

# **FABRIZIO'S COMET**

**THIS ACTIVITY IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE GENEROSITY OF THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION THROUGH A GRANT FROM THE SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA ARTS COUNCIL AND THE VALUABLE GUIDANCE OF MELISSA HAGER FROM THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT, FOUNDATION, AND CORPORATE RELATIONS AT ST. OLAF COLLEGE.**

**SYNOPSIS: WHEN A SKEPTICAL 18TH-CENTURY DEVIL'S ADVOCATE IS SENT FROM ROME TO JUDGE THE SAINTHOOD CANDIDACY OF A MUCH-REVERED 17TH-CENTURY PRIEST AND HEALER FROM THE TOWN OF CREMONA, ITALY HE SOON FINDS HIMSELF CAUGHT UP IN THE MIRACULOUS TALES AND SECRET LIFE OF THE MAN CALLED DON FABRIZIO CAMBIATI.**

**THROUGH THE MAGIC OF HALLEY'S COMET, TIME TRAVEL, LUSTY ELIXIRS, FORBIDDEN LOVE, AND A TOWN BENT ON HAVING ITS OWN SAINT THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE SOON FINDS HIMSELF ON THE SAME PERILOUS PATH AS THE PRIEST HE WAS SENT TO JUDGE.**

## **CREATIVE TEAM**

**JAMES MCKEEL – COMPOSER/LIBRETTIST/STAGE DIRECTOR**

**MARK FRUTKIN – AUTHOR/CO-LIBRETTIST**

**NATALIA ROMERO – MUSIC DIRECTOR/CONDUCTOR**

**CARL SCHOENBORN – SET/LIGHTING DESIGNER**

**HANNAH MCCLURE – STAGE MANAGER**

**COLE SWANSON – PIANIST/COACH**

**JARED MILLER – PIANIST/COACH**

**ANNA MOOY – MUSIC COACH**

**KATERINA MIDDELDORP – HAIR/MAKE UP/COSTUMES**

**CHLOE ELZEY – COSTUMES**

**SAMANTHA NOONAN – CLOCK DESIGN/ELETTRA UNDERSTUDY**

**ERIC BROKER – PUBLIC RELATIONS**

**KELLY LEUNG – PHOTOGRAPHER**

**PAUL HAGER – VIDEOGRAPHER**

**STREAMING VIDEO – JEFFREY O'DONNELL**

**SPECIAL THANKS: NATALIA ROMERO, KATERINA MIDDELDORP, CHLOE ELZEY, ST. OLAF MUSIC DEPARTMENT, ALISON FELDT, MELISSA HAGER, CHERYL BRISTOL, BARBARA BARTH, AIMEE JILLSON, TODD EDWARDS, ST. OLAF THEATER DEPARTMENT, GWEN DANIELS, WENDELL ARNESON, AND SAMANTHA NOONAN**

# CAST

## 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY:

DON FABRIZIO CAMBIATI, CANDIDATE FOR SAINTHOOD	ERIC BROKER
OMERO, HIS MANSERVANT	ANDREW KREYE
AGOSTINO, DUKE OF CREMONA	ANDREW HORTON
MARIA ANDREA, DUCHESS OF CREMONA	CHLOE ELZEY
RODOLFO, MAN OF THE REEDS (ETERNAL?)	DUNCAN TUOMI
NICCOLO, MASTER VIOLINMAKER	FRANKLIN MCLEOD
SISTER MERISI, A CREMONESE NUN (YOUNG)	KATERINA MIDDELDORP
VALENTINA, CREMONESE MERCHANT (YOUNG)	VANESSA LOPEZ

## 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

MONSIGNOR MICHELE ARCHENTI, DEVIL'S ADVOCATE	HARRISON HINTZSCHE
PIETRO, DUKE OF CREMONA	ANDREW HORTON
FRANCESCA, DUCHESS OF CREMONA	MARIA COYNE
ELETTRA, THEIR DAUGHTER	DANIELLE LONG
MARIA ANDREA, NOW GRANDMOTHER OF PIETRO	HANNAH HERNDON
RODOLFO, MAN OF THE REEDS (ETERNAL?)	DUNCAN TUOMI
SISTER MERISI, A CREMONESE NUN (OLD)	KATERINA MIDDELDORP
VALENTINA, CREMONESE MERCHANT (OLD)	VANESSA LOPEZ
COACHBOY	HANNAH HERNDON
ANGELO, THE DA'S SCRIBE	CHRISTA SCHMIDT
PADRE ATTILIO BODINI, ZEALOT PRIEST	DUNCAN TUOMI

## COMMEDIA DELL'ARTE PLAYERS

ARLECCHINO 1	EMILY NYBERG
ARLECCHINO 2	SARAH BAUER
THE BULL	CHRISTOPHER FLICEK
PANTALONE, OLD RICH MAN	EMILY NYBERG
AURORA, A LOVER	SAMANTHA NOONAN
OTTAVIO, A LOVER	ANDREW KREYE
UGO, THE MANTUAN HUNCHBACK VIOLINMAKER	CHRISTOPHER FLICEK
MOUNTEBANK	WENIE LADO
SIRENS	ELLEN CHRISTENSEN
	MYRTLE LEMON
	EMILY NYBERG

## **ORCHESTRA**

### **STRINGS**

DANIEL McDONALD, VIOLIN  
COURTNEY BREYER, VIOLIN  
TIM APOLLONI, VIOLIN  
KELLY MCNEILLY, VIOLA  
LAUREN CULVER, VIOLA  
INGRID ELZEY, CELLO  
ERIC LOUKAS, BASS

### **PERCUSSION**

GEOFF BENTSEN  
HENRY HUBER

### **BRASS**

J-P DOUGLAS, TRUMPET  
MILLER LAMOTTE, FRENCH HORN  
NATHAN WOLFE, TROMBONE  
ELIZABETH NEDLAND, TUBA

### **WINDS**

SOPHIA HAHN, OBOE  
GRETA JENNISSEN, FLUTE

### **KEYBOARDS**

COLE SWANSON, PIANO  
JOHN HOLMSTROM, HARPSICHORD

## **ACT I**

### **OVERTURE**

1. THE MIRACLES OF CAMBIATI I
2. RACE TO THE TOWER
3. I, THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE
4. THE ALCHEMIST'S LAIR
5. THERE WILL BE NO WEDDING
6. THE MIRACLES OF CAMBIATI II
7. THE ELIXIR OF LUST
8. THE TWO ARLECCHINOS
9. THE CURES OF CAMBIATI
10. A CHILD FOR THE DUKE
11. TRANSCENDENCE
12. SONG OF THE VIOLIN
13. BLINDING LIGHT

CHORUS/SOLOS, PERISI  
CHORUS/SOLOS, FABRIZIO, Omero  
ADVOCATE  
ADVOCATE, PERISI  
ELETTRA, FRANCESCA  
CHORUS/SOLOS, PERISI, ADVOCATE  
MOUNTEBANK, SIRENS, TROUPE  
ARLECCHINO 1&2  
CHORUS/SOLOS  
MARIA, FABRIZIO  
CHORUS/FABRIZIO  
MARIA, FABRIZIO, Omero  
MARIA, FABRIZIO

## **INTERMISSION (10 MINUTES)**

## **ACT II**

1. THE ROAD TO MANTUA
2. THE DEATH OF INNOCENCE
3. INTERVIEWS WITH THE ADVOCATE
4. LOVE CONQUERS ALL
5. HER BEAUTY IS ALL PROMISE
6. THE MIRACLES OF CAMBIATI III
7. THE CROWDED CONFESSIONAL
8. WHEN PRIESTS BECOME LOVERS
9. THE APOCALYPSE
10. A PERFECT DAY FOR A WEDDING
11. THE PATRON SAINT OF WONDER

UGO, ARLECCHINO 2,  
CHORUS, ELETTRA, UGO, FRANCESCA, PIETRO  
ADVOCATE, DUCHESS MOTHER, RODOLFO  
ADVOCATE, ELETTRA  
ADVOCATE  
CHORUS/SOLOS, ADVOCATE, PERISI  
FABRIZIO, Omero, AGOSTINO, RODOLFO, MARIA  
FABRIZIO, ADVOCATE, MARIA, ELETTRA  
CHORUS, BODINI, ADVOCATE  
ELET., ADV., PIE., FRAN., DUCH. MOTH., MOUNT.  
CHORUS, FABRIZIO, Omero

## The Artists

**Mark Frutkin** has published eight novels, three collections of poetry, and three works of non fiction. His work has appeared in Canada (Knopf, Random House and others), the US (Soho Press), England (Carcenet Press), Russia, Poland, Holland, South Korea, Turkey and India. In 2007, his novel, **Fabrizio's Return**, won the Trillium Prize for Best Book in Ontario and the Sunburst Award, and was nominated for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best Book (Canada/Caribbean region). In 1988, his novel, **Atmospheres Apollinaire**, was short-listed for the Governor General's Award for Fiction and was also short-listed for the Trillium Award, as well as the Ottawa/Carleton Book Award. As a journalist and critic he has written articles and reviews for The Globe & Mail, Harper's, the Ottawa Citizen, Montreal Gazette, Amazon.com/ca, Ottawa Magazine and other publications. His poetry and fiction have been published in numerous Canadian and foreign journals including Canadian Fiction Magazine, Descant, Prism International, New Letters (USA), and others.

He has also worked as a speechwriter for a Member of Parliament, federal ministers and high tech executives, and was editor of ArtAction Magazine and co-editor of ARC Magazine, the poetry journal. He has taught creative writing at Carleton University, University of Ottawa, the University Of New Brunswick, University of Western Ontario and Naropa Institute in Halifax.

**James McKeel**, professor of music at St. Olaf College and director of its Lyric Theatre Season, has for 35 years advocated arts outreach in Minnesota through his composing, performing, directing, and teaching with Minnesota organizations such as Minnesota Opera, The Twin Cities Opera Guild, The Schubert Club, Young Audiences Inc., Minnesota Orchestra, American Composers Forum, Southern Theater, WAMSO, Minnesota Institute for Talented Youth, New Works Ensemble, Duluth Symphony, Midwest Opera Theater, St. Paul Landmark Center, Macalester College, Carleton College, St. John's University, and St. Olaf College.

As a composer of over 70 major work including operas, operettas, musicals, choral works, film scores (premiered in New York and France), arts songs, and song cycles Mr. McKeel has received commissions, grants, and premieres from the McKnight Foundation, SEMAC (Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council), The Kennedy Center, Minnesota Opera, Minnesota Composers Forum, The Jerome Foundation, The Blandin Foundation, The Margaret Jory-Fairbanks Foundation, Midwest Opera Theater, The Southern Theater, The Twin Cities Opera Guild, St. Olaf College, and Bel Canto Voices, among others.

His lyric theatre works include *The Mysteries*, a staged philosophical oratorio, *Love Sonnets of a Hoodlum*, a jazz-era mobster-in-love opera, *The Hero of Hamblett*, a medieval fantasy children's opera based on an award-winning-children's book, *Reveille to Requiem*, an opera concerning Minnesotans in the Civil War, and *Jargonauts, Ahoy!*, a children's fantasy opera about the power of words, which was commissioned by Minnesota Opera and the Jerome Foundation, toured for two years, was seen by over 20,000 students, and featured in a PBS special on reading.

His choral song cycle, *In Reference to a Child*, was commissioned by the Bel Canto Voices, featured in the Kennedy Center's "*Year of the Child*" concert, and toured throughout the South Pacific.

As a performer Mr. McKeel has sung over 70 roles with the opera companies of Santa Fe, Minnesota, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Muny, and Baltimore as well as England's Aldeburgh Festival, Guthrie Theatre, Plymouth Music Series, Dale Warland Singers, Kennedy Center, American Composers' Forum, New Works Ensemble, Midwest Opera Theater, Duluth Symphony, and the Minnesota & St. Paul Chamber Orchestras. Leading roles range from *The Magic Flute* & *The Marriage of Figaro* to *La Boheme* & *Carmen* to premieres of *Casanova's Homecoming*, *The Juniper Tree*, and the award-winning *A Death in the Family*.

Other performances include *Lady in the Dark*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *The Threepenny Opera*, the critically-acclaimed premiere of *The Three Hermits*, the award-winning *Paul Bunyan* with England's Aldeburgh Festival and Plymouth Music Festival, and *As You Like It* at the Guthrie Theatre with Val Kilmer and Patti Lapone.

