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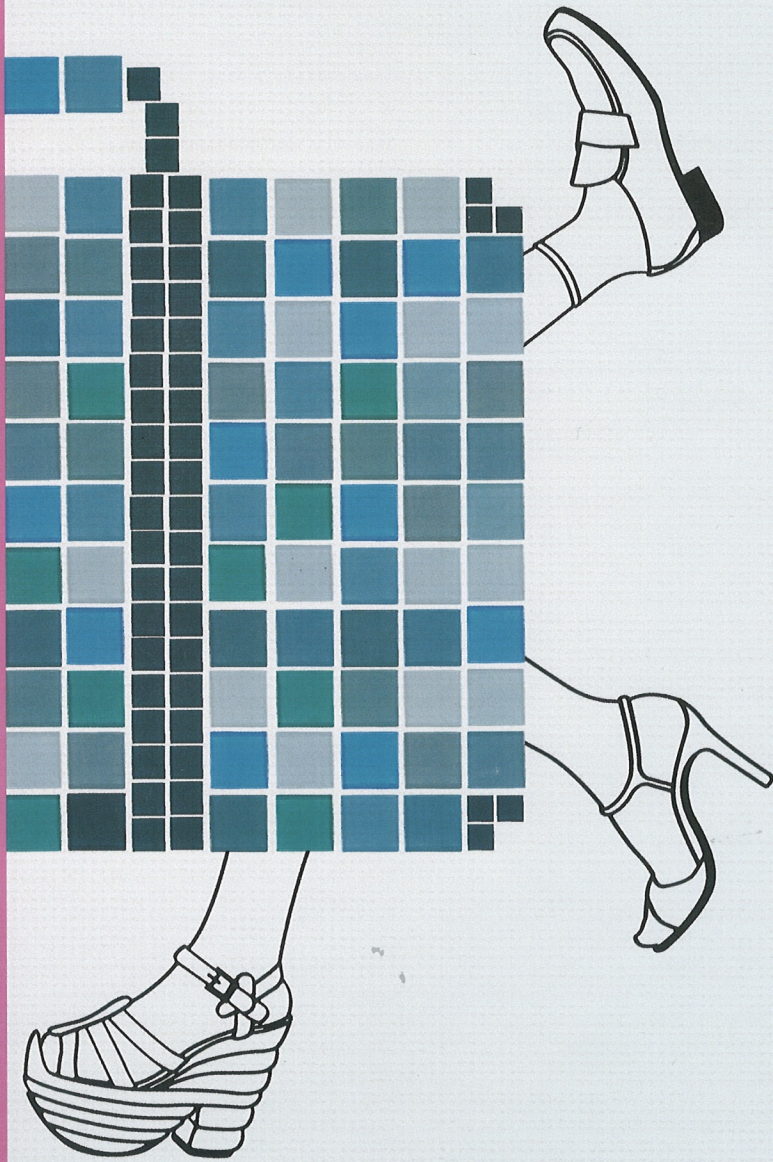
the little OPERA theatre of ny presents

# OPPORTUNITY MAKES THE THIEF

OPERA BY **GIOACHINO ROSSINI**  
CONDUCTED BY **JAMES BAGWELL**  
DIRECTED BY **PHILIP SHNEIDMAN**

**FEBRUARY 22 - MARCH 2, 2014**

BILL  
THEATER B



the little OPERA theatre of ny  
presents

# Opportunity <sup>makes</sup> the Thief

By

GIOACHINO ROSSINI

*Libretto by*

LUIGI  
PRIVIDALI

*Translation by*

MARK HERMAN  
& RONNIE APTER

*Conducted by*

JAMES  
BAGWELL

*Directed by*

PHILIP  
SHNEIDMAN

*CAST in order of vocal appearance*

DON PARMENIONE

*An adventurer*

JOSEPH FLAXMAN \*

ERIC McKEEVER +

MARTINO

*His travelling companion*

MATTHEW SINGER \*

ADELMO GUIDARELLI +

COUNT ALBERTO

*Engaged to Berenice*

K'IDAR MILLER \*

NICHOLAS SIMPSON +

BERENICE

*A Marchesa*

SHARIN APOSTOLOU \*

JULIE-ANNE HAMULA +

ERNESTINA

*Friend to Berenice*

ELIZABETH POJANOWSKI \*

CABIRIA JACOBSEN +

DON EUSEBIO

*Uncle to Berenice*

JOHN KAPUSTA \*

MARCOS VIGIL +

WAITRESS / VALET / MAID

MINAH YIM

\* PERFORMANCES ON 2/22, 2/25, 2/27, 3/1

+ PERFORMANCES ON 2/23 (MAT), 2/26, 2/28, 3/2 (MAT)

## CREATIVE TEAM

*Conductor*

JAMES BAGWELL

*Wardrobe Assistant*

*Stage Manager*

JAMIE BERTOLUZZI

*Director*

PHILIP SHNEIDMAN

*Assistant Scenic Design*

CATE McCREA

*Scenic Design*

NEIL PATEL

*Assistant to the*

*Costume Designer*

KIM GOINGS

*Costume Design*

LARA DE BRUIJN

*Props*

RACHEL SCHNEIDER

*Lighting Design*

MIKE RIGGS

*Music Arrangements*

CHRISTOPHER ZUAR

*Associate*

*Music Director*

CATHERINE MILLER

*Master Electrician*

MICHAEL ROCHE

*Production*

*Stage Manager*

AARON HEFLICH

SHAPIRO

*Additional Rehearsal*

*Pianists*

CATHY VENABLE,

CONRAD CHU

*Production Manager*

JOSHUA KOHLER

*Assistant Company*

*Manager*

VERÓNICA AVANIC

*Production Assistant*

MINAH YIM

## CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

*Conductor, Harpsichord*

JAMES BAGWELL

*Violin (Concertmaster)*

JANEY CHOI

*Violin*

MAYUMI WYRICK

*Viola*

DENISE CRIDGE

*Cello*

MELANIE MASON

*Flute/piccolo*

MARGARET LANCASTER

*Oboe*

SLAVA ZNATCHENII

*Clarinet*

BORIS SHPITALNIK

*Alternate Flute/piccolo*

CLARE HOFFMAN

*Alternate violin*

STANICHKA DIMITROVA

The setting is Naples and the surrounding area

The running time of *Opportunity Makes The Thief* is 80 minutes without an intermission

## ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868) wrote his first opera in 1810. *L'occasione fa il ladro* is one of five one act operas. Three months after its premiere, his opera *Tancredi* was performed at Teatro La Fenice. Six months later, *L'italiana in Algeri* appeared for the first time at the Teatro San Benedetto, also in Venice. Rossini wrote 39 operas.

## ABOUT THE TRANSLATORS

Mark Herman and Ronnie Apter's translations of operas, operettas, and choral works have been performed in the United States, Canada, England and Scotland. Their work has been called "highly sing-able" in *The New York Times*, "lively" in *The London Times*, and "remarkably deft" in *The Village Voice*. Many of their poetry translations have appeared in literary magazines. They are currently writing a book on *Translating for Singing* to be published in England in 2015.

## ABOUT THE CAST

### SHARIN APOSTOLOU

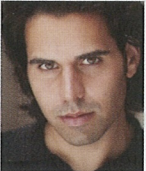
(*Berenice - soprano*)



Opera: LOTNY (*The Wandering Scholar*), Portland Opera (*Rinaldo*, *L'enfant et les sortilèges*, *La Calisto*, *Albert Herring*); Shreveport Opera (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *Rigoletto*) Caramoor (*Ciro in Babilonia*, *Norma*); Utah Opera (*Falstaff*), Macao International Music Festival (*Dido and Aeneas*), Wichita Grand Opera (*Don Pasquale*), OperaDelaware (*L'elisir d'amore*) Upcoming: Glimmerglass Festival (*Carousel*), Wichita Grand (*Barber of Seville*).

### JOSEPH FLAXMAN

(*Parmenione - baritone*)



Opera: Castleon Festival (*La Fanciulla del West*, *Otello*), Opera Memphis (*Così fan tutte*), Teatro Grattacielo (*La Nave*), Lyrique-emer (*Otello*). Upcoming: Munich Philharmonic (*La Fanciulla del West*, December 2014), Hartford Wagner Festival (*Das Rheingold*, August 2014), Bronx Opera (*La Traviata*, May 2014), Raylynmor Opera (*Gianni Schicchi*, April 2014).

### ADELMO GUIDARELLI

(*Martino - baritone*)



Awards: 2011 MAC award for Best Comedy Performer (Operation Opera). Upcoming: April 2014 - Lincoln Center debut (Operation Opera). Likes: long walks on the beach, bunny rabbits, and being Googled.

### JULIE-ANNE HAMULA

(*Berenice - soprano*)



Opera: Opera Naples (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Showboat*), Tri-Cities Opera (*Rigoletto*, *Così fan tutte*, *L'elisir d'amore*, *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*), Bronx Opera (*The Rivals*, *The Poisoned Kiss*). Awards: Jenny Lind Competition, Marcella Sembrich Competition, The Orpheus Competition, CareerBridges. Upcoming: Fundacion ProLirica de Antioquia (*La Bohème- Medellin, Colombia*)

### CABIRIA JACOBSEN

(*Ernestina - mezzo-soprano*)



Opera: Bronx Opera (*The Rivals*, *The Poisoned Kiss*), North Shore Music Festival (*Il Tabarro*), Tri-Cities Opera (*Die Zauberflöte*, *Les Contes d'Hoffman*, *Così fan tutte*) Opera North (*Le Nozze di Figaro*). Awards: Ilene D. Kaplan Award: Connecticut Opera Guild, Encouragement Award: Schuyler Foundation for Career Bridges.

### JOHN KAPUSTA

(*Eusebio - tenor*)



Opera: Music Academy of the West (*The Magic Flute*, *The Rake's Progress*). Awards: First Place winner, 2014 Metropolitan Opera National Council Eastern Region (will compete in National Semi-Finals in March, 2014). Upcoming:

Glimmerglass Festival (*Ariadne auf Naxos*, *An American Tragedy*).

### ERIC MCKEEVER

(*Parmenione - baritone*)



Opera: The Metropolitan Opera Guild (*The Magic Flute*), Center for Contemporary Opera (*El Cimarrón*), Skylight Music Theater (*El Cimarrón*, *Fidelio*) Winter Opera St. Louis (*Faust*), St. Petersburg Opera (*Ariadne auf Naxos*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*) Upcoming: Opera Naples (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*), Lebanon Symphony (*Porgy and Bess*).

### K'IDAR MILLER

(*Alberto - tenor*)



Opera: MSM Opera (*The Mother of Us All*), St. Anastasia Performances (*Amahl and the Night Visitors*) Concerts: Opera Ebony (*Frederick Douglass*, *Sass 'N Class Cabaret*) Metro Chamber Orchestra (*Attila*; *Nabucco*)

Upcoming: MSM Opera (*The Magic Flute*, *Samson*), Opera Ebony (*No Cowards in Our Band-Atlanta Cyclorama*).

### ELIZABETH POJANOWSKI

(*Ernestina - mezzo soprano*)



New York City Opera (Shelley in *Anna Nicole*), Opera Saratoga (*Prince Orlofsky*, *Fledermaus*), Eugene Opera (Siébel in *Faust*), Cincinnati Opera (Mercédès in *Carmen*, Nancy T'ang in *Nixon in China*), Chautauqua Opera (The Fox in *Cunning Little Vixen*). Upcoming: Opera Omaha (Tisbe in *Cenerentola*, April 2014).

### NICHOLAS SIMPSON

(*Alberto - tenor*)



Opera: Altoona Symphony (*Cavalleria Rusticana*), Gotham Chamber Opera (*Il sogno di Scipione*), Utah Festival Opera (*La Traviata*, *Tosca*), Union Avenue Opera (*Turn of the Screw*, *Norma*) Baldwin Wallace Wagner Intensive (*Tannhäuser highlights*), Brooklyn Symphony (*Missa Solemnis*), ChorusAustin (*Petite Messe Solennelle*) Upcoming: Fort Worth Opera (*Silent Night*).

## MATTHEW SINGER

(Martino - baritone)



Opera: LOTNY (*The Reformed Drunkard*), Salt Marsh Opera (*Lucia di Lammermoor*, *La Bohème*), Opera in the Highlands (*I Pagliacci*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*) Asheville Lyric Opera (*Le nozze di Figaro*, *The Merry Widow*), Light Opera Oklahoma (*The Mikado*, *Too Many Sopranos*). Upcoming: Norwalk Symphony (*Carmen*, May 2014).

## MARCOS VIGIL

(Eusebio - tenor)



Opera: Martina Arroyo's "Prelude to Performance" (*La Rondine*, *Rita*), Opera Co. Brooklyn (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*), Capitol Heights Lyric Opera (*La Cenerentola*).

## MINAH YIM

(Waitress/Valet/Maid/Production Assistant - soprano)



Performances: FAVA in Salzburg (*Bastien und Bastienne*), Chelsea Opera (*Madama Butterfly*), Opera Company of Brooklyn (*L'elisir d'amore*). Production Work: LOTNY (*The Reformed Drunkard*, *Man in a Black Coat*). Upcoming: Chelsea Opera (*The Tender Land*, June 2014)

## ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

### JAMES BAGWELL

(Conductor)

Music director of The Collegiate Chorale. Highlights include Bellini's *Beatrice di Tenda*, Rossini's *Moïse et Pharaon*, and Boito's *Mefistofele*. Principal guest conductor, American Symphony Orchestra. Conductor of the New York premiere of Philip Glass's *Toltec Symphony* and Golilov's *Oceana*, both at Carnegie Hall. His performance of Kurt Weill's *Knickerbocker Holiday* was recorded live for Gaslight Records. Since 2011 he has collaborated with singer and composer Natalie Merchant, conducting a number of major orchestras including the San Francisco and Seattle Symphonies.

### PHILIP SHNEIDMAN

(Director)

Founded the little OPERA theatre of ny. Other directing: Mannes College of Music Opera Workshop (*Eugene Onegin*, *Dialogues of the Carmelites*). Adirondack Theatre Festival (*Fully Committed*), Queens Theatre in the Park (*Romeo & Juliet*). Assistant Director Broadway (*The Heiress*). Off Broadway (*Happgood*, *Sophistry*). Stage Management: Aldeburgh Festival (*Albert Herring*), Aspen Music Festival (*The Marriage of Figaro*).

### NEIL PATEL

(Scenic Design)

Theater (Broadway) *Side Man*, 'night mother, *Ring of Fire*, [title of show], *Oleanna*, *Wonderland*. Opera: Washington National Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Nikikai Opera Theater Tokyo, Chicago Lyric, Minnesota Opera, Opera Theater St Louis. Film: *Some Velvet Morning* (Neil LaBute). Television: *In Treatment* (HBO).

## LARA DE BRUIJN

(Costume Design)

LOTNY: *The Reformed Drunkard*, *Travelers*, *Man in a Black Coat*. Recent and upcoming in Opera and Theatre: *Rape of Lucretia* (Boston Conservatory), *Sumeida's Song* (Boston Opera Collaborative), *Onegin* (Juilliard Opera), *Don Giovanni* (Castleton Opera Festival), *Under My Skin* (Little Shubert Theatre), *The Two Character Play* (New World Stages). MFA, NYU Tisch School of the Arts. [laradawndesign.com](http://laradawndesign.com)

## MIKE RIGGS

(Lighting Design)

Theater: *What We Know*, *Blood Play* (Henry Hewes Award nomination), *pool (no water)*, *Skin Tight*. Opera: El Paso, Omaha, Naples, Sarasota, Shreveport, Syracuse, and Tampa, among others. Dance: Misnomer Dance Theater, Liz Lerman Dance Exchange, ODC, Morales Dance, Matthew Westerby Co., and many more. Upcoming: Bryony Lavery's *Stockholm* next in Theater B.

## STEPHANIE ALTMAN DOMINUS

(Managing Director)

Dunch Arts (consulting), Symphony Space (Producer of Music and Family Programs, Administrative Director), Blue Circle Theater (Managing Director), The Juilliard School (Assistant Director of Community Performing Arts). Harvard University, BA; City University London, MA.

## CATHERINE MILLER

(Associate Music Director)

Opera: LOTNY (*The Reformed Drunkard*, *Travelers*, *The Mother of Us All*, *Two Little Tragedies of Pushkin*, *The Bohemians*, *Man in a Black Coat*), among many others. Active collaborative pianist for recitals, auditions, and masterclasses. NYC performance venues include Weill Recital Hall, Performing Arts Library, Greenwich House Music School.

## AARON HEFLICH SHAPIRO

(Production Stage Manager)

Opera: LOTNY (*Travelers & Mitridate*, *re di Ponto*), Sarasota Opera (*The Pearl Fishers* and *Of Mice and Men*), Gotham (*Puss in Boots*). Theatre: Blue Man Group (*Las Vegas*), SITI Company (*Café Variations*), OBB (*You Say Tomato, I Say Shut Up!*), Woodshed Collective (*The Tenant*).

## JOSHUA KOHLER

(Production Manager)

*Two Girls for Five Bucks*, *Now Circa Then*, *Be a Good Little Widow*, *The Lapsburgh Layover*, *ANTFEST 2008 - 2011* (Ars Nova), *The Annihilation Point* (The Berserker Residents), *Takarazuka!!!*, *Luther*, *Motel Cherry* (Clubbed Thumb), *Blood Play* (The Debate Society), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (CTH), *TJ and Dave* (BST), *Colin Quinn: Unconstitutional*.

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## ABOUT THE OPERA

*Opportunity Makes the Thief* (*L'occasione fa il ladro, ossia Il cambio della valigia*) was first performed on November 24, 1812 at the Teatro San Moisè in Venice. The original libretto is by Luigi Prividali after Eugène Scribe's play *Le prétendu par hasard, ou L'occasion fait le larron*.

When a storm rages on the Amalfi coast near Naples, two adventurers seek shelter in a tavern. A fellow traveler arrives and joins their repast. He turns out to be a Count from a noble Italian family. He is on his way to meet the bride of his arranged marriage. The storm subsides and the Count leaves in haste, taking the wrong suitcase.

Meanwhile, the bride is nervous about the fiancée that she has never met. She decides to trade places with her companion in order to observe her suitor, before committing to him. Her guardian uncle is confused.

## FOR THE LITTLE OPERA THEATRE OF NY

Founder & Artistic Director

PHILIP SHNEIDMAN

Managing Director

STEPHANIE ALTMAN DOMINUS

Music Director

RICHARD CORDOVA

Associate Music Director

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the little opera theatre of ny  
**opera**

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William Goldstein, Steven P. Henry, Ivana Mestrovic, Timothy T. P. Robbins, Philip Shneidman, Jonathan Waterfield.

## SPECIAL THANKS

little OPERA wishes to thank Stroock & Stroock & Lavan for providing pro bono counsel.

Harpichord courtesy of Baroque Keyboards, Set Construction by Derek Dickinson, Andrew Dominus, Tucker A. Johann/NOLA Studios, Heidi & Aaron of Frank Music Company, Sara Sievers, Michael Freedman, Seer Capital Management, The Paula Cooper Gallery, Margaret Kross, Marianne Lockwood, James Cleveland/Production Core, Alexis Alexanian, Rachel Peters/Boosey & Hawkes, Jean Andzulis/Playwrights Horizons Theater School, Emily Cuk, Randall Shannon/The Buxton Festival, Roger Malouf, NYU Costumes, Anything But Costumes, Carroll Music, Flushing Council on Culture & the Arts, and Spaghetti by Serafina.

## LITTLE OPERA WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR CONTINUING SUPPORT:

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For more about the little OPERA Theatre of ny [LOTNY] please visit us at [www.lotny.org](http://www.lotny.org)

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the little OPERA theatre of ny  
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Rossini *L'occasione Fa Il Ladro* (CRITICAL EDITION, English translation by Mark Herman and Ronnie Apter). By arrangement with Hendon Music, Inc., a Boosey & Hawkes company, Sole Agent in the U.S., Canada and Mexico for Casa Ricordi/Universal Music Publishing Ricordi S.R.L., publisher and copyright owner.