

MISSISSIPPI OPERA TO PERFORM AMAHL & THE NIGHT VISITORS



The Mississippi Opera continues its stellar 68th season with Gian Carlo Menotti's *Amahl and The Night Visitors* (sung in English), Friday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Madison Square

Performing Arts Center. The perfect entertainment in anticipation of Christmas, *Amahl and the Night Visitors* is a family-friendly opera that tells the story of a poor boy and his mother who are visited by the Wise Men on their way to visit the infant Jesus.

Mississippi Opera's Artistic Director Ed Dacus, a music department professor at Mississippi College, directs this timeless holiday classic. Cast members include: Mother – Amy Pfrimmer (voice professor at Tulane), Amahl – (Jackson Creel from Hattiesburg), Amahl – (Jay Warnock from Jackson), Kaspar – Ross Price (from Madison, voice instructor at Mississippi College), Melchior – Patton Rice (on faculty

at Mississippi School for the Arts, Brookhaven), Balthasar – Franklin Turner (vocal performance major at Mississippi College), Page – Landon Scriber (vocal performance major at Mississippi College).

Since its first performance on Christmas Eve, 1951, *Amahl and the Night Visitors* has taken its place with *A Christmas Carol* as a holiday classic. Performed on every continent and in many languages, it has been seen by more people than any other opera in history.

The story tells of the night the Three Kings, following the star to Bethlehem, stop for shelter at the home of Amahl, a poor, crippled shepherd boy, who lives with his widowed mother. Inspired by the Wise Men's tale of a kingdom "built on love alone," Amahl offers his own simple gift to the Christ Child. And then a miracle happens . . .

In this warm and compassionate story, Gian Carlo Menotti has captured the essential spirit of Christmas. At its premiere, The New York Times called *Amahl*, "rare art . . . tender and exquisite."

For more information, call the Mississippi Opera office at 601.960.2300 or visit their Facebook page.

NEW STAGE BRINGS TRUMAN CAPOTE'S A CHRISTMAS MEMORY TO THE STAGE

New Stage Theatre presents Truman Capote's Holiday Musical *A Christmas Memory* November 29-December 16, 2012. Preview night is Tuesday, November 29 at 7:30 p.m. Curtain times and dates for all other performances are Thursday through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Ticket prices are \$25.00, with discounts available for students, senior citizens and groups. Tickets can be purchased at the box office, located inside the Jane Reid Petty Theatre Center, charged by phone by calling the theatre at (601) 948-3531 or ordered online at www.newstagetheatre.com. *A Christmas Memory* is sponsored by St. Dominic Hospital.

The aroma of pecan pie and the flicker of candles in the window banish the December chill of a 1930's Alabama winter. This musical version of Truman Capote's enchanting holiday tale follows the deep friendship and delightful shenanigans of cousins Buddy and Sook, who make the most of what may be their last Christmas together. Sure to delight the entire family, Truman Capote's masterpiece springs to life in this big-hearted musical treat. A wistful memoir of cherished youth, it chronicles the friendship of a shy boy and his eccentric cousin — misfits who launch kites, haunt speakeasies, and mail fruitcakes to everyone from Jean Harlow to President Roosevelt!

"*A Christmas Memory* is a wistful Southern Christmas tale," said artistic director Francine Thomas Reynolds. "We are excited to be presenting this brand new holiday musical. The stage adaptation captures the magic of the Truman Capote story and the music is delightful. This is a Christmas musical the entire family will enjoy."

JOIN THE PULSE GROUP AT THE 35TH ANNUAL ART FOR HEART GALA



Grace Sturdivant, Lanie Bowlin and Laura Stansell are young volunteers dedicated to helping Mississippians live longer, healthier lives, free of cardiovascular disease and stroke, through the American Heart Association's Pulse Group. Pulse — it's the beat underlying everything that keeps you on the move. When it's strong, it tells you instantly

you're alive. When it's weak, it's a sign that help is needed. At Heart, Pulse is a group of local young professionals working to build a strong beat of commitment to heart health in the next generation of community leaders, by encouraging good health in a new generation.

Join the Pulse Group at the 35th Annual Art For Heart Gala on Friday, January 25th at the Country Club of Jackson. The event is a celebration of the community's support of the lifesaving mission and has contributed over \$5.4 million to the cause since its inception. Art For Heart is a black-tie dinner-dance and art auction, with silent and live components, that gives sponsors, survivors and community leaders a chance to fight heart disease and to help, heal and hope together. For more information, please visit www.heart.org/metrojacksonheartball.

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