



ODU OPERA PRESENTS

# The Old Maid and the Thief

*Written by Gian Carlo Menotti, this first-ever radio opera tells the satirical tale of twisted morals, womanly wiles, and small-town gossip.*



Kristiana Jones  
Miss Pinkerton



Cristina Loyola  
Miss Todd



Ava Stevenson  
Laetitia



Frank Veliz  
Bob

Larry Jay Giddens  
Director



Bobbie Kesler-Corleto  
Pianist

March 24, 31 at 7:30 PM  
March 26, April 2 at 2:30 PM

\$15 General, \$10 Students  
For tickets, visit [ODUArtsTix.com](http://ODUArtsTix.com)



# The Old Maid and the Thief

by Gian Carlo Menotti

Directed by: Larry Jay Giddens

Pianist: Bobbie Kesler-Corleto

Assistant Stage Director and Stage Manager: Kelli Bly

## CHARACTERS

MISS TODD	Cristina Loyola
LAETITIA	Ava Denae Stevenson
MISS PINKERTON	Kristiana Jones
BOB	Frank Veliz
POLICEMAN	David Whyte*
SHOPKEEPER	Gage Pierce**

Scene 1, Miss Todd's Parlor, late afternoon

Scene 2, Miss Todd's kitchen, the next morning

Scene 3, Bob's Bedroom, immediately after

Scene 4, The Street, a few minutes later

Scene 5, Miss Todd's Parlor, immediately after

Scene 6, Miss Todd's Kitchen, a week later

Scene 7, Miss Todd's Parlor, immediately after

Scene 8, Bob's Bedroom, immediately after

Scene 9, Miss Todd's Parlor, immediately after

Scene 10, In front of a liquor store, that same night

Scene 11, Miss Todd's Parlor, the next morning

Scene 12, Bob's Bedroom, immediately after

Scene 13, Bob's Bedroom, immediately after

Scene 14, Miss Todd's House, a few minutes later

\* Cover for Bob, \*\* Understudy for Bob

## Meet the Director of ODU's Opera Theatre Workshop



Professor Larry Jay Giddens, Baritone, is an integral part of the Diehn School of Music (DSOM) as a sought after studio voice teacher. He is making his directing debut for DSOM serving as the Director of Opera Theatre Workshop. A native of the Eastern Shore of Virginia, he is passionate about creating meaningful artistic experiences in the performing arts. Mr. Giddens has been seen world-wide performing in Europe, Russia, Australia, and New Zealand in the roles of Crown and Jake in *Porgy and Bess*. *His other roles include La Traviata (Germont, Baron Douphol), Faust (Valentin), Fidelio (Don Fernando), Carmen (Morales), Così fan tutte (Don Alfonso) Don Giovanni (Don Giovanni), La Bohème (Marcello), Gallantry (Dr. Gregg), and Dido and Aeneas (Aeneas)*. Currently, Mr. Giddens is a resident of Virginia Beach, VA, where he, his wife, and four children have been embraced by the local community. When he is not fully immersed in the arts, he can be found cheering on his children as they compete in local, regional, and national sports competition. He also writes poetry and short stories and does freelance graphic design in his spare time.

### **Director's Notes by Larry Jay Giddens**

Most people know me as an opera singer or maybe even an arts administrator in the Hampton Roads community. Director is not a title that comes to mind as easily as the other two. But directing is something that's always been of interest to me. From school plays in elementary school with my sixth grade history teacher to campfire skits from the age of eight in Alderson, WV, I've always had an affinity for the stage. When given the opportunity to work on Gian Carlo Menotti's *The Old Maid and the Thief*, I didn't hesitate.

This show poses unique challenges for a director as it was written in the 1930's originally as a radio satire of American Suburbia. Menotti found that what seemed to be quaint, cute towns actually covered up a plethora of secrets about people and places. The work, commissioned by NBC, premiered in 1939.

When approaching this opera, I wanted to see how much I could distance the piece from the traditional presentational setting of utilizing a narrator to announce the fourteen scenes listed in the program. It was my goal to create one seamless show. Although there are moments of blackouts through lighting, I feel that it has been achieved in this production.

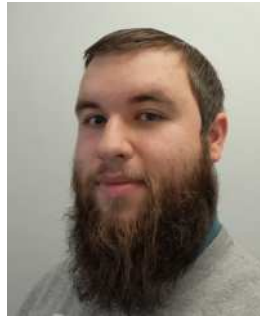
This one act opera allows the viewer to fall in love with the character or characters of their choice. Each student artist has worked hard to build relationships between their



Kristiana Jones, Soprano, is a first year freshman studying Music Education with Brian Nedvin at Old Dominion University. She is an enthusiastic musician studying classical repertoire and the jazz idiom. She currently sings with the ODU Concert Choir, the ODU Jazz Choir, and the ODU Jazz Combo. This past February, she was the featured vocalist for the ODU Jazz Orchestra, and she plans to continue performing jazz with them in future concerts. Kristiana is an honors student, receiving an ODU Merit Scholarship, and a Diehn School of Music Scholarship for academic achievement and performance excellence. Her name holds a spot on the Fall 2022 Dean's list and she plans to continue her musical and academic excellence throughout her entire time at ODU. Kristiana debuts her first principal role as Miss Pinkerton in the opera, *The Old Maid and the Thief*. She breaks barriers for herself and for all of her followers.



Cristina is excited to sing with ODU Opera again! An accomplished performer, she was praised by Art Song Update for her “superb performance” as Carolina in ODU’s production of Cimarosa’s *Il Matrimonio Segreto*. Cristina has appeared with numerous ensembles over the years, including the Virginia Symphony Orchestra Chorus, Virginia Opera, TodiMusicFest, and multiple Navy Bands and USO shows, performing in venues in Austria, Germany, Italy, and the US, including Disney World, EPCOT Center, Universal Studios Florida, the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, and the Navy Pier. An educator and choral director at heart, Cristina is the instructor for ODU’s F. Ludwig Diehn Chorale, assistant conductor of ODU choirs, and substitute instructor for various Diehn School of Music undergraduate courses. She loves working on shows, with her most recent credits being rehearsal conductor for this production of *The Old Maid and the Thief*, and Rodgers and Hammerstein’s *Cinderella*, for which she earned a Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival nomination for Vocal Coaching. Cristina holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Choral Music Education and will achieve her Masters of Music Education this coming May. She is also a licensed PK-12 music educator who most recently taught for Virginia Beach City Public schools, and plans on pursuing her Doctor of Musical Arts degree once her masters degree is complete. You can find her online at [www.cristinaloyola.com](http://www.cristinaloyola.com).



Gage Pierce is a Music Education major studying with Professor Larry Jay Giddens at Old Dominion University. He is a recipient of the Jerome J. Kern Scholarship and a member of the University Concert Choir. In addition, Gage has been invited to rush Phi Mu Alpha Fraternity and is a new member of Old Dominion University's chapter of The National Association for Music Education. Before coming to Old Dominion University, Gage studied under Dr.

Raschdorf at Atlantic Shores Christian School and was a member of the One Voice Ensemble. On graduation, Gage plans on pursuing graduate work eventually culminating in a doctorate.



Ava Stevenson is so excited to be a part of her first ever opera! Ava is a third year vocal performance major at Old Dominion University and is in the studio of Dr. Brian Nedvin. She has received multiple scholarships, including the F. Ludwig Diehn, Claire-Cucchiari, and James P. Stamos scholarship. For the last three years at ODU, she has been a part of Jazz Choir, Diehn Chorale, and Concert Choir.

Last year, she starred as Ella in Old Dominion University's production of *Cinderella*. This past March, Ava competed in Regional NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing) competition and placed second in the musical theatre category and tied for first in classical category. She will be competing in the National event in San Diego this July. She would like to thank her parents for their unending love and support and God for blessing her with the ability to make music.



Frank Veliz is a junior vocal Performance major, with a minor in psychology. Frank is a Diehn scholarship recipient, the Claire Cucchiari-Loring memorial scholarship, and a recipient of the James P. Stamos scholarship. He has been a featured soloist with the University Concert Choir and Diehn Chorale and is making his principal debut as Bob in ODU opera production of "The old maid and the Thief". Frank is in the studio of Dr. Brian Nedvin

David Whyte is a senior pursuing a Bachelor of Music: Voice Performance.



A Morehead Scholar, **Bobbie Kesler-Corleto** earned her degrees from UNC-Chapel Hill, studying with Barbara Rowan and Duke Miles. After serving several years as staff accompanist for UNC's music department, she moved to Washington, DC to write for Symphony Magazine, and later to Norfolk to play for Virginia Opera. She has since served as rehearsal pianist and performer with the Virginia Symphony Chorus and the Virginia Chorale, working with conductors Don McCullough, Robert Page, Dale Warland, Rob Fisher and Jo Ann Falletta. Currently, Bobbie may be found at Old Dominion University's music department accompanying choir and opera classes, vocal and instrumental lessons, masterclasses, and recitals.



Professor Kelli Bly, Mezzo-Soprano, is pleased to return to ODU Opera Theater this semester as assistant director and stage manager. Professor Bly is an adjunct instructor at Old Dominion University teaching Music History. Professor Bly performs locally with the VA Symphony Chorus and VA Opera and has performed with the VA Chorale. Professor Bly, originally from upstate NY, has a BM from SUNY Fredonia, an MME from ODU, and is currently in her final stages of her Doctorate of Music Education at Liberty University. Professor Bly resides in Virginia Beach with her husband and four children.

### Special thanks to:

Dean Dr. Laura Delbrugge, Associate Dean Dr. Dale Miller, Director of the Diehn School of Music, Dr. Nancy Klein, Executive Director of the Diehn School of Music, Dr. Emily Ondracek-Peterson, Outstanding musician, collaborator and educator, Bobbie Kesler-Corleto, Interim Chair, Dr. Tim Anderson, Technical Director, Jim Lyden, Director of Theatre Facilities, Woody Robinson, and Lecturer of Costume Design and Costume Shop manager, Meredith Magoun

## Upcoming Events at Old Dominion University

March 27, 2023 Lacy Wilson, Cello, Senior Recital – Chandler Recital Hall @ 7:30PM

March 28, 2023 Madrigal Singers & Collegium Musicum Concert

Chandler Recital Hall @ 7:30PM

March 29, 2023 Avery Suhay, Cello, MME Recital - Chandler Recital Hall @ 7:30PM

March 31, 2023 Brian Cortes-Bofill, Sophomore Cello Recital

Chandler Recital Hall @ 4:45PM

April 2, 2023 Alexander Payne, oboe, Senior Recital - Chandler Recital Hall @ 3:00PM

April 3, 2023 Ashley Frye, Piano, Sophomore Recital-Chandler Recital Hall @ 4:00PM

April 4, 2023 Diehn School of Music Honors Ceremony

Chandler Recital Hall @ 7:30PM

April 5, 2023 Emily Pollard, Violin, Senior Recital - Chandler Recital Hall @ 7:30PM

April 6, 2023 Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band Concert

University Theatre @ 7:30PM **Tickets required**

April 7, 2023 Conner Robinson, Clarinet Senior Recital

Chandler Recital Hall @ 4:00PM

April 7, 2023 Chamber Music Concert - Chandler Recital Hall @ 7:30PM

April 10, 2023 Monarch-Key A capella Concert - Choir Room @ 7:30PM

April 11, 2023 Percussion Ensemble Concert - Chandler Recital Hall @ 7:30PM

April 12, 2023 Stanger Quartet Concert - Chandler Recital Hall @ 7:30PM

### **April 13-17 Jazz Residency with John Fedchock**

April 13 @ 3:00PM – Master Class with John Fedchock

April 14 @ 10:00AM – Master Class with John Fedchock

April 14 @ 7:30PM Orchestra/Concert Choir Concert

7:30PM @ Thalia Lynn Baptist Church

April 16, 2023 Jazz Orchestra and Choir with John Fedchock

Chandler Recital Hall @ 4:00PM

April 17, 2023 Master Class with John Fedchock

Diehn Center for the Performing Arts, Room 1201 @ 1:00

April 18, 2023 Brass Choir Concert – Chandler Recital Hall @ 7:30PM

April 19, 2023 Chamber Music Recital – Chandler Recital Hall @ 7:30PM

April 20, 2023 New Music Ensemble Concert – Chandler Recital Hall @ 7:30PM

April 21, 2023 Erica Allen, Trumpet Senior Recital – Chandler Recital Hall @ 4:00PM

April 21, 2023 Valerio Federici, Sophomore Saxophone Recital

Chandler Recital Hall @ 4:45PM

April 22, 2023 Music Business Concert – Chandler Recital Hall @ 7:30PM

April 23, 2023 ODU Flute Choir Concert – Chandler Recital Hall @ 1:00PM

April 23, 2023 Adam Robles, Tuba MME Recital – Chandler Recital Hall @ 3:00PM

April 24, 2023 Norfolk Chamber Consort Concert – Chandler Recital Hall @ 7:30PM