

KONDOROSSY *Leslie*

1954



THE AMERICAN NEW OPERA
THEATER SOCIETY

Presents

THE WORLD PREMIERE
OF TWO ONE ACT OPERAS

The Voice

AND

The Pumpkin

BY

LESLIE KONDOROSSY

•
CONDUCTOR:

DR. EDWARD G. EVANS, JR.

STAGE DIRECTOR:

WILMA UBELITIS

ORCHESTRA:

Cleveland Chamber Orchestra
(Members of The Cleveland Orchestra)

•
Saturday Evening, 8:15 O'clock

May 15, 1954

•
Severance Chamber Music Hall
11001 EUCLID AVE., CLEVELAND

DEAR MUSIC LOVERS:

Since the beginning of musical history, new composers had to struggle for recognition of their object.

This especially applies to new operatic composers whose chances for having their compositions produced are hampered, because it is evident that most music lovers prefer to attend a major opera performance, and the larger opera houses cannot take the risk of a loss.

However, the interest in music is growing rapidly in America. Opera Workshops have been established to enable young talented opera singers to gain stage experience and also to bring good music more frequently to the various communities. Whenever possible, a new opera is produced.

Many organizations offer annually an award for the best musical score submitted. But in the meantime, many a promising composer who had spent a life time writing operas, do not have the opportunity of having them produced.

For this main reason, "The American New Opera Theater Society" organized to enable new composers an opportunity of having their operas presented. At the same time, good singers will also have a chance to display their talents.

The American New Opera Theater Society is a non-profit organization. Its chief function is to further cultural life in our community. The proceeds will be used for the production of present operas as well as the future.

This forthcoming season, nine One-Act operas are scheduled for production. The following two will be presented on May 15, 1954.

The Voice - The Pumpkin By Leslie Kondorossy

We are asking the major newspapers and their musical critics to publicize this worthy cause by urging new composers, who as yet have not had their operas produced, to contact THE AMERICAN NEW OPERA THEATER SOCIETY at 13001 Parkhill Avenue, Cleveland 20, Ohio.

We hope to be supported by a sizeable committee for the sale of the tickets, so that our opera audience will be in large number.

THE AMERICAN NEW OPERA THEATER SOCIETY

HONORARY CHAIRMAN

HON. ANTHONY J. CELEBREZZE

MAYOR

MUSICAL JUDGES

- ELMORE BACON *Music Critic of The Cleveland News*
- DR. EDWARD G. EVANS, JR. *Conductor, Composer and Professor of Music, Western Reserve University.*
- FREDERIC GONDA *Director of Rehabilitation Public Auditorium*
- LASZLO KRAUSZ *Conductor of The Akron Symphony Orchestra and The Cleveland Chamber Orchestra*

GEORGE POINAR *Conductor of Opera and Concert, Head of the String Department of Baldwin Wallace College*

DR. RUDOLPH RINGWALL *Associate Conductor of The Cleveland Orchestra*

GLENN SCHNITTKER *Head of the Voice Department of Baldwin Wallace College*

MRS. ROSE WIDDER *Pianist, Teacher and Cleveland Correspondent of "Musical Courier" and "Musical Leader"*

THE VOICE

Story by Stephen N. Linek

THE VOICE *Mrs. Edward G. Evans, Jr.*
STEPHEN *William Martin*

"The Voice" is a modern sophisticated fairy tale. It is the story of a love of the past that was sweet, young and daring, remembered half in delight and half in remorse.

The story takes place in the apartment of a young professor of psychology who is endowed with talent, knowledge and cursed with imagination.

The professor receives a telephone call from his fiancee who reminds him of their date.

Just as soon as he puts down the receiver, the girl of the past who still lives in his memory, becomes so vivid that it makes her visible and her voice audible.

"The Voice," personified by the apparition of the girl it once belonged to, almost succeeds in luring the young man away from his fiancee.

At the last moment, however, the professor realizes that the realities with which we have to contend with, regardless of imperfections, are more important to our existence than people and things conjured out of sheer airy stuff.

The professor receives another telephone call from his fiancee and in a great outburst of good old earthly joy, he decides to marry the girl who is of this world.

The professor's fiancee who was at the other end of the telephone wire, never imagined that she was almost stood up by her young man.

THE PUMPKIN

English Version by Caroline Kulin and Dr. Janis Klavins

- SHIRLEY *Josephine Daugela*
- HELEN *Wilma Ubelitis*
- ROSEMARY *Aldona Stempuzis*
- JOHNNY *Janis Klavins*

There's no problem facing Helen's modest farmhold at the early morning hour. Helen's chief concern is to attend to her hoeing and to get her daughter Shirley off to work who is slow in getting started. Shirley merely gazes at their garden and admires it all.

In the garden, they sing a duet. The song was popular many years ago.

Very suddenly, Helen notices hens strolling into her garden. They are her neighbor Rosemary's hens, because she knows that there is a small path connecting their gardens. This arouses her anger and Shirley tries to console her mother by reminding her that Rosemary is their dear friend.

Presently, Helen also notices that the vine of their pumpkin rambled into Rosemary's garden and a beautiful pumpkin grew on it. Helen becomes angrier and Shirley tries her best to protect Rosemary.

Helen calls Rosemary. When she arrives, Helen informs her of the two incidents. Both women quarrel and finally leave without further words.

Shirley enters and calls Johnnie who is her husband-to-be and also Rosemary's son. She discusses the pumpkin situation with Johnnie and asks him what they should do, as she does not want their friendship to break because of an ordinary pumpkin.

He takes out a pocket knife, cuts the pumpkin from the stem and urges Shirley to call the mothers. The moment she leaves, he cuts the pumpkin in half, puts it back together again and places it in Helen's garden.

When Shirley and the mothers arrive, Johnnie tells them that he saw the pumpkin go into Helen's garden. With downcast eyes, the two women apologize for their uncalled for reactions regarding the pumpkin.

Just as Helen and Rosemary pick up the pumpkin in an endeavor to divide it between them, the pumpkin falls apart. The mothers exclaim that even if the pumpkin did fall apart, at least, the happy young couple will unite. They then embrace.

CLEVELAND MUSIC CRITICS WROTE AS FOLLOWS REGARDING MR. KONDOROSSY'S LAST OPERA

(June 28, 1953 - Music Hall)

"Night in the Puszta" is melodious and effective. The Magyar lowlands had brilliance, beautiful solos, duets and trios, a couple of quartets, a beautiful one in fugal form, and in general a flow of Hungarian folk music rich in melody and cleverly presented." *Elmore Bacon, The Cleveland News*

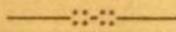
"Hungarian opera is given high-level performance. The orchestra conducted by George Poinar, produced beautiful, tuneful music, modern yet mystical in spirit."

Rena C. Holtkamp, The Cleveland Plain Dealer

"The music is pretty and appropriate. The melodies have a flavor somewhere between folk tunes and light opera."

Arthur Loesser, The Cleveland Press

The State Department's radio "Voice of America" and "Radio Free Europe" broadcasted the "Night in the Puszta" to Europe.



TICKETS AVAILABLE AT—

MRS. HELEN PETROVICH	
13001 Parkhill Avenue	Longacre 1-8471
FARKAS TAILORING	
2708 East 93rd Street	SWetbriar 1-0977
MINJONA KLAVINS	
3274 West 31st Street	SHadyside 1-6606
\$2.50	\$2.00
	\$1.50

