his purpose (Who Are You?). Ignoring Abe's insecurity, Ann can't help but fall in love with someone she so admires (A Man Like Him).

Scene Five

Since the store where he worked is out of business; Abe takes the townspeople's suggestion and runs for the Illinois Legislature. Though he is defeated, Abe carries nearly all of New Salem's votes (277 to 3).

Scene Six

Three years later, Abe is now an Illinois legislator and visits New Salem to ask for Ann's hand. She accepts but wishes to wait until Abe has finished his law degree (A Girl Like Her reprise).

Scene Seven

Three months later Ann is dead; Abe suffers a bout of melancholy that darkens the rest of his life.

Scene Eight

Five years pass and Abe is still in the State Legislature while running a successful law practice. Attending a Cotillion Ball Abe is pursued by Mary Todd, a visitor from Kentucky. Mary envisions Abe's great political future, which she intends to cultivate and become part of (Mrs. Abraham Lincoln). Abe's friend and colleague, Billy Herndon, a staunch abolitionist, introduces a game to the Cotillion guests (What Am I Bid?). The seemingly innocent entertainment turns into a riot, underscoring the slavery conflict that is consuming the nation.

Story Synopsis (continued)

ACT TWO

Scene One

Though Mary continues to pursue Abe, her family believes the match is not suitable. Abe proposes to her in December of 1840 and agrees to a New Year's Day wedding, but never appears. Mary remains steadfast in her hopes; two years later they are finally wed (Mrs. Abraham Lincoln reprise).

Scene Two

Elected to one term in the United States House of Representatives in 1846, Abe finds it impossible, despite attempts from family and friends, to compromise his ideals (Someone).

Scene Three

Years later, Abe and Mary with their sons Bob, Willie and Tad celebrate Christmas Eve. Tad, the youngest, questions his father how life would be different had one of the boys been a girl (What Would I Do With Daughters?). Soon after, Mary criticizes Abe on the manner in which he treats her in public, but admits to being overly sensitive since he lost the election to the United States Senate the previous year. They discuss the good things they share in marriage and family (A Moment Like This One). Billy Herndon, now Abe's law partner, arrives with presents and news that Abe is in consideration for the presidential nomination of 1860. After he leaves, Mary launches into a tirade against Billy, revealing signs of emotional instability that will plague her for the rest of her life.

Scene Four

Abe visits the photography studio of Matthew Brady in February of 1860 where he encounters a boy who has memorized his "House Divided" speech.

Scene Five

In May of 1860 at Chicago's Convention Hall, Abe wins the nomination for President (Who Abe? You, Abe!).

Scene Six

In November, he is elected the 16th President of the United States of America.

Scene Seven

On February 11, 1861, the Lincolns are packed and ready to leave for Washington, D.C. Abe finds himself left alone (Who Are You? reprise). Abe's oldest son Bob enters to say he has heard that the nation is coming apart and asks if his father can stop it. "I can try," Abe responds. Alone again, Abe remembers Ann. Mary enters. Together, arm in arm, they leave for the train station.

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Biographies

SAMUEL HEPLER (Abe Lincoln) is pleased to return to Quincy for the world premiere of *Abe* having previously appeared in the Muddy River Opera Company production of *The Mikado* as Pooh Bah. Mr. Hepler has been recognized for his artistic sensitivity in a wide range of vocal repertoire. He has performed throughout the United States, Mexico, Europe, Turkey, and Singapore. His operatic performances have included such diverse roles as Don Alfonso in *Così fan tutte*, Duke Bluebeard in *Bluebeard's Castle*, Grandpa Moss in *The Tender Land*, Junius in *The Rape of Lucretia*, Leporello in *Don Giovanni*, Noye in *Noye's Fludde*, Pooh Bah in *The Mikado*, Sam in *Trouble in Tahiti*, Sid in *Albert Herring*, the Captain in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, the Count in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and the father in *Hänsel und Gretel*.



Mr. Hepler has performed with a number of opera companies and festivals including Annapolis Opera, Chautauqua Opera, Fargo-Moorhead Opera, Master Works Festival, the Muddy River Opera, Opera Roanoke, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Shreveport Opera, and the Spoleto Festival U.S.A. His recordings of *Albert Herring* and *Trouble in Tahiti* are available on the Vox and Newport Classic labels. Mr. Hepler made his national television debut with "Live from the Lincoln Center" in a production of *Hänsel und Gretel* designed by the acclaimed children's author and illustrator Maurice Sendak.

Mr. Hepler is also an active concert artist. Recent performances have included Brahms' *Requiem*, Britten's *Cantata Misericordium*, Faure's *Requiem*, Handel's *Messiah*, Haydn's *Schöpfungsmesse* and *Missa Sanctae Caeciliae*, Mozart's *Great Mass in C minor*, and Vaughn Williams's *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*. Mr. Hepler has performed with a variety of orchestras and choral organizations throughout the United States and overseas. Mr. Hepler, originally from Indiana, now resides in New York City. He received his undergraduate training from Butler University, a Masters of Music from the Manhattan School of Music, and was a member of the Juilliard Opera Center.

JOY BOLAND (Mary Todd) is delighted to make her debut at Muddy River Opera Company. Ms. Boland was named the 2008 first prize winner in the St. Louis Artist Presentation Society recital competition and will be the featured recital in the 2009 series. She was the 2004 St. Louis MET auditions winner and was last seen as Emilia in Union Avenue Opera's *Otello*. Favorite opera roles include Rosalinde (*Die Fledermaus*), Marthe (*Faust*), Mrs. Nolan (*The Medium*), Annina (*La Traviata*), La Ciesca (*Gianni Schicchi*), Lola Markham (*Gallantry*), La Badessa (*Suor Angelica*) and Clotilde (*Norma*). Upcoming singing engagements include Alisa in Tulsa Opera's production of *Lucia di Lammermoor* in October 2009.



Ms. Boland was a member of the voice faculty at St. Louis University from 1999 to 2004 and is a licensed massage therapist currently working with singers and other artists. She is Principal Soprano with The American Kantorei (at Concordia Seminary) under Dr. Robert Bergt and is employed at The MUNY in Forest Park, St. Louis. Much love to my family and Ian, meine glück.

ROBERT BOLDIN (Billy Herndon), a Pittsburgh native, is excited to return to Muddy River Opera Company for this world premiere. He previously appeared at MROC as Nemorino in *L'Elisir d'Amore* and Henrik in *A Little Night Music*. Mr. Boldin recently performed the role Lucano in *The Coronation of Poppea* with Opera Omnia at the old Village Gate in New York City and will participate in another production with Opera Vivente in March. Additionally, the works Gilbert and Sullivan are quickly becoming staples of his repertoire. He has performed the role of Ralph Rackstraw in *H.M.S. Pinafore* with Lyric Opera San Diego, the Richmond Symphony Orchestra, Dayton Opera and Arizona Broadway Theater, and this spring, he looks forward to his debut in the role of Frederic in *The Pirates of Penzance* at Skylight Opera in Milwaukee. He made his European debut in a Stephen Sondheim review at Le Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona, Spain and has since been a featured recitalist with Concerto Classico in Siena and Florence, Italy. Other recent credits include Hotel Porter in *Death in Venice* (Chicago Opera Theater); Doctor/Malingerer/Dog in *The Good Soldier Schweik* (Chicago Opera Theater, World Premier Recording – Cedille Records); Tybalt in *Romeo and Juliet* (Skylight Opera Theater). Mr. Boldin has been a featured young artist with the Kentucky Opera, Chicago Opera Theater, Ash Lawn Opera Festival and Chautauqua Opera. He holds a B.F.A. from Carnegie Mellon University and an M.M. from Northwestern University.



ELISE LABARGE (Ann Rutledge) is pleased to return to Muddy River Opera Company, having previously performed in the company's productions of *The Mikado* as Peep-Bo and *L'Elisir d'Amore* as Giannetta. A St. Louis native, she received her Masters in Music from Washington University in May of 2006. While there, she sang multiple roles in opera scenes and main stage productions, including the title role in *Susannah* and Dorine in *Tartuffe*. Ms. LaBarge has since sung with Chicago Folk's Operetta (*Amaranthe/Mitislav the Modern*), Union Avenue Opera (*Barbarina/Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Giannetta/L'Elisir d'Amore*), New Opera St. Louis, Lyrico, and New Line Theatre. Her recent professional theatre appearances have been with McLeod Summer Playhouse (*Almost, Maine*) and the St. Louis Symphony (*Peter and the Wolf*). She leads opera education programs for Union Avenue Opera in conjunction with Young Audiences St. Louis, and plays Little Red Riding Hood in the company's ongoing educational outreach performances of the children's opera.



GREGORY G. D. LEWIS (Mentor Graham) began his vocal studies at Pacific Lutheran University in 2001. Promptly following his nascence in solo vocal performance, Mr. Lewis was invited to audition for Tacoma Opera, where he was honored to become the first recipient of Tacoma Opera's Bernard Dickson Memorial Young Artist Fund and was subsequently cast in Mainstage roles from 2002-2005. In 2002, Mr. Lewis was also invited to perform for the Oberlin in Italy program in Urbania, Italy. Mr. Lewis was asked to join the Seattle Opera Chorus where he sang from 2004-2007 under such eminent conductors as Robert Spano, Nicola Luisotti, Asher Fisch and Edoardo Muller. In 2007 he made his Mid-West debut in the title role of Robert Hanson's *Hiawatha*, performed with The Elgin Choral Union and was invited back the same year to sing as the Baritone soloist in their production of *The Messiah*. Mr. Lewis made his Opera Quad-Cities debut in their 2008 production of *Rigoletto*, playing the role of Count Cerpano. This production of *Abe* marks Lewis'



debut with Muddy River Opera Company, performing in the role of Mentor Graham. Lewis is also active in the Episcopal Church currently singing as Bass section Leader and Cantor for Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Davenport, IA. Mr. Lewis teaches privately in Galesburg, IL where he makes his home with his wife, Sarah.

RUSSELL GOODELL (Denton Offut) is a retired music teacher and has appeared in many productions for Muddy River Opera Company and Quincy Community Theatre. Mr. Goodell's most recent role for MROC was in *La Boheme* as Benoit and Alcindoro. He recently was awarded a Quilta for *Death Takes a Holiday* for Quincy Community Theatre, as well as receiving the Enid Ireland Award. He directs the Chancel Choir at Vermont Street United Methodist Church in Quincy. Mr. Goodell has a son, Mark, and a daughter, Julie, and three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

KEVIN JOBE (Jack Armstrong) is pleased to be appearing on stage again with the Muddy River Opera Company. Previous performances with the company include *L'Elisir d'Amore*, *La Boheme*, and *Gift of the Magi*. Mr. Jobe has a thirty year history with the Quincy Community Theatre, most recently in the role of Cladwell in *Urinetown*. He will appear next month in QCT's production of *Funny Girl*. Mr. Jobe has been involved with the Quincy Symphony Chorus as the tenor soloist in Handel's *Messiah*, and with the Quincy Conservatory in *The Impresario*. An active member of music ministry, he participates with the choir, praise team and men's ensemble at Madison Park Christian Church in Quincy.

LONDON REED (Willie Lincoln) is a 7th grader at Quincy Junior High School. He plays percussion in the band and is in the QJHS chorus. He has performed in the Baldwin talent show as well as the school's production of *Sleepy Hollow*. Mr. Reed was in *Something Unexpected* with the Quincy Dance Theatre Company; plays drums and sings with his church's praise band, as well as playing the guitar. In addition to music, Mr. Reed enjoys hunting, fishing, 4-H, riding 4 wheelers and horses.

JAY DANIEL STALDER (Tad Lincoln) is an eighth grader at Quincy Junior High School. He enjoys acting and singing and is actively involved with the Quincy Community Theatre where he was recently seen in *Into the Woods Junior* as the Mysterious Man with the Student Theatre. Mr. Stalder's favorite roles include the title role in *The Little Prince* for QCT, Randolph in *Bye Bye Birdie* at Quincy Senior High School, and the title role in Quincy University's production of *Oliver*. At school he enjoys choir and German class. *Abe* marks Mr. Stalder's Muddy River Opera Company debut.

IAN TAYLOR (Robert Lincoln) is a junior at Quincy Senior High School. A dancer since the age of 5, Mr. Taylor has appeared in 27 shows since 2000 with Quincy Community Theatre, Quincy University, school, and Muddy River Opera Company. *Abe*, is Mr. Taylor's second appearance with the company, having previously been seen in *La Boheme*. Some of his favorite roles include Jesus in *Godspell Jr.*, Artful Dodger in *Oliver*, Laurie in *Little Women the Broadway Musical*, and Billy Lawler in *42nd Street*.

WILLIAM J.B. WINN (Jim Rutledge) made his Muddy River Opera Company debut in 1997 in the chorus of *The Merry Widow*. A Quincy native, Mr. Winn studied voice with Fr. Dennis Schalter during college and beyond. He is a familiar face on stage having appeared in Quincy Community Theatre productions, singing with the Quincy Symphony Chorus and is a member of the praise band at Vermont Street United Methodist Church. When not performing in Quincy, Mr. Winn is a welfare fraud investigator with the Bureau of Investigations for the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services.

MARK JAMES MEIER (Stage Director) has built upon a successful performing career to make his mark as a creative, energetic director for opera and musical theater. He has directed *Turandot*, *Falstaff*, *Norma Die Zaubertöte*, *L'Elisir d'Amore* and *Otello* for Union Avenue Opera; *La Bohème*, *A Little Night Music*, *The Mikado*, *L'Elisir d'Amore*, the world premiere of David Contes' *The Gift of the Magi* and *How Naniia Learned To Make Flan* for Muddy River Opera Company; *Amahl And The Night Visitors* for Chamber Opera Chicago; *Madama Butterfly* and *L'Elisir d'Amore* for Elgin Opera, *The Mikado* for Fargo-Moorhead Opera and *The Phantom of the Orchestra* for Quincy Symphony Orchestra. He also served as Assistant Director for *Turandot* for Opera Grand Rapids. Upcoming directing engagements include *Carmen* for Fargo-Moorhead Opera and *Il Trovatore* for Union Avenue Opera. Critics have said of his direction: "Meier found the spirit of this comedy, and used his singers and his spaces well. Frothy, funny and well-sung, 'Elisir' may be the best thing the company's done yet." "Meier's deft comedic touch makes this brisk production the perfect potion for a hot summer's night," and "He picked up on this [the passion] and his blocking and coaching of the scenes between the young lovers was provocative and quite riveting."

Mr. Meier is also an active composer, having enjoyed the world premiere of *The Ceiling*, a musical he composed. *The Ceiling* follows the struggles of Michelangelo in completing the painting of the Sistine Chapel. As a performer, Mark has appeared with the Chicago, Milwaukee, Saint Louis and Colorado Symphony Orchestras under the direction of Sir Georg Solti, Christoph Eschenbach, Peter Schreier, Erich Kunzel and Duain Wolfe. With over 70 roles in his varied repertoire, Mr. Meier frequently portrays such enduring operatic characters as Pang in *Turandot*, Goro in *Madama Butterfly*, Basilio in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Spalanzani in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* and Tanzmeister in *Ariadne auf Naxos* with companies such as New Orleans Opera, Central City Opera, Chicago Opera Theater, Madison Opera, Opera Grand Rapids and Knoxville Opera.

SCOTT SCHOONOVER (Conductor) is an active conductor, pianist and coach in the St. Louis, Missouri area. He is the founder and Artistic Director of Union Avenue Opera and continues to direct UAO with his unique musical insight and dedication to providing performances that are true to the intentions of the composer. Mr. Schoonover has led the UAO to critical acclaim for the past fourteen seasons, conducting over 40 productions and 125 performances. Recent conducting engagements include: *L'Elisir d'Amore* and *The Mikado* at Muddy River Opera Company, *Carmen* and *Porgy and Bess* at UAO and *Rigoletto* at New Opera St. Louis. In addition to the Abe Premiere, Mr. Schoonover will conduct Barbara Harbach's new opera, *O, Pioneer!* during the 2008-2009 season. Other upcoming productions include *Samson et Dalila* and *Don Pasquale* at New Opera St. Louis and *The Merry Widow* and *Il Trovatore* at UAO. Mr. Schoonover has also.

appeared as a guest conductor with many organizations including: Bel Canto Chorus of St. Louis, the Gateway Men's Chorus, St. Louis Brass Band and Lyrico Mr. Schoonover is Director of Music at Union Avenue Christian Church and serves as conductor of the St. Louis Women's Chorale.

AVRIL MARIE BERNZEN (Artistic Director) served as president of the Muddy River Opera Company for six years, and has acted as Artistic Director for the past eight years. Ms. Bernzen has sung with various opera companies, dinner theatres and other venues across the country, as well as with the USO in Cuba. She was director and leading actress in the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba Theatre for two years. A graduate of Quincy College, Notre Dame Conservatory of Music in piano, and the Quincy Conservatory of Music in voice. Ms. Bernzen also did graduate work in Microbiology at Central Michigan University and St. Louis University. Her love of opera and classical music has led her to focus a great deal of her time and effort on growing the Muddy River Opera Company. Ms. Bernzen currently operates a voice and piano studio out of her home.

LEE GOLDSMITH (Book/Lyrics) enjoyed an early career with National Comics scripting stories for The Green Lantern, Wonder Woman and The Flash. He adapted several projects for the stage, writing books and lyrics. These include *Sheba* (based on William Inge's *Come Back Little Sheba*) with music by Clint Ballard and *Goldiggers of 1633* (based on *School for Wives*) with music by Larry Hurwit. His musical *Sextet* opened on Broadway in 1974. Other projects with composer Roger Anderson include *Quality Street* (an operetta based on the J. M. Barrie play), *Ladykiller* (inspired by works of Cornell Woolrich) and *Shine! The Horatio Alger Musical*.

ROGER ANDERSON (Music) is the composer of *Chaplin, A Memory As Entertainment*, written with mentors Lee Goldsmith and Emmy award-winning writer Ernest Kinoy. *Chaplin* was the original musical about the great comedian and was honored with the prestigious Carbonell Award. He is also the composer of *Shine! The Horatio Alger Musical*, which won the Broadway USA Award. Recent projects include *Ladykiller* with playwright Chuck Blasius and *Flying Tigers* with playwright William Luce, based on the life of General Claire Chennault. A Native of Louisiana, Mr. Anderson has been a resident of New York City since being a student in the mid-1970s. He studied at USC and The Juillard School of Music.

GREG ANTHONY (Orchestrations) served on Broadway for *The Little Mermaid* as Associate Music Director and *A Chorus Line Broadway Revival* as First Keyboardist. Mr. Anthony also served as Associate Conductor for *The Lion King* first national tour. He orchestrated the musical *Ace* for the Cincinnati Playhouse, the St. Louis Repertory Theatre and San Diego's Old Globe Theatre. Mr. Anthony also directed *Burndibar and Comedy on the Bridge* for the Yale Repertory Theatre. Having earned a Master's Degree from the Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music, Mr. Anthony has also provided arrangements and orchestrations for the Cincinnati Pops and the Indianapolis Symphony Pops.

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- Latecomers will be seated during a suitable moment at the usher's discretion
- Please remember to silence all cell phones, pagers and watch alarms.
- Please remain in your seat during the performance.
- No food or drink is allowed in the theatre at any time and may only be consumed in the lobby area.
- No cameras or recording devices of any kind are permitted.
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