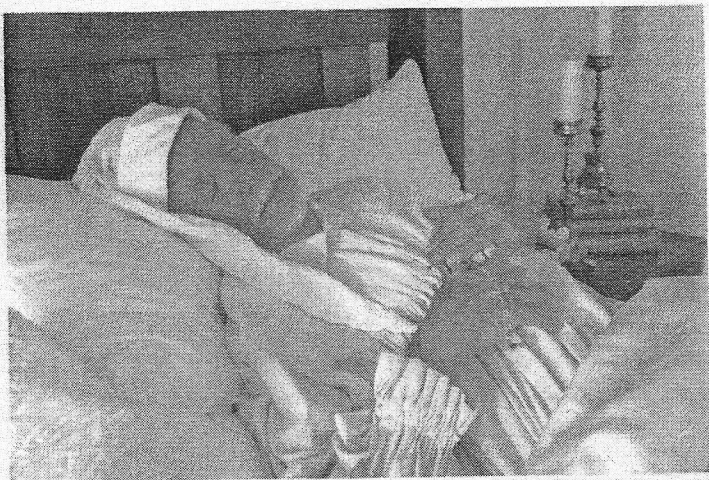




PRESENTS:

GIANNI SCHICCHI

by Giacomo Puccini



December 1, 8:00 pm

December 2, 2:00 pm

December 8, 7:30 pm

December 9, 2:00 pm

December 9, 7:00 pm

Tickets online or by mail at FLOperaTheatre.org

Holidays. Her favorite roles have been Annie (*Annie*), Scout (*To Kill a Mockingbird*), and Marta (*The Sound of Music*). Sarah would like to thank Eric for giving her this amazing opportunity. She would also like to thank her family and friends for their love and support.

Eric Pinder, - Director in Residence

Music, drama and dance have always been a part of Eric Pinder's life. After seeing his first musical, "Fiddler on the Roof," at age 3 1/2, his career path was set. Mr. Pinder received a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre from Michigan State University and an M.F.A. in Theatre Performance from University of Florida.

His opera credits include appearing as a Supernumerary in two Orlando Opera productions (*Così fan tutte* and *Salome*). He played Ambrogio the gardener in "Barber of Seville" during Florida Opera Theatre's inaugural season. These hours on an opera set gave the already established theater director an opportunity to absorb the peculiarities of opera directing. He was assistant director for two staged operas with the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra (*Carmen* and last year's *Rigoletto*.)

"Opera as an art form has been changing and developing with musical styles for centuries, but what hasn't changed is its ability to affect our emotions."

Mr. Pinder has studied piano, voice, tap, jazz and ballet along with Polish and Russian Folk Dancing (and four hours of training on Norwegian Folk Dancing). Also an Ice Hockey fan, he is writing a libretto for a hockey opera.

Thomas Potter – Gianni Schicchi

Baritone Thomas Potter is overjoyed to perform with the Florida Opera Theatre again this season. Local audiences will remember his engaging portrayal of Dr. Bartolo in the FOT's production of *IL Il barbiere di Siviglia* earlier this year. Thomas teaches voice and directs the opera program at UCF, here in Orlando, but still finds plenty of opportunity to perform regularly. In the past year, he has sung for Vero Beach Opera [Bartolo in *Le Nozze di Figaro*], Sarasota Opera [Doctor in *Vanessa*], the Space Coast Symphony [Scarpia in *Tosca*], the UCF Symphony Orchestra [Beethoven Ninth Symphony and *Porgy and Bess* excerpts], and the Vero Beach Community Church Orchestra [Durufle *Requiem*]. Potter also taught and performed at Music Theater Bavaria in Germany this summer. Upcoming performances include two productions of *Puccini's Madama Butterfly* [Imperial Symphony Orchestra in Lakeland (January 2013) and Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra (April 2013)].

Richard Repp - Pinellino

Richard Repp teaches music theory courses at Full Sail University in Winter Park. He has performed with the Florida Opera Theatre, Toledo Opera, Illinois Opera Theater, Augusta Opera, and the Orlando Opera. He holds a Ph.D. in Technology-Based Music Instruction from the University of Illinois at Urbana-

Champaign and a Master of Music in Performance (Voice) from Illinois State University. He has been certified by the McClosky Institute of Voice, an organization specializing in techniques to resolve vocal problems without surgery. The techniques David Blair McClosky pioneered in the 1950's are now used worldwide by performing musicians, speakers, and teachers to maintain healthy, resilient voices even under demanding conditions.

Luis Enrique Rivera - Guccio

Luis was born and raised in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico. He began singing at the age of 18 at University High School in Orlando, FL. After playing the trumpet for 8 years, he began to study voice at Valencia Community College East Campus with Dr. Michael Foster. After 2 great years at Valencia, he was able to transfer to The University of Central Florida and study under the direction of Dr. Jeremy Hunt. Luis was also given the opportunity to travel and study abroad in Italy in the summer of 2010 with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he was given the opportunity to sing roles such as: Guglielmo in *Le Nozze di Figaro* and Figaro in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*. Other performance credits include: *The Tempest* directed by John Didonna at Valencia, and chorus roles in the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra and Florida Opera Theatre's productions of *La Bohème* and *Rigoletto*. Luis currently studies at UCF with a bachelor's in music education and music performance as a baritone.

Robin Stamper - Music Director

Robin Andrew Stamper is both Music Director and Chorus Master for Florida Opera Theatre. Mr. Stamper grew up in Orlando and left to earn degrees in performance from The Eastman School of Music and the Juilliard School.

He was Director of Music for the Kentucky Opera in Louisville for five years and then Artistic Director with the Nevada Opera where he conducted mainstage performances of *Rigoletto*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Pagliacci*, *Sour Angelica*, *Le Nozze di Figaro* and *Il barbiere di Siviglia*.

In 2003, he returned to Orlando to serve as Music Director and Chorus Director with the Orlando Opera where he conducted mainstage performances of *L'elisir d'amore*, *Pirates of Penzance* and *Die Fledermaus*. Also notable under his tenure at Orlando Opera was the growth of the Orlando Opera Chorus, which culminated in highly acclaimed performances of *Turandot*, *Il Trovatore* and *Cavalleria Rusticana*.

Most recently, he directed the Florida Opera Theatre Chorus for the Orlando Philharmonic's productions of *La Bohème*, *Puccini e Verdi*, and *Rigoletto*. He was Music Director and Pianist for the Florida Opera Theatre's inaugural production season which included *The Medium* and *The Barber of Seville*.