

Opera
**THE
OLD
MAID
& THE THIEF**

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025

7:30 PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025

4:00 PM

THE RECITAL HALL

1860 7TH STREET | CHARLESTON, IL 61920 | (217)581-3110 | DOUDNATIX.COM



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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY™

PROGRAM

Director.....Dr. Julie Junghwa Park
Acting Coach..... Larry Cox, Jr.
Pianist.....Zinuo Zeng

Saturday, March 29, 2025

Miss Todd.....Patience Cox
Laetitia.....Summer Jones
Miss Pinkerton.....Lia Rigdon
Bob.....Mitch Cox
Radio Station Technician and Announcer.....Allison Cooke

Sunday, March 30, 2025

Miss Todd.....Maria Ochs
Laetitia.....Summer Jones
Miss Pinkerton.....Lia Rigdon
Bob.....Carter Davis
Radio Station Technician and Announcer.....Emily Ritter

Special Thanks

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ABOUT THE OPERA

The Old Maid and the Thief is a radio opera in one act by Italian-American composer Gian Carlo Menotti. Commissioned by NBC, *The Old Maid and the Thief* was one of the earliest operas composed specifically for performance on the radio. The opera unravels the hidden secrets and gossip of a seemingly tranquil town. Miss Todd, a middle-aged spinster who spends her days knitting and exchanging whispers with her companion Miss Pinkerton, finds her life upended when a beggar appears at her door during a rainy afternoon. Both she and her maid, Laetitia, are immediately drawn to the charming stranger and eagerly offer him shelter. Even after suspecting that he may be an escaped convict, they resort to theft and deceit to keep him around. Miss Todd, having abandoned all moral standards, is heartbroken to learn that not only does Bob not return her affections, but he is not the thief she assumed. In a twist of fate, Bob and Laetitia steal Miss Todd's fortune and run off together when she threatens to frame him for her own crimes. Menotti writes in the libretto "The devil couldn't do what a woman can- Make a thief out of an honest man."

Scenes

Scene I	Miss Todd's Parlor, late afternoon
Scene II.....	Miss Todd's Kitchen, the next morning
Scene III.....	Bob's Bedroom, immediately after
Scene IV	The Street, a few minutes later
Scene V	Miss Todd's Parlor, immediately after

Commercial Announcement Time

Chiquita Banana*
Pepsi-Cola

Scene VI	Miss Todd's Kitchen, a week later
Scene VII.....	Miss Todd's Parlor, immediately after
Scene VIII.....	Bob's Bedroom, immediately after
Scene IX	Miss Todd's Parlor, immediately after
Scene X	In front of liquor store, that same night
Scene XI	Miss Todd's Parlor, the next morning
Scene XII.....	Bob's Bedroom, immediately afterwards
Scene XIII.....	Bob's Bedroom, immediately afterwards
Scene XIV	Miss Todd's House, a few minutes later

* The Chiquita Banana song was created in 1944. It was written to help teach Americans how to ripen and use bananas, which were, at the time, an exotic tropical fruit.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The performance *The Old Maid and the Thief*, which first took place on this very campus 66 years ago, is coming back to life. Over the decades, EIU's history has continued, and its members have changed, but the values and spirit we uphold remain the same.

Just as those who created and attended the 1959 performance wrote a page in history, we now have the opportunity, 66 years later, to create a new chapter. We invite you to be part of this special moment as history is made once again.

As memories from 66 years ago are revived, we hope this performance will also be remembered as a significant part of EIU's history for generations to come. Above all, it would be incredibly meaningful for those who once stood on stage, the audience members from 1959, and their friends and families to reunite for this event after 66 years.

We hope that future generations will take pride in continuing this legacy on the same campus where so many before them once stood.

Dr. Julie Junghwa Park

COMPOSER GIAN CARLO MENOTTI

Gian-Carlo Menotti (Composer, Writer) (1911–2007) was an Italian-American composer and librettist, renowned for his contributions to 20th-century opera. Trained in Berlin and Milan, Menotti's first opera, *The Protagonist* (1926), marked the beginning of his successful career. His collaborations with playwright Bertolt Brecht brought him prominence in Europe, though he fled the rise of Nazi Germany in 1933, eventually settling in the United States. Throughout his career, Menotti championed social justice themes and worked with prominent lyricists and playwrights, adapting his style to suit diverse audiences.

Menotti's notable works include *The Consul* (1950), *The Medium* (1946), *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (1951), and *The Old Maid and the Thief* (1939), among others. His operas often blend poignant drama with accessibility, making his music widely admired. He passed away in 2007, leaving behind a significant legacy in both opera and musical theater.

BIOGRAPHIES



Director – Dr. Julie Junghwa Park is an active concert artist and opera singer who has performed with the New York Lyric Opera in New York City, Castleton Music Festival under the direction of Maestro Lorin Maazel, the National Music Opera Theater ensemble in Kassel, Germany and Salon Opera festival in Seoul, South- Korea. Ms. Park’s concert works include Gala concerts at San Leo, Rimini, Cervia, Cesena, Montegridolfo, Novafeltria in Italy, Kassel in Germany, Duznik in Poland.

Dietlinde Turban Maazel, the Castleton Music Festival Founder and Artistic Director describes Ms. Park as “Not only does she have natural predilection for the art of interpreting classical music, but she is also exceptionally skillful in expressing her interpretations and conceptualizations for a given piece of music in actual voice performances – she has the utmost creativity and technical skills that are so highly developed and precise.”

Dr. Park has received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Voice from Rutgers University, a Master of Music degree and Professional Studies certificate from the Manhattan School of Music, a Bachelor of Music degree from the Ewha Womans University in Seoul, Korea and Diplomas from the Staatliche Musik Akademie in Kassel, Germany, and Orfeo Music Academy in Parma, Italy.

Dr. Park made her solo recital debut at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in 2012, where she also performed in the Winners’ Concerts of the Golden Era of Romantic Music International Competition and BAIVC International Competition as a first-prize winner. Since then, she has performed numerous solo recitals and concerts at prestigious music venues, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Symphony Space, The DiMenna Center, Steinway Hall, and Yamaha Hall.



Pianist - Zinuo Zeng is a first-year graduate student at EIU and earned a bachelor’s degree from Zhejiang Conservatory of Music in China.

BIOGRAPHIES



Miss Todd - Patience Cox is a senior working towards her BFA in Art Education, and two minors in Theater and Studio Design. She is the treasurer for the A Cappella group, Blue Fusion at EIU. In the past, she has been in productions such as *Children of Eden*, *John and Jen* (Understudy), *She Loves Me*, and *The Wolves*. Patience would like to thank her friends and family for all the support they give her throughout life. She would also like to thank her wonderful husband for all he does.



Miss Todd - Maria Ochs is a freshman from Algonquin, is majoring in music education with a vocal concentration at EIU. Previously, she attended Dundee-Crown High School. Maria has participated in many musical productions including *Alice in Wonderland* and *Mean Girls*.



Laetitia - Sommer Jones is a senior from Chicago majoring in Vocal Performance with a minor in Music Technology. With her passion for music performance, she is excited to be a part of her third opera at Eastern. She would like to thank her family and friends for their continuous support.



Miss Pinkerton - Lia Rigdon is a junior from Paris, Illinois. She is majoring in Music Education, with a concentration in general music. This is her first time performing at EIU, and she is over the moon to be sharing the stage with such a talented cast! She hopes you enjoy the show.

BIOGRAPHIES



Bob - Mitchell Cox is a junior Theatre major with a minor in Radio Technologies and his hometown is Charleston, Illinois. Mitch has been in productions at EIU such as *She Loves Me*, *Down in the Valley*, and *Children of Eden*. Mitch is also extremely excited to be playing opposite his wife in *The Old Maid* and *the Thief*.



Bob - Carter Davis is a sophomore music education major and began his theatre career at Neoga High School in eighth grade where he had the opportunity to be a part of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. He continued in theatre in high school, playing John the Baptist in *Godspell*, and took center stage as Percy Jackson in *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical*. He finished off his high school theatre career as Jack in *Into the Woods*. This will be Carter's first time back in theatre, as well as his first ever opera production.



Radio Station Technician and Announcer - Allison Cooke is a sophomore from Alton, Illinois, is majoring in Music Education here at EIU. Allison has participated in many things on campus including Percussion Ensemble, Blue Fusion A Cappella, Panther Marching Band, EIU's Interpersonal Violence Awareness team, Camerata Singers, and Concert Choir. Allison has also been recognized at the state and National level for a research study she created and held at EIU.



Radio Station Technician and Announcer - Emily Ritter is a junior studying Vocal Music Ed and Theatre here at EIU. She has participated in theatre for 15 years now in a multitude of roles and shows. Most recently she performed in Twin City's production of *The Brothers' Grimm Spectaculathon*, CUTC's production of *The Sound of Music*, and EIU's production of *She Loves Me*. Emily has greatly enjoyed this experience and would like to thank Dr. Park for giving her this opportunity.

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CHANTICLEER

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Ushers are located at the entrance of the venue. If you have a question or a problem, please let them know and they will contact the House Manager.

Ticket Policies

Please note that all ticket sales are final, and refunds will not be given.

Late Arrival

During classical concerts, late seating will only take place during the first convenient pause in the program.

During jazz, folk, world, or pop concerts, late seating is more casual, but ushers may ask you to wait to be seated between pieces. Please check with an usher regarding when you may enter the venue.

Mobile Devices, Photography and Recording

Please turn off all light-illuminating or sound-emitting devices. Mobile phone use is strictly prohibited inside all venues. Text-messaging and the taking of photographs or videos by phone are not permitted.

The use of cameras - with or without flash - and recording devices is a violation of copyright law and discourteous to other audience members.

Failure to comply will result in being asked to leave the performance without a refund.

Doctor and Parent Emergency Calls

If you are a medical professional/parent with a sitter at home, please put your phone on silent and wait to take the call until you are out of the performance venue.

No Smoking

Eastern Illinois University is a tobacco-free campus. Smoking of any kind, including electronic cigarettes, is prohibited on all university property.

Food and Beverages

Food is not allowed inside any of the venues. Only beverages in the special Doudna drink cup, with a secured lid, are permitted in the venues.

Accessibility

Special seating areas for wheelchair accessibility are available. Contact the Box Office in advance to secure a seat in these areas. Audio amplification is available for the hearing-impaired free of charge. A driver's license or other identification is all that is required for deposit.

In the Event of an Emergency

Emergency exits may be found outside of the venue and are marked accordingly. The lighted "Exit" sign nearest your seat is the shortest route out of the building.

Families

The Doudna welcomes patrons of all ages to experience and enjoy the arts. Please carefully consider whether a performance is appropriate for children before planning to attend with young people. If you have concerns or questions about a specific event, please call the Box Office at (217) 581-3110.

Please be considerate of others in the audience and your young person's comfort. Children who are disruptive will not be allowed to remain in the venue.

Lost and Found

Found items should be left with an usher. To determine whether a personal item has been turned in, please call the Box Office at (217) 581-3110 or the Programming, Publicity, & Promotions Office at (217) 581-8513.

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