



Hansel & Gretel–Opera for Kids!

Saturday, June 3 @ 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, June 3 @ 11:30 a.m.

This fairy tale adventure tells the story of two hungry children lost in an enchanted forest, an inviting gingerbread house, and a wicked witch. This kid-friendly production features spoken narration and acting, as well as the most charming and catchy tunes from the original opera, sung by talented opera singers.

Program: Selections from Humperdinck's opera *Hansel & Gretel* in a 45-minute, condensed version designed for children 5–11. German text by Adelheid Wette. English text by Constance Bache.

Lobby Activities: Enjoy pre- or post-concert fun with special activities for kids in the concert hall lobbies related to the theme of the concert, including a coloring station, craft station, photo backdrop, and S.T.E.A.M. station.



HANSEL & GRETEL-OPERA FOR KIDS!

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Jacob Sustaita, conductor

Peter Atherton, director/scriptwriter

Susan Miller Kotses, co-scriptwriter

Pacific Symphony

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Presents Pacific Symphony Family Musical Mornings

Father: David Stonemen, baritone

Hansel: Hannah Headland, mezzo-soprano

Gretel: Chelsea Chaves, soprano

Witch: Kiana Hamzehi, mezzo-soprano

Sandman: Abby Olson, soprano

Dew Fairy: Alexandria Burdick, soprano

Gingerbread Chorus:

Jessica Tonai, Abby Olson & Julia Sapeta,
sopranos, Emily Border, mezzo-soprano

UNDERSTUDIES

Father: Michael Segura, baritone

Hansel & Witch: Emily Border

Gretel: Alexandria Burdick

Sandman: Julia Sapeta

Dew Fairy: Jessica Tonai

Rehearsal and Lobby Performance

Accompanist: Janet Kao

Graphic Designer: Kurt Mortensen

Lighting Designer: Kathy Pryzgoda

Costume Coordinator: Laure Dike

Costumes provided in part by
Staged Cinema Wardrobe



These performances are generously underwritten by **The Honorable H. Warren and Janet Siegel.**

Performance at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts | Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall

THANK YOU FOR SHARING THE 2022-23 SEASON WITH US!

Dear Friends,

Good morning and welcome to **Hansel & Gretel** by the German composer **Engelbert Humperdinck**! I am Pacific Symphony's **assistant conductor, Jacob Sustaita**, and it is a dream come true to lead the **incredible musicians of Pacific Symphony** in this morning's **Family Opera** performance. I adore Pacific Symphony's **Family Musical Mornings Series**, and I am thrilled that we get to share this operatic treasure with you.



An **opera** is a story **told through music and singing**, and Humperdinck was one of Germany's most famous opera composers.

Our story begins with Hansel and Gretel, who are brother and sister, wandering through the woods in search of food. **Gretel** is a **soprano**, which is the highest of the women's voices, and **Hansel** is a **mezzo-soprano**, which is the **lowest of the women's voices**. During their journey they encounter the **Dew Fairy** and **Sandman**, who are fairies that serenade them. They soon come across a gingerbread house with a mean **Witch** inside, who is very scary and frightening. Can *Hansel & Gretel* escape the evil ways of the Witch? You will just have to wait and see.

Thank you for joining us, and I look forward to next season's **fantastic concerts** that we have planned **just for you!**

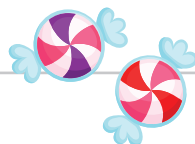
Let music bring us together,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

Dr. Jacob Sustaita
Assistant Conductor



ABOUT THE CONDUCTOR



Jacob Sustaita

Assistant Conductor for Pacific Symphony,

Music Director for Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra

Mary E. Moore Family Assistant Conductor Chair

Dr. Jacob Sustaita serves as the Assistant Conductor for Pacific Symphony and Music Director Carl St.Clair, a position he has held since the fall of 2020. Dr. Sustaita also serves as Music Director and Conductor for Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra (PSYO), the premier training orchestra of Orange County, recognized as one of the most outstanding youth orchestras in the country.

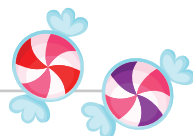
Dr. Sustaita is the newly appointed Orchestra Director for the Orange County School of the Arts Symphony Orchestra. In the fall of 2021 and 2022, Sustaita served as Acting Director of Orchestras at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at California State University Long Beach (CSULB). From 2015-20, he led the Sam Houston State University Symphony, Chamber, Ballet, and Opera Orchestras as Director of Orchestral Studies. In 2016, Sustaita and the Symphony Orchestra performed the American premiere of Anton Bruckner's Symphony No. 1 (original Linz version) with high praise from the American and European Bruckner Societies.

Dr. Sustaita is a frequent guest conductor and clinician across the country. In 2015, Sustaita was selected by Carnegie Hall's Weill Institute to serve as Assistant Conductor for Charles Dutoit and the National Youth Orchestra of America (NYO). Sustaita regularly conducted and coached the orchestra during its New York residency and on their seven-city tour of China and Hong Kong.

A native of Texas, Sustaita completed his Doctorate and Bachelor of Music degrees at the University of Houston, where he served as Assistant Conductor for the Moores Opera Center for three seasons. He also earned a Master of Music degree from both Penn State University and Rice University.

His honors include: Schissler Conducting Fellowship, Rice University Prize and Provost Fellowship, and American Prize semi-finalist and finalist. His teachers and mentors include Carl St.Clair, Charles Dutoit, Franz Krager, Brett Mitchell, Gerardo Edelstein, and Paavo Järvi.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



David Stoneman, Baritone (Father)

David Stoneman is known for his work in both classic and modern opera. The California native has sung with opera companies from Santa Barbara to Boston in repertoire ranging from Henry Purcell to Philip Glass and in roles from Figaro to Scarpia. After studying locally, (Orange Coast College, Chapman University, and University of Southern California) he spent two decades in Boston and New York singing opera and oratorio. Locally, David has appeared in over a dozen concerts with Pacific Symphony. His oratorio repertoire includes works as diverse as the requiems of Mozart, Brahms, and Verdi, Stravinsky's *Mass*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Vaughan-Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*, Haydn's *Creation*, and Mendelssohn's *Elijah*.



Hannah Headland, Mezzo-Soprano (Hansel)

Mezzo-soprano Hannah Headland made her debut with Pacific Symphony's Family Musical Mornings in Rossini's *Cinderella* as Tisbe, one of the mean stepsisters. Her other roles include Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro* and Angelina in Rossini's *La Cenerentola* with Valley Opera and Performing Arts', Helena in Purcell's *The Fairy Queen* with Lyric Opera of Orange County, and the Mother in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* with Riverside Lyric Opera. She's worked with San Diego Opera, Opera San Luis Obispo, and South Coast Symphony. She is currently in the process of getting her Single Subject Teaching Credential with a focus in Music at California State University, Long Beach.



Chelsea Chaves, Soprano (Gretel)

Since graduating with her master's degree from the USC Thornton School of Music, Chelsea Chaves has sung with GRAMMY® Award-winning Pacific Chorale, soloed with Pacific Symphony, and performed at various private events around Los Angeles and Orange County. Chelsea is currently performing in Pacific Symphony's Class Act program and Long Beach Opera outreach. Roles performed include Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte* with the Astoria Music Festival, Hanna Glawari in *Die Lustige Witwe* with Chapman University, and Lay Sister in *Suor Angelica* with Opera Santa Barbara. For more information, visit www.chelseachaves.com.



ABOUT THE ARTISTS



Kiana Hamzehi, Mezzo-Soprano (Witch)

Kiana Hamzehi is thrilled to be making her professional operatic debut with Pacific Symphony at the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall. Her love for music began at the age of four with piano lessons and grew into an immense passion for opera and musical theater, spending much of her youth performing with Cabrillo Stage in roles such as Mimi in *RENT* and Gina in *Beehive! The 60's Musical*.

She holds both a Vocal Performance and a Theatre Arts degree from California State University, Fullerton, where in her final year she sang Zita in the university's double-billing of *Gianni Schicchi* and *Buoso's Ghost*. Kiana is also a staff singer at St. Thomas the Apostle in Hollywood and a singer-songwriter.



Abby Olson, Soprano (Sandman and Gingerbread Chorus)

Abby Olson is a student at Chapman University double majoring in Vocal Performance and Music Education. She is an *OC Register* Artist of the Year Semifinalist and recipient of numerous awards from organizations and competitions including the South Coast Symphony Young Stars of the Future. At Chapman, she is involved in University Singers and Opera Chapman, where she performed the role of Cinderella in fall opera scenes. Abby is thrilled to be

performing as the Sandman, and so thankful for the opportunity to be working with such talented people! She would like to thank her family, coaches, conductors, and everyone who has supported her.



Alexandria Burdick, Soprano (Dew Fairy and Gretel Understudy)

Alexandria Burdick is a soprano born and raised in Bakersfield, CA. She comes from a very musical family and grew up as a performer both in choirs and musical theater, where she found a true calling to music and performance. She then moved to Orange County and recently received her Bachelors in Music with an emphasis in Vocal Performance from California State University, Fullerton (CSUF).

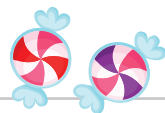
Since graduating, Alexandria has been working as a staff singer for the GRAMMY® Award-winning Pacific Chorale and performing locally in Orange County. Her time spent at CSUF and in Pacific Chorale have provided her many opportunities, and she is thrilled to now have been led to performing with Pacific Symphony!



Jessica Tonai, Soprano (Gingerbread Chorus and Dew Fairy Understudy)

Jessica Tonai is just starting out on her opera journey, and *Hansel & Gretel*-Opera for Kids will be her first professional production. She is currently pursuing a degree in music education and vocal performance at Chapman University, where she recently performed the role of the Fairy in Massenet's *Cinderella*.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



Julia Sapeta, Soprano (Gingerbread Chorus and Sandman Understudy)

Julia Sapeta is a lyric coloratura soprano from Keene, New Hampshire. She is a junior currently pursuing a degree in Vocal Performance and Global Communication and World Languages Studies at Chapman University. Under the tutelage of her voice teacher, Milena Kitic, Julia has had the pleasure of performing the roles of Cinderella and Prince Charming in Massenet's *Cendrillon*.

She is thrilled to be joining Pacific Symphony's Opera for Kids series as a member of the Gingerbread Children's Chorus!

Emily Border, Mezzo-Soprano (Gingerbread Chorus, Hansel and Witch Understudy)



Emily Border is thrilled to be making her debut with Pacific Symphony's Family Music Mornings in this production of *Hansel and Gretel*! She holds a Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance from Biola University, and currently studies with Dr. Susan Ali. Past stage credits include: *Alice! An Immersive Adventure!* (Queen of Hearts), *South Pacific* (Nellie), *Les Misérables* (Cosette), *Little Women* (Jo March), *Into The Woods* (Cinderella), *The Music Man* (Marian Paroo), and others. Presently, Emily has the honor of singing on staff with

the Pacific Chorale and the Los Angeles Master Chorale, and performs regularly in the Orange County and Los Angeles areas as a soloist. She'd like to thank her wonderful husband for his unwavering support of all of her musical and creative endeavors, and of course, all of the amazing parents who are fostering a love of opera in their children by bringing them to events like this!

Michael Segura, Baritone (Father Understudy)



Michael Segura is a young artist with a Bachelor's in Vocal Performance from California State University, Fullerton (CSUF). Michael shared his artistry through roles such as Papageno in *The Magic Flute* and Mercutio in *Roméo et Juliette* with Lyric Opera of Orange County, *Gianni Schicchi* and *Don Giovanni* (in their eponymous titles) with CSUF, as well as Dandini in *Cinderella* and Belcore in *Elixir of Love* with Pacific Symphony. Additionally, he works with southern California ensembles such as San Diego

Opera as a chorister (appearing in their premiere of *El último sueño de Frida y Diego*) and Pacific Chorale as a staff singer.



ABOUT THE ARTISTS



Peter L. Atherton (Director and Script Writer)

Peter L. Atherton, stage director, is Professor Emeritus at the Hall-Musco Conservatory, Chapman University. For more than 40 years, he performed and directed extensively in opera, oratorio, concert, and musical theater throughout the United States and Europe. His operatic and concert credits include performances with the Los Angeles Opera, Seattle Opera, Baltimore Opera, Lyric Opera Cleveland, Wolf Trap Opera, San Francisco Opera Touring Division, Opera Atelier, Cairo Opera, the Opera Estate of Rome and Verona as well as Los Angeles Philharmonic, L'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Basel Chamber Orchestra, Bach Cercle Genève, International Chamber Ensemble Rome, Los Angeles Master Chorale, and Orchestre de Belgique. Dr. Atherton's teaching legacy includes current and former students who have won major international competitions, have been accepted into the most prestigious graduate programs and Young Artist Programs in Europe and the United States, and have performed with major opera companies and symphonies throughout the United States and Europe. He is thrilled to be returning to director Pacific Symphony's Family Musical Mornings Opera in 2023!



Janet Kao (Rehearsal and Lobby Performance Accompanist)

Dr. Janet Kao is an accomplished musician with extensive experience as a solo pianist, vocal/instrumental collaborator, and an opera coach. She has performed across the world including Alice Tully Hall in New York City, Harris Concert Hall in Aspen, Preston Bradley Hall in Chicago, and the National Concert Hall of Taiwan. Since 2015, Dr. Kao has participated in the "Opera for Kids" productions with the Pacific Symphony. She also serves as a staff

accompanist at the Idyllwild Arts Academy summer program. Dr. Kao holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Keyboard Collaborative Arts from the University of Southern California, in addition to a collaborative arts degree from The Juilliard School, and a piano performance degree from the Peabody Conservatory. Dr. Kao is currently an adjunct professor and opera coach at Fullerton College and Chapman University.

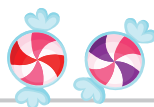


Laure Dike (Costume Coordinator)

Laure Dike holds a B.F.A. in dance from the University of California in Irvine. Her career began as a Training and Development Supervisor for The Walt Disney Company, where she coordinated the Management Intern Program, and the Ambassador selection and training. She returned to the arts as a choreographer, coach, costume designer, and creative consultant for the Norco High School Choral Association for over 20 years. She received an

accommodation from the city's mayor for her work with the youth in the arts. She has designed costumes for Chapman University's Opera Program for nine seasons, and Pacific Symphony's Opera for Kids, *Elixir of Love*. Currently Laure is on the board for the Inland Empire Quilters Guild.

SPOTLIGHT ON VOICE



For many people, picking up an instrument to play is a brand-new experience. They spend years learning an instrument like the violin, clarinet, or French horn. However, people can make music with an instrument they were born with—their voice! The **human voice** is an instrument, and there are so many musical ways to use your voice! Try to make music yourself—you can **speak, sing, hum, or even make noise that imitates percussion!**

Instruments in an orchestra are grouped into families, but the voice is an instrument all its own. However, the voice is like an orchestral instrument, in that the voice has different names based on a singer's **range**. These names are also called **voice types**. Some people have **high voices**, while others have **low voices**. In between these types, some people have **medium voices**. In **opera**, singers' vocal ranges are very important and different **characters** have different vocal types. Usually, women characters have a **high female voice**, called a **soprano**, or a **lower female voice**, called a **mezzo-soprano**. Men portrayed in opera also have different vocal types. **High male voices** are called **tenors**, **medium-low voices** are called **baritones**, and the **lowest voices** heard are **basses**.

SPOTLIGHT ON OPERA

Opera is a **genre** of music. Genres are types of music that are different based on their **musical characteristics**. One very important musical characteristic of an opera is that music is set to a **drama**. Performers **sing and act**. This means that in an opera, performers are **singers** as well as **actors**!

However, operas also have musicians that are not part of the drama on stage. The performers on stage usually sing while an **orchestra** plays music to accompany the sung music. One musical style where the orchestra accompanies a singer is called an **aria**. Arias are long **solos**, which is a piece of music performed by one person. A singer's aria can be accompanied with the orchestra or sung **a capella**, which means that singers perform without the orchestra or accompaniment. When a singer is joined by one other singer during a song, this is called a **duet** or **duo**, and if there are a lot of singers on stage performing, this is called a **chorus**.



SPOTLIGHT ON THE COMPOSER



Engelbert Humperdinck was a **German composer** known for his opera ***Hansel & Gretel***. He was born in 1854 and took **piano** lessons as a child. Humperdinck wrote his first composition when he was just seven years old! Although his parents wanted him to be an architect, Humperdinck went on to study music at the **Cologne Conservatory** and even won a scholarship to study in Munich, Germany! He won prizes for his compositions that allowed him to travel all over Europe and eventually became a music professor at **Hoch Conservatory** in Frankfurt in 1887!



ABOUT THE STORY

The original story of ***Hansel & Gretel*** was a fairy tale that was first published in **Grimm's Fairy Tales, by the Brothers Grimm in 1812**. The fairy tales were collected from stories heard throughout the region of **Hesse, Germany**, where the Brothers Grimm grew up. While you enjoy today's opera by Engelbert Humperdinck, you'll notice there are a few changes to the original story. The original story, like many of the Grimm Brothers' fairy tales, were called "children's tales." However, they weren't suitable for children, as some of the situations were very intense. In the original version, the poor children ran away from home to find food. They leave a trail of breadcrumbs to be sure they can find their way home if they need to return.

In our production today, Hansel and Gretel are busy completing their chores and singing while they wait for dinner from their mother and father. They are sent out to the woods to pick strawberries for dessert and are unable to find their way home. They fall asleep in the woods, thanks to the Sandman. When they wake, they realize how hungry they are and discover the gingerbread candy house in the woods where they are exploring.

The great part is that in both versions, the children are safe and sound in the end. Hansel and Gretel show a lot of bravery and overcome a very nasty antagonist—the Witch who owns the gingerbread house.

Thank You!

Pacific Symphony thanks the following for their generous contributions of time to Family Musical Mornings and Heartstrings: Pacific Symphony League, arts-X-press alumni, volunteers in education.

If you would like to volunteer for Pacific Symphony events, please contact Director of Volunteer Services, Abby Edmunds at aedmunds@pacificsymphony.org or (714) 876-2353 for more information.

HANSEL AND GRETEL WORD SEARCH

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HANSEL	GRETEL
WITCH	BREAD
CRUMBS	FATHER
CANDY	ICING
HOUSE	
FOREST	
GRETEL	
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