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As a courtesy to the performers and your fellow audience members, please be certain that all cell phones, watch alarms, and pagers are either turned off or set for silent operation. Flash photography can be very disconcerting to performers and is not permitted during the performance. Thank you for your cooperation!

**HOUGHTON
COLLEGE**

GREATBATCH SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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GREATBATCH SCHOOL OF MUSIC

presents

THE OLD MAID
AND THE THIEF

&

TELEPHONE THE

2 ONE-ACT OPERAS
BY GIAN CARLO MENOTTI

OCT. 26, 27, 28

7:30 PM

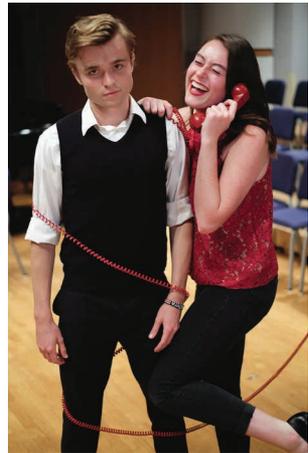
DIRECTED BY AMANDA COX

HOUGHTON COLLEGE

GREATBATCH SCHOOL OF MUSIC

proudly presents

THE OLD MAID AND THE THIEF & THE TELEPHONE



Two comic one-act operas by Gian Carlo Menotti

Directed by Amanda Cox

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

We are so pleased to welcome you to our 2017 Houghton College Lyric Theatre production of two comic one-act operas by Gian Carlo Menotti – *The Old Maid and the Thief* and *The Telephone*. We have been eagerly awaiting our audience! It has been my joy and privilege to work with his incredible cast, and I am honored to share them with you in this performance. I know that you will find them to be as talented, engaging, and committed to excellence as I have. These students are hard-working and diligent, kind and compassionate, positive and professional. Most importantly, they are dedicated to using the gifts God has given them to His glory and the furtherance of His kingdom. Beyond that, they are incredibly fun and energizing to work with!

We will share two one-act operas with you this evening. The first is about an hour and fifteen minutes long, and the second only twenty-five minutes! We will have a brief intermission between the two operas.

The Old Maid and the Thief is described by Menotti himself as “a grotesque opera in 14 scenes.” Fear not – our opera remains appropriate for all audiences! Miss Todd is a busybody in her small town. Though she is of high standing in her community, her love life has been bare for over forty years. Her housemaid Laetitia is a young, catty eavesdropper who is wary of becoming an “old maid” like her employer. Bob, a wanderer, comes to Miss Todd’s door one afternoon while the town gossip, Miss Pinkerton is visiting. Enamored of his beauty, Laetitia easily convinces Miss Todd to let him stay. Laetitia then convinces Bob to continue to stay by promising him more food and accommodations without any cost, and Bob remains in their house, as Miss Todd’s “cousin Steve” to anyone who asks. As you can well imagine, chaos ensues...and, as Menotti writes in the libretto, “the Devil couldn’t do what a woman can – make a thief out of an honest man!”

In our second opera, *The Telephone*, Ben, bearing a gift, comes to visit Lucy at her apartment; he wants to propose to her before he leaves on a trip. Despite his repeated attempts to get her attention for sufficient time to ask his question, Lucy is occupied with interminable conversations on the telephone. What will Ben have to do to capture Lucy’s undivided attention?

We invite you to sit back, relax, laugh and reflect as you enjoy this evening of theatre!

Amanda Cox, Director

THE OLD MAID AND THE THIEF

CAST

Miss Todd – Ellenore Tarr

Miss Pinkerton – Jiayao (Sissi) Lu; Aniela Perez

Laetitia – Alessia Paolini

Bob – Joshua Ellis

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Scene 1: In Miss Todd's Parlor

Scene 2: The Parlor

Scene 3: Bob's Bedroom

Scene 4: In the Street

Scene 5: The Parlor

Scene 6: The Parlor

Scene 7: The Parlor

Scene 8: Bob's Bedroom

Scene 9: The Parlor

Scene 10: In Front of the Liquor Store

Scene 11: The Parlor

Scene 12: Bob's Bedroom

Scene 13: Bob's Bedroom

Scene 14: The Parlor

THE TELEPHONE

CAST

Lucy England: Lauren Grifoni, Kingsley Kolek

Ben Upthegrove: Daniel Bussey

The Setting: Lucy's apartment

MUSICIANS

Victoria Pitre, conductor (*The Old Maid and the Thief*)

Dillon Hirsch, conductor (*The Telephone*)

Elizabeth Liddick, piano

CREW

Stage Manager - Liv Dobmeier

Assistant Stage Manager - Amy Nickelsen

Tech Team - Aubrey Wilkins, Nico Seddio, Hendrik de Smidt,
Brandi Ball, Naomi Tripp, Shelby Snow

GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

Kaleigh Kenney

PUBLICITY AND MATERIALS

Houghton College Marketing and Communications:

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CAST BIOS



DANIEL BUSSEY (Ben Upthegrove) is a sophomore vocal performance major from England. He moved to Kenya when he was a year old and has lived there since. Dan is from a family of five boys, all of whom are soccer fanatics. He and his brother Andy play for the Houghton College Men's Soccer Team. Dan loves musical theatre and participated in several shows during high school. During his senior year, Dan had the opportunity to play Jean Valjean in *Les Miserables*. Dan would also like to let everyone know – his first kiss was with a giraffe.



JOSHUA ELLIS (Bob) is a first-year vocal performance and English education dual major from Forestville, New York. He has been in eight musical productions, and this is his first opera. He has performed as an affiliate with the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus in Kleinhans Music Hall for three years and is a student in the Honors in London program, where he will be studying in the spring semester. Joshua enjoys being with his friends and family and doing music and English things.



LAUREN GRIFONI (Lucy) is a junior double-majoring in music and equestrian studies from West Newbury, Massachusetts. She has been riding her whole life and comes from a very musical family. Theater is one of Lauren's absolute favorite things and she has been in a variety of shows including *Fiddler on the Roof*; *Aida*; *Godspell*; *Little Women the Musical*; *Phantom of the Opera*; and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. This is Lauren's third show at Houghton and her first opera role!



KINGSLEY KOLEK (Lucy) is a senior from Springville, New York majoring in Music and Theology, with a concentration in Youth Ministry. One of her greatest passions is performing, and you can usually find her singing and dancing to musical theater songs all around her house (until her friends or mom tell her to stop). Kingsley's favorite musical roles include Whatsername in *Green Day's American Idiot the Musical*, Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde*, and Gertrude McFuzz in *Seussical*. Next year, Kingsley plans on going to graduate school for Vocal Performance where she can pursue her dream of teaching voice at a high school or university. She hopes you...sorry, she has to answer her phone...anyways, enjoy!



JIAYAO (SISSI) LU (Miss Pinkerton) is a senior vocal and piano performance plus studio arts double-major from China. She is native Chinese and grew up on a little island called Kulangsu 鼓浪屿. Sissi is from a family of no musicians; however, her dad has a great passion for the Beijing Opera. Both of her parents are very supportive of her love for music and art. This opera is only the second production that Sissi has participated in. She performed in her first opera, *Gianni Schicchi*, during her sophomore year, playing the role of La Ciesca.



Italian soprano **ALESSIA PAOLINI** (Laetitia) is currently pursuing her second master's degree in Voice Performance as a graduate assistant at Houghton College. In 2015 she earned a master's degree in Voice, graduating summa cum laude with honors at the Conservatory of Music of L'Aquila, her hometown, where she also earned a Bachelor of Arts in Piano Performance, and studied Composition for eight years. She studied for one year at the University of Music and Figurative Arts in Graz (Austria), specializing in German repertoire. Alessia has performed in the theatres of Arras, Grasse, and Aix en Provence (France), and has held recitals in Graz (Austria), Malmö (Sweden), Rome and Naples (Italy).



ANIELA PEREZ (Miss Pinkerton) is a senior working towards a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music. During her first semester at Houghton College, Aniela worked as stage manager for Lyric Theater's fall production of *L'elisir d'amore*. The following year, she was cast as Gherardino in Giacomo Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*, in which she thoroughly enjoyed riding a razor scooter across the stage. Aniela was cast as an understudy for last spring's production of *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* and is so excited to be performing as Miss Pinkerton in *The Old Maid and the Thief*.



ELLENORE TARR (Miss Todd), a senior originally from the coastal village of Brooklin, Maine, is pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree with a Vocal emphasis and electives in Theology. This is her first show with Lyric Theatre, adding to pre-Houghton shows *The Sound of Music*; *Little Women*; *The Mikado*; *Trial by Jury*; and *Princess Ida*. She also admits a fondness for liturgical prayers, New York apples, everything baroque, hiking, the Atlantic Ocean, an empty email inbox, islands and journaling. She is passionate about worship, fruitful Christianity, and seeing and creating beauty.