



BOB JONES UNIVERSITY

CONCERT, OPERA & DRAMA SERIES

P R E S E N T S



MEFISTOFELE

Libretto and music by Arrigo Boito

Staged by *Darren Lawson*
Conducted by *Dwight Gustafson*

Scene design by *Harrell Whittington*
Lighting design by *Rich Streeter*
Animation effects by *Bruce Polhamus*

CAST OF CHARACTERS (in order of vocal appearance)

Mefistofele, *a fallen angel* Ethan Herschenfeld

Faust, *medieval philosopher* Bruce Reed

Wagner, *a student of Faust* John Chest

Margherita, *village maiden* Donna Balson

Marta, *her companion* Sheralyn Berg

Townspople Chorus: Stephanie Acree, Brian Buda, Jennifer Canedy, Amanda Chinn, Jonathan Cochran, Kimberly Darden, Johanna Dean, Jonathan Dicken, Kevin Duke, Brandon Dyer, Ben Edwards, Zachery Ender, James Furbish, Abigail Garland, Joy Gervais, Susan Glatfelter, Rachel Griese, Carrie Hall, Ashleah Hargrove, Samuel Hawkey, Pamela Holcomb, Alyssa Horner, Laura Jeffcott, Rebecca Jenkins, Timothy Jensen, Amanda Johnson, Peter Keew, Rebecca Kohler, David Landon, Tiffany Manseau, Brent Miller, Joshua Morrison, Heidi Myrick, Katherine Niarchos, Melody Parrott, Chloe Phillips, Michael Pluth, Katie Pobuk, Amelia Ray, Mark Rea, David Schlater, Christina Schnur, Charles Strong, Christopher Swartzentruber, Estera Vatran, Michael White, Carey Wilson, Jamie Wilson, Deborah Winder

Offstage Chorus: Kristin Alexander, Ryan Berg, Matthew Brinkley, Julianne Brown, Dale Burden, Rachel Conner, Laura Cook, Peter Crane, Rebekah Dahlhausen, Amanda Danforth, Emmanuel Daniel, Melissa Dickerson, Aaron Dierking, Stephen Endres, Philip Eoute, Rebekah Farrell, Leigh Fort, Elizabeth Fox, Amber Freeman, Beth Frigo, Amy Fulbright, Nathanael Gentilhomme, Christine Gill, Jennifer Griffin, Kirk Hansen, Anna Hummel, Jonathan Jarrett, Elizabeth Jenkins, Jacob Johnson, Kimberly Johnson, Jonathan Kilpatrick, Katherin Kneisley, Matt LaCava, Christa MacAvoy, Hannah Melick, Timothy Michalek, Timothy Morgan, Thomas Mount, Daniel Nelson, Ping Ngian, Meagan Oberg, Alyssa Parrish, Jennifer Polson, Julia Potts, Sergio Ramirez, Eric Rea, Justin Rettger, Aaron Robbins, Mark Rosedale, James Sanderlin, Jonathan Schnur, Stephanie Schlarb, Justin Schroeder, Steven Schroeder, Steven Sindelar, Joel Snyder, Kathryn Snyder, Abraham Stratton, Jonathan Wadsworth, John Warren, Bethany Webb, Margaret Webb, Nathan Wilson, Bethany Winchester, Rebecca Worthington

Offstage Cherubim Chorus: Katie Alier, Chelsea Bopp, Amanda Collins, Jessica Decker, Allison Downing, Amy Frasier, Maria Hancock, Laura Kirsop, Katie Kopp, Kimmy Kopp, Anne Largent, Davina Lawrence, Anna Lee, Elise McCormick, Caroline Nolin, Jennifer Olinger, Kaitlin Parr, Anna Ream, Angela Ritch, Hannah Roe, Marianne San Filippo, Katie Slick, Melissa Vandermey, Rebecca Zukowski

Soldiers: Guillaume Allardice, Ryan Borg, Nicholas Broom, Ben Derhammer, Nathaniel Dow, Mark Egerdahl, Richard Fisher, Desiderio Garcia, Daniel Guyer, Andrew Hudson, James Israelson, Jonathan Jackson, Daniel Madera, Luke Mangum, Philip Peck, Nathan Phillips, James Potter, Paul Rogers, Andy Scheer, Robert Shook, Jonathan Shup, Jonathan Taylor, Zechariah Underwood, Reuben Wyatt

Dancers: Caleb Brooks, Christopher Davis, Tessa Harcourt, Pamela Holcomb, James Horner, Mallorie Hutchison, Rebecca Isbell, Joseph Leitermann, Allison Llewelyn, Michael Morrissey

Warlocks & Witches: Julie Bach, Caleb Brooks, Katherine Cox, Christopher Davis, Mollie Gingrich, Pamela Holcomb, James Horner, Deborah Karasek, Andrea Kurtz, Joseph Leitermann, Michael Morrissey, Tiffany St. Clair, Kendra Wickham

Clergy Jay Hancock, Tim Horner

Jugglers Seth Bacon, Mark Dupont, Jonathan Ogden

Knights Gregg Johnson, Andrew Sutton

Royalty Andrew Michael, Sunny Weigand

Children Kate Jones, Morgan McCarty, Emma Pait
Jonathan Pait, Eric Petterson

Margherita apparition Leigh Fort

Sirens Bonnie Blair, Brooke Smith, Miroslava Tsifra

MUSICAL STAFF

Chorusmasters Chris Gilliam, Greg Graf

Rehearsal Accompanist Duane Ream

Understudies Todd Jones, Paul Keew, Heidi Rea

Brass Choir Director Benjamin Dawley

PRODUCTION STAFF

Producer Darren Lawson

Assistant Stage Director April Thornton

Production Manager Rod McCarty

Costume/Makeup/Hair Supervisor Dan Sandy

Choreographer Sina Lewis

Set Artist	Jason Waggoner
Prop Master	David Vierow
Technical Engineer	Gayland Slick
Costume Construction	Pam Adams, Barb Filipisic, Joyce Parsons Becky Sandy, Jean Sponseller, Bess Whittington
Wig Master	Rose Marie Blumer
Assistant Wig Master	Ashley Feagin
Assistant Production Manager	Sandy Jaworski
Stage Manager	Stephen Gagnon
Audio Supervisor	Max Masters
Technical Designer for Motion Graphics	Steve Ross
Supertitle Operator	Duane Ream

UNIVERSITY ORCHESTRA

I Violin

Ashley Pritchard
concertmistress
Emilie Shearer
Brian Pinner
Jessica Miskelly
Scott Moore
Jacob Frank
Rachel Uhler
Lisa Kirsop

II Violin

Stephanie Allen†
Samuel Arnold
Kimberly Allen
Amy Baus
Jennifer Locke
Jessica Evison

Viola

Jessica Velez†
Achim Gerber

Ron Sondergaard
Andrea Miller

Cello

Richard Jones†
Brooks Popwell
Katie Allen
Amy Marsh

Double Bass

Alex Jones†

Flute

Sarah MacAvoy†
Jennifer Lopez

Piccolo

Miriam Warlick

Oboe

Robert Chest†
Andrew Marsh

Bassoon

Alex Fields†
Peter Andersen

Horn

Peter Bailey†
Deborah Barrett
Jed Gillis
John Doney

Trumpet

Jess Turner†
Bryan McClintock

Trombone

Paul Overly†
Paul Matzko
Jon Deedrick

Tuba

Joel Jenkins

Timpani

Rob Schoolfield

Chimes

Eric Rea

Organ

John MacInnis

PercussionAndrew-Rei Dongon
Benjamin Patterson***Harp***Marilyn Dawson
Nichole Rohrbach

† denotes principal

BRASS CHOIR

TrumpetEvan Duke
John Elliott
Zein Baluch***Trombone***Ken Fortney
Joseph Macht
Ryan Wooldrige***Horn***Stephen Doney
Janell Molencupp***Tuba***

Matt Dill

SYNOPSIS

Prologue—In the heavens

Heavenly choirs sing the praises of God. Mefistofele, a fallen angel, appears and complains about man and his preoccupation with reason. The mystical chorus asks Mefistofele if Faust is known to him. Mefistofele purposes to tempt the strange old man into sin and eternal perdition. When the heavenly choirs once again sing the praises of God, Mefistofele finds the angels so annoying that he disappears as the music builds to a grand climax.

Act I, Scene 1—In the town square, Easter Sunday

The townspeople enjoy the festival of spring. Mefistofele is present, disguised as a grey friar. A procession of soldiers, clerics, and nobles crosses the square. Faust and Wagner, his student, walk among them. As twilight falls, the people return to their homes, and Faust notices the strange grey friar. Faust then makes his way home, followed by Mefistofele.

Act I, Scene 2—In Faust's study, the pact

Faust enters his study, followed by Mefistofele. Still disguised as the grey friar, Mefistofele hides in the alcove. Faust sings of the peace in his heart. When he

turns to read the Bible, Mefistofele howls in the alcove. Then he drops the grey friar's garment to reveal himself dressed as a gentleman. He tells Faust that he is the spirit that denies everything. He offers himself as a slave to Faust on earth if Faust will agree that after death the roles be reversed. Faust, searching for ultimate beauty, states that if he could once say to the fleeting moment, "Stay, thou are lovely," he would gladly die and let Hell swallow him up. The bargain is struck, and they prepare to fly away on Mefistofele's coat.

Intermission*

Act II, Scene 1—In the Garden

Faust has been restored to youth and has taken the name Enrico. He woos Margherita while Mefistofele keeps Marta, Margherita's companion, occupied. Faust gives Margherita a sleeping potion for her mother, and they promise to meet later.

Act II, Scene 2—The witches' Sabbath

Faust, having been tempted by the fascination of earthly love, is brought by Mefistofele to see the revels of evil. They arrive on the wild mountaintop amid the flashes of "will-o'-the-wisp." Soon the witches and warlocks come to acclaim Mefistofele, their king. An orb representing the world is presented to him. He sings of the vileness of man and laughs as he thinks of all he hides from mankind. He hurls the orb to the ground, smashing it to pieces. Faust then sees a vision of Margherita bound in chains and bearing the mark of the executioner's ax on her neck. Believing her to be in danger, Faust insists that they rescue her. As they depart, the witches and warlocks exult in the celebration of their Sabbath.

Intermission*

Act III—In the prison

Margherita's mother has been poisoned by the supposed sleeping potion, and in her madness, Margherita has drowned the baby she has borne to Faust. Thus, she awaits execution. Faust comes to rescue her, and they sing of going far away. When Margherita sees Mefistofele, she recoils in horror and drops to her knees, praying for salvation. As she falls dead, a heavenly choir proclaims her redeemed.

Epilogue—In Faust’s study and the heavens

Years have passed, and Faust is once again an old man, yet that fleeting moment of beauty has never come. Mefistofele exults that the battle is almost over and that Faust is under his power. As he nears death, however, Faust turns his thoughts to holier things. He sees a vision of a celestial city and hears the heavenly choir singing. Mefistofele tries to tempt him by conjuring visions of beautiful sirens and by whistling loudly, but to no avail. As the heavenly choir sings, Faust cries, “Stay, thou art lovely!” and drops to his knees in prayer. Faust dies, and Mefistofele returns to Hell, shaking his fist in the face of the heavenly host and God Himself.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Ethan Herschenfeld, bass, began his vocal training with Franco Corelli and since 1997 has worked with Armen Boyajian. He made his professional debut in Sweden as Sarastro, and has since sung over thirty roles with companies in the U.S., Europe, and Asia. A graduate of Harvard College, he won first prize in the 2003 Friedrich Schorr Competition, grand prize in the 2002 Excellence in Arts Competition, first prize in the 2001 Sembrich Voice Competition, and first prize for Americans in the 2001 Moniuszko Competition. Last season, his roles included Mephistopheles at the Hong Kong Opera, Sarastro in Stuttgart, Reverend Hale (*The Crucible*) at Chautauqua Opera, Ratcliffe (*Billy Budd*) at Teatro Carlo Felice in Genova, and both Rocco and Sparafucile with the New Israeli Opera in Tel Aviv. Upcoming engagements include Don Fernando (*Fidelio*) with Florentine Opera, Barbe-Bleue in *Ariane et Barbe-Bleue* at New York City Opera, and King Marke in his debut with Teatro Regio di Torino.

A native of Clifton Springs, N.Y., tenor **Bruce Reed** completed his opera training at the acclaimed Tri-Cities Opera in Binghamton, N.Y., where he performed numerous leading tenor roles. He made his European debut at Italy’s Spoleto Festival in *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* (conducted by Christian Badea). He was on the roster of the Landestheater Linz in Austria for several seasons, performing such roles as Tonio, Fenton (*Nicolai*), Alfonso in Auber’s *La Muette de Portici*, and Romeo in Gounod’s *Romeo et Juliette*. His 2005 season included appearances as tenor soloist in Puccini highlights concerts with the Central Florida Symphony and a return to the Glimmerglass Opera as Tiberge in Massenet’s rarely performed opera, *Le Portrait de Manon*.

Originally from Australia, soprano **Donna Balson** possesses a unique talent that combines a wonderfully rich, warm sound with extreme musicality and poise. She has appeared as a soloist with orchestras and chamber ensembles in Europe and the U.S. as well as Australia. She has also performed as a recitalist, most recently in a concert tour of Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. She made her New York concert debut in 1999 with the National Chorale at Lincoln

Center in “An Evening with Gershwin and Bernstein” and has since performed regularly with the Chorale as soloist in works including the *Bach B Minor Mass* and Mozart’s *Requiem* and *Coronation Mass*. In the 2005–2006 season Donna Balson returns to New Zealand to sing the title role in *Tosca* with Canterbury Opera.

Sheralyn Berg, mezzo-soprano, came to Bob Jones University in 1997. Miss Berg received a bachelor of music degree and a master of music degree, both in voice performance, before joining the faculty of BJU in 2004. She studied with Dr. Stan Eby and Mrs. Pam Dunbar while in training. Miss Berg has been involved in the BJU Opera Association since 2002, when she performed the role of Alisa in *Lucia di Lammermoor*. She also understudied the part of Angelina in BJU’s production of *La Cenerentola*. She enjoys being involved in the music ministry at her church in Greenville as well as volunteering as a pianist for services at an area nursing home facility.

John Chest, baritone, is a junior voice performance major from Greenville, S.C. He placed first in the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) auditions on both the state and regional levels, and was awarded the Jane M. Dilliard Award for best college male singer. In 2005, Mr. Chest won the BJU Commencement Contest in men’s voice and was a semifinalist in the Palmetto Opera Contest in Columbia, S.C. He understudied the role of Belcore in the BJU Opera Association’s 2005 production of *Elixir of Love* and in December 2006 will play the role of Brassy in Dwight Gustafson’s new Christmas opera, *Simeon*. Mr. Chest is a student of Dr. Chris Gilliam.

Prologue images were taken by the Hubble telescope and have been used with permission from NASA.

Psalm 19:1, “The heavens declare the glory of God.”

RODEHEAVER AUDITORIUM

March 14, 16, and 18, 2006, 8 PM

* Chimes will sound and lobby lights will flash three minutes before the end of each intermission. After the houselights are dimmed following intermission, no one will be readmitted to his seat.

**Cameras and recording equipment are not permitted in the Auditorium during any performance. We request that signal watches and personal communication devices be turned off during the program.

Tickets for this production have been sponsored by
Bank of Travelers Rest.