

Opera opens with flourish of gingerbread

Michigan Opera Theatre will present the second offering of the 1989/90 Detroit opera season with the company's main stage premiere of German composer Engelbert Humperdinck's enchanting fairy tale opera "Hansel and Gretel."

"It is scheduled for five holiday performances on Nov. 25, 29, Dec. 1, 2, 3 at Detroit's 4,300-seat Masonic Temple Auditorium.

"Hansel and Gretel" will be performed in a new English translation by conductor Mark D. Flint with the stage for better understanding.

The cast features Kathleen Hegger and Diane Keating alternating in the "trouser" role of Hansel, Detroit natives Janet Williams and Mary Callaghan Lynch as Gretel, and television personality Jeffrey Bruce as the outrageously wicked witch Rosina Dalmatymouth.

Additionally, the cast includes the voices of dramatic soprano Ealyon Voss as Gertrude the Mother, and MOT veteran Andreas Poulimenos as Peter, the father.

MOT vocal apprentice from Ann Arbor Laura Lampert assumes the dual roles of the Sandman and Dew Fairy. The cast is completed by the MOT Children's Chorus and Dancers. Dominic Masini will return to the Detroit opera stage to direct and choreograph.

MOT will present its popular pre-opera lecture series, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29. The cost, \$16 per person per lecture, or \$75 for all five pre-opera lectures in the 1989/90 series, includes buffet luncheon or dinner and lecture. Free-lance writer Mary Jane Doerr will be the featured lecturer prior to the Nov. 29 matinee performance of "Hansel and Gretel."

Call the MOT Marketing Department for details and reservations, 874-7850.

Additionally, Michigan Opera Theatre will present American Sign Language interpreted performances for the hearing-impaired at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3. For details and to buy tickets, call TDD Voice at 874-7878.

The performance on stage at the Masonic Temple will be highlighted by "The Hansel and Gretel Gingerbread Village" exhibit in the Masonic Temple Fountain ballroom, one level below the Auditorium. Nearly 100 chefs are expected to display their gingerbread houses beginning Nov. 28 with a competition and a variety of activities for the entire family at a nominal admission charge. The exhibit will remain open prior to and during each subsequent performance of "Hansel and Gretel."

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