

THE MUDDY RIVER OPERA COMPANY

presents

Chanticleer

by

Seymour Barab



MacHugh Theatre • Quincy University • Quincy, Illinois

CHANTICLEER

March 24th, - March 29th
2003

Quincy University
MacHugh Theatre

Supported by

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THE CAST

Chanticleer.....Erich Buchholz
Pertelote.....Emily DePauw
Fox.....Michael Brauer
The Widow.....Mary Nelson

The Production Staff

Stage Director.....Connie Phillips
Music Director.....Leonora Suppan
.....Gehrich
Artistic Director.....Avril Marie Bernzen
Stage Manager.....Heidi Schulman
Costumes.....Ann Pffaffe
Props.....Ruth M. Hultz
Education.....Connie Bergman
.....Ruth M. Hultz
Stage Assistants.....Lacy Metcalf
.....Kari Nozawa

CHANTICLEER - THE STORY

Chanticleer - from the French, meaning "to sing clearly".

Chanticleer is an opera based upon one of Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. The main characters are animals - a cocky rooster, his sensible wife Pertelote, a wily fox- who behaves very much like human beings and a Widow who owns the farm where Chanticleer and Pertelote live.

The singers in our opera are a high tenor, a baritone, a high soprano and a mezzo soprano (whose voice is slightly lower than a soprano. The young lady, Emily DePue, who sings Pertelote began to learn and rehearse the opera this past Friday, when our professional singer became to ill to perform. We applaud her.

The composer, Seymour Barab was born in Chicago. He has written more than 30 operas, most of which are one-act works which the young (and the young at heart) can enjoy.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Chanticleer - Erich Buchholz, a high tenor, lives in Chicago and has sung extensively in the Chicago area. His favorite roles include Almaviva in "The Barber of Seville," Tony in "West Side Story", Ramiro in "Cenerentola". Fenton in "The Merry Wives of Windsor". and Anthony in "Sweeney Todd" performed at the Ravinia Music Festival. He has introduced literally thousands of school children to the music of Opera through his work with Opera for the Young, and the International Music Foundation. He makes his debut with Muddy River Opera in "Chanticleer".

The Fox - Michael Brauer, a baritone, now lives in Chicago but is a native of Milwaukee Wisconsin. He has performed with the Minnesota Opera, the Des Moines Metro Opera and the Chicago Symphony Chorus. He was featured in the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's productions of "Tristan and Isolde" and "Les Troyens" during the 2001-2002 season. He debuts as The Fox with The Muddy River Opera Company.

^{De Pauw}
Pertelote - Emily De Pauw, a soprano, is a student at Quincy University. She is a native of Jerseyville, Illinois and has studied voice for over 8 years and is now enrolled in the Fine Arts program at Quincy University. She will be seen in the forthcoming production "Godspell" at Quincy University. Emily graciously accepted the task of learning the role of Pertelote when asked on Friday, March 21 to do the role. Rehearsals began that afternoon. The almost unsurmountable task was undertaken and we see and hear her today in this production. Thank you Emily.

The Widow - Mary Nelson is a Quincy native who now lives in Bridgeton, Missouri with her husband and almost one year old son. She has appeared in several Muddy River Operas, most recently in "Carmen" and "The Barber of Seville". She has been an active performer in the St. Louis region appearing in several community theatre productions as well as opera. Her opera credits include "Carmen", "Susannah" and "The Barber of Seville"., theatre, "Nunsense", "Run for your Life", "Jesus Christ Superstar" and others.

Stage Director - Connie Phillips has directed many Children's Operas and musicals for The Muddy River Opera Company, including "Chanticleer" in 1993, "Jekyll and Hyde", "Evita", "Noah's Flood", "The Goose Girl", "Jonah and the Whale" and "The Nativity according to St. Luke". For the past five years Ms. Phillips has taught Theatre at Quincy University. Previously she lived in Denver, Co. where she worked as a director and an actress. She loves children's theatre.

Music Director - Leonora Suppan Gehrich is Artist in Residence at Quincy University. She recently presented a program of American Music at a Festival in Murray, Ky. Last fall she presented piano recitals in Venice and Naples, Fl. In May, 2003, she will perform in Chicago, Il at the Quigley Seminary.

Artistic Director - Avril Marie Bernzen has a voice and piano studio. She has performed in Opera, Musical Theatre, Community Theatre, and with the USO in many cities where she lived in past years. She is currently serving a 4th year as President of Muddy River Opera.

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