



POSTCARD  
*from*  
MOROCCO

UNIVERSITY OPERA THEATRE  
MARCH 20 - 23, 2008  
MENDELSSOHN THEATRE



University of Michigan School of  
Music, Theatre & Dance

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

# POSTCARD *from* MOROCCO

Music by **Dominick Argento**

Text by **John Donahue**

*Postcard from Morocco* premiered at the Minnesota Opera  
on October 14, 1971, in Minneapolis, MN.

<i>Director</i>	<b>Joshua Major</b>
<i>Conductor</i>	<b>Douglas Kinney Frost</b>
<i>Assistant Conductor</i> ‡	<b>Mark Latham</b>
<i>Scenic Design</i>	<b>Vincent Mountain</b>
<i>Costume Design</i>	<b>Rachel Laritz</b>
<i>Lighting Design</i>	<b>Joseph R. Walls</b>
<i>Wig &amp; Makeup Design</i>	<b>Dawn Rivard</b>
<i>Diction Coach</i>	<b>Timothy Cheek</b>
<i>Repetiteurs</i>	<b>Kevin Miller, Jeremy Reger</b>
<i>Stage Manager</i>	<b>Brett Finley</b>

**Setting:**

A train station, 1914

***Postcard from Morocco* is performed without an intermission.**

‡ Mark Latham will conduct the performance on March 23, 2008.

*Postcard from Morocco* is presented by arrangement with  
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**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.

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

# CAST OF CHARACTERS

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## MARCH 20 & 22, 2008

Coloratura-soprano...	<i>A Lady with a Hand Mirror, An Operetta Singer</i> .....	<b>Jennifer Rosetti</b>
Soprano.....	<i>A Lady with a Cake Box</i> .....	<b>Jody Doktor</b>
Mezzo-soprano .....	<i>A Lady with a Hat Box, A Foreign Singer</i> .....	<b>Jennifer Trombley</b>
Lyric Tenor .....	<i>A Man with Old Luggage, An Operetta Singer</i> .....	<b>Dustin L. Scott</b>
Tenor .....	<i>A Man with a Paint Box</i> .....	<b>Steven Tompkins</b>
Baritone .....	<i>A Man with a Shoe Sample Kit</i> .....	<b>George Cornelius</b>
Bass .....	<i>A Man with a Cornet Case, A Puppet Maker</i> .....	<b>Edward Hanlon</b>
Mimes .....	<i>Entertainers</i> .....	<b>Janai Brugger, Jonathan Christopher</b>

## MARCH 21 & 23, 2008

Coloratura-soprano ....	<i>A Lady with a Hand Mirror, An Operetta Singer</i> .....	<b>Kelly Holst</b>
Soprano.....	<i>A Lady with a Cake Box</i> .....	<b>Leonora Green</b>
Mezzo-soprano .....	<i>A Lady with a Hat Box, A Foreign Singer</i> .....	<b>Cynthia Brundage</b>
Lyric Tenor.....	<i>A Man with Old Luggage, An Operetta Singer</i> ..	<b>Bernard D. Holcomb</b>
Tenor .....	<i>A Man with a Paint Box</i> .....	<b>Brian Tanner</b>
Baritone .....	<i>A Man with a Shoe Sample Kit</i> .....	<b>Wes Mason</b>
Bass .....	<i>A Man with a Cornet Case, A Puppet Maker</i> .....	<b>Andrew Munn</b>
Mimes .....	<i>Entertainers</i> .....	<b>Janai Brugger, Jonathan Christopher</b>

<i>Violin</i> .....	<b>Jacqueline Nutting‡</b>
<i>Viola</i> .....	<b>Lauren Borden</b>
<i>Double Bass</i> .....	<b>Keith Miller</b>
<i>Clarinet</i> .....	<b>Lucie McGee</b>
<i>Alto Saxophone</i> .....	<b>Jonathan Yanik</b>
<i>Trombone</i> .....	<b>Patrick Montgomery</b>
<i>Guitar</i> .....	<b>Matthew Ardizzone</b>
<i>Piano/Celesta</i> .....	<b>Kevin Miller</b> (Thur., Sat.), <b>Jeremy Reger</b> (Fri., Sun.)
<i>Percussion</i> .....	<b>Brian Baldauff</b>

## UNIVERSITY PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA PRODUCTION STAFF

The Orchestra are members of the University Philharmonia Orchestra.

<i>Director of Orchestras</i> .....	<b>Kenneth Kiesler</b>
<i>Assoc. Dir. of Orchestras</i> .....	<b>Andrew George</b>
<i>Managing Director</i> .....	<b>David Aderente</b>
<i>Personnel Manager</i> .....	<b>Erin Nelson</b>
<i>Equipment</i> .....	<b>Landres Bryant, Christopher Hernacki</b>

‡ Concertmaster

## SYNOPSIS

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A small group of people wait in a railway station. One of them sings about the hand mirror she carries. The passengers ask Mr. Owen, a man with a paint box, what he does; before answering, they are distracted by a puppet show. One of the passengers talks about his luggage. Another man has a cornet case, but will not open the case. Another traveler makes hats for the movies, but is misunderstood by the rest. One passenger reveals that he is a shoe salesman, but also refuses to open his case. Mr. Owen is asked about his painting. One of the ladies has a cake box, in which she says she keeps her lover. Mr. Owen talks about a magical ship he imagined when he was younger. A puppet maker appears, talking about all of the things that go into puppet making. Mr. Owen is asked to paint a group portrait of the passengers. As they wonder about his paint box, they bully and jostle him as they are scrambling for position in the portrait. His box falls open, revealing that it is empty. The puppet show concludes, and everyone but Mr. Owen leaves. He sings about the ship of his childhood dreams. — *Reprinted by kind permission of Boosey & Hawkes*

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

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Imagine looking through an old box of photographs or postcards from another time and place that are out of order. The sense of time is unclear. The relationships between the people in the photos are unknown. Yet, somehow a story emerges. It is with this idea that one must watch Argento's poignant work. Questions of identity, fear, destiny and human connection are brilliantly considered in this opera. Why are we so afraid of each other? Why is it so difficult to express mercy and love, and to be selfless? Why is it so hard to be vulnerable, to accept ourselves and each other? Indeed, we are masters of our own destiny, and have the power to steer through our lives and negotiate the magic that is all around us. At the end of the opera, the Tenor, vulnerable and empowered, offers these words:

*We sail this summer morning, set sail this summer morning, we sail new waters, uncharted seas, with new stars on high and new sea-beasts at our side. But do not fear. The boat is magical, made out of glass and ice. We'll sail through fire and clouds. We'll anchor in a flower's bell. The birds will guide us home. Their wings will be our sails, for this is my ship, my ship, I'm captain of this magic ship.*

— *Joshua Major*

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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**DOMINICK ARGENTO** (*Composer*), considered to be America's pre-eminent composer of lyric opera, was born in York, Pennsylvania in 1927. He earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees at the Peabody Conservatory. Argento received his Ph.D. from the Eastman School of Music. Fulbright and Guggenheim Fellowships allowed him to study in Italy with Luigi Dallapiccola and to complete his first opera, *Colonel Jonathan the Saint*. Following his Fulbright, Argento became music director of Hilltop Opera in Baltimore, and taught theory and composition at the Eastman School. In 1958, he joined the faculty of the Department of Music at the University of Minnesota, where he taught until 1997. He now holds the rank of Professor Emeritus. **Opera:** *Colonel Jonathan the Saint* (1958), *The Boor* (1957), *The Shoemaker's Holiday* (1967), *Postcard from Morocco* (1971), *The Voyage of Edgar Allan Poe* (1976), *Miss Havisham's Wedding Night* (1981), *Casanova's Homecoming* (1984), *The Aspern Papers* (1988), *The Dream of Valentino* (1994). **Orchestral Works:** *Royal Invitation* (1964), *Variations for Orchestra [The Mask of Night]* (1965). **Theatre:** Minnesota Theatre Company, Guthrie Theatre. **Song cycles:** *Letters from Composers* (1968); *To Be Sung Upon the Water* (1973); *From the Diary of Virginia Woolf* (1975); *I Hate and I Love* (1982); *The Andree Expedition* (1983); *Casa Guidi* (1983); *A Few Words About Chekhov* (1996), *Walden Pond* (1996), *Miss Manners on Music*. **Awards:** 1975 Pulitzer Prize for Music, *From the Diary of Virginia Woolf*; 2004 Grammy for "Best Classical Contemporary Composition," awarded for Frederica von Stade's recording of *Casa Guidi*; elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1979; honored in 1997 with the title of Composer Laureate to the Minnesota Orchestra, a lifetime appointment.

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**JOHN CLARK DONAHUE** (*Text*) has worked in the American performing arts scene for over 45 years. As a producer, director, designer, actor, choreographer, playwright and librettist, he has participated in over 250 productions in theater, dance, opera, television and film. This includes founding and artistic directorship of the world renowned Children's Theatre Company, Associate Artistic Director of the Arizona Theatre Company, and design and direction at Guthrie Theater, The Jungle Theater, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, Mixed Blood Theatre, Great American History Theatre, Hidden Theatre, Frank Theatre, Theater Latté Da, Walking Shadow, and Minnesota Dance Theatre. Mr. Donahue is author of 22 original plays and 10 adaptations for the stage; the librettist and director (for the premiere) of Dominick Argento's *Postcard From Morocco*; author and director of the film *The Suitcase*; and director of the award-winning TV adaptation of Hans Christian Anderson's *The Red Shoes*. He is the recipient of the 2000 McKnight Theater Artistic Fellowship, the 1971 American Theatre Association Margo Jones Award (presented by Edward Albee), and the John K. Sherman Award for Outstanding Lifetime Contribution to the Arts.

## ABOUT THE CAST

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JANAI BRUGGER (*Mime*) grad student, MM Vocal Perf., Chicago, IL  
CYNTHIAN BRUNDAGE (*Mezzo-Soprano*) grad student, MM Vocal Perf., Annandale, VA  
JONATHAN CHRISTOPHER (*Mime*) soph., BFA Perf., Winchester, MA  
GEORGE CORNELIUS (*Baritone*) grad student, Specialist Vocal Perf., Ann Arbor, MI  
JODY DOKTOR (*Soprano*) grad student, DMA Vocal Perf., Ypsilanti, MI  
LEONORA GREEN (*Soprano*) grad student, MM Vocal Performance, Macon, GA  
EDWARD HANLON (*Bass*) grad student, MM Vocal Perf., Port Washington, NY  
BERNARD D. HOLCOMB (*Lyric Tenor*) grad student, MM Vocal Perf., Detroit, MI  
KELLY HOLST (*Coloratura-soprano*) grad student, DMA Vocal Perf., Ann Arbor, MI  
ANDREW MUNN (*Bass*) senior, BM Vocal Perf., State College, PA  
JENNIFER ROSSETTI (*Coloratura-soprano*) grad student, MM Vocal Perf., Wausau, WI  
DUSTIN L. SCOTT (*Lyric Tenor*) guest, MM Voice Performance '07, Sterling Heights, MI  
BRIAN TANNER (*Tenor*) grad student, DMA Vocal Perf., Bountiful, UT  
STEVEN TOMPKINS (*Tenor*) grad student, Specialist Vocal Perf., Jefferson, NY  
JENNIFER TROMBLEY (*Mezzo-soprano*) senior, BM Vocal Perf. w/Teaching Cert., Grosse Pointe Woods, MI  
WES MASON (*Baritone*) junior, BM Vocal Perf., Norfolk, VA

The performers in this production are graduate and undergraduate students in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance. The designers are faculty and guest artists in the Department of Theatre & Drama. 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

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**BRETT FINLEY** (*Stage Manager*) **UM:** *La Bohème, The Bartered Bride, Così fan tutte, Tartuffe, Don Giovanni, The Cunning Little Vixen, The Consul, Falstaff, La Traviata, L'enfant et les Sortilèges/Le Rossignol, Le Nozze di Figaro.* **Regional Opera/Theatre:** San Francisco Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, Palm Beach Opera, Fort Worth Opera, New Orleans Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Chautauqua Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Spoleto Festival USA, The Washington Opera, Opera Pacific, Michigan Opera Theatre, Virginia Opera, San Diego Civic Light Opera, Opera Grand Rapids, Peter Sparling and Co., Michigan Shakespeare Festival.

**DOUGLAS KINNEY FROST** (*Conductor*) is the Music Director of Syracuse Opera. **Upcoming:** *La Bohème*, Florida Grand Opera; *Nixon in China*, Opera Colorado; *Romeo et Juliette* and *Little Women* for Syracuse Opera. **Opera:** Teatro Colon, Bellas Artes, New England Conservatory, Opera Colorado, Anchorage, Utah, Arizona, Virginia and Florida Grand Operas. **Orchestra:** National Symphony of Mexico, Russian Federal Orchestra, St. Petersburg Festival Orchestra, Grand Teton Music Festival Orchestra, Orquestra Sinfonica Siciliana, Rochester and Florida Philharmonics, Utah, Virginia, and Kansas City Symphonies. **Other:** Current Alumni Chair, Conductors Retreat at Medomak.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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Four Seasons Head of Music Staff/Chorus Master, Florida Grand Opera; seven seasons, Music Director, Opus Chamber Orchestra.

**RACHEL LARITZ** (*Costume Designer*) **UM:** *Gianni Schicchi/Suor Angelica, La Cenerentola, The Good Person of Szechwan, Measure for Measure.* **Regional Theatre:** *Glengarry Glen Ross, Grafton City Blues, Seascape, Life Could be a Dream, Frozen, Half Life, Bad Dates, Clean House, The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?* (Milwaukee Rep); *The Philadelphia Story* (Remy Bumppo); *The Woman in Black, String of Pearls* (Renaissance Theatreworks); *The Tragedy of Carmen, The Last Five Years* (Skylight Opera); American Players Theatre; Chicago Opera Theatre; Garsington Opera (London); Spoleto Festival. **TV/Film:** NBC'S *Law & Order.*

**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 Bartered Bride, 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, Jacksonville Symphony, New Orleans Opera, Kentucky Opera, Tulsa Opera and Indianapolis Opera.

**VINCENT MOUNTAIN** (*Scenic Design*) is an Assoc. Professor of Design in the Dept. of Theatre & Drama. **UM:** *J.B., Playing for Time, The Coronation of Poppea, The Hot L Baltimore, Hansel and Gretel, Jesus Christ Superstar, Suor Angelical/Gianni Schicchi, Xerxes, Hamlet, Parade, The Good Person of Szechwan, La Pèrichole, Falstaff.* **Regional Theatre:** *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Macbeth, Orpheus Descending, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Devil's Disciple,* Alley Theatre; *Playland,* Intiman Theatre; *Roosters,* Seattle Group; *La Traviata,* Opera Theatre of St. Louis; *Little Women,* Central City Opera, Opera Omaha, Chautauqua Opera. **Other:** MFA in Design, UCSD.

**DAWN RIVARD** (*Wig, Hair & Makeup Design*) **World Premieres:** *Ragtime, Sunset Boulevard, Showboat.* **International Theatre:** Award winning productions of *Cats,* and *Beauty and the Beast* in Germany, Austria & Switzerland. **Currently:** Florentine Opera Company. **TV/Film:** Emmy Award for Hair and Makeup, *Feast of All Saints,* wig builder for *Hairspray, Skinwalkers* and Mike Myers production of *The Love Guru.* Clients have included Sir Peter Ustinov, Donald Sutherland, Neve Campbell, Stockard Channing, Shawn Ashmore & Louis Gossett Jr.

**JOSEPH R. WALLS** (*Lighting Designer*) is a senior BFA candidate in the Dept. of Theatre & Drama studying scenic and lighting design. **UM:** *A Good Boy, Tales from Ovid,* Asst. Design: *The Who's Tommy, You Can't Take it With You.* Asst. Master Electrician: *A Flea in Her Ear.* Theatre Dept: *As Bees in Honey Drown, Life's a Dream, Mother Courage.* Basement Arts: *Landscape of the Body, Fuddy Meers, Lysistrata, Macbeth.* St. Mary's: *Godspell.* MUSKET: *Singin' in the Rain.* **Regional Theatre:** Bard Music Festival, Spoleto Festival USA, Pine Mountain Music Festival.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KC/ACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater productions. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KC/ACTF representative, and certain students are selected to participate in KC/ACTF programs involving awards, scholarships, and special grants for actors, playwrights, designers, and critics at both the regional and national levels.

## STAFF FOR POSTCARD FROM MOROCCO

### SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE & DANCE

Dean ..... Christopher Kendall

### UNIVERSITY OPERA THEATRE

Voice Chair ..... Freda Herseth  
Opera Director ..... Joshua Major  
Voice ..... Timothy Cheek, Caroline Helton,  
Martin Katz, Stephen Lusmann, Carmen Pelton,  
John Pierce, Melody Racine, Rico Serbo, Martha Sheil,  
Shirley Verrett, Daniel Washington, Stephen West  
Prof. Emeritus ..... George Shirley

### UNIVERSITY PRODUCTIONS

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Department Administrator ..... Fatima Abdullah  
Office Assistant III ..... Shelda Smith  
Marketing & Communications Dir. (on leave) .. Kerianne M. Tupac  
Marketing Assistants ..... Nicole Paoletti, Jenny Graf,  
Catherine Herzog, Michael Michelon  
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Chelsea LaBrie, Erin McElwain,  
Stephanie Shechter, Elyse Marie Smith

### PRODUCTION STAFF

Production Manager ..... Amanda Mengden  
Production Stage Manager ..... Nancy Uffner  
Technical Director (Power) ..... Douglas Edwards  
Master Carpenter (Power) ..... Ken Armour  
Carpenter (Power) ..... Brandon Carruth  
Technical Director (Walgreen) ..... Richard W. Lindsay, Jr.  
Carpenter (Walgreen) ..... Robert Michael  
Charge Scenic Artist ..... Toni Y. Auletta  
Asst. Scenic Artist ..... Beth Sandmaier  
Properties Master ..... Arthur Ridley  
Asst. Properties Master ..... Patrick Drone  
Properties Artisan ..... Michelle Bisbee  
Master Electrician ..... Mark Allen Berg  
Costume Shop Manager ..... Lynn Holbrook

Assoc. Costume Shop Manager ..... George Bacon  
Cutter/Drapers ..... Virginia R. Luedke,  
Lea M. Morello, T J Williamson  
Crafts Artisan ..... Elizabeth Gunderson  
Costume Stock Administrator ..... Renae Pedersen Skoog  
Sound Engineers ..... Roger Arnett, Henry Reynolds  
Senior Backstage Operations Mgr. .... Barry LaRue  
Backstage Operations Mgrs ..... Mark Gordon,  
David Pickell, Kurt Thoma, Donald C. Watkins  
Office Assistants ..... Bianca Lee, Rachel O'Keefe  
Lindsey Parrott, Isaac Pickell

### PRODUCTION CREW

First Asst. Stage Manager ..... Angela F. Kiessel  
Asst. Stage Managers ..... Becca Rothman, Marguerite Woodward  
Assistant to the Director ..... Juan Pereira  
Scenery ..... Katherine Battistoni,  
Andrew Gavenda, Louis Marino, Allison McDowell  
Paint ..... Joon-Young Chung, John Copley,  
Adam Moskal, Laura Przybysz, Laura Riggins, Angela Sarb,  
Rebecca Spooner, Laura Strowe, students of Theatre 250  
Props ..... Will Burton, Christina Carter, Cassandra Flowers,  
Catherine Keys, Louis King, Heather Krieger,  
Kevin Munhall, Nick Riley, students of Theatre 250  
Professional Stitchers ..... Laurie Kantner, Taran Muller,  
Rene Plant, Jaclyn Young, Suzanne Young  
Costumes ..... Joshua Beurer, Corey Davis,  
Nathan Lehmann-Ziebarth, Shawn McCulloch,  
Jessica McKinley, Desiree Oakley, Kathryn Shattock,  
Jose Sepulveda, Torrey Wigfield, students of Theatre 250  
Lighting ..... Alyce Baskal, Alex Brees, Michelle Bryan,  
Aidan Feldman, Cassandra Flowers, Geoffrey Gilbert,  
Elyse Handelman, Lauren Hood, Craig Kidwell, Elizabeth Lynch,  
Justin Lang, Amanda Rutishauser, Stephanie Shechter,  
Daniel Silverman, Joe Walls, students of Theatre 250

### RUNNING CREW

Scenery ..... Nicholas Ward  
Props ..... Laura Swierzbina  
Light Board Operator ..... Lauren Hood  
Wardrobe ..... Kathleen Boyle, Claudio Nunez  
Wigs/Makeup ..... Margaret Grady

\* IATSE 395 ‡ Crew Head

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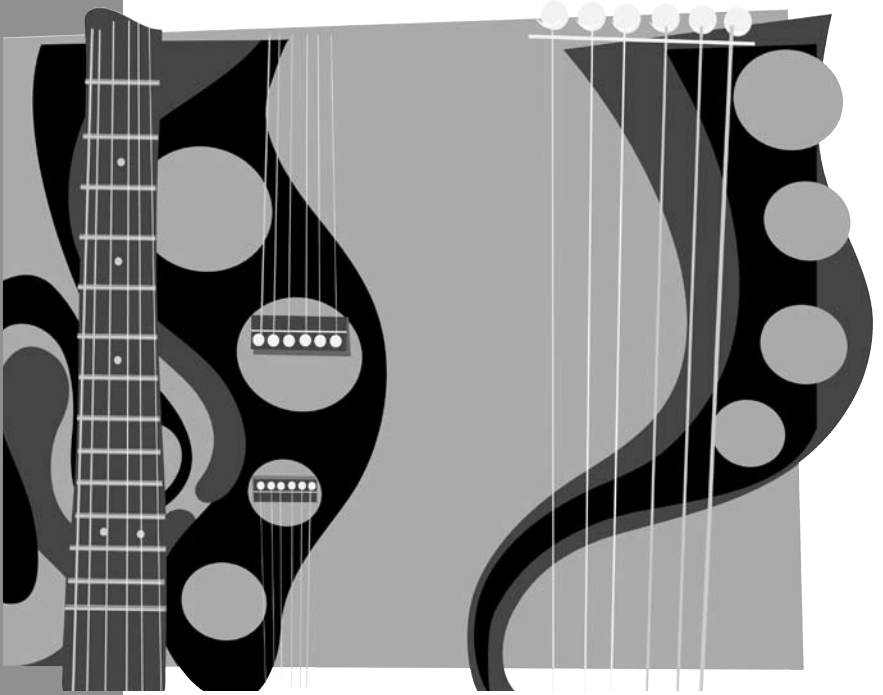
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