Music by Giuseppe Verdi
Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave

Based on Victor Hugo’s drama “Le Roi s’amuse”

Staged by Erin Naler and Darren Lawson
Conducted by Dwight Gustafson

Scene and costume design by Harrell Whittington
Lighting design by Richard Streeter
CAST OF CHARACTERS (in order of vocal appearance)

Duke of Mantua, a nobleman ........................................ Eric Fennell
Borsa, a courtier ......................................................... Jonathan Kilpatrick
Countess Ceprano, a lady of the court ......................... Melissa Dickerson
Rigoletto, the court jester ............................................ Todd Thomas
Marullo, a courtier ...................................................... Tristan Smith
Count Ceprano, a nobleman .......................................... Matt Wally
Count Monterone, a nobleman ....................................... Eric Rea
Sparafucile, a hired assassin ........................................ Jacob Will
Gilda, Rigoletto’s daughter ............................................. Megan Monaghan
Giovanna, her nurse .................................................... Rebecca Worthington
Page .............................................................................. Lena Pagliarini
Chief Guard ..................................................................... Daniel Nebelski
Maddalena, Sparafucile’s sister ...................................... Angela Horn

Courtiers: Travis Bloom, Matthew Brinkley, Joshua Brown, Brett Carlson,
Trevor Coleman, Peter Crane, Kevin Duke, Benjamin Fetterolf, Benjamin Frost,
Nathanael Gentilhomme, John Griffin, Jay Hale, John Hancock, Kirk Hansen,
Daniel Madera, Christopher Milburn, Jonathan Moreno, Daniel Nebelski, Jacob Oblak,
John Robertson, Brandon Schell, David Schlater, Jonathan Schnur,
Matthew Sorrell, Raymond Swope, Matthew Tuttle, Jonathan Watson, Richard Wiggs, Jonathan Willis

Court Ladies: Kristy Bryson, Tessa Harcourt, Felicity Hiergesell, Emily Hurley,
Mallorie Hutchison, Rebecca Isbell, Sylvia Lanier, Rachel Leftwich, Allison Llewelyn,
Dianne Pinner, Brandy Ravan, Rebecca Reed, Alicia Rivera, Carla Santana,
Kelsey Sorge, Whitney Spence, Laura Spencer, Erin Waterman

Duchess of Mantua ......................................................... Dawn Schluetz
Soldiers ........................................................................... Joshua Barr, Matthew Wiggs
Page .............................................................................. Sarah Cochran

MUSICAL STAFF

Chorusmaster and Understudy Preparation ..................... Chris Gilliam
Rehearsal Accompanist .................................................. Duane Ream
Understudies ............................................................... John Chest, Laura Cook, Katherin Kneisley,
Matthew LaCava, John Warren

Off-stage Instrumental Ensemble Rehearsal Conductor .... Michael Moore
PRODUCTION STAFF

Producer ................................................. Darren Lawson
Assistant Stage Director ................................. Rebecca Kaser
Production Manager ................................... Rod McCarty
Costume/Makeup/Hair Supervisor ..................... Dan Sandy
Choreographer .......................................... Tessa Harcourt
Set Artist ..................................................... Jason Waggoner
Set Construction ............................. Randall Snively, Brian Bolton
Prop Master ............................................... David Vierow
Technical Engineer .................................... Gayland Slick
Costume Construction .................... Pam Adams, Barb Filipsic, Rebecca Jelliff,
                                        Rebecca Lake, Cynthia Long, Joyce Parsons,
                                        Becky Sandy, Jean Sponseller, Bess Whittington
Assistant to the Costume Manager .................... Rebekah Foster
Wig Master ................................................ Rose Marie Blumer
Assistant Wig Master .................................. Ashley Feagin
Assistant Production Manager ................. Sandy Jaworski
Stage Manager .......................................... Max Miller
Audio Supervisor ..................................... Max Masters
Supertitle Operator .................................... Heidi Biddle

UNIVERSITY ORCHESTRA

I Violin
Jessica Miskelly, concertmistress†
Amy Baus, assistant concertmistress
Rachel Uhler
Emilie Shearer*
Samuel Arnold
Kari Dailey
Sarah Beth Vogt
Evamarie Cropsey

II Violin
Esther Minnick†
Kaytlynn Wood
Lisa Herwaldt
Ashley Burr
Timothy Hughes
Erin Twedell
<table>
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<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Performers</th>
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| **Viola**  | Amberley Cox†  
Rachelle Gerber*  
Jessica Velez  
Ron Sondergaard |
| **Cello**  | Richard Jones†  
Brooks Popwell  
Daniel Guyer  
Caroline Lee |
| **Bass**   | Alex Jones†  
Amber Eubanks* |
| **Flute**  | Catherine Jones†  
Abigail Palpant |
| **Oboe**   | Robert Chest†*  
Andrew Marsh |
| **Clarinet** | Natalie Parker†  
Rosanna Durst |
| **Bassoon** | Alex Fields†*  
Peter Andersen* |

**OFF-STAGE INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE**

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<th>Instrument</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Piccolo</strong></td>
<td>Grace Schneider</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Flute</strong></td>
<td>Angela Stockard</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Oboe</strong></td>
<td>Karri Fox</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Clarinet</strong></td>
<td>Carolyn Pelc</td>
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</tbody>
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| **Trumpet** | Jonathan Yowell  
Peter Moeller |

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<tr>
<th>Instrument</th>
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| **Horn**   | Peter Bailey†  
Kevin Adkins*  
Jed Gillis  
John Doney |
| **Trumpet** | Mark Lopez  
Jocelyn Sorrell |
| **Trombone** | Paul Jantz†*  
Paul Matzko  
Ryan Wooldridge |
| **Tuba**   | Trent Johnson |
| **Timpani** | Ben Patterson |
| **Percussion** | Anita Mohinani  
Kelli Schmidt |

† principal  
* faculty/staff/graduate student
SYNOPSIS

ACT I—Court in The Palace of The Duke of Mantua

In the midst of festivities at court, Rigoletto taunts the Duchess with her husband’s infidelities. In private conversation the Duke remarks to Borsa that he has been attracted to a beautiful young girl of the city. The Duke jokes with his court jester about disposing of Count Ceprano, whose wife has also captured the Duke’s fancy. As Ceprano and the courtiers swear revenge on the cruel jester, the old Count Monterone interrupts the festivities to denounce the Duke for dishonoring his daughter. When Rigoletto mocks him, Monterone curses the jester, who recoils in horror, fearful for his own daughter, Gilda, whom he keeps hidden away.

ACT II—A deserted street near the homes of Rigoletto and Count Ceprano

That same evening Rigoletto meets an assassin, Sparafucile, but rejects the offer of his services. Unbeknown to the jester, his daughter has already fallen under the spell of the Duke, for she is the beautiful city girl whom he has been following. The Duke comes to her disguised as Gualtier Maldè, a poor student. Fearing that Rigoletto is returning, he flees. His vindictive courtiers, however, abduct Gilda, believing her to be Rigoletto’s mistress. They pretend that they are seizing the Countess Ceprano for the Duke, and Rigoletto thus unwittingly aids in the abduction of his own daughter.

Intermission*

ACT III—An apartment in the Duke’s palace

The following morning the Duke returns to the palace distraught because he has been unable to find Gilda at Rigoletto’s house. His courtiers arrive with the announcement that they have abducted Rigoletto’s mistress. After the Duke exits, Rigoletto himself appears, searching for his daughter. The courtiers bar him from the Duke’s chambers. Gilda emerges and tells her father she loves the Duke. As Rigoletto swears revenge, she entreats his forgiveness.

ACT IV—A deserted inn by the River Mincio

A month later on a stormy night Rigoletto hires Sparafucile to murder the Duke. Maddalena, the assassin’s sister, pleads for the Duke’s life; her brother thus agrees to kill instead the first person who enters the inn. Gilda overhears the plan and gives her life for the man she yet loves. Her body is delivered in a sack to the triumphant jester, whose revenge turns to agonizing remorse when he opens his awful burden and discovers his dying daughter. Monterone’s curse has therefore come to pass.
ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Eric Fennell** is fast becoming one of the most sought after lyric tenors. His opera experience includes leading roles with the San Francisco Opera, New York City Opera, Seattle Opera, Boston Lyric Opera and Arizona Opera. Mr. Fennell has performed a wide variety of opera and operetta roles including Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*, The Duke of Mantua in *Rigoletto*, Rodolfo in *La Bohème* and Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Equally at home on the concert stage, Mr. Fennell has performed tenor solos for Mozart’s *Requiem*, Verdi’s *Requiem*, Handel’s *Messiah*, Mendelssohn’s *Elijah*, Haydn’s *Creation* and Beethoven’s 9th Symphony as well as numerous recitals around the country. Eric received a bachelor’s degree in music from Gettysburg College and a masters degree in voice and an Artist Diploma from Boston University, where he was a member of the Opera Institute.

A soprano of exceptional promise, **Megan Monaghan** has been hailed by Opera News as “A voice of pure silver, easily negotiating coloratura flights of fancy with exquisite musicianship.” She has performed at leading opera companies throughout the United States and Europe and has been a featured soloist with a variety of symphonies throughout the country. Ms. Monaghan also recorded Maestro Lorin Maazel’s opera *1984* with the conductor before its premiere at Covent Garden. Other credits of note include performances with the Lyric Opera Cleveland, Dayton Philharmonic and the Columbus Symphony, a concert at the White House, as well as recitals with her voice and guitar duo, Due Colori. Ms. Monaghan has been awarded first-place honors in such solo competitions as the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, the Agnes Fowler Competition and the Klose-Seybold Opera Competition. She is a master’s graduate of the University of Cincinnati’s College-Conservatory of Music.

A seasoned performer, **Todd Thomas** established himself as a Verdi baritone early in his career, having sung title roles in *Falstaff*, *Macbeth*, *Othello*, and *Il Trovatore*, among others. Other roles include Scarpia in *Tosca*, Enrico in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Marcello in *La Bohème*, and Belcore in *L’elisir d’amore*. As a recital and concert artist, Mr. Thomas has appeared on both sides of the Atlantic and receives accolades worldwide. In addition to his international appearances in Italy, France, Switzerland, Holland and a four-year engagement in Germany, he has performed with the Opera Orchestra of New York, Opera Columbus and Opera Company of Philadelphia.

An experienced concert artist, **Jacob Will** has appeared with the New York Philharmonic, the New York City Opera and the San Francisco Opera. He has also appeared internationally with the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Vienna Symphonic Orchestra and at the San Francisco Symphony International Bach Festival of Schaffhausen, Switzerland. Mr. Will has sung for
many years with the Zürich Opera, appearing in roles such as Raimondo in *Lucia di Lammermoor* and Colline in *La Bohème*. A native of Hartsville, South Carolina, Mr. Will attended Furman University and graduated from the University of South Carolina and the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. He has been a prizewinner in various international singing competitions, including the Munich Competition and the Queen Elizabeth Competition of Brussels.

Mezzo-soprano **Angela Horn**, named one of New York City Opera’s Outstanding Artists of the Year, is performing to critical acclaim worldwide. She remains in constant demand in houses worldwide such as the New York City Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Opera Carolina and the Baltimore Opera. Ms. Horn has performed to popular acclaim on four continents, including engagements with the National Theater of the Dominican Republic, Opera Lyra Ottawa, Opera Pacific, Opera de Monte Carlo and Hamburgische Staatsoper, and has toured with Roberto Alagna in Japan. Ms. Horn has also appeared as soloist with orchestras such as the Toronto Symphony, the Bach Society of Saint Louis and the Apollo Chorus of Chicago in Orchestra Hall, The National Chorale of New York City and the American Symphony Orchestra in Lincoln Center’s Avery Fisher Hall. Ms. Horn received her undergraduate musical training at the Conservatory of Music in Kansas City and completed her advanced vocal studies at the Juilliard School in New York City, where she was a graduate of the Juilliard Opera Center.
RODEHEAVER AUDITORIUM
March 13, 15 and 17, 2007, 8 p.m.

*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.