ROLE OF GRETEL IN HUMPERDINCK'S HANSEL AND GRETEL

by

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B.Mus., University of Toronto, 1988
Diploma in Operatic Performance, University of Toronto, 1994

A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF

THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF

MASTER OF MUSIC

(OPERA)

in

THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

(School of Music)

We accept this thesis as conforming
to the required standard

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

March 1998

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Department of **Arts (School of Music)**

The University of British Columbia
Vancouver, Canada

Date **April 8, 1998**
FREDERIC WOOD THEATRE presents hansel and gretel
Acknowledgements:
The Vancouver Playhouse, The Arts Club Theatre, UBC Food Services, Jocelyn Morlock, Curtis Hunt, Dr. Keith Hamel, Dr. Robert Pritchard, David Simpson, Hans Krebs, Dieter Piltz, Aaron Burton, Sarah Eekhout, Peter Little, Jane Harrington, Jack the Cat, Douglas College Stagecraft Program
FREDERIC WOOD THEATRE

presents

Hansel and Gretel

by Engelbert Humperdinck
a co-production with the School of Music

Director
Nancy Hermiston

Conductor
Jesse Read

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November 13th - 30th, 1996

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK

Ink sketch
by
Camille Tseng
Engelbert Humperdinck: A Brief Chronology

1854 Born in Siegberg, Germany. Begins studying the piano at the age of seven.

1868 At the age of 14, first attempts at writing opera, (Claudine Von Villa Bella), sings in Cathedral choir.

1872 Briefly studies architecture, then turns to music full-time.

1872-76 Attends Cologne Conservatory, specializing in cello, organ and composition.

1876 Enters Royal Music School in Munich.

1880 Travels to Italy. Meets Richard Wagner in Venice.

1881 Spends almost two years in Bayreuth, assisting Wagner on Parsifal.

1883 Travels in France, Spain, North Africa.

1887 Appointed professor at Cologne Conservatory. Active as teacher, critic, and scholar.

1893 HANSEL AND GRETEL has its premiere in Weimar, conducted by Richard Strauss. It was an instant success, produced at 51 theaters within a year.

1897 His opera Koenigskinder was produced with success in Germany and abroad.

1900 Appointed member of the German Academy of Arts. Writes song cycles, incidental music for the stage, choral, and chamber music. Late years dogged by ill-health.

1921 Dies in Neu-Strelitz, Germany.
The Composer on His Work

I remember my very first encounter. I was five, and visiting my grandmother in nearby Bremen, close to the marketsquare. We had arrived late in the evening. There was just enough time for a light meal; then I went to bed, tired. But before I fell asleep, grandmother read me a story from a thin, leatherbound, and obviously well-worn book. The story both charmed me and scared me. That night I recall dreaming of Hansel (I had somehow forgotten Gretel), of the Evil Witch, but above all I dreamt of the Gingerbread. The dream was so vivid that I felt I could touch and smell the Gingerbread. When I woke up in the morning, I was hungry.

*****

I am fond of folktunes. I have listened to them as I travelled through Germany. The more remote the area, the purer the tune. I have heard them sung by old peasants with their craggy voices, and by young children with all the innocence of youth. These common tunes, so straightforward and so honest, seem to me the perfect repository of popular wisdom. I hope to have succeeded in capturing some of that simple charm in my opera.

*****

I want to do both: convince the adults and entice the children. Why do we always separate one group from the other? Why can't we create something so convincing, that it touches, charms, and entertains us all, whether we are young or old? Grimm's Tales do this; perhaps I can do it too.
Engelbert takes Hansel and Gretel for a walk.
hansel and gretel

Director
Nancy Hermiston

Conductor
Jesse Read

Assistant Conductor
Andrew Del Riccio

Scenery Designer
Robert Gardiner*

Costume Designer
Alison Green*

Lighting Designer
Susann Hudson

CAST

Hansel..................Emma Turnbull, Jennifer Nicol, Barb Tarry
Gretel.....................Mari Hahn, Barb Vogt, Phoebe MacRae
Mother.....................Karyn Way McClarty**, Adelheid Davis
Father.....Reid Spencer**, Alan Corbishley, Andrew Greenwood
Witch..................................Grace Chan, James McLennan
                                  (understudy: Karyn Way McClarty)
Dew Fairy/Echo......................Katy Hedalen, Tami Gazzola,
                                  (understudy: Jennifer Skidmore)
Sandman/Echo.........................Kimberly Webb, Leanne Koch
Market Vendors........Megan Latham, Jinny Park, Russell Robson
Gingerbread Chorus...............Sabine Sengmeuller, Jinny Park,
                                  Jennifer Moss, Stephanie Zee, Ross Jameson,
                                  Eli Zagoudakis, Jason Cooke, Saarra Rayani,
                                  Leslie Gray, Kristin Cato, Megan Latham
Echoes..........................Stephanie Zee, Jinny Park, Leslie Gray,
                                  Megan Latham

Angel Puppeteers..............Jennifer Moss, Jason McManus, Nicole
                                  Kelly, Leslie Gray, Wendy Chen, Sabine Sengmueller, Anita
                                  Gribble, Celia Chu, Russell Robson, Tamerrah Volkovskis, Katy
                                  Lai, Andrew Emde, Gillian Thomas, Pryde Foltz.

*Members of Associated Designers of Canada
**Members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association

(There will be one intermission)
PRODUCTION

Musical Director
Richard Epp

Assistant Directors
Craig Holzschuh,
Hussein Janmohamed

Repétiteur
Eiko Ogawa

Properties Supervisor
Sherry Milne

Properties
Andrew Emde

Properties Assistants
Tamerrah Volkovskis, Joven Lin

Assistant to the Set Designer
Camille Tseng,
Owen Schellenberger

Stage Carpenter
Rob Moser

Scenery Construction
Jay Henrickson, Don Griffiths

Stage Crew
Katy Lai, Wendy Chen,
Jane Menhenk, Pryde Foltz,
Anita Gribble

Sound Designer/Technician
Jared Siegel

Head Electrician
Derek Mack

Lighting Design Assistant
Ibata Noric Hexamer

Light Operator
Elizabeth Baca

Scenic Artist
Cricket Price*

Painters
Mary Wiseman, Reva Quan,
Anita Gribble

Production Manager
Bob Eberle

Technical Director
Ian Pratt

Stage Manager
Meaghan Benmore

Assistant Stage Managers
Kristin Cato, Celia Chu,
Jason McManus, Leslie Gray,
Nicole Kelly

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Rosemarie Heselton

Costume Cutters
Jean Driscoll-Bell, Linda Chow

Costume Builders
Joanne Huang, Kristin Cato,
Jiu Cheng Ma, Joanna Kee,
Tamerrah Volkovskis,
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Margaret Specht
Hansel and Gretel: A Plot Synopsis

ACT I
Peter's house. His children, Hansel and Gretel, are hungry. To distract her little brother, Gretel teaches him to sing and dance. Their mother scolds them for playing instead of working. Now the children must go into the woods to pick strawberries for the evening meal. While they are gone, their father returns from work with a bundle of food under his arm. Learning that the children have gone into the woods, he grows apprehensive and joins his wife in searching for them.

ACT II
In the forest. While Hansel is looking for strawberries, Gretel sits under a tree singing a folk song. Hansel returns with the berries, and since the children are hungry, they yield to the temptation of eating them. Night begins to fall. The darkness brings terror, for the children are now unable to find their way home. The Sandman comes to put the children to sleep with a lullaby. After they fall asleep, angels descend to provide the children with a protective ring.

ACT III
The Witch's house. The Dewfairy sprinkles dewdrops on the children. Waking, they find themselves in front of a gingerbread house decorated with gingerbread cookie figures of children. Hansel and Gretel begin to eat morsels of the house. Suddenly the Witch emerges. Her magic keeps the children rooted to the ground. She locks Hansel in a cage and forces Gretel to do housework. The Witch sings a gleeful song about her strange activities. Gretel, meanwhile, steals her wand and with it frees her brother. When the Witch orders Gretel to look into the flaming oven, Gretel feigns stupidity and asks the Witch to show her how this is done. When the Witch stands before the open door, Hansel and Gretel push her inside and slam the door. The Witch's oven explodes. This is the signal for all the Witch's previous victims to change from gingerbread back into little children. The parents of Hansel and Gretel appear, find their children are free, and all join in a celebration.
The hansel and gretel orchestra

**Violin:**
Heather Rapson
Aaron Au
Daphne van der Sloot
Rick Dorfer
Dolly Hsiao
Grace Tsang
Cathy Wong
Maureen Yuen
Rosemary Siemens
Kim Hsieh
Mark Tubbs

**Bass:**
Megan Bradfield
Leanna Wong
Jin Uk Kim
Jan Berman
Tom Eccleston

**Cello:**
Cyrena Huang
Danny Ariaratnam
Chris Greenlaw

**Viola:**
Michael van der Sloot
Tawnya Pofoff
Martina Smazal
Mark Luchkow
Rob Ashworth

**Timpani/ Percussion:**
Kimberly Holland

**Keyboards:**
Richard Epp
Eiko Ogawa
Kikyo Tanaka

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-April 11th and 12th, at 8:00 p.m.

*The U.B.C. Orchestra presents a Bartok Concerto for viola with soloist Tawnya Popoff: -Jan. 30th at 12:30 pm -Jan. 31st at 8:00 pm*

*Call the Music School for details 822-5574*
PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE
(Subject to changes)

Appearing Nov. 14th, 22nd, 27th, 29th.
Emma Turnbull, Mari Hahn, Karyn Way McClarty,
Reid Spencer, Kimberly Webb, Tami Gazzola,
Grace Chan.

Appearing Nov. 15th
Jennifer Nicol, Barb Vogt, Adelheid Davis,
Andrew Greenwood, Leanne Koch, Katy Hedalen,
James McLennan

Appearing Nov. 16th.
Emma Turnbull, Mari Hahn, Karyn Way McClarty,
Reid Spencer, Kimberly Webb, Katy Hedalen, Grace Chan.

Appearing Nov. 18th
Barb Tarry, Phoebe MacRae, Karyn Way McClarty,
Alan Corbishley, Leanne Koch, Katy Hedalen,
James McLennan

Appearing Nov. 19th
Jennifer Nicol, Barb Vogt, Adelheid Davis,
Andrew Greenwood, Kimberly Webb, Tami Gazzola,
Grace Chan

Appearing Nov. 23rd.
Jennifer Nicol, Barb Vogt, Adelheid Davis,
Andrew Greenwood, Leanne Koch, Katy Hedalen,
James McLennan

Appearing Nov. 13th, 21st, 28th, & 30th.
Barb Tarry, Phoebe MacRae, Adelheid Davis,
Alan Corbishley, Leanne Koch, Katy Hedalen,
James McLennan.
A Note on the Director

Nancy Hermiston, Canadian born lyric coloratura, has established herself as one of Europe's most versatile and exciting vocal artists and directors. She has a permanent engagement at the prestigious Nürnberg Opera Company and has starred with Opera Companies throughout North America and Germany. Her New York debut took place in Carnegie Hall with Marilyn Horne and Mario Bernardi. Early in her career, she began devoting part of her time to stage direction. Currently, she is on the directing staff of the International Opera Workshop in the city of Opava in the Czech Republic and has held various appointments as voice teacher, vocal coach, director and coordinator with the University of Toronto Opera and Performance Divisions. In 1995, Ms. Hermiston joined the UBC School of Music as the head of the Voice and Opera Departments.

A Note on the Conductor

Jesse Read has served in the orchestras of the Metropolitan Opera National Company, San Francisco Opera and Vancouver Opera. An internationally known bassoonist, recording artist and teacher, Professor Read was recently appointed Director of the U.B.C. School of Music. A specialist in the performance of music of the 18th century, he has performed and recorded with Tafelmusik, Philharmonia, Boston Baroque, and numerous other chamber ensembles. Solo appearances include Netherlands Chamber Orchestra, Cologne Chamber Orchestra, Basel Chamber Orchestra, and CBC Orchestra. Mr. Read has had a long association with the Carmel Bach Festival in California. He is presently on the faculty of the International Mozart Academy where he conducts and gives master classes at the various sites of the academy including Prague, Florence, Budapest and Warsaw.
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