



BOB JONES UNIVERSITY

# CONCERT, OPERA & DRAMA SERIES

P R E S E N T S

# DWIGHT GUSTAFSON'S SIMÉON

Music by *Dwight Gustafson*

Libretto by *David Burke*

Staged by *Darren Lawson*

Conducted by *Dwight Gustafson*

Scene design by *Jason Waggoner*

Lighting design by *Richard Streeter*

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

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Simeon . . . . .	Stan Eby
Boy . . . . .	Lorin Pegram
Beggar Woman . . . . .	Leigh Fort
Boss, <i>a shepherd</i> . . . . .	Chris Gilliam
Brassy, <i>a shepherd</i> . . . . .	John Chest
Tender, <i>a shepherd</i> . . . . .	Grant Lewis
Emissary . . . . .	Brad Baugham
Mary . . . . .	Melissa Dickerson
High Priest. . . . .	Mark Ferguson
Joseph . . . . .	Tom Chapman
Beggars . . . . .	Andrew Fry, Kyle Hayes, Nicholas Mauer, Anna Talbert
Emissary Servant . . . . .	James Arnold
Emissary Attendants. . . . .	Daniel Sivyer, Ben Hancock, Ben Gfeller, Andrew Lee, Matthew Wiggs, Josh Bidwell
Townspeople . . . . .	Katie Cox, Ashley Johnson, Ryan Page, Alfonso Sierra
Levite Chorus . . . . .	Kevin Adkins, Matthew Brinkley, Mark Buller, Micah Coston, Peter Crane, Aaron Dierking, Mark Egerdahl, Philip Eoute, Benjamin Fetterolf, Nathanael Gentilhomme, Kirk Hansen, Joseph Hoelscher, Steven Hunter, Jonathan Kilpatrick, Andrew Krape, Matt LaCava, Ye Lee, Timothy Michalek, Christopher Milburn, Timothy Morgan, Nathaniel Nakao, Daniel Nelson, James Pitts, Sergio Ramirez, Aaron Robbins, Jonathan Schnur, Quentin Sipe, Matthew Sorrell, Matthew Tuttle, John Wally, John Warren

## MUSICAL STAFF

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Chorusmaster . . . . .	Warren Cook
Rehearsal Accompanist . . . . .	Duane Ream
Boy Soprano Vocal Coach. . . . .	Joanie Pegram
Simeon Understudy . . . . .	Eric Rea

## PRODUCTION STAFF

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Producer . . . . .	Darren Lawson
Assistant Stage Director . . . . .	Kaydeon Debelak



**Oboe**

Robert Chest†\*  
Caleb Lynch

**Clarinet**

Rosanna Durst†  
Natalie Parker

**Bassoon**

Alex Fields †\*  
Peter Andersen\*

**Horn**

Jed Gillis †  
John Doney  
Peter Bailey  
Mark Frederick\*

**Trumpet**

Jess Turner†  
David Chapman  
Jonathan Yowell

**Trombone**

Ken Fortney†  
Tracey Robson  
Jon Deedrick\*

**Tuba**

Trenton Johnson

**Timpani**

Michael Moore\*

**Percussion**

Ben Patterson  
Kelli Schmidt

**Harp**

Prentiss Kendall

**Offstage Ensemble**

Nichole Rohrbach, harp  
Rich Penix, Nathan Houtz and  
Forest Maddux, trombone  
Heidi Biddle, synthesizer

† principal \* faculty/staff/graduate student

## SYNOPSIS

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**SCENE ONE**

Late one night, as temple priests chant in the distance, aged Simeon labors over tallow candles by a rude hearth. A young boy assists the old man in his trade. Weary from the day's work, the lad insists that his master retell the story of how God revealed that Simeon would not die before seeing Messiah. Simeon complies. But in the midst of recounting the promise of the Lord, the feeble man suffers an attack. He slumps over the worktable, knocking over the molten tallow. Smoke fills the room, driving man and boy out into the street until the air clears. Simeon wonders how long he will have to wait until he can see the promise of God fulfilled.

**SCENE TWO**

At a nearby public well, Simeon and the boy meet a ragged beggar woman who asks for alms. When they tell her they have nothing to give, she lashes out. She scornfully asserts that the "great and silent God" has abandoned His people Israel. Herod spends lavishly on himself and curries the favor of a pagan Roman government. As she stalks away, the boy sees a wonder. Amazingly—a bright light seems to shine up from the depths of the well of water. Could it have been the reflection of a star where none ever was before? But when he looks up, clouds cover the place in the sky where it had been.

A trio of shepherds—Boss, Brassy and Tender—arrive at the well, having walked from Bethlehem. They came to Jerusalem because of the amazing things that happened to them just 39 nights before. All three tell how an angel announced the birth of a Savior to them as they watched their flocks. This night they left the sheep in younger hands and hope to catch a glimpse of the young mother and father with their babe in the great city of David.

With the ring of scimitars drawn in the night, an eastern Emissary arrives at the well. A proud man in silken robes, he is ambassador for a great entourage of magi who are making their way from afar. They hope to see the newborn King of the Jews. He tells how his masters, the Magi, perceived a certain sign in the heavens foretelling this regal birth. The shepherds offer to lead the man to Herod's court, and they depart, leaving Simeon and the boy on stage alone. The clouds part and the star reappears, allowing the boy to show Simeon where it shines. Amazed by all he has heard and by this new star in the heavens, Simeon suddenly realizes a truth. He tells the boy that on the 40th day after birth, a firstborn son to a Jewish home must be brought to the temple for public dedication. The shepherds said it was 39 nights ago when they heard the news. This could be the very morning the newborn babe will be brought to the temple courts!

### SCENE THREE

Daybreak lightens the East as Levites chant, entering the temple for morning sacrifice. Several couples wait for the priest's ritual blessing to dedicate a firstborn son. Simeon arrives with the boy. They see a lowly father and mother offer a small cage with two birds they have purchased—too poor to offer a lamb. Simeon doesn't know how, but suddenly he knows! Simeon takes the child in his arms and prophesies that He is the "light to illumine the nations." Mary hears the prophecy and exults in God for His great mercy as the morning sun breaks over the horizon.

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying,  
I am the light of the world:  
he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness,  
but shall have the light of life.

John 8:12

**RODEHEAVER AUDITORIUM**  
**December 8 & 9, 2006, 7:30 p.m.**  
**December 10, 2006, 2:30 p.m.**

\*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.**