the BARTERED BRIDE

March 15 - 18, 2007
Power Center

UM School of Music, Theatre & Dance
University Opera Theatre
The University of Michigan, School of Music, Theatre & Dance
University Opera Theatre
presents

The Bartered Bride
(Prodaná nevěsta)

Music by Bedřich Smetana
Libretto by Karel Sabina

The Bartered Bride premiered in Prague on May 30, 1866.

Director
Joshua Major

Conductor
Andrew George

Assistant Conductor‡
Clinton Smith

Scenic Designer
Erhard Rom

Costume Designer
Meghann O’Malley Powell

Lighting Designer
Stephen Siercks

Wig, Hair, & Makeup Designer
Dawn Rivard

Choreographer
Melissa Beck Matjias

Czech Diction Coach/Supertitles Creation
Timothy Cheek

Musical Preparation
Carolyn Herrington, Tom Bandy

Chorus Master
Carole Ott

Stage Manager
Brett Finley

Setting:
A village in Bohemia during the 19th century. All the action takes place from morning to evening on a festival day.

There will be two intermissions.

‡ Clinton Smith will conduct the performance on Sunday, March 18, 2007.

Latecomers will be seated at a suitable break or scene change. As a courtesy to others, please set pagers to silent mode. Cellular phones and electronic watch alarms should be turned off so they will not interrupt the performance. Photography and videotaping are not permitted due to copyright restrictions. Flash photography endangers performers by causing momentary blindness.

A very special thanks to the Friends of Opera for their support and purchase of the student performer’s vocal scores for these performances.

The School of Music acknowledges the generosity of McKinley Associates, Inc. whose support has helped make this production possible.
Cast of Characters

Mařenka, a young peasant woman (soprano) ........................................ Sheena Law .............................................. Amita Prakash
Jeník, her sweetheart (tenor) .................................................. Steven Tompkins ............................................. Bernard D. Holcomb
Kecal, a marriage broker (bass) .................................................. Seth Mease Carico ............................................ Jeremiah Butterfield
Krušina, a farmer and Mařenka's father (baritone) ......................... Joseph Roberts ................................................. Paul Scholten
Ludmila, Mařenka's mother (soprano) .......................................... Elke Riedel .................................................... Jody Doktor
Tobiás Mícha, a wealthy Bohemian landowner (bass) ..................... Andrew Harris ............................................... Edward Hanlon
Háta, Mícha's second wife (mezzo-soprano) ................................. Monique Holmes ............................................... Elizabeth Gray McGhee
Vášek, younger son of Tobiás Mícha (tenor) .................................. José García ..................................................... David Wilson

The Circus Players
The Ringmaster (tenor) ........................................................... Dustin Scott ...................................................... David Kozisek
Emerald, a tightrope walker (soprano) ......................................... Alissa Rose ........................................................... Kelly Holst
The Indian (baritone) .............................................................. Jonathan Bryan Smith ....................................... Scott Lindroth

Ensemble .......................................................... Zerrin Agabigum, Andrew Bollinger, Austin Chrzanowski, Natalie Cochran, Andrew Coniglio, Heather Denny, Jen Hartley, Amanda Kaipio, Jenna Klein, Audrey Kline, Paige Lucas, Jennifer McKenzie, Courtney Miller, Kevin Munhall, Claudio Nuñez, Jessica Petrus, Davis Smith, Elyse Smith, Austin Stewart, Nathan Taylor, Kate Wakefield

Gymnasts .......................................................... Alex Brenner, Ruthilah Graff
Juggler .............................................................. Leonard Navarro
Dancers .......................................................... Mark Ayesh, Stephanie Maloney, Mary Patterson, Kathleen Wright
Splits Man .......................................................... Bobby Huebner

University Philharmonia Orchestra

Violin................. Karen Jenks‡, Sarah Charness*, Daniel Blumenthal, Oliver Chang, Nathan Davidoff, Eboni Garrett-Bluford, Shawn Jaeger, Hezekiah Leung, Renaud Robinon, Joel Schut, Erica Shirts, Manami Yamanaka
Viola........................... Daniel McCarthy*, Christia Bieda, Dana Huyge, Stephanie Kirwan, Emily Shipman
Violoncello ............ Aleisha Verner*, Chauncey Aceret, Marta Bagratuni, Sarah Beske, Eliza Brown, Maia Dedrick, James Jaffe, Catherine Li, Tobin Lov, Caroline Nicolas, Colin Tucker, Niel Van Zyl
Double Bass ............... Keith Miller*, Nicholas Artushin, Emily Naoum
Flute ....................... Jacqueline Arrington, Mackenzie Slottlow, Rachel Woolf
Oboe ...................... Christine Massey, Mallory Mazer, Noah Tucker
Clarinet ................. Amanda Cook, Mark Dover, Eleanor Weigert
Bassoon .................... John Gettel, Emily Weingarten

Horn............................... Jonathan Duggan, Benjamin Johns, Zachary Kazarinoff, Yumi Oshikiri
Trumpet ....................... Jason Bergman, Daniel Nesbitt
Trombone ...................... Joseph Muñoz, Paul Winterhalter
Bass Trombone ......... Murphy McBee
Timpani/Percussion .............. David Alcorn, Patrick Duffy, Claire Ryan

Production Staff
Director of Orchestras ...................................................... Kenneth Kiesler
Associate Director of Orchestras ........................................... Andrew George
Managing Director ......................................................... David Aderente
Co-Interim Managing Directors ........................................ Karen Jenks, Kit Weber
Personnel Manager ......................................................... Murphy McCabe
Equipment .......................................................... Dana Huyge

† Concertmaster * Principal

Acknowledgments

The producers wish to thank the tdf Costume Collection for its assistance in this production.
Synopsis

Act I

Jeník, a young man who works on a nearby farm, and Mařenka have pledged their love to each other. As the villagers celebrate Spring, Mařenka reveals that years ago her father owed money to the landowner, Tobiáš Mícha. In order to repay him, Krušina promised that his daughter would marry Mícha’s son, Vašek.

Mařenka asks Jeník to tell her more about his background, but he will only say that his mother died when he was a boy. After his father remarried, Jeník was rejected and left home to live in Moravia. Now he has returned, Jeník tells Mařenka that he loves her deeply and they dream of having their own farm someday.

Kecal, the marriage broker, is trying to arrange the marriage between Mařenka and Vašek. He asks Mařenka’s parents, Krušina and Ludmila, for their signature. Krušina remarks that he has always heard that Mícha has two sons, but has never met the other one. Kecal insists that Vašek is the man for Mařenka and that no one knows what happened to Mícha’s eldest son. Mařenka joins them and tells her parents that she already has a sweetheart whom she has promised to wed. Kecal tries to find out who it is.

Act II

The act begins with the men extolling the three virtues – beer, love and money. Vašek enters troubled by his mother’s insistence that he get married. Mařenka, desperate to avoid a marriage with Vašek, tricks him into giving her up while keeping her own identity a secret. Kecal tries to convince Jeník to marry another girl who Kecal will only describe by bragging about how rich she is. On top of this, Kecal offers Jeník money to give up Mařenka. Jeník, with his own mysterious plan, finally relents. He will take the money provided the contract reads that “Mařenka is to marry one man alone, and that man is Tobiáš Mícha’s son, or the contract will be cancelled.” When the news comes out that Jeník has bartered Mařenka for money, the village is shocked.

Act III

A traveling circus comes to the village as part of the celebrations. The Ringmaster introduces his troupe and they offer a preview of the evening’s show. Vašek notices and takes a liking to Esmeralda, whom he approaches after the dance. Suddenly the Indian runs in with the news that the man who plays the dancing bear has disappeared again. They convince Vašek to join them.

Háta and Tobiáš Mícha enter with Kecal looking for Vašek so he can sign the marriage contract. Vašek refuses, telling them that a lovely girl has made him change his mind. They are confused. Meanwhile Mařenka is with her parents and learns that Jeník has given her up for 300 crowns. Kecal joins them and proves it by showing Mařenka the contract, but Mařenka still refuses to marry Vašek. Vašek and his parents appear and once he realizes that the sweet girl who charmed him earlier is Mařenka herself, he happily agrees to marry her. Mařenka requests time to think it over.

Jeník appears, but she stubbornly refuses to let him explain himself, and they quarrel. Kecal enters and asks Mařenka once more if she will marry Mícha’s son. Both sets of parents and the entire village join them, when Mařenka, furious at Jeník, announces she will marry Vašek. Háta and Tobiáš Mícha, seeing Jeník for the first time in many years, recognize Mícha’s eldest son. Mařenka’s anger turns to joy and all is sorted out.
About Bedřich Smetana

Bedřich Smetana (Composer) was born the son of a master beer brewer in the small town of Litomyšl in Bohemia (the western part of what is now the Czech Republic) in 1824. Smetana showed great talent at an early age, playing the piano and violin and even composing by the age of eight. His father, however, stopped supporting his son’s musical career, so at the age of 21, still with the hope of becoming a professional musician, Smetana moved to Prague and earned a living as a private piano tutor for the family of a Count. At this time, his music was evolving from piano pieces to orchestral and vocal compositions.

Meanwhile, the political state of the Czech republic was changing. Smetana joined the movement among Czechs demanding the right to independence and the free use of their language. He wrote marches and songs to support the movement, and he learned the Czech language. Despite their efforts, things were not really changing, so when he was offered a job to teach piano in Sweden, Smetana and his family moved. Following the death of his wife and three of his four daughters, Smetana returned to Prague where political conditions had improved. There was a new movement toward the appreciation of Czech art and culture and Smetana wanted to be a part of it.

Smetana paired himself with the librettist Karel Sabina for his first opera, The Brandenburgers in Bohemia. This success was followed by his best-known and loved opera, The Bartered Bride. Both operas were richly immersed in Czech folklore and music. The Bartered Bride was rewritten many times until it reached its final form in 1870. During that time, Smetana also held the post of chief conductor at the Provisional Theater, promoting Czech opera. Despite his vision, he was highly criticized. He continued to write operas, chamber music, piano pieces and songs, but in 1874 Smetana went almost completely deaf and had to give up his position. It became increasingly difficult for him to compose; his final works (including three operas) were written in total deafness. He once said: “I’ve never heard my [later] compositions, but I’ve seen the audience cry.” Smetana began to lose his mind and was committed to the Prague Lunatic Asylum, where he died on May 12, 1884 at the age of 60.

Bedřich Smetana is regarded as the “father of Czech opera” because his operas began a rich Czech tradition that evolved further in the works of Antonín Dvořák and Leoš Janáček, and that continues to this day. — Courtesy New York City Opera

About the Cast

Zerrin Agabigum (Ensemble) junior, BM Vocal Perf. and Choral Music Educ., Linden MI
Mark Ayesh (Dancer) first-year, BFA Musical Theatre, Wichita, KS
Andrew Bollinger (Ensemble) junior, BM Vocal Perf./BS Mathematics, Livonia, MI
Alex Brenner (Gymnast) fifth grade, Bach School, Ann Arbor, MI
Jeremiah Butterfield (Kecal) grad student, MM Vocal Perf., St. George, UT
Seth Mease Carico (Kecal) grad student, MM Vocal Perf., Signal Mountain, TN
Austin Chrzanowski (Ensemble) soph., BM Vocal Perf./BS Engineering, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI
Natalie Cochran (Ensemble) junior, BM Vocal Perf., West Bloomfield, MI
Andrew Coniglio (Ensemble) soph., BM Vocal Perf., Pittsford, NY
Heather Denn (Ensemble) soph., BM Vocal Perf., Morrison, CO
Jody Doktor (Ludmila) grad student, DMA Vocal Perf., Ypsilanti, MI
José García (Vašek) grad student, MM Vocal Perf., San Antonio, TX
Ruthilah Graff (Gymnast) sixth grade, Ann Arbor Open at Mack School, Ann Arbor, MI
Elizabeth Gray McGhee (Hátá) grad student, MM Vocal Perf., Southfield, MI
Edward Hanlon (Micha) grad student, Montreal, Canada
Andrew Harris (Micha) grad student, Kingwood, WV
Jen Hartley (Ensemble) junior, BM Vocal Perf., Ann Arbor, MI
Bernard D. Holcomb (Jenik) grad student, MM Vocal Perf., Detroit, MI
Monique Holmes (Hátá) grad student, MM Vocal Perf., Buffalo, NY
Kelly Holst (Esmeralda) grad student, DMA Vocal Perf., Junction, IA
Bobby Hubner (Splits Man) senior, BM Vocal Perf., Ann Arbor, MI
Amanda Kaipio (Ensemble) junior, BM Vocal Perf., Tempe, AZ
Jenna Klein (Ensemble) junior, BM Vocal Perf., Verona, NJ
Audrey Kline (Ensemble) soph., BM Vocal Perf. and Music Educ., Royal Oak, MI
David Kozisek (The Ringmaster) grad student, MM Vocal Perf., Bowling Green, KY
Sheena Law (Maríenka) grad student, MM Vocal Perf. Hartland, MI
Scott Lindroth (The Indian) senior, BFA Vocal Perf. w/ Teaching Certificate, Farmington, CT
Paige Lucas (Ensemble) first-year, BM Vocal Perf., East Lansing, MI
Stephanie Maloney (Dancer) first-year, BFA Musical Theatre, Pittsburgh, PA
About the Cast

Jennifer McKenzie (Ensemble) first-year, BM Vocal Perf., Louisville, KY
Courtney Miller (Ensemble) soph., BM Vocal Perf., Madison, WI
Kevin Munhall (Dancer) first-year, BFA Musical Theatre, Wichita, KS
Leonard Navarro (Juggler) first-year, BFA Musical Theatre, San Antonio, TX
Claudio Nuñez (Ensemble) soph., BM Vocal Perf., Los Angeles, CA
Mary Patterson (Dancer) first-year, BFA Musical Theatre, Aledo, TX
Jessica Petrus (Ensemble) senior, BM Vocal Perf. and Choral Educ., Farmington, MI
Amita Prakash (Matěnka) grad student, MM Vocal Perf., Rochester, MN
Elke Riedel (Ludmila) grad student, DMA Vocal Perf., Natal, Brazil
Joseph Roberts (Krušina) grad student, MM Vocal Perf., Crockett, TX

Alissa Rose (Esmeralda) grad student, DMA Vocal Perf., Billings, MT
Paul Scholten (Krušina) senior, BM Vocal Perf., Muskegon, MI
Dustin Scott (The Ringmaster) grad student, MM Vocal Perf., Sterling Heights, MI
Davis Smith (Ensemble) first-year, BM Vocal Perf., Grosse Pointe, MI
Elyse Smith (Ensemble) first-year, BM Vocal Perf., Woodinville, WA
Jonathan Bryan Smith (The Indian) junior, BM Vocal Perf., Richmond, VA
Austin Stewart (Ensemble) soph., BM Vocal Perf., Ludington, MI
Nathan Taylor (Ensemble) soph., BM Vocal Perf., Chelsea, MI
Steven Tompkins (Jeník) grad student, MM Vocal Perf., Jefferson, NY
Kate Wakefield (Ensemble) first-year, BM Vocal Perf., Ann Arbor, MI
David Wilson (Vašek) senior, BM Vocal Perf., Ann Arbor, MI
Kathleen Wright (Dancer) soph., BFA Dance/BA Political Science, Beverly Hills, MI

The performers in this production are composed of undergraduate and graduate students in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance and guests. The designers are composed of undergraduate students and faculty in the Department of Theatre & Drama and guests. Scenery, costumes, properties, sound, and lighting were realized by the students and staff of University Productions, the producing unit of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

About the Artists

Timothy Cheek (Czech Diction Coach) is Music Director of the UM Opera Workshop, Diction Instructor and Diction Coach of Opera at UM; Vocal coach, Opera Theatre & Music Festival of Lucca, Italy; Music Director/Conductor of Opera, Bay View Music Festival. Opera Coach/Pianist: Michigan Opera Theatre, Sante Fe Opera, Israel Vocal Arts Institute, Bel Canto Northwest Vocal Institute. Apprenticeships: Prague National Theatre, Czech Republic; Teatro Comunale, Florence, Italy (Fulbright award). Author: Singing in Czech: The Janáček Opera Libretti. CD: The Songs of Vítězslava Kaprůlová, with soprano Dana Burešová.


Andrew George (Conductor) is the Assoc. Director of UM Orchestras. UM: Tartuffe; Music Director: Madame Mao, Festival of New Works; Asst. Conductor: La Cenerentola, La Perichole, Susannah. Conducting: Columbus Symphony, BalletMet, Toledo Symphony, Madison Symphony, Edgewood Chamber Symphony, Ohio Univ. Orchestras & Opera, Composers Alliance Orchestra. U of WI Honors Orchestra, Kanopy Dance Company, Union Opera. Teaching: Ohio Univ., Conductor’s Guild Workshop, Conductors Retreat at Medomak. Other: BM, Univ. of Michigan; MM, Univ. of Wisconsin; DMA, Univ. of Michigan.

Joshua Major (Director) is Head of Opera and Director of the UM Opera Workshop; Artistic Director of the Pine Mountain Music Festival since 2003; Stage Director and Faculty with the Israel Vocal Arts Institute since 1993. UM: The Coronation of Poppea, Hansel and Gretel, Gianni Schicchi, Xerxes, The Cunning Little Vixen, The Consul. Regional Opera: Michigan Opera Theatre, Cleveland Opera, Opera Omaha, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Wolf Trap Opera, Central City Opera, Opera Carolina, New Orleans Opera, Kentucky Opera, Tulsa Opera and Indianapolis Opera.

Melissa Beck Matijas (Choreographer) is on the dance faculty at the University of Michigan and Interlochen Arts Camp. UM: The Cradle Will Rock, Jackie O, Dance to the
About the Artists

Music. Regional Dance: Teaching artist for Lincoln Center Institute and for Ohio Wolftrap; presented works at Chicago’s Around the Coyote Festival and at Bates Dance Festival, among others. Awards: 2006 recipient of the Maggie Allessee New Choreography Award presented by the Michigan Dance Council. Other: MFA Dance, BA English.


DAWN RIVARD (Wig & Makeup Designer) is based in Toronto. World Premieres: Ragtime, Sunset Boulevard, Showboat. International Theatre: Award winning productions of Cats, Showboat and Beauty and the Beast in Germany, Austria & Switzerland. Currently she also designs for Florentine Opera Company. TV/Film: Emmy Award for Hair and Makeup, Feast of All Saints, based on the novel by Anne Rice. Other: Works and has trained throughout the world including New Zealand, Europe, and the U.S.

ERHARD ROM (Scenic Designer) Regional Opera: Carmen, Jane Eyre, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis; Volpone, Wolf Trap Opera; Pottalba, New Orleans; Boston Lyric Opera; Virginia Opera; Lyric Opera of Kansas City; Chautauqua Opera, Manhattan School of Music. Regional Theatre: Syracuse Stage, Geva Theatre Center, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Folger Shakespeare Theatre, Merrimack Repertory Theatre, Interact Theatre, Woolly Mammoth Theatre. Honors/Awards: 2007 Prague Quadrennial International Design Exhibition; Creative achievement in opera, 1999 & 2003, New Orleans Opera. Other: BA, Univ. of Washington; MFA, NYU’S Tisch School of the Arts; Member USA, Local 829.


Staff for The Bartered Bride

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Opera Director............................................ Joshua Major
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John Pierce, Melody Racine, Rico Serbo,
Martha Shell, Shirley Verrett, Daniel Washington

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Asst. Technical Director (Power).... Donald C. Watkins
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Asst. Scenic Artist ......................... Elizabeth Sandmair
Properties Master ............................ Arthur Ridley
Asst. Properties Master ................. Dan Tracy
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Crafts Artisan .............................. Elizabeth Gunderson
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Mark Gordon, Kurt Thoma
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Asst. Stage Managers.............. Mitchell Hodges, Rachel Jahn
Asst. Director ...................... Angela Wetherby
Intern Observer ......................... Becca Rothman
Sceney ................................. Charissa Barger, Ryan Foy
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Ruth Pfeifordt, Dina Voski, students of Theatre 250
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Ryan Foy, Kelsey Moher, Adam Moskal, Laura Riggins,
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Sceney .................................... Brandi Booth, Corey Dorris,
Kelley Kimball, Julie Oh, Austin Stewart
Props ..................................... Carolyn Goodman, Kelli Rasmus, Tiffany Williams
Light Board Operator .................. Joseph Moses
Wardrobe ................................. Seon Britton, Bridget Gabbe,
Julianne McCaffrey, Bethany Ricwald, Kathleen Wright

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Superititles ............................... Andrew Munn
Sceney .................................... Brandi Booth, Corey Dorris,
Kelley Kimball, Julie Oh, Austin Stewart
Props ..................................... Carolyn Goodman, Kelli Rasmus, Tiffany Williams
Light Board Operator ............... Joseph Moses
Wardrobe ................................ Seon Britton, Bridget Gabbe,
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