PLU Opera presents

*The Cunning Little Vixen*

Thursday, November 14th – Saturday, November 16th, 2019 at 7:30pm
Sunday, November 17th, 2019 at 3pm
Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille Phillips Center
PLU Opera presents

*The Cunning Little Vixen*
by Leoš Janáček (1854-1928)
Opera in three acts after the story by Rudolf Tésnohlídek

Jim Brown, *conductor/stage director*
Amy Boers, *coach/pianist*
Sheila Bristow, *coach/pianist*
Kathleen Anderson, *costume designer*
Ivory Turner, *choreographer for dancers*
Christopher Conway, *stage manager*
Anna Hartman, *assistant stage manager*
*Ella Ekstedt, costume committee leader*
Art Giddings, *stage services*

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Welcome to Eastvold Auditorium.
Please disable the audible signal on all watches and cellular phones for the duration of the concert.
Use of cameras, recording equipment and all digital devices is not permitted in the concert hall.

**PROGRAM**

**CAST**

*Gamekeeper* Hugh Davis (11/14, 11/16)

*Gamekeeper’s wife* Gillian Dockins (11/15, 11/17)
Rae Hyra (11/14, 11/16)

*Schoolmaster/Mosquito* Trevor Kytola

*Parson/Badger* Ben Axlund

*Harašta* Trevor Hansen (11/14, 11/16)
Arthur Keast (11/15, 11/17)

*Pásek* Kendan Bendt

*Mrs. Páskova* Ella Ekstedt
Pepík
Frantík
Young Vixen
Sharp-Ears, the Vixen
Gold-Spur, the Fox
Cricket
Grasshopper
Frog
Lapák, the Dog
Rooster
Chocholka
Woodpecker
Owl
Jay
DANCERS
Blue Dragonfly
Midge
Midge
Midge
Midge
Midge
Midge
Midge

Kaitlyn Ochs
Isabella Daltoso
Marina Pierce
Sabrina Husseini (11/15, 11/17)
Mackenzie Taylor (11/14, 11/16)
Lindsey Hansen (11/15, 11/17)
Aria Manning (11/14, 11/16)
Maria-Viktoria Kovalsky
Isabella Daltoso
Maddy Murphy
Janessa Wilson
Amanda Ades
Rachel King
Madelynne Jones
Gillian Dockins (11/14, 11/16)
Rae Hyra (11/15, 11/17)
Kayla Linquist
Allison Zakharov
Hailey Wharton
Taylor Greig
Hana Sasaki
Jade Vanags
Emily Dean
Lisa Kelley
PLU OPERA ORCHESTRA
* PLU faculty, + PLU student, ~ Guest Artist

**Concertmaster**
Evelyn Gottlieb ~

**Violin**
Colin Todd ~

**Viola**
Padua Canty ~

**Cello**
Mara Finkelstein ~

**Bass**
Anna Jensen *

**Flute**
A. J. Moore +

**Oboe/English horn**
Shannon Spicciati *

**Clarinet/Bass clarinet**
Craig Rine *

**Bassoon/contrabassoon**
Thomas Mallos +

**Harp**
Alec Sjöholm +

**Horn**
Carrie Rexroat ~

**Horn**
David McBride ~

**Trumpet**
Kyle Doughton +

**Trombone**
Ben Woodbury +

**Percussion**
Matthew Kusche ~

**Synthesizer**
Sheila Bristow *

*Reduced version arranged by Jonathan Dove

**COSTUME CREW**

Annika Peterson
Annie Taylor
Nykolaj Freshwater
Kat Reagin
Kylie Steves
Ashley Weaver
Director’s Notes

*The Cunning Little Vixen* can be enjoyed on many levels. Initially, one is delighted by the tuneful (and sometimes quirky) music, the boozed-up humans stumbling through the forest, and the cartoonish antics of the forest creatures. However, there is something very deep going on under the surface in this opera. Janáček is exploring not only the difficult relationship between humans and nature, but also delving into the depths of the forest of the human psyche. There is a stark difference between the way human relationships are depicted in the opera and the interactions between the animals. In nature, things come easily between the creatures that seek to feed, mate, and play. In the alcohol-drenched human world, relationships are complicated. The very desirable “Terynka” is notably never seen on the stage. Her virtues are extolled by various male characters in a way that makes her an object or a prize, rather than a person. Her character serves as more of a source of torment than of love. By extension, the humans on stage want to make a prize of the vixen. Her only value seems to be as a plaything for the children (who only torment her), or to provide a new muff for the Gamekeeper’s wife (or for the fabled Terynka). The Parson mumbles Latin and Greek to protect himself from dark desires. All of the humans are deeply flawed, because they cling to constructs that are outside their true natural selves. It is only when the Gamekeeper literally embraces the natural world that we see that game was not meant to be kept. He experiences a sort of epiphany in a simple but beautiful way. However you enjoy this opera, I know that you will experience Janáček’s genius.

- Jim Brown

**Act 1**

In the forest, the animals and insects are playing and dancing. The Gamekeeper enters and lies down against a tree for a nap. A curious Vixen Cub inquisitively chases a frog right into the lap of the surprised forester who forcibly takes the vixen home as a pet. Time passes (in the form of an orchestral interlude) and we see the Vixen, now grown up into a young adult, tied up in the Gamekeeper’s yard with the Dog. Fed up with life in confinement, the vixen chews through her rope, attacks the Rooster and Chocholka the hen, kills the other chickens, jumps over the fence and runs off to freedom.

**Act 2**

The vixen takes over a badger’s home and kicks him out. In the inn, the Pastor, the Gamekeeper, and the Schoolmaster drink and talk about their mutual infatuation with the Terynka. The drunken schoolmaster leaves the inn and sees the Young Vixen in the forest. He mistakes her for Terynka and confesses his devotion to her. The Gamekeeper, also on his way home, sees the vixen and fires two shots at her, sending her running. Later, the vixen, coming into her womanhood, meets a charming boy fox, and they retire to the badger's home. An unexpected pregnancy and a forest full of gossiping creatures necessitates their marriage, which rounds out the act.

**Act 3**

The poacher Harašta is engaged to Terynka and is out hunting in preparation for their marriage. The numerous fox and vixen cubs mock a fox trap that was set for them. Harašta shoots and kills the vixen, sending her children running. The Gamekeeper returns to the forest to reflect. He returns to the place where he met the vixen, and sits at the tree grieving the loss of both the vixen and Terynka. His grief grows until, just as in the beginning of the opera, a frog unexpectedly jumps around him, the grandson of the one who did so in act one.

We would like to thank and acknowledge the PLU Department of Theatre and Dance, Sarah Seder, Jeff Clapp, and Tom Smith.

School of Arts + Communication
Fall Events
at Pacific Lutheran University

ALL MUSIC EVENTS ARE IN MARY BAKER RUSSELL MUSIC CENTER, LAGERQUIST CONCERT HALL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

SEPTEMBER

15 Sunday, 3pm
Regency Series: Regency Jazz Ensemble

22 Sunday, 3pm
Richard D. Moe Organ Recital Series: Paul Tegels, University Organist
Tickets: $17 general admission; $10 Senior Citizen (60+), Military, Alumni, PLU Community; $5 PLU students & 18 and under

29 Sunday, 3pm
Artist Series: Early Music Concert

OCTOBER

5 Saturday, 8pm
Regency Series: Regency Voices

6 Sunday, 3pm
Artist Series: Erik Steighner, Saxophone

8 Tuesday, 8pm
University Symphony Orchestra

11 Friday, 12pm
Orchestra Festival concert, free admission

12 Saturday, 5pm
Artist Series: Jason Gillam, Euphonium

13 Sunday, 3pm
University Wind Ensemble

13 Sunday, 8pm
Regency Series: Regency String Trio. Jennie Lee Hansen Recital Hall

20 Sunday, 3pm
Richard D. Moe Organ Recital Series: Bruce Neswick, Organist.
Tickets: $17 general admission; $10 Senior Citizen (60+), Military, Alumni, PLU Community; $5 PLU students & 18 and under

22 Tuesday and 23 Wednesday, 8pm
Choral Concert

27 Sunday, 5pm
Regency Series: Lyric Brass Quintet

NOVEMBER

2 Saturday, 1pm
Regency Series: Camas Wind Quintet. Jennie Lee Hansen Recital Hall

4 Monday, 5pm
Ricardo Odrizola Violin Masterclass. Mary Baker Russell Music Center Room 334, free admission

5 Tuesday, 8pm
University Symphony Orchestra

6 Wednesday, 5:30pm
Einar Røttingen Piano Masterclass, free admission

6 Wednesday, 8pm
Music of Norway: Knut Vaage & the Valen Piano Trio. Scandinavian Cultural Center, Anderson University Center, free admission

8 Friday, 8pm
University Jazz Ensemble. Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille Phillips Center

9 Saturday, 3pm
PUJtronic/HERmonic. Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille Phillips Center

9 Saturday, 8pm
Choral Union. Tickets: $17 general admission; $10 Senior Citizen (60+), Military, Alumni, PLU Community; $5 PLU students & 18 and under

14-16 Thursday-Saturday, 7:30pm; and 17 Sunday, 3pm
Leos Janáček’s The Cunning Little Vixen. Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille Phillips Center. Tickets: $17 general admission; $10 Senior Citizen (60+), Military, Alumni, PLU Community; $5 PLU students & 18 and under

21 Thursday, 8pm
Keyboard Students Recital, free admission

22 Friday, 8pm
Steel Band & Percussion Ensembles, free admission

23 Saturday, 3pm
Woodwind Students Recital, free admission

NOVEMBER, Cont.

23 Saturday, 4:30pm
Brass Students Recital, free admission

24 Sunday, 3pm
University Wind Ensemble

24 Sunday, 8pm
Guitar Orchestra and Ensemble, free admission

DECEMBER

O Nata Lux, A PLU Christmas Concert
Tickets go on sale Monday, November 4
Saturday, December 7, at 8pm - Lagerquist Concert Hall
Sunday, December 8, at 2pm - Lagerquist Concert Hall
Monday, December 9, at 7:30pm - Benaroya Hall, Seattle
Saturday, December 14, at 8pm - Lagerquist Concert Hall
Sunday, December 15, at 2pm - Lagerquist Concert Hall

3 Tuesday, 5:30pm
Saxophone Quartets & Jazz Combos. The Cave, Anderson University Center, free admission

6 Friday, 8pm
Piano Ensemble, free admission

7 Saturday, 12pm
Sælvinden Flute Ensemble, free admission

8 Sunday, 7pm
PLU Ringers. Trinity Lutheran Church, free admission

10 Tuesday, 6pm
Chamber Music Kaleidoscope, free admission

10 Tuesday, 8pm
String Kaleidoscope, free admission

11 Wednesday, 8pm
University Concert Band, free admission

12 Thursday, 8pm
Sounds of Christmas, featuring the University Singers and Knights Chorus

15 Sunday, 5:30pm
Songwriters Workshop. Jennie Lee Hansen Recital Hall, free admission

15 Sunday, 8pm
Composers Forum, free admission

17 Tuesday, 5pm
Consonare Amici. Jennie Lee Hansen Recital Hall, free admission

JANUARY

11 Saturday, 5 and 6:30pm
Northwest High School Honor Band, free admission

20 Sunday, 5pm
PLU Honor Orchestra for Strings, free admission

To Order Tickets:
On Campus: PLU Concierge Desk (253-535-7411)
At the Concert: Lobby Desk in Mary Baker Russell Music Center

CONCERTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
All ticket sales are final - no refunds

MUSIC EVENT TICKET PRICES: $0 GENERAL; $10 SENIOR CITIZENS (60+); MILITARY, PLU ALUMNI & PLU COMMUNITY; FREE TO PLU STUDENTS & 18 AND UNDER UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. CONCERTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND SOME CONCERTS MAY BE ADDED AFTER PUBLICATION.

http://www.plu.edu/music/calendar/ (updated October 25, 2019)