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The Balzer Theater at Herren's
84 Luckie Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Amahl and the Night Visitors

Written and Composed by Gian Carlo Menotti

Directed by W. Dwight Coleman

Musical Direction by Daniel E. Solberg

In association with

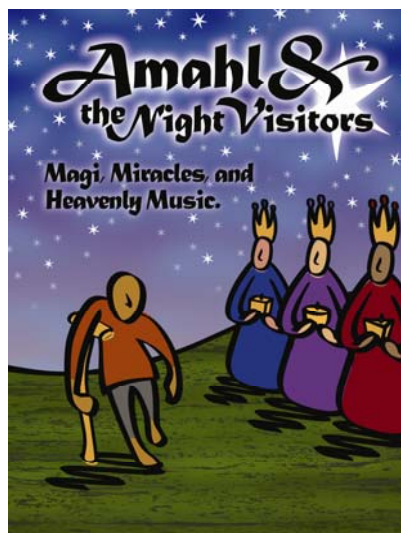
The Georgia State University School of Music

December 13 — 23, 2009

at The Balzer Theatre at Herren's

"Magi, Miracles, and Heavenly Music"

A holiday classic for decades, *Amahl and the Night Visitors* is a seasonal inspiration to people of all faiths and resonates a universal message of giving and community support. **This 50-minute one-act opera in English (no supertitles) is a captivating entry work to the art form and a way for children and families to be introduced to both theater and opera.** In the intimacy of the 200-seat Balzer Theater at Herren's, experience the simplicity of the human voice in the best acoustic setting, with no microphones or electronic enhancement; only the sounds of the season.



Amahl and the Night Visitors was commissioned by NBC and first performed December 24, 1951 at Rockefeller Center as the debut production of the Hallmark Hall of Fame. **It was the first network television holiday special to become an annual tradition and continued to air on NBC every year until 1966.** Additionally, *Amahl* was the first opera composed specifically for television in America, holding the largest audience ever to see a televised opera of five million people.

Composer Gian Carlo Menotti found inspiration for *Amahl* while he was walking through the Metropolitan Museum on Art in New York and experienced *The Adoration of the Magi* by Hieronymus Bosch: a triptych painting that features kings and common people congregating to honor the Christ child. In Menotti's interpretation, a crippled boy, Amahl, is mesmerized by a bright star in the sky. Known for telling stories and lies, his mother refuses to believe him, when it is in fact true. Consequently, she also does not believe him when three traveling kings arrive at their impoverished home seeking rest—until she sees them for herself. What follows is a beautiful account of faith in miracles, hope for a better tomorrow and finding comfort in the love and support of neighbors. *Amahl and the Night Visitors* is a celebration of holiday warmth and grandeur that transports the audience with the power of operatic voice and music.

W. Dwight Coleman:

(Director) W. Dwight Coleman, lyric baritone is currently director of the School of Music at Georgia State University in Atlanta. He is the artistic director of the nationally recognized Harrower Summer Opera Workshop and Resident Stage Director of the La Musica Lirica Summer Opera Festival in Italy. He holds degrees from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Northwestern University.

As a stage director, Mr. Coleman's professional credits include original language productions of: *La Bohème*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Carmen*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Don Pasquale*, *L'Elisir d'Amore*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Highway 1 U.S.A.*, *The Impresario*, *Rigoletto*, *Suor Angelica*, *Falstaff*, *La Traviata*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* and *Dialogues of the Carmelites*.

Performances & Tickets:

Evening Performances:

12/17, 12/18, 12/19, and
12/22, @ 7:30pm.

Matinee Performances:

12/13, 12/16, 12/19, 12/20,
and 12/23 @ 2:30pm.

Group Performances:

Seniors Matinee, 12/16 @
2:30pm, \$15.

Tickets:

Regular price, \$25. Group
Discounts and \$15 reserved
student tickets available.
Tickets may be purchased
online at
www.theatricaloutfit.org or
by calling the Box Office at
678-528-1500. Box Office
hours: Tues. - Fri., 12 - 6pm
and prior to performances.