

U.B.C. OPERA THEATRE PRESENTS

THE THREE PENNY OPERA

by

KURT WEILL

with

WENDY MARTHA HATALA

as

JENNY

B.Mus., Wilfrid Laurier University, 1992

**A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF
THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF
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(School of Music)

**We accept this thesis as conforming
to the required standard**

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Department of MUSIC

The University of British Columbia
Vancouver, Canada

Date April 11/94

THE
3 PENNY
OPERA

A SOCIAL SATIRE

BY

KURT WEILL

&

BERTOLT BRECHT

THE THREEPENNY OPERA
PREMIERE - BERLIN, AUGUST 31ST, 1928

MUSIC - KURT WEILL
TEXT - BERTOLT BRECHT

English translation by Michael Feingold.
Used by arrangement with European American Music Corporation - agent for the Kurt
Weill Foundation for Music Inc., and agent for Stefan Brecht.



THE SETTING: THE SLUM AND WATERFRONT AREAS OF LONDON.

PROLOGUE: A street in Soho

ACT 1. Peachum's beggars' outfit shop
An empty stable
Peachum's shop

- INTERMISSION -

ACT 2. The stable
Interlude -a street
A house of prostitution
The cells at the Old Bailey

- INTERMISSION -

ACT 3. Peachum's shop
Interlude
The Old Bailey

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

THE THREEPENNY OPERA by Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht was written and first performed in Berlin in 1928. The work is a satire and a polemic against poverty, and the exploitation of the powerless.

The work is based on John Gay's "The Beggars' Opera" - an opera which was immensely popular in London at the beginning of the 18th Century. The playwright, Bertolt Brecht, took the story of London's criminal underworld, and updated it to mirror the social and political state of 1920's Germany and Europe.

The story takes place in London, in the time of the coronation of the new Queen Victoria. The setting is the east side slum areas of the city and the characters are the gangsters, beggars, and prostitutes that frequent the area.

The story centers around the gangster Macheath, who marries Polly Peachum, daughter of one Jonathan Jeremiah Peachum. She is quite possibly his third wife, although he has not divorced any previous "wives". Mr. Peachum provides the beggars of London with begging licenses and suitable clothing in return for a large percentage of their takings. A murderous and bigamous gangster is his last idea of a son-in-law.

In spite of Macheath's firm friendship with "Tiger" Brown, London's police chief, Peachum conspires with Jenny, a prostitute, to have him arrested. Macheath is a hunted man but he visits Jenny and the other prostitutes at their brothel, where he is turned over to the police. Macheath escapes from his cell at the Old Bailey and Peachum is reduced to blackmailing "Tiger" Brown into arresting Macheath. Peachum will send thousands of beggars to disrupt the coronation if Macheath is not caught and hanged.

Macheath is arrested and is taken to the scaffold. But, because this is an opera and not real life, the story does not end with his death.

PRODUCTION

Stage Director & Design Concept.....	Alison Greene
Music Director.....	Richard Epp
Costume Design.....	Audrey Tyson
Lighting Design.....	Owen Schellenberger
Fight Choreographer.....	Michael Challenor
Technical Director.....	Gerald van der Woude
Stage Management.....	Hanne Lena Dalgliesh
Assistant Stage Director.....	Veera Khare

THE CAST

Macheath - a gangster known as Mac the Knife.....	Christopher Johnson
Mr. Peachum - the Beggars' Friend.....	Reid Spencer
Polly Peachum - his daughter.....	Julie Stobbe*
	Roslyn Osborne†
Mrs. Peachum - his wife.....	Kim Roeder
Jenny - a prostitute.....	Wendy Hatala*
	Karen Ydenberg†
"Tiger" Brown - London's police chief.....	David Doubleday
Lucy - his daughter.....	Deanna Henderson*
	Veera Khare†
The Streetsinger.....	David Fankhauser*
	Ronnie Olund†
Filch - a recent addition to beggary.....	David Fankhauser†
	Ronnie Olund*
The Reverend Kimball.....	David Fankhauser
Matt of the Mint - the gang leader.....	Michael Challenor
Crook-Finger Jacob - a reliable criminal.....	Ray Stothers
Sawtooth Bob - a petty thief.....	Richard Rigby
Wally the Weeper - a very young criminal.....	Deborah Neville
Sergeant Smith.....	Richard Rigby
A young constable.....	Deborah Neville

CHORUS OF BEGGARS AND PROSTITUTES:

Melissa Bruce, Gina Oh, Louise Tate, Michael Challenor, Ray Stothers, Richard Rigby, Deborah Neville, Julie Stobbe†, Roslyn Osborne*, Wendy Hatala†, Karen Ydenberg*, Deanna Henderson†, Veera Khare*.

* Performance dates: March 15 & 18

† Performance dates: March 16 & 19



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