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Fall 11-19-2022

### Opera Workshop: The Boy Who Grew Too Fast (2022)

St. Norbert College Music Department

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*The Boy Who Grew Too Fast*  
by Gian Carlo Menotti

A one-act opera for young people

Presented by SNC Opera Workshop

Directed by Dr. Yi-Lan Niu

Accompanied by Mrs. Elaine Moss

Costume and Lighting Design by Professor April Beiswenger

## **Note from the Director**

Welcome to our annual production. We are proud to present Menotti's *The Boy Who Grew Too Fast*. We are especially excited because this opera is rarely performed and we have never produced a children's opera before. While the storyline of a kid's show might seem simple and straightforward, the music and acting that the production entails is always more difficult than it looks. In this opera, twelve excellent singers were selected and each of them does an amazing job presenting their character and music.

The opera is about a nine-year-old boy who just moved to a new town and is being isolated because of his different appearance. He tries to change himself to satisfy the public views, but eventually realizes that being unique is giving him strengths to benefit others. The original production was presented by Menotti himself at the Grand Opera House, Wilmington, Delaware on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 1982. The libretto of the opera has been slightly altered to match current circumstances and to keep the language up to date.

Dr. Yi-Lan Niu November 2022

## **Cast List**

Miss Hope - Andrea Waschbisch  
Poponel - Ronald Match  
Mrs. Skosvomont - Cailey Wheeler  
Dr. Shrinck - Hannah Dornfeld  
Old Tom - Dr. Michael Rosewall  
Miss Proctor - Aria Lemke  
Lizzie Spender - Megan O'Brien  
Claudia - Mileana Burmesch  
Clara - Madeline Schneider  
Arthur - Adriana Hanson  
Jim - Isabella Puchella  
Ricky - Haley Schmidt

## **Performer's Biography** **(Alphabetical order by the last name)**

**Mileana Burmesch** is a third year soprano studying music liberal arts and communication media at St. Norbert College. She has studied under the direction of John Pasbrig (Choral director, Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School) for four years and currently studies under the direction of Linda Feldmann. She has portrayed the roles of A Wife in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* (2017) and A Newsie in *Newsies* (2018). This is her first opera at St. Norbert College.

**Hannah Dornfeld** is a sophomore soprano studying choral music education. In the past, she has studied voice with Cassandra Tingo '15, and is a current student of Dr. Sarah Parks' studio. Past roles include Specs in *Newsies* (2019), Belle in *Beauty and the Beast* (2020) and Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors* (2021). At St. Norbert, she has participated in Next Stage's *Newsies* as a Bowery Beauty/Nun/Brooklyn Newsie (2019) as well as Knight Theater's *Carrie* as the Hair/Makeup/Costume designer (2022). This is her first opera at St. Norbert College.

**Adriana Hanson** is a third year soprano with a major in choral music education at St. Norbert College. She has studied voice under the direction of Dr. Michael Rosewall and is now studying under the direction of Dr. Sarah Parks. She has portrayed the roles of Ensemble in *Cinderella* (2017), Mitzi in *Crazy For You* (2018), Fruma-Sarah in *Fiddler On The Roof* (2020), and Ms. Gardner in *Carrie* (2022). This is her first opera at St. Norbert College.

**Aria Lemke** is a second year mezzo-soprano studying choral music education and vocal performance at St. Norbert College. She is currently studying under the direction of Linda Feldman. Previously, she has portrayed the roles of Wicked Witch in *Shrek the Musical* (2017), Aunt March in *Little Women* (2018), Adella in *The Little Mermaid* (2018), and Audrey 2 in *Little Shop of Horrors* (2020). This is her first opera at St. Norbert College.

**Ronnie Match** is a Sophomore tenor studying choral music education. He has studied voice with Michelle Hynson '18, and currently is studying under Dr. Yi-Lan Niu in her studio. Ronnie has been in ensemble roles within *Shrek: The Musical* (2018) along with *The Little Mermaid* (2019), Will in *Big Fish* (2020) and Laurie in *Little Women* (2021). This is Ronnie's first Opera and performance at St. Norbert College.

**Megan O'Brien** is a second year soprano Choral Music Education Major at St. Norbert College. She studied voice under Adrienne Grove for 2 years and is currently studying voice under the direction of Dr. Yi-Lan Niu. She has appeared in the roles of Ursula in *The Little Mermaid* (2017), Madame de la Grande Bouche in *Beauty and the Beast* (2018), Grandma Addams in *The Addams Family* (2019), Sugar Plum Fairy in *Shrek the Musical* (2020), and Sarah in *The Theory of Relativity* (2021). This is Megan's first opera at St. Norbert College and she is elated to have the privilege to work with such an amazing cast and crew.

**Isabella Puchalla** is a second year mezzo-soprano studying Music Liberal Arts and Psychology at St. Norbert College. She studied under the direction of three choir directors at Kiel High School for three years, and currently studies as a soprano under the direction of Linda Feldman. She has performed as the ensemble in *Newsies* (2018) and *The Little Mermaid* (2019), along with separate performances within various choirs. This is her first opera at St. Norbert College.

**Dr. Michael Rosewall** recently retired from St. Norbert College, where he enjoyed working with talented students in the music department for thirty years. He is familiar to local audiences as a conductor and performer, and frequently works as a consultant or clinician at school districts throughout Northeast Wisconsin. He has appeared in leading roles on St. Norbert's stages for SNC Opera Workshop's production of *The Beggar's Opera* (2009), as Tevye in Summer Music Theatre's *Fiddler on the Roof* (2001), and as Fredrick in the Theatre Studies presentation of Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* (2013). He is thrilled to be a part of this production and applauds the great cast and production crew.

**Haley Schmidt** is a third year mezzo-soprano studying choral music education at St. Norbert College. She has studied under the direction of Joshua Barker (Choral director, Wautoma High School) for three years and currently studies under the direction of Dr. Yi-Lan Niu. She has portrayed the roles of Duchess in *The Aristocats* (2013), Edith in *The Pirates of Penzance* (2014), A Bird Girl in *Seussical* (2015), a nun and background dancer in *The Sound of Music* (2016), and Ethel McCormack in *Footloose* (2019). She has also worked as a light technician for *The Music Man* (2017) and *The Addams Family* (2018). This is her second opera at St. Norbert College, previously seen as Balthazar in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (2021).

**Madeline Schneider** is a second year mezzo-soprano studying choral music education at St. Norbert College. She has studied under the direction of Chad Lemeronde for 4 years and currently studies under the direction of Dr. Yi-Lan Niu. She has portrayed the roles of Gingy/Sugar Plum Fairy in *Shrek: The Musical* (2022), Urania in *Xanadu* (2022) and many more. This is her first opera and theater performance at St. Norbert College.

**Andrea Waschbisch** is a fourth year soprano studying Vocal Performance with a Theatre Studies minor at St. Norbert College. She currently studies voice under Dr. Yi-lan Niu. In the past she has participated in numerous theatre productions. Her most recent role was Vic in the St. Norbert College Theatre Studies Production, *WROL* (2022). Before that she was Queen Kaspar in *Amahl and The Night Visitors* (2021), Maria in the *Sound of Music* (2019), and was in the ensemble of *The Wizard of Oz* (2016). She was also in 7 Missoula Children's Theatre Productions, playing various roles such as Rapunzel in *Rapunzel* (2016), Clara in *Rumpelstiltskin* (2017), and many others.

**Cailey Wheeler** is a third year mezzo-soprano studying Choral Music Education at St. Norbert College. In the past, she spent four years studying with Lori Maves, two years with Gina Schmalz, and one semester with Jay Zamora. She is currently studying voice with Dr. Yi-Lan Niu who continues to inspire and encourage her on her vocal journey. She was involved in many musical theatre productions during her high school years. Her roles included Papa Bear and a Blind Mouse in *Shrek the Musical* (2017), the ugly step sister Gertrude in *Cinderella* (2018), and the evil vizier Jafar in *Aladdin - bilingual version* (2019). This is her second opera workshop production at St. Norbert College, she played Queen Melchior in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (2021).

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