

Charlotte and the Music-maker

Concert Program Information

(July 2008 - Please destroy all previous versions)

Please include the following text in the concert program:

Platypus Theatre's Charlotte and the Music-maker

Written and performed by Peter Duschenes

Original Music and Musical Direction by Alain Trudel

Stage Direction by Janet Irwin



Platypus Theatre would love to hear from you please contact them through their website: www.platypustheatre.com

(N.B. Logo must be included in the program and is available on the Platypus website at <http://www.platypustheatre.com/presenters/pres-general.html>)

Repertoire list

Includes excerpts from:

Trudel, Alain

Handel, George Frideric

Traditional (arr. Trudel)

Handel, George Frideric

Abreu, Zequina (arr. Trudel)

Grieg, Edvard

Mozart, W.A. (arr. Trudel)

Original Music for *Charlotte and the Music-Maker*

Water Music (Hornpipe)

When the Saints Come Marching In

Arrival of the Queen of Sheeba (From *Solomon*)

Tico-tico

Holberg Suite – Slow Movement #4 “Air”

Variations on “Twinkle, Twinkle Little star”

Continued on next page

Biographies

N.B: Please include photographs of the actors and Stage Manager. High-resolution photographs of the artists are available on the Platypus website at: <http://www.platypustheatre.com/presenters/pres-general.html>

Platypus Theatre

Since 1989 Canada's Platypus Theatre has been a trailblazer in creating programs for children that bring classical music to life in an intelligent, entertaining and interactive way. Critics, educators, musicians, parents and children have lauded the company's performances for their creativity, originality and high standards of execution. Platypus' seven original programs have been seen by over half a million spectators in Canada, the United States and on six tours to Southeast Asia. After nearly 400 concerts with more than 50 orchestras worldwide Platypus Theatre has gained an unparalleled reputation for excellence in music education. In 2006, in collaboration with TV Ontario, Trace Pictures and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Platypus Theatre created a television adaptation of their ever-popular, "How the Gimquat Found Her Song". The film was broadcast five times on TVO and won an Award of Excellence at the 2008 Accolade Television Awards and Best Children's Program at the prestigious Banff World Television Festival. The film is now on DVD and available www.platypustheatre.com. Platypus Theatre was also the subject of a nationally broadcast documentary made by CTV (CKCO Kitchener) in 1991 and of a PBS television full-performance broadcast on UNC-TV in North Carolina in 2000. In Addition to "Gimquat" the company's programs include: "Emily Saves the Orchestra", "Rhythm in Your Rubbish", "Bach to the Future", "Song of the Forest", "Charlotte and the Music-Maker" and "A Flicker of Light on a Christmas Night".

Peter Duschenes, Artistic Director, Writer and Actor

Co-founder and Artistic Director of Platypus Theatre, Peter Duschenes has been widely praised for his innovation in presenting symphonic music to young audiences. His ability to bring the concert stage to life by combining theatre and music has led to commissions with orchestras from coast to coast. An award winning playwright, Peter's writing credits include all seven of Platypus' symphony plays, the television adaptation of "How the Gimquat Found Her Song" and the one-act play, "Lost River", which was the 1991 winner of the Theatre BC's Canadian National Playwriting competition. As an actor Peter has performed with companies across Canada and the United States appearing most recently as Richard in Shakespeare's "Richard II" at Quantum Theatre in Pittsburgh and as Louis Ironson in "Angels In America" at the Centaur Theatre in Montreal. Peter received his MFA in theatre from the California Institute of the Arts in 1988 and now lives in Ottawa with his wife, Sarah and their two children; Magda and Theo.

Alain Trudel - Composer

Montreal native Alain Trudel has distinguished himself as a conductor and soloist, but has also used his creative genius as a composer and arranger. Many of his works have been performed by orchestras and chamber ensembles throughout the Americas and in Europe and Japan. In 1997, the CBC commissioned the work "Passage", a small ensemble piece written for trombone, trumpet, accordion and piano. This piece has been played more than fifty times,

including at the Winnipeg New Music Festival and in the United States, and rebroadcast nationally on Radio Canada and the CBC. In 1992 he composed "Vision" which was broadcast on the radio and performed more than fifteen times across Canada. Alain has also written many times for his instrument, the trombone, including "Grand Louis", which was premiered at the International Trombone Congress of 1991 and two pieces for trombone and tape: "Yo" and "Vital" which premiered at the Festival de Strasbourg in 1993 and 1995 respectively. "Charlotte and the Music-Maker" is not Alain's first collaboration with a theatre company. He recently composed the music for a musical puppet play created by Productions Felix Mirbt. As an arranger, Alain Trudel has adapted an almost incalculable number of works for both choir and orchestra. Of special interest is his fifteen year engagement with the CBC radio and television sing-in for which he arranged Christmas pieces from all genres and eras. Alain Trudel is recipient of the Virginia Parker Prize, The Prix du Président de la République of the Académie du disque Charles Cros (France), an Opus Prize and a Juno Award.

Janet Irwin - Director

Janet Irwin has over thirty years experience in the theatre, working as director, playwright/librettist, producer, dramaturge, consultant and teacher. She has great affection for the classics, political theatre, large casts, plays for family audiences, spectacle, outdoor theatre, stories about Ottawa, new work, opera and other theatre forms wherein music is integral. Her work has been described variously as "an audacious triumph" (Blue Window), "advocacy theatre of intelligence, imagination, precision and stunning effectiveness" (Side Effects), "le courage et la grace" (Dialogues des Carmélites), "many parts great theatre" and "a production that soars" (Medea). She has directed for Great Canadian Theatre Company, National Arts Centre's English Theatre and Orchestra, Upper Canada Playhouse, Easy Street Productions, Opera Lyra Ottawa, Deluxe Hot Sauce, and Third Wall Theatre. She is thrilled to be a part of Platypus Theatre.