Hansel & Gretel

by Engelbert Humperdinck

UM School of Music
Opera Theatre
November 11 - 14, 2004
Power Center
The University of Michigan, School of Music, Opera Theatre

presents

Hansel & Gretel

A fairy tale opera after the poem by Adelheid Wette
Music by Engelbert Humperdinck
Translated and adapted into English by Tom Hammond
First performed at the Hoftheater Weimar, December 23, 1893

Director  Joshua Major
Conductor  Martin Katz
Assistant Conductor  Nikolas Caoile
Scenic Designer  Vincent Mountain
Costume Designer  Christianne Myers
Lighting Designer  Rob Murphy
Wig Designer  Kathleen Kurz
Children's Chorus Master  Jeffrey Willets
Pianist/Coach  Thomas Bandy, Nicholas Hutchinson
Stage Manager  Amanda Heuermann

The action takes place in a forest.

There will be one intermission.

‡ Nikolas Caoile will conduct the performance on Saturday, November 13, 2004.

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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.

This production is sponsored in part by generous support from the University of Michigan Credit Union.

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

NOVEMBER 11 & 13, 2004

Gretel........................................................................ Suzanne Ma........................................... Susan Ruggiero-Mezzadri
Hansel...................................................................... Rebecca Jo Loeb........................................ Peiyi Wang
Mother................................................................... Julie Cross............................................. Monica Griffin
Father...................................................................... David Wilson........................................... Travis Pratt
Sandman.................................................................. Rebecca Eaddy........................................ Kara Alfano
Dew Fairy.............................................................. Kelly Daniel-Decker................................. Molly Spooner
Witch.................................................................... Julie Cross................................................ Kirsten Kunkle

Guardian Angels...................................................... Jasmine Edwards, Amanda Said

Angels ........................................................... Andrew Burns, Lauren Childs, Aaron Dziubinski, Kristina Keil, Justin Kim, Nick Marentay, Amanda Norton, Inhong Shim, Cecile Simonsen, Danielle Stevens, Christian Weeden, Delaney Wright

Gingerbread Children........................................... Andrew Burns, Lauren Childs, Alex Dean, Aaron Dziubinski, Jasmine Edwards, Jennifer Gu, Kristina Keil, Justin Kim, Minjung Kim, Alexis Losacco, Nick Marentay, Mario Merola, Jessica Mielewski, Amanda Norton, Kay Anne Reed, Amanda Said, Inhong Shim, Cecile Simonsen, Danielle Stevens, Shelby Strohl, Kristina Talarek, Yan Theros, Christian Weeden, Delaney Wright

UNIV. SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Violin I................................. Yuki Numata‡, Rachel Patrick, Joseph Hintz, Kimberly Houglum, Katharina Uhde, Yee Hang Yuen
Violin II............................... Danae Witter*, Lea Detlefs, Erin Zehngut, Wendy Case, Marie McNeely
Viola.................................................. Elvis Chan*, Jason Amos, Chris Fisher-Lochhead, Laurel Borden
Violoncello................................. Sabrina Lackey*, Catherine Li, Anne Patterson
Bass ........................................... Isaac Trapkus*, Andy Monefeldt
Flute............................................. Jackie Arrington, Megumi Nomura
Oboe............................................ Kristin Naigus, Jennifer Sengpiel
Clarinet........................................ Cyril Collier, Peter Mika
Bassoon ........................................ Dana Amann, Darcy Izard
Horn.............................................. David Denniston, Chris Jackson, Patrick Carlson, Tom Weber, Rachel Parker
Trumpet................................. Brian Winegardner, Kevin Gebo
Trombone........... Moises Paiewonsky, Patrick Coletta
Bass Trombone................................. Michael Brown
Tuba........................................... Eric Banks, Carol Janisch
Timpani/Percussion .... Hayes Bunch, Emily Hendricks, Olman Piedra, Michael Swain
Harp........................................... Rachel Brandwein,

‡ Concertmaster * Principal

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director of Orchestras................................. Kenneth Kiesler
Managing Director .................................. David Aderente
Personnel Manager .................................... Tom Weber
Equipment .................................. Maureen Conroy, Kevin Gebo
ACT I

Scene 1 — Hansel and Gretel are bored with their tasks of darning socks and making brooms, so spend their day singing and dancing instead. When their mother returns, she is furious to discover that they have neglected their duties. In her anger, she breaks a pitcher of milk, which was the family’s only food, and then orders the children out into the forest to search for berries. Left alone and in despair, she falls asleep. Father arrives home, having had a very successful day in town selling his brooms. He surprises his wife with a bag full of food, and their troubles seem over for the moment. However, when he discovers that his children have gone into the Ilsenstein forest, he tells his wife of the evil witch who lives there and who turns children into gingerbread! Horrified, the parents rush out into the woods to save their children.

Scene 2 — Meanwhile, Hansel and Gretel have been listening to the birds and enjoying their berry picking. But as night begins to fall, they realize they have lost their way. The sights and sounds of the woods, which so delighted them earlier, now begin to frighten them. They imagine dreadful creatures surrounding them. But they are calmed by the arrival of the Sandman, and he sprinkles them with his magic dust. After saying their traditional prayer, they fall fast asleep, kept safe by their guardian angels.

ACT II

As dawn breaks, the Dew Fairy awakens the slumbering children, who are amazed to discover that they have shared a wonderful dream. Just then, a mysterious and tantalizing house appears, all covered with sweet things to eat. The hungry children are thrilled with the tasty house, and begin to break off bits to eat. But the frightful Witch of Ilsenstein casts her magic spell, putting Hansel into a cage and forcing Gretel to do her bidding. The witch tries to fatten the children up in order to bake them into gingerbread, but they outsmart her and push her into her very own oven! As the spell is broken, other enchanted children begin to appear. Hansel and Gretel touch them all, one by one, releasing them from the witch’s magic. The children all rejoice and thank Hansel and Gretel for their freedom. The cooked gingerbread witch is pulled from the oven just as Mother and Father arrive. Delighted to find his children safe, Father reminds the children (and all of us) that even when things seem their darkest, we must not despair… happy endings do exist!
About Engelbert Humperdinck

Engelbert Humperdinck (Composer, 1854 - 1921) was widely respected as a teacher and held posts at Frankfurt (1890-1900) and Berlin (1900-1920). Two of his more famous pupils were Siegfried Wagner and Kurt Weill. He was also one of composer Richard Wagner's greatest defenders and friends. As a young man, he had worked with Wagner as an assistant musical director for the 1881 production of *Parsifal* in Bayreuth. Humperdinck's association with Wagner was such that he was actually allowed to compose alterations to the master's scores. From 1905 to 1910, Humperdinck worked with Max Reinhardt, who was at that time the most celebrated stage director in Europe. For Reinhardt, Humperdinck scored incidental music to four works by Shakespeare: *As You Like It*, *The Tempest*, *The Merchant of Venice*, and *The Winter's Tale*. The compositions written for Reinhardt were among Humperdinck's most successful and historically significant works. Humperdinck's other operas include: *Die sieben Geislein* (1895), *Die Königskinder* (1897), *Dopnröschen* (1902), *Die Heirat wider Willen* (1905), and *Die Marketenderin* (1914) — none of which were ever to attain the status of his first effort, and are now forgotten.

About Hansel & Gretel

In 1890 Humperdinck’s sister, Adelheid Wette, devised a dramatized version of the Grimm story of *Hänsel und Gretel* for her children to perform. In her version the parents are a much less alarming pair than they are in the fairy-tale where the mother (step-mother in the first version) is actually determined to leave the children out to die in the wood. Wette softened this, perhaps because she knew that her brother’s music would supply some of the fear and drama. She also introduced the characters of the Father, the Sandman and the Dew Fairy, as well as the chorus of echoes and the angels which provided Humperdinck with scope for a ballet.

At first Wette asked her brother to compose four songs for a dramatized family play (1890). Subsequently they decided to make it a full-scale opera. The premiere, conducted by Richard Strauss, was an instant success and within a year *Hänsel und Gretel* had been produced in over 50 theatres in Germany. It soon joined the repertoire of every lyric theatre in the German-speaking world, and within 20 years had been translated into about 20 languages. Richard Strauss, a constant supporter of Humperdinck (he also conducted the premiere of Humperdinck’s *Die Heirat wider Willen* in 1905) described the work as "a masterpiece of the highest quality... all of it original, new and so authentically German," despite his reservation that "the orchestration is always a little thick."

*Hansel and Gretel* was the first complete opera to be broadcast on radio (from Covent Garden, London, January 6, 1923) and the first to be transmitted live from the Metropolitan Opera, New York City, December 25, 1931.

— Viking Opera Guide

Announcing our Spring Opera! Tartuffe by Kirke Mechem

With 260 performances in 70 productions since its 1980 San Francisco Opera premiere, *Tartuffe* has become one of the most popular operas ever written by an American. Based on the Moliere comedy, the opera tells the tale of a family’s efforts to oust an hypocritical "holy man" who has insinuated himself in their home. *The New York Times* called the opera "a delight...a high spirited farce, full of sparkling word-plays and internal rhymes."

March 24 at 7:30pm • March 25 & 26 at 8pm • March 27 at 4pm - Special time due to Easter
Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre • League Ticket Office 734-764-2538
About the Cast

KARA ALFANO (Sandman) grad student, MM Vocal Perf., Ann Arbor, MI
ANDREW BURNS (Angel, Gingerbread Child) fourth grade
LAUREN CHILDS (Angel, Gingerbread Child) fifth grade
JULIE CROSS (Mother/Witch) grad student, DMA Vocal Perf., Miami, FL
KELLY DANIEL-DECKER (Dew Fairy) grad student, MM Vocal Perf., Lemoore, CA
ALEX DEAN (Gingerbread Child) fifth grade
AARON DZIUBINSKI (Angel, Gingerbread Child) fourth grade
REBECCA EADDY (Sandman) junior, BM Vocal Perf. w/ Teaching Cert., Milan, MI
JASMINE EDWARDS (Guardian Angel, Gingerbread Child) fifth grade
MONICA GRIFFIN (Mother) grad student, DMA Vocal Perf., Monroe, NC
JENNIFER GU (Gingerbread Child) fifth grade
KRISTINA KEIL (Angel, Gingerbread Child) fifth grade
JUSTIN KIM (Angel, Gingerbread Child) fourth grade
MINJUNG KIM (Gingerbread Child) fourth grade
KIRSTEN KUNKLE (Witch) grad student, DMA Vocal Perf., Fremont, OH
REBECCA JO LOEB (Hansel) senior, BM Vocal Perf., Glen Ridge, NJ
ALEXIS LOSACCO (Gingerbread Child) fourth grade
SUZANNE MA (Gretel) grad student, MM Vocal Perf., Orange County, CA
NICK MARENTAY (Angel, Gingerbread Child) fourth grade
MARIO MEROLA (Gingerbread Child) fourth grade
JESSICA MIELIEWSKI (Gingerbread Child) fifth grade
AMANDA NORTON (Angel, Gingerbread Child) fifth grade
TRAVIS PRATT (Father) grad student, MM Vocal Perf., Tifton, GA
KAY ANNE REED (Gingerbread Child) fifth grade
SUSAN RUGGIERO-MEZADRI (Gretel) grad student, MM Vocal Perf./MM Flute Perf., Okemos, MI
AMANDA SAID (Guardian Angel, Gingerbread Child) fifth grade
INHONG SHIM (Angel, Gingerbread Child) fourth grade
CECILE SIMONSEN (Angel, Gingerbread Child) fourth grade
MOLLY SPOONER (Dew Fairy) senior, BM Vocal Perf. w/ Teaching Cert., South Delmar, NY
DANIELLE STEVENS (Angel, Gingerbread Child) fourth grade
SHELBY STROHL (Gingerbread Child) fifth grade
KRISTINA TALAREK (Gingerbread Child) fifth grade
YAN THEROS (Gingerbread Child) fourth grade
PEIYI WANG (Hansel) grad student, Specialist Vocal Perf. Beijing, China
CHRISTIAN WEEDEN (Angel, Gingerbread Child) fifth grade
DAVID WILSON (Father) grad student, MM Vocal Perf., Grand Blanc, MI
DELANEY WRIGHT (Angel, Gingerbread Child) fifth grade

The performers in this production are undergraduate and graduate students in the School of Music and children from Lakewood Elementary School in Ann Arbor. The designers are faculty and guest artists in the Department of Theatre and 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.

About the Artists

AMANDA HEUERMANN (Stage Manager) received a BFA from the Dept. of Theatre and Drama last April. UM: Dances for Petersburg, Suor Angelica/Gianni Schicchi, After a Fashion, Don’t Dress for Dinner; asst. stage manager: Resonant Rhythms, La Cenerentola, Ancient Steps, Forward Glances, The Grapes of Wrath, Sideshow. Regional Theatre: Peter Sparling Dance Company Reunion Revue, stage manager; Pine Mountain Music Festival 2004, asst. stage manager; UM Festival of New Works 2004, stage manager; Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival 2003, production intern.

MARTIN KATZ (Conductor) is a professor and chair of Collaborative Piano for the School of Music. UM: Don Giovanni, La Cenerentola, The Daughter of the Regiment, Falstaff, The Turn of the Screw, Le Nozze di Figaro, Les Dialogues des Carmélites, and La Traviata. In this, his second time conducting Hansel and Gretel, he remains frankly amazed at the synthesis of Wagnerian lyricism and fairy-tale simplicity which this opera offers. His inner child is captivated by this score, and his adult brain admires the composer’s talent in achieving this fusion of grand and accessible…and everything rhymes!

JOSHUA MAJOR (Director) is Director of the UM Opera Workshop; Artistic Director of the Pine Mountain Music Festival. UM: Suor Angelica/Gianni Schicchi, Xerxes, The Cunning Little Vixen, The Consul, La Périchole. Regional
**About the Artists**

**Opera:** Carmen, Opera Omaha; Lakme, The Magic Flute, Michigan Opera Theatre; La Traviata, Opera Theatre of St. Louis; Little Women, Opera Omaha; Idomeneo, Wolf Trap Opera; Don Giovanni, Opera Carolina; Romeo and Juliet, Madame Butterfly, New Orleans Opera; Un Ballo in Maschera, Edmonton Opera; La Tragèdie de Carmen, Werther, Eugene Onegin, Cendrillon, IVAI; The Fall of the House of Usher, Opera Grand Rapids.

**VINCENT MOUNTAIN** (Scenic Designer) is an Assoc. Professor of Design in the Dept. of Theatre & Drama. UM: Jesus Christ Superstar, Suor Angelica/Gianni Schicchi, Xerxes, Hamlet, Parade, The Good Person of Szechuan, La Périchole, Falstaff, The Importance of Being Earnest, Candide, Blood Wedding, The Turn of the Screw. **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.

**CHRISTIANNE MYERS** (Costume Designer) is an asst. professor in the Dept. of Theatre and Drama. UM: A Chorus Line, Don Giovanni, The Nutcracker, Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet), Xerxes, The Cunning Little Vixen, Hamlet. **New York:** Heloise and Abelard, Juilliard School; Running Man, Music Theatre Group; Dare Clubb's Oedipus, Blue Light; The Acting Co.; Theatreworks/USA; The Public Theatre & Ma-Yi Ensemble; Irondale Ensemble; Lincoln Center Institute. **Regional Theatre:** Vermont Stage Co.; Clarence Brown Theatre; Syracuse Stage; Caldwell Theatre; Pine Mountain Music Festival. **Film:** The Office Party, HBO. **Other:** BFA, Pace Univ.; MFA, New York Univ.

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Opera Workshop .................................. Joshua Major

Voice ................................................. Timothy Cheek (on leave), Caroline Helton, Freda Herseth, Martin Katz, Stephen Lusmann, Carmen Petlon, John Pierce, Melody Racine, Rico Serbo, Martha Shell, Shirley Verrett, Daniel Washington

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Director ................................................... Jeffrey Kuras

Assistant Director .........................碲...Frodo Abdullah

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Computer Administrator............... Henry Reynolds

Facilities Manager ......................... Shannon Rice

House Manager ....................... Dianne Wadzinski

Graphic Design ......................... Bill Burgard

Banner Artist .................................. Janine Woods

Office Assistant .......................... Metta Smeed

**PRODUCTION STAFF**

Production Manager .................. Amanda Mengden

Production Stage Manager ............ Nancy Uffner

Technical Director (Frieze) .......... Richard W. Lindsay, Jr.

Technical Director (Power) .......... Douglas Edwards

Assoc. Tech. Director (Power) ....... Donald C. Watkins

Carpenters .................................. Christian-Paul Budiu, Robert Michael (on leave)

Scenic Artist ................................. Toni Y. Auletti

Scenic Painter ................................ Kate Shay

Properties Master .......................... Arthur Ridley

Properties Artisan ......................... Dan Tracy

Master Electrician ..................... Mark Allen Berg

Costume Shop Manager .............. Jan Evans

Assoc. Costume Shop Manager ....... George Bacon

Draper ............................................. Martha Clarke, Virginia R. Luedke, Lea Marzonie

Crafts Artisan/Stock Manager ........ Elizabeth Gunderson

Sound Engineers ......................... Roger Arnett, Henry Reynolds

House Technicians ............... Ron Cypert, Mark Gordon, Jim Haven, Barry LaRue

Office Assistants ....................... Erin Farrell, LeDreia Lindsey, Jessica Lukasik

**PRODUCTION CREW**

First Asst. Stage Manager ........ Venus Strong-Smith

Asst. Stage Managers .......... Beth Chrobak, Meredith Kitz, Brian Spitznuk

Child Wrangler ............................. Rachel Simowitz

Asst. Master Electrician .......... Simon Fornari

Scenery ........................................ Ryan Joy, Matt Semler

Paint ........................................ Mikala Bierma, Cassidy Bloom, Adrian Gross, Elyse Handlerman, Esther Neff, Sherri Novis, Lena Sands, Colter Starr, Kathryn Van Horn

Props .................................. Seth Anderson, Jenni Barber, Grant Bates, Kyla Embroy, Felipe Gonzalez, Katherine Hire, Matt Noellert, Michael Zahler, students of Theatre 250

Professional Stitchers ........... Laurie Kandtner, Monica Prince, Kay Stefanski

Costumes ......................... Adam Caplan, Casey Goshen, De’Lon Grant, Hye-Yun Kim, Chelsea Leinberger, Lorna McGee, Erin McGrath, Alex Michaels, Taran Muller, Esther Neff, Sarah Showalter, Kendal Sparks, students of Theatre 250

Lighting ......................... Ellen Katz, Anup Aurora, Melanie Berg, Jamie Burke, Andy Fritsch, Justin Hyatt, Frank Mairana, Joe Ostrandier, Monika Patel, Mary Roeder, Josh Rouah, Josh Schlenke, Kathryn Van Horn, students of Theatre 250

**RUNNING CREW**

Scenery ......................... Stephanie Anderson, Keith Dixon, Natalie Malotke, Katherine McKee, Alex Odel, Kendal Sparks, Rebecca Whateley

Props .................................. Whitney Bashore, Katie Johnston, Michael Zahler

Light Board Operator ............ Christina Hagan

Other: ............................................ Ashly Veticki

Sound ........................................ Jason Brown

Wardrobe ................... Scott Doerrfeld, Amita Madan, Sarah Meyer, David Steedly

‡ Member IATSE local 395

**STAFF FOR HANSEL & GRETEL**

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Props .................................. Whitney Bashore, Katie Johnston, Michael Zahler

Light Board Operator ............ Christina Hagan

Other: ............................................ Ashly Veticki

Sound ........................................ Jason Brown

Wardrobe ................... Scott Doerrfeld, Amita Madan, Sarah Meyer, David Steedly

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The primary purpose of the Friends of Opera is to support the opera needs at the School of Music. During the current year, the Friends of Opera is seeking to provide funds for the purchase of musical scores for students, direct assistance to students through an opera competition award, and an opera workshop program. Additionally, we are asking all Friends to consider a gift to our Friends of Opera Endowment Fund so we can continue to grow the value of this Fund and thus provide a higher level of scholarship support for students.

New Friends are always welcome. Your donation, regardless of size, does make a difference in the careers of talented students pursuing a career in opera. Thank you for your consideration.

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