

THE BANDITS
by Jacques Offenbach
Saturday, March 2, 1985 — 8:00 p.m.
Long Theater — Stockton, CA

The bandits hit the big-time international circuit, a royal wedding, millions in the offing. The plan seems to be going smoothly...

CAST

Falsacappa, The bandit chief	Kevin Skiles
Fiorella, his daughter	Vonna Reuschelle
Fragoletto, a young farmer	Elaine Snyder
Pietro	William Coburn
Domino	Mark Earlsson Jones
Barbavino	Carson Church
Four girls led astray	Marena Lane
	Maria Meyer
	Linda Liebschutz
	Susan Sheldrake
	Gregory De Silva
	Peter Becker
	William Saetre
	Peter Tuff
	Willa Anderson
	Ann Bass
	Eric Morris
	Vicki Shaghoian
	Charles Gravenhorst

Bandits, Carbineers, Hotel Staff, Embassy from Mantua, Embassy from Grenada, Court Ladies of Mantua, Courtiers, etc.

POCKET PHILHARMONIC

Violin, Violaine Melancon	Clarinet, William Wohlmacher
Cello, Terry Adams	Trumpet, Jay Rizzetto
Flute, Rebecca Pollock	Percussion, Ray Bachand
Oboe, Denis Harper	

WILLA ANDERSON, soprano, is in her 2nd season with Pocket Opera. She hails from New York City where she trained and danced with the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. She then turned to musical comedy and appeared as Ellie in the Jones Beach production of *SHOWBOAT*. She relocated to the West Coast to attend Mills College and has been seen since in a number of roles with the Lamplighters including that of Bacchis in the 1983 premiere of their fully staged production of Donald Pippin's English version of *LA BELLE HELENE*. She has also performed in such Gilbert and Sullivan leading roles as Rose Maybud in *RUDDIGORE*, and Phoebe in *YEOMAN OF THE GUARD* with the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of San Jose. A student of Diane Gilfether, Miss Anderson is the soprano soloist at the Second Church of Christ Science in San Francisco.

ANN BASS, lyric soprano, was seen as Princess Ninetta in California Coast Opera's production of *LOVE OF THREE ORANGES*. In 1983 she participated in the Performer/Librettist Workshop of the Playwrights' Festival where two original operas were presented. She also participated that year in the California Bach Festival's baroque master classes. Miss Bass has sung locally with Pocket Opera, the Lamplighters, and the San Francisco Opera Chorus, and she has given solo recitals in the Bay Area and Illinois. She has received numerous awards including first place and scholarship awards from the Pacific Musical Society for three years and two first-place awards from the Music Teachers' Association of California.

PETER BECKER, baritone, is in his fourth season with Pocket Opera. Mr. Becker has appeared with West Bay Opera in *MADAME BUTTERFLY* and *RIGOLETTO*, and has performed with Commedia dell'Opera in their production of *ANGELIQUE* and *SIR JOHN IN LOVE*.

CARSON CHURCH, bass, studied at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He was a soloist for the *SING-IT-YOURSELF MESSIAH* in 1979 and 1982, and recently appeared as Escamillo in West Bay Opera's production of *CARMEN*. Among the companies he has performed with are the Marin, Petaluma, Cinnabar, Novato Lyric, San Diego and San Francisco Operas.

WILLIAM COBURN, lyric tenor, is singing in his fourth season with Pocket Opera. He previously sang the role of Sellem in *THE RAKE'S PROGRESS*, Oronte in *ALCINA*, and the Don Basilio-Don Curzio combination in *THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO*. Performances with other companies include the roles of Tamino in *THE MAGIC FLUTE*, Nemorio in *THE ELIXIR OF LOVE*, Ferrando in *COSI FAN TUTTI*, and Vasek in *THE BARTERED BRIDE*. In addition to complete operatic roles, he has sung dozens of opera previews with Jan Popper and the San Francisco Opera Guild. Coburn's concert and oratorio repertoire is extensive. He has sung with the Contra Costa Symphony, the Richmond Symphony, West Valley College, College of Marin, Hartnell College in Salinas, and The Schola Cantorum. He was a soloist for the very successful Baroque *MESSIAH*. Most recently Coburn has been concentrating on the music of Bach, particularly the Evangelist roles. He has sung the Evangelist in the *CHRISTMAS ORATORIO* with the Richmond Symphony, the College of Marin, and the California Bach Society. Last spring he sang the Evangelist role in the College of Marin production of the *SAINT MATTHEW PASSION*. He has also sung the tenor arias in many performances of Bach's *MAGNIFICAT*, the *B MINOR MASS*, and several of Bach's cantatas.

GREGORY DE SILVA, bass baritone, has performed numerous opera roles throughout California, including Almaviva in *MARRIAGE OF FIGARO*, Ford in *SIR JOHN IN LOVE*, and both Balthazar and Melchior in *AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS*. His concert performances include Bach's *MISSA BREVIS* with the Contra Costa Chorale, Beethoven's *NINTH SYMPHONY* with the University of California at Davis, and Mozart's *SOLEMN VESPER*s for Trinity Concerts. Mr. de Silva has also performed musical theatre and stage roles, as well as serving as stage director and conductor for various productions.

CHARLES GRAVENHORST, lyric tenor, first appeared with the Pocket Opera in last spring's performance of *DER FREISCHUTZ*. A graduate of the University of California Music Department, he recently performed in Novato Lyric Opera's fully staged premiere of Donald Pippin's translation of *THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO* as Don Basilio. He has appeared with the San Jose Opera in *DON CARLO* and is a frequent performer with the San Francisco Talent Bank. Other credits include the role of Arsace in Alan Curtis' realization of Cesti's *SEMIRAMIDE* and solos with the University of California Symphony and the Oakland Ballet under the baton of Kent Nagano. Originally from Northport, New York, he now lives in San Francisco and studies voice with Dickson Titus.

MARK EARLSSON JONES, bass, has sung with the Dallas Opera, Fort Worth Opera, and the Santa Fe Opera. He has performed the roles of Figaro in *THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO*, Leporello in *DON GIOVANNI*, and Colline in *LA BOHEME*. His Bay Area credits include performances with West Coast Opera (formerly Scholar Opera), Hidden Valley Opera, Cinnabar Opera, San Jose Opera, the Modesto and Marin Symphonies, and many others. Mr. Jones sang the role of Lycomeid in Pocket Opera's *West Coast Premiere* of Handel's *DEIDAMIA*, and is a familiar face to Pocket Opera-goers for his roles in many other Pocket Opera productions. He currently studies with Dickson Titus.

MARENA LANE joined Pocket Opera in 1981. She is a member of the San Francisco Opera Chorus, and Odyssey Stage Company. Her operatic roles include Frasquita in *CARMEN*, First Lady, Second Lady, Papagena, and The Queen of the Night in *THE MAGIC FLUTE*. In 1979 she made her solo debut with the San Francisco Opera Company in the role of Yniold in *PELLEAS ET MELISANDE*. She has recently been active in the Sonoma County area as a choreographer and make-up designer for various theatre groups. She is Assistant Musical Director of the newly formed Sonoma City Opera, and she sang the role of Mile. Warblewell in that company's production of *THE IMPRESSARIO*.

LINDA LIEBSCHUTZ, mezzo-soprano, has been singing with Pocket Opera for three seasons. She has been active in music and theater in San Francisco for many years. Prior to moving to classical singing, she was a nightclub performer with The Distractions. She is currently a teacher of music and theater at the Urban School.

MARIA MEYER, soprano, has performed with the San Francisco Opera, Spring Opera and Hidden Valley Opera Ensembles. She has performed with the Opera Workshops of USC and San Francisco State University, and is presently pursuing a master's degree there as a student of Anna Carol Dudley.

ERIC MORRIS, tenor, has performed solo roles all along the West Coast. He has appeared in Los Angeles with the Lamplighters, with the Haydn Festival in Oregon, and has toured in Canada with Canada Opera Piccola. In addition to his performances with Pocket Opera, he has performed locally with the Lamplighters, Marin Opera, and Cinnabar Opera Theater. Mr. Morris has toured Europe with San Mateo's Masterworks Chorale and was twice a member of Cal State Honor Choir. A graduate of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Mr. Morris has received awards from the East Bay Opera League and the St. Francis Woods Music Association.

VONNA REUSCHELLE, lyric-coloratura soprano, has appeared in many roles including Norina in *DON PASQUALE*, Baby Doe in *THE BALLAD OF BABY DOE*, and Marie in *THE DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT*. She hails from Kansas City, Missouri where she gained her Bachelor of Music degree in Piano and her Master of Music in Voice from the Kansas City Conservatory of Music. As a participant in the Santa Fe Opera Apprentice Program she appeared as Cariola in the American Premiere of Stephen Oliver's *DUCHESS OF*

MALFI and as Theresa in Poulenc's *LES MAMELLES DE TIRESEAS*. Ms Reuschelle has performed with Kansas City Opera, Nevada Opera Company, Goldovsky Opera Theatre, Hidden Valley Opera and San Diego Opera. Her concert credits include performances with the Kansas City Philharmonic and the Kansas City Civic Orchestra. She was a winner in both the Young California Artists Competition and National Federation of Music Clubs Young Artist Competition.

WILLIAM SAETRE, tenor, received his Bachelor of Music degree from Saint Olaf College. He is currently pursuing his Masters at the San Francisco Conservatory where he is a baroque assistant. Among the roles he has performed are Albert Herring in *ALBERT HERRING*, The Witch in *HANSEL AND GRETEL*, and Bastien in *BASTIEN AND BASTIENNE*.

VICKI SHAGHOIAN, lyric mezzo, has appeared with Pocket Opera in several productions since her debut with the company in 1981 as Julia in *LA VIE PARISIENNE*. Other Bay Area credits include Zerlina in West Bay Opera's *DON GIOVANNI*, the title role in *LA CENERENTOLA* and the Cheshire Cat in *ALICE IN WONDERLAND* with Scholar Opera, and most recently as Mistress Ford in Commedia dell'Opera's *SIR JOHN IN LOVE*. Ms Shaghoian was a finalist in the San Francisco Opera Center Auditions in 1982 and performed the role of Cherubino with the Opera Center's "Operatunities" program, a role in which she made her debut with the Fresno Opera Association. As a recipient of the Rotary International Foundation Award, she studied at the R.C.M. Opera School in London during 1980-81. While in residency there, she was seen as Meg in *FALSTAFF*, and Theresa in *LA SONNAMBULA*. A native of the San Joaquin Valley, Ms Shaghoian was heard as Hansel in *HANSEL AND GRETEL*, and Sesto in *GIULIO CESARE* with Sierra Chamber Opera, and sang the lead roles in two world premieres: Earl Robinson's *DAVID OF SASSOUN*, and Alan Rea's *THE FETE AT COQUEVILLE* with the Fresno Opera Association.

SUSAN SHELDRAKE, mezzo-soprano, has been with Pocket Opera since 1979. She began her career as a singer and dancer with Equity Musical Comedy Companies in Pennsylvania and first appeared in the Bay Area as Mary Beaton in Spring Opera's *MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS*. Since graduating from the San Francisco Conservatory of

Music, she has been with the San Francisco Opera Chorus. While at the Conservatory she studied composition and conducting as well as voice, and for two years she was the Assistant Director, under John Adams, of the New Music Ensemble. Susan Sheldrake performs regularly with Pocket Opera and is also responsible for conducting backstage cues and ensembles.

KEVIN SKILES, tenor, is a regular with Pocket Opera. He has appeared as a soloist with such companies as Michigan Opera Theater, Artpark of New York, Hidden Valley Opera, and California Coast Opera. He made his San Francisco Opera Center debut in 1983 as Erice in Cavalli's *L'ORMINDO*. More recently, he scored great success as Pasquale in the West Coast Premiere of Haydn's *ORLANDO PALIDINO* with the Carmel Bach Festival, and also made his debut with Portland Opera as El Remendado in *CARMEN*. A 1982 state winner of the Music Teachers of California VOCE Award, he has also appeared as a soloist with the San Francisco Symphony Chorus in Strauss' *DEUTSCH MOTETTE*, and with members of the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra in performances of Handel's *MESSIAH*.

ELAINE SNYDER, soprano, has been critically acclaimed in a wide variety of roles, including Susanna and Barbarina in *THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO*, Sophie in *DER ROSENKAVALER*, Adele in *DIE FLEDERMAUS*, and the title role of Floyd's *SUSANNAH*. She has performed extensively in oratorio and concert, and in 1979 appeared with the classical guitarist Rian McGonigal in their own program for PBS which was televised nationally. Ms Snyder has appeared with the Philadelphia Lyric Opera, the Opera Company of Philadelphia, and the Syracuse Opera Theatre. While still a student at Manchester College in Indiana, she performed in both opera and theatre pieces such as *THE MEDIUM*, *SUOR ANGELICA*, and *A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE*. Since coming to the Bay Area, she has performed with Pocket Opera, Spring Opera Theatre, Brown Bag Opera, Cinnabar Opera Theatre, and Novato Lyric Opera.

PETER TUFF, baritone, has sung in *GIANNI SCHICCI* and *THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE* with Hidden Valley Opera, in *AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS* with the San Francisco Talent Bank, in *THE CONSUL* with Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington, and in *TOSCA* with West Bay Opera.

There will be one intermission

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MERVYN'S