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UD MUSIC STUDENTS TO TAKE OPERA ON THE ROAD FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

DAYTON, Ohio — The stereotype of the buxom opera singer who breaks glass with her high notes may be dispelled after University of Dayton students finish their performance.

Voice students in UD’s Opera Workshop have been practicing scenes from several well-known operas as well as lesser-known contemporary works. They will perform in period costumes for students Monday, Nov. 9, at Miami Valley School, 5151 Denise Drive.

“It will be a good opportunity to expose younger people to opera. So many of them have a conception of the stereotypical opera singer as a buxom Brunhilda who shatters glass with her high notes and dies tragically in the end,” said Stephanie Lytle, a senior music education major.

“Few of them know about the lighter, more fun side of opera found in some of the scenes that we will show them,” she said.

The students will present two scenes from recent Broadway shows, The Secret Garden and Titanic. “There are fewer and fewer dividing lines between opera and American musical theater,” said Linda June Snyder, a professor of music at UD who directs the workshop.

“Music in many Broadway shows is becoming more challenging and much dramatic action can be found within the music,” she said.

Some of the more traditional opera scenes will include excerpts from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s Cosi Fan Tutte and Don Giovanni; Georges Bizet’s Carmen; Giuseppe Verdi’s Falstaff; Engelbert Humperdinck’s Hansel and Gretel; Gian Carlo Menotti’s The Old Maid and the Thief; Johann Strauss’ Die Fledermaus and W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan’s The Mikado.

The students in Opera Workshop will also perform in two fully staged and costumed productions at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8, in Kennedy Union’s Boll Theatre on campus. Admission is free and open to the public.

“Our annual performances have ranged from evenings of excerpts of masterworks and one-act operas to premieres of works written by faculty composers,” Snyder said. Two years ago, students performed It Pays To Advertise, an opera with music written by Phil Magnuson, professor of music, and libretto by Herbert Martin, professor of English.

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For media interviews, call Linda Snyder at (937) 229-3936.