

*Acknowledgements:*

Opera Angel  
The Community Performance Series  
The Crane School of Music, Alan Solomon, Dean  
The School of Arts and Sciences, Galen K. Pletcher, Dean  
SUNY-Potsdam Department of Theatre and Dance  
Crane School of Music Voice Faculty  
John Douglas, Director of Opera Theatre, Temple University  
Sigma Alpha Iota Music Fraternity  
Gary Galo Celine Haase

2009-2010 Productions

*Albert Herring*

Music by Benjamin Britten  
Libretto by Eric Crozier

Friday & Saturday, November 13, 14, 7:30 PM  
Sunday, November 15, 2:00 PM  
Sara M. Snell Music Theatre

\* \* \*

*L'Enfant et les Sortilèges*

(The Child & the Enchantments)  
Music by Maurice Ravel  
Libretto by Collette

Thursday, April 15, 10:00 AM *Education Outreach Performance*  
Friday & Saturday, April 16 & 17, 7:30 PM  
Sara M. Snell Music Theatre

Contact the Community Performance Series for ticket and education  
outreach information as they become available  
315/267.2277 [www.cpspotdam.org](http://www.cpspotdam.org)

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The Crane Opera Ensemble & Orchestra present

*L'Egisto*

Music by Francesco Cavalli  
Libretto by Giovanni Faustino

Friday, April 17, 7:30 PM  
Saturday, April 18, 7:30 PM  
Sunday, April 19, 2:00 PM

Sara M. Snell Music Theatre  
SUNY-Potsdam

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Brittany Mruczek  
*Venere*  
Soph. Music Ed/Vocal Perf  
Batavia, NY



Robert E. Mellon  
*Apollo*  
Sr. Music Ed/Vocal Perf  
Ronkonkoma, NY



Ashley Oates  
*Voluptia*  
Sr. Bus. of Music  
Schenectady, NY



Heather Osowiecki  
*Didone*  
Soph Vocal Perf/Mus Bus  
North Creek, NY



Gino Philip Pinzone  
*Ipparvo*  
Jr. Vocal Perf  
Buffalo, NY



Matthew Frederick Royal  
*Lidio*  
M.M. Vocal Perf  
Tappan, NY



Elisabeth Rünell  
*Semele*  
Sr. Vocal Perf  
Fagersta, Sweden



Kristina Saar  
*Climene*  
Sr. Music Ed  
Castleton, NY



Sarah Zenir  
*Amor*  
Sr. Music Ed  
Summit, NY



Lydiá Zervanos  
*Hero*  
Jr. Cello/Vocal Perf  
Athens, Greece

Francesco Cavalli

## *L'Egisto*

Opera in 3 acts with a Prologue  
Text by Giovanni Faustini  
Edited by Raymond Leppard

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### Audience members please note:

- ❖ Late arrivals will be seated at an appropriate time to facilitate minimal distraction
- ❖ No flash photography or personal recording devices are to be used during the performance
- ❖ For anyone who must exit during the performance, please stand at the back of the hall and wait until intermission to return to your seat
- ❖ Emergency exits are located at three levels on either side of the theatre
- ❖ Children who are able to sit quietly with an adult are welcome to the performance

Approximate running times:  
Act I - 58", Act II - 46"

There will be one 15-minute intermission

*Personnel*

*Music Director/Conductor:* Kirk Severtson

*Stage Director/Production Designer:* Carleen Graham

*Lighting Designer:* Kim Hartshorn

*Costume Designer:* Julia Ferreri

*Rehearsal Pianists:*

Sean Carmichael, Ronny Michael, Kathleen Papot

*Cast*

*La Notte* (Night): Michael Celantano

*L'Aurora* (Dawn): Katie Beck

*Clori:* Sara Sania El Houssieny

*Lidio:* Matthew Frederick Royal

*Egisto:* Marco Cammarota

*Climene:* Kristina Saar

*Ipparco* (Climene's brother): Gino Philip Pinzone

*Dema* (Ipparco's attendant): Jordan Davidson

*Bellezza* (goddess of Beauty): Maureen Cossey

*Volupia* (goddess of Sensuality): Ashley Oates

*Amor* (Cupid): Sarah Zenir

*Venere* (Venus): Brittany Mruczek

*Apollo:* Rob Mellon

*Heroines Who Died for Love*

*Semele:* Diana M. Gamet\*+, Elisabeth Rünell

*Fedra:* Caitlin E. Bush\*, Kathryn Gigliotti+

*Hero:* Meryl V. Gellman\*, Lydía Zervanos+

*Didone:* Heather Osowiecki

\* Friday & Sunday/+ Saturday

*The Cast*



Katie Beck  
*L'Aurora*  
Fr. Vocal Perf  
Bennington, VT



Caitlin E. Bush  
*Fedra*  
Fr. Vocal Perf  
Owego, NY



Marco Cammarota  
*Egisto*  
Sr. Vocal Perf  
Schenectady, NY



Michael Celantano  
*La Notte*  
Soph. Music Ed/Vocal Perf  
Patchogue, NY



Maureen Cossey  
*Bellezza*  
Fr. Vocal Perf  
Cambridge, NY



Jordan Davidson  
*Dema*  
Fr. Music Ed  
Philadelphia, NY



Sara Sania El Houssieny  
*Clori*  
Soph. Vocal Perf  
Grand Island, NY



Diana M. Gamet  
*Semele*  
Soph. Vocal Perf  
Rodman, NY



Meryl V. Gellman  
*Hero*  
Soph, Vocal Perf  
Buffalo, NY



Kathryn Gigliotti  
*Fedra*  
Sr. Vocal Perf/Music Bus  
Rochester, NY



Kim Hartshorn is an Associate Professor of Theatre at Plattsburgh State University. After receiving his MFA in design from Michigan State University, he taught and designed at Concord College in West Virginia and Allegheny College in Pennsylvania before moving to the North Country in 1982. *L'Egisto* is his sixth collaboration as Lighting Designer with The Crane Opera Ensemble.

D. Jefferson Reeder's work encompasses stage and screen, spanning some 35 years. His background in technical theatre includes positions at Santa Fe Opera, The Lyric Theatre in Oklahoma City, The Fort Worth Opera, and the Dallas-Fort Worth Ballet. He has worked on several motion pictures and television productions, and has designed sets, lighting, and costumes for regional theatre and dance companies across the southwest. He received his MFA in Design from Texas Christian University. His design work includes Ballet, Modern Dance, Opera, Drama, Film and for Pier I Imports photo studio. Jeff has also worked as an Interior Decorator, Rock and Roll roadie, General Manager of Bechtel Chemical Corporation was Executive Director, scenic and lighting designer of The Reeder Children's School of Theatre and Design. Jeff returned to the academic stage from professional theatre in the fall of 2003.



Kirk Severtson has been on the faculty since 2001, coaching singers and pianists in opera and art song and teaching classes in art song and accompanying. During the summer, he coaches for Lake George Opera (NY) and has previously coached at Opera North (NH), the Opera Theater of Lucca (Italy), the Cincinnati Opera outreach program, the Rising Star Singers festival, and Dorian Opera Theater, and held a fellowship at the Aspen Music Festival in vocal chamber music. He holds a B.A. from Luther College with majors in music, math, and computer science, and M.M. and D.M.A. degrees in piano performance from the University of

Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music. He appears frequently in recital with both singers and instrumentalists. One ongoing performance project is a choreographed version of Hindemith's *Das Marienleben* with soprano Judith Kellock and dancer Risa Fujita, which has been given numerous performances from New York City to Hawaii.

## Orchestra

### Violin I

Laura Berger, *concertmaster*  
Megan Fedor  
Gregory Krajci

### Violin II

Josephine Llorente  
Nina Merulla  
Margaret Moore

### Viola

Jamie Bineau  
Emeline Dehn-Reynolds

### Cello

Natasha Jaffe  
Andrew Kromholz  
Alyssa Sciarrino  
Eric Wich

### Bass

Shawn DePalma

### Flute

Jeanette Kelso  
Danielle Mitton

### Oboe

Laurie Luce  
Ellen Moody  
Mark Sophia (*English Horn*)

### Bassoon

Carine Kowalik  
Elizabeth Weissman

### Harp

Kathryn Sloat

### Harpsichord

Sean Carmichael  
Ronny Michael

### Keyboard

Kathleen Papot

## Production Personnel

*Technical Director:* D. Jefferson Reeder

*Production Stage Manager:* Allison Young

*Assistant Stage Managers*

*Properties/Stage Right:* Andrew Frey

*Wardrobe:* Audrey Saccone

*Supertitles:* Kait VanHeusen

*Technical Assistant/Draftsman:* Chris Herb

*Assistant to the Lighting Designer:* Kurtis Rivers

*Lightboard Operator:* Kevin Hynes

*Fly/Running Crew:* Jeff McBroom/Corey Reichhart

*Photographer/Video Archivist:* Jacob Carll

## Synopsis

*Before the opera begins . . .*

Egisto and Clori are in love. Venere has cursed Egisto for scorning her. Egisto and Clori are captured by pirates and taken to separate islands. During their captivity, Clori falls in love with Lidio who was similarly taken from Climene on their wedding day. They return to Zakynthos and move on with their lives. After a year in captivity, Egisto and Climene escape and make their way home to find their loved ones. To complicate matters, Climene's brother Ipparco desires Clori who does not return his affections.

### PROLOGUE

Night is defeated by Dawn and a new day begins.

### ACT I

Tired from their long journey, Egisto and Climene are sleeping in a wooded area, unaware that Clori and Lidio are nearby. Despite fond memories of Egisto, Clori has affirmed her new love for Lidio by carving their names on the trees. Egisto tells Climene about his love for Clori. However, after seeing the carvings, they vow revenge. Ipparco is anxious for news about Clori from Dema who reflects on the perils of youthful love.

Bellezza and Volupia argue whether beauty or sensuality is more likely to entice love. Amor comments on love's frivolity and the three poke fun at the mortals. Venere suggests to her son Amor that she will never be happy if Egisto Clori reunite. Amor vows to revenge his mother's humiliation by keeping the lovers apart.

Climene finds Lidio, but he tells her that he now loves Clori. Climene is distraught and tells her brother Ipparco who vows to kill Lidio. Dema thinks that Ipparco is foolish. Clori tries to deny her feelings for Egisto. She storms off leaving Egisto to cry out in agony.

-15 minute intermission-

### ACT II

The Heroines Who Died for Love confront Amor for destroying Egisto and Clori's love. Apollo teases Amor and tells him that he will intercede if Amor promises to reunite the mortal lovers. Amor agrees, but Apollo and the Heroines are not convinced.

Clori and Lidio vow to remain faithful to each other and are discovered by Climene and Ipparco. Ipparco takes Clori from Lidio and encourages Climene to kill Lidio. Amor reverses the spell on Climene and Lidio, but is unwilling to help Egisto who is crazed with confusion and grief. To spite Amor and preserve the love of the mortal couple, Semele restores Egisto's sanity and Clori is overcome by compassion for him. There is general rejoicing as daytime comes to an end. Egisto and Clori are reunited and the cycle is complete.

## Notes on the Opera and Production

Francesco Cavalli's *L'Egisto* was one of the most successful operas in mid-17<sup>th</sup> century Italy from its debut in 1643 at the Teatreo San Cassiano in Venice. It is a favola drammatica musicale (a dramatic story set to music) in a prologue and three acts and involves two intersecting love triangles interspersed with comic scenes. The artificial plot is contrasted by the music that beautifully reflects the extremes of emotion with poignant clarity.

The opera is propelled through the use of exquisitely crafted dramatic recitatives, arias and duets. We expanded the group of Heroines Who Died for Love to allow for musical and dramatic variety. For this production, the piece is separated into two acts using only one intermission. The wind band is placed onstage to enhance the musical interaction between the singers and instrumentalists. We found that inserting brief pauses after some scenes allows for time to adjust both dramatically and technically.

This is the first time we are using supertitles for our performances. Carleen Graham and Kait Van Heusen created the version you will see based on a literal translation by Kirk Severtson.

### Artistic Personnel

This is Julia Ferreri's second year as the costume shop manager for SUNY Potsdam, and her third Crane Opera Ensemble production. Julia received her MFA in costume technology from Ohio University. Last summer she worked for the Heritage theatre festival in Charlottesville Virginia as a draper and will travel to Cooperstown, NY to work as the floor manager for Glimmerglass Opera this summer. She has also worked at Utah Shakespeare festival, Alabama Shakespeare festival, Pennsylvania Shakespeare festival, and the Berkshire Theatre Festival. She sends her love to her husband Stephen and their two 'children', Spike and Katie.



Carleen Graham is Professor of Opera and has directed The Crane Opera Ensemble since 1991. She is the recipient of the 2009 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching; the 2006 SUNY Potsdam President's Award for Excellence in Teaching; and the 2007 College Foundation Board Fundraising Volunteer of the Year. Carleen regularly directs for the *Curso Internacional de Música Vocal* in Aveiro, Portugal. Recent publications include articles for OPERA America *Perspectives Series* and *Educationlink*, as well as *The Journal of Singing* (2009). She is currently a candidate for the Ed.D. at Teachers College, Columbia University and will return Glasgow this spring to stage direct for the Royal Scottish Academy of Music & Drama opera theatre department.

Stage Management Staff (L-R):

Andrew Frey, *Ass't Stage Mgr*  
Allison Young, *Production Stage Mgr*  
Kait VanHeusen, *Ass't Stage Mgr*  
Audrey Saccone, *Ass't Stage Mgr*



Opera Orchestra

Seated L-R: Nina Merulla, Jamie Bineau, Megan Fedor. Standing L-R : Sean Carmichael, Laura Berger, Andrew Kromholz, Ronny Michael, Margaret Moore, Greg Krajci, Alyssa Sciarrino, Greg Wich, Natasha Jaffe, Emeline Dehn-Reynolds, Shawn DePalma, Josephine Llorente, Kathryn Sloat (not pictured, Kathleen Papot).



Wind Band members L-R:  
Jeanette Kelso, Ellen Moody  
Carine Kowalik, Elizabeth  
Weissman (not pictured,  
Danielle Mitton, Laurie Luce,  
Mark Sophia).