

Opening Remarks

Excerpt from Cecil B. DeMille’s film *Carmen*,

Excerpt from Charlie Chaplin’s film *Burlesque on Carmen*

“Habeñera” from Georges Bizet’s opera *Carmen*

Elizabeth Cass, Mezzo-Soprano; Elden Little, Piano

Excerpt from D. W. Griffith’s film *The Birth of a Nation*

Excerpt from Francis Ford Coppola’s film *Apocalypse Now*

Excerpt from Victor Schertziger’s film *One Night of Love*

Excerpt from Richard Thorpe’s film *The Great Caruso*

Excerpt from Sidney Lumet’s film *Serpico*

“Vesti la giubba” from Ruggero Leoncavallo’s opera *I Pagliacci*

Carey Dietert, Tenor; Elden Little, Piano

Chuck Jones’ cartoon *The Rabbit of Seville*

“Largo al factotum della citta” from Gioacchino Rossini’s opera *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*

David Small, Baritone; Elden Little, Piano

Excerpt from Jonathan Demme’s film *Philadelphia*

Excerpt from Richard Wilson’s film *Al Capone*

Francis Ford Coppola’s film *The Godfather, Part III*

Excerpt from Norman Jewison’s film *Moonstruck*

“Quando m’en vo” from Giacomo Puccini’s opera *La Bohème*

Georgia Pickett, Soprano; Elden Little, Piano

Excerpt from Frank Darabont’s film *The Shawshank Redemption*

Excerpt from Franco Zeffirelli’s film *La Traviata*

Act IV Quartet from Giuseppe Verdi’s opera *Rigoletto*

Georgia Pickett, Elizabeth Cass, Carey Dietert, David Small, Elden Little

Excerpt from Sam Woods’ film *A Night at the Opera*

Georgia Pickett, Soprano

Georgia Pickett, a native of Atlanta, has just returned to Austin from Boston where she sang Fiordiligi, Rosalinda, Helena, and Elettra for the Boston Opera Institute. While representing the Opera Institute she traveled to St. Petersburg, Russia where she sang an opera gala performance with the young artists of the Mariinsky Theater. While in Boston, Georgia also sang Fiordiligi in a concert version of *Così fan tutte* with the Greater Boston Youth Symphony and as the soprano soloist in *Carmina Burana* for Weston, Massachusetts’ In Coro Novo. In 2004, Georgia was a District Winner and Regional Finalist for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. As a participant in the Opera Lirica program last summer, she sang scenes from *La Traviata* and *La Bohème* conducted by Gregory Buchalter. From 1999 to 2001, Georgia was a Young Artist with the Austin Lyric Opera where she sang the roles of Mary Willis in Floyd’s new opera, *Cold Sassy Tree*, and Gerhilde in *Die Walküre*. She received her master’s degree in music from the University of Texas, where she sang the title role in Floyd’s *Susannah*, Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*, and Abigail in *The Crucible*. Her other performances include Alice Ford in *Falstaff* for Intermezzo Opera in Connecticut and a cover for the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra’s concert performance of *Die Walküre*.

Elizabeth Cass, Mezzo-Soprano

Liz Cass was most recently seen as Sonyetka in *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* with Austin Lyric Opera. [The Austin Chronicle](#) called her “effortlessly cruel” in her portrayal of the fated Siberian prisoner. Ms. Cass made her ALO debut as the Third Handmaid in *Elektra*. Ms. Cass has performed with the Fort Worth Symphony as Filipyevna in *Eugene Onegin* and the Third Wood Nymph in *Rusalka*. She made her Fort Worth Opera debut as Stephano in *Romeo and Juliet*. Liz’s New York debut was made as Rosalia in *L’Equivoco Stravagante* with the Bronx Opera. Ms. Cass started her operatic career in apprenticeship and young artist programs with the Central City Opera, Fort Worth Opera, Shreveport opera, Opera in the Ozarks, Seagle Music Colony, and the Aspen Music Festival. Favorite roles include Komponist in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Hermia and Oberon in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, Flora in *La Traviata*, Mother in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, Mercedes in *Carmen*, Mrs. Basset in *Summer and Smoke*, Arsamenes in *Xerxes*, and Prince Orlofsky in *Die Fledermaus*. Next season Liz will make her Austin Chamber Music Society debut in a concert featuring works by Poulenc and Weill. Ms. Cass is a graduate of UMKC where she earned a degree in vocal performance. Ms. Cass was a member of the Kansas City Lyric Opera chorus while in college. Elizabeth currently resides in Austin, TX with her husband Tim and their cat Harriet.

Carey Dietert, Tenor

Native Texan, Carey Dietert has been a member of the Austin Lyric Opera family since 1988. In addition to singing in over 20 different productions as a chorister, Mr. Dietert has been featured in roles such as The Imperial Commissioner in *Madama Butterfly*, The First Jew in *Salome*, Vanderdender in *Candide*, Steve Hubbell in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, President Arthur in *The Ballad of Baby Doe*, and most recently as both the Teacher and Coachman in *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*. Mr. Dietert is also an accomplished recitalist and soloist and has performed with many Texas based choral ensembles. In 2003, he was the tenor soloist for the Austin Choral Symposium’s “Viva la Opera”. Carey received a BBA/MGMT from The University of Texas at Austin. By day, Mr. Dietert is a Field Manager for Dell Computers.

David Small, Baritone

A versatile baritone, Mr. Small has established himself as a gifted singing actor. Equally comfortable with comedy or drama, his repertoire is richly varied. He debuted his Figaro in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* for the Lyric Opera of Kansas City and subsequently has had tremendous success with the role. He made his Austin Lyric Opera debut in this signature role. Mr. Small’s Figaro has charmed audiences for the opera companies of Nevada, Dayton, Toledo, Lyric Opera Cleveland, Chicago Opera Theater, Des Moines Metro Opera, Fresno Grand Opera and on tour in France and Spain with IL Teatro Lyrico d’Europa. In addition to being an accomplished performer, Mr. Small adds another credit to his busy schedule: assistant professor of music on the voice faculty and opera department at the University of Texas at Austin School of Music and Co-director of the Astoria Music Festival Vocal Academy. Mr Small’s recent performing schedule included: Valentin in *Faust* and Sonora in *La Fanciulla del west* with Austin Lyric Opera, Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus* with Nevada Opera and Marcello in *LA La Bohème* with Austin Lyric Opera, plus Des Moines Metro Opera’s Ford in *Falstaff*.

Elden Little, Piano

Elden Little has accompanied numerous singers and instrumentalists throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico. In addition to appearances with Texas Early Music Project, Austin Chamber Music Festival, Conspirare, and Louisiana’s *Fanfare* Festival, his performances have been broadcast throughout Central Texas on radio and television. With internationally acclaimed soprano Gilda Cruz-Romo he has performed throughout Texas and Mexico. In 1999 he completed his doctoral degree in applied piano performance from the University of Texas at Austin. Little also studied the art of accompanying with Gwendolyn Koldovsky, Eugene Bossart, and David Garvey. Currently he works for Austin Lyric Opera as rehearsal pianist and assistant chorus master. This summer he will be a member of the musical staff of Des Moines Metro Opera. Currently he works for Austin Lyric Opera as rehearsal pianist, orchestra librarian and assistant chorus master.