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Saturday, February 16 at 7:00 pm Sunday, February 17 at 2:30 pm

MASSENET'S

Werther

Sung in French with English Supertitles

Werther

WORDS AND MUSIC BY JULES MASSENET

AN OPERA IN FOUR ACTS
SUNG IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUPERTITLES

SET IN WETZLAR, A TOWN NEAR FRANKFURT, GERMANY, IN THE 1890s, FROM JULY TO DECEMBER

Our organization is made up entirely of professional classical singers. We are passionate about sharing our art form with you, and bringing quality productions to the community. Our productions for the 2018-2019 season offer something for everyone, from the seasoned opera-goer to the new enthusiast!

Please feel free to take photos and videos, tagging with #tcoc_texas, before and after the performance but not during. Please mute all cell phones.







A MEMBER OF ALAMO GROUP







CAST OF CHARACTERS

Werther Rick Novak

Thomas Soto (cover)

Zachary Thomas Newman (cover)

Charlotte Alisha Bade (Feb 16)

Jennifer Quintero (Feb 17)

Albert Jeremiah Drake

Sophie Amy Selby

The Bailiff Bruce Cain

Schmidt/Brühlmann Zachary Thomas Newman

Johann Leo Garcia

Käthchen Valeria Hernandez

Children

Fritz Oliver Bowles Karl Ellie Follis

Max Sirena Vela Clara Baylee Blankenship

Hans **Logan Medrano** Gretel **Agar Huanca**

Natalie Akins Kayla Hinton Karienne Rios

Anna Busskohl Ash Johnson Bryanna Vasquez

Camirynne Coleman Kelsi Plunkett

Autumn Hart Bailey Pollard

Supernumeraries

A minister/clergyman **Thomas Soto**

A household servant Zachary Thomas Newman

A farmer Natalie Akins

PRODUCTION

Conductor Kristin Roach

Chorus Master/Asst. Conductor Leo Garcia

Organist Tom Engler

Supertitles Elizabeth Herlitz Cortés

STAFF

Executive & Artistic Director Elizabeth Herlitz Cortés
General Director & Marketing Amy Selby

SYNOPSIS

Act I - The Bailiff's house

On a July afternoon, the widowed Bailiff rehearses his children in a Christmas carol, as his friends Schmidt and Johann laugh about the early song preparations. Charlotte, the Bailiff's eldest daughter, joins them in the garden, greeted eagerly by her brothers and sisters. She is to attend a ball that evening. In the absence of her fiancé, Albert, her escort is to be a young visiting poet, Werther.

Werther arrives to meet Charlotte, and is immediately taken with her. The Bailiff explains that since his wife's death, Charlotte has been the caretaker for her younger siblings.

After the ball, Werther walks Charlotte home in the moonlight. He praises her devotion to her family and her beauty. As he passionately declares his love, Charlotte recalls the promise which she made to her dying mother: that she would marry Albert. In spite of his despair, Werther encourages Charlotte, whom he deems to be the "angel of duty," not to break her promise.

Act II - The linden trees in front of the church

The town gathers to celebrate the pastor's fiftieth wedding anniversary. Albert and Charlotte have been married for three months. Although outwardly Werther expresses his friendship to Albert, inwardly he is tormented by his love for Charlotte and bitter at her marriage, which keeps them apart. When Charlotte has a moment alone with Werther, she firmly reminds him of her duties as a wife. Seeing his anguish at her words, she asks him to leave town for a time, perhaps until Christmas.

As Charlotte leaves, her sister Sophie gently reprimands Werther for lingering behind the procession. Paying her no heed, Werther rushes away, declaring that he is leaving and will not return. Sophie, confused and upset by his declaration, reports back to Charlotte and Albert. Albert considers the poet's behavior, and comes to the realization that Werther is in love with Charlotte

- 15-minute Intermission -

Act III - Albert's house

It is Christmas Eve. Charlotte, unable to forget Werther, reads through all the letters which he has sent her; in the last one, he hinted at suicide. Grief overcomes her, and she prays for strength.

Suddenly, Werther appears. They recall the beautiful times they had together. His passion intensifies, and he embraces Charlotte to kiss her. In a panic, she sends him away, saying they must never meet again.

Albert comes home to find Charlotte agitated and distraught, and suspects that her emotions are due to Werther's return. A servant brings a note from Werther, asking to borrow Albert's pistols. Upset, Albert makes Charlotte hand the pistols to the messenger, then goes to his room.

Act IV - Werther's study

Charlotte rushes to Werther's lodgings, where she finds him in his study, mortally wounded. She declares her love for him, and begs him to forgive her for choosing Duty over Love. As they embrace, he dies in her arms.

CREATIVE TEAM & PRINCIPALS

Kristin Roach. Conductor



A native of San Antonio, Kristin Roach is in demand across the nation as a conductor, pianist, organist, and vocal coach. She is Music Director of Alamo City Opera, Music Director of Spotlight on Opera, and Lecturer in Opera at Texas State University. In performances that encompass twenty states, Canada, Japan, and the former Soviet Union, she has

collaborated with many of the world's finest artists including Renée Fleming, Denvce Graves, Ferrucio Furlanetto, Jerry Hadley, and Rosalind Elias. She has prepared productions for the San Francisco Opera, San Diego Opera, Tulsa Opera, Utah Opera, San Antonio Opera, San Antonio Symphony, Brevard Music Institute, Aspen Music Festival, Breckenridge Music Institute, Taos Opera Institute, Opera Theatre of Rochester, Eastman Opera Theater, Buffalo Opera Unlimited, Spotlight on Opera, Texas Tech University, and Texas Lutheran University. Conducting credits include Die Entführung aus dem Serail, Acis and Galatea, La bohème, Così fan tutte, Die Zauberflöte, Don Pasquale, The Medium, Bastien und Bastienne/La Curandera, The Italian Lesson/Trouble in Tahiti, Speed Dating Tonight!, Dido and Aeneas, Gianni Schicchi/Buoso's Ghost, Bon Appetit/Gallantry, the world premiere of Mollicone's Children of the Sun, Liszt's Christus, and Golden Space City of God. Recent engagements include As One, A Little Night Music, La Cenerentola, and La hija de Rappaccini with Alamo City Opera, Don Giovanni with Utah Opera, and Hansel & Gretel and Turn of the Screw at Texas State University. Upcoming conducting engagements include Soldier Songs and debuts in Italy and Mexico with Alamo City Opera. Reviews of Kristin's piano performances with South Texas musicians include phrases like "revelatory" and "infectious high -spirits". She has appeared as soloist with the San Antonio Symphony, Mid-Texas Symphony, San Antonio Wind Symphony, and Eastman Philharmonia, and as chamber musician with Camerata San Antonio, Chamber Music Amarillo,

Olmos Ensemble, Musical Offerings, and Cactus Pear Music Festival. She has toured Europe with the Children's Chorus of San Antonio and St. Mark's Episcopal Church, performing on the historic organs of the Cathedral of Notre Dame, the Church of the Madeleine, Ely Cathedral, Bristol Cathedral, and York University. Her recordings include the Trinity Jazz Project, a self -produced collection of her original arrangements of hymn tunes, and classical works with the New World Symphony for Decca Records and with the Eastman Wind Ensemble for Sony Classical Records. Her recording of chamber works by Miguel del Aguila with Camerata San Antonio, Salon Buenos Aires, was nominated for two Latin Grammy® awards. Ms. Roach maintains a private coaching studio, whose members include performers with numerous opera companies and apprentice programs, university faculty and students, chamber music groups, and church musicians. She has a Bachelor of Music in Applied Music (Piano), the Performer's Certificate in Piano, and a Master of Music in Piano Performance/Literature and Piano Accompanying/Chamber Music from Eastman School of Music.

Elizabeth Herlitz Cortés. Executive & Artistic Director



Soprano Elizabeth Herlitz Cortés has established herself as the go-to young soprano in the greater Texas and Louisiana regions. Last season, she made her company and role debut with Texas Hill Country Opera as Rosalinda from *Die Flederma*us, performed as a featured soloist in Alamo City Opera's *Opera in the Park*, and as Mrs. Nordstrom in *A Little*

Night Music. In 2017, Elizabeth made her Austin Opera solo debut as Butterfly's Mother in Madama Butterfly and her Alamo City Opera debut as The Flower Girl in Daniel Catán's La hija de Rappaccini. This season, Elizabeth will make her Carnegie Hall debut with Mid-America Productions in their first ever Opera Gala. She will also make her role debut in the title role in TCOC's production of Susannah. Elizabeth is a passionate advocate for opera outreach and is both the Founder and Executive & Artistic Director of Texas Concert Opera Collective.

Richard Novak, Werther



American tenor, Richard Novak, has performed with opera companies and orchestras across the United States, Italy, Germany, and Mexico. Among Novak's operatic credits are Rodolfo, Pinkerton, Alfredo, Don José, Nemorino, Ernesto, Werther, Eisenstein, Tamino, Lippo, and Roméo. Training programs include the Chautauqua Opera, Des Moines Metro

Opera, Wichita Grand Opera, Wesley Balk Institute, and the Evelyn Lear/Thomas Stewart Emerging Singers. In 2005 and 2006, Novak won the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions (Tulsa District). He is also is also a former first place winner of the Texoma NATS 'Singer of the Year' Award. Upcoming performances include Sam (Susannah) with Texas Concert Opera Collective. Dr. Novak holds a BM and MM in Vocal Performance from Stephen F. Austin State University, and a DMA in Vocal Performance from the University of North Texas. Dr. Novak is Assistant Professor of Voice at Texas State University, where he teaches voice and vocal pedagogy.

Thomas Soto, Werther (cover)



Tenor Thomas Clifford Soto is a native of San Antonio, Texas. Thomas made his professional debut singing the role of Ruiz in Verdi's *Il trovatore* with Opera San Antonio. Thomas most recently performed the role of Rodolfo in *La bohème* with Spotlight on Opera and with Houston Operativo. Other roles include Parpignol in Opera San Antonio's production of *La*

bohème, Peasant in Donizetti's *La fille du régiment* with Austin Opera, The Priest in *Las Fundaciones de Béjar* with Opera San Antonio, and Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi* with Texas State Opera Department. He graduated from Texas State University with a degree in vocal performance. Mr. Soto is currently a resident artist with Opera San Antonio and performs in various outreach programs, local events, and small roles.

Alisha Bade, *Charlotte* (February 16)



Mezzo-soprano Alisha Bade is an emerging young artist best known for her highly dramatic interpretations. Ms. Bade received her Master of Music in Vocal Performance at Louisiana State University, under Terry Patrick-Harris, taught as a graduate assistant, and performed in many of the school's opera productions, and her Bachelor's in Vocal Performance

from Temple University, under George Gray. Ms. Bade was a semi-finalist at the Houston Grand Opera Eleanor McCollum Competition in 2016, first-place winner at the Mobile Opera Competition in 2015, and vocal category winner of the Temple University Concerto Competition in 2014. Roles include Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*, Ursule in *Béatrice et Bénédict*, the Sorceress in *Dido and Aeneas*, La Principessa in *Suor Angelica*, Elizabeth Proctor in *The Crucible*, Orfeo in *Orfeo ed Euridice*, Florence Pike in *Albert Herring*, and Zita in *Gianni Schicchi*.

Jennifer Quintero, Charlotte (February 17)



Mexican-American mezzo soprano, Jennifer Quintero most recently sang Prince Orlofsky in Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*. Additional roles include Ensemble in Piazzolla's *Maria de Buenos Aires*, 3rd Flower in Daniel Catán's *La Hija de Rappaccini* and Dorabella in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* with Alamo City Opera. Other roles include Suzuki in *Madama Butterfly*,

Mercedes in *Carmen*, Cherubino in *The Marriage of Figaro*, 3rd Spirit and 3rd Lady in *The Magic Flute*, and Mother in *The Consul*. Solo oratorio performances include Beethoven's *Mass in C Major*, Saint Saëns' *Christmas Oratorio*, Mozart's *Regina Coeli*, and Handel's *Messiah* throughout Texas. She completed graduate work in Opera Performance at the University of North Texas and undergraduate work in Music Marketing at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Esteemed teachers include Juli Wood, Linda Poetschke, Stephen Austin, and Cindy Sadler.

Jeremiah Drake, Albert



Baritone Jeremiah Drake's professional operatic roles have included Pish Tush from *Mikado*, Fiorello from *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Cascada in *The Merry Widow*, and Marchese d'Obigny in *La traviata*, all with San Antonio Opera; both Balthazar and Melchior in Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors* in McAllen and with Texas Opera Company. Additionally, Drake performed

the Sergeant in Austin Opera's *Lady MacBeth of Mtsensk*. He graduated from UTSA in 2002 with a dual degree in Music Performance and Education, and in 2008 with a Master's degree in Vocal Performance from Texas State University. Further roles include Bob in *The Old Maid and the Thief*, the title role in *Gianni Schicchi*, Dr. Falke in *Die Fledermaus*, and the Speaker in *Die Zauberflöte*. Currently, Jeremiah is a financial services agent, helping families meet their financial goals. He enjoys the love and support of his wife, Lily, and children, Leah and Javier.

Amy Selby, Sophie, General Director & Marketing



Soprano Amy Selby brings a fresh, bright sound and presence to the stage. In May, she debuted the role of Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*. She performed Kevin March's "Songs of Remembrance and Resistance" where she "clearly felt the power of these women's stories and channeled it." In 2016, she created the role of a CrossFit hipster-techie in OperaWorks' comic

original production, and Zipporah in LifeHouse Theatre's production of *Moses*. Earlier seasons include Adele in *Die Fledermaus* and Pamina in *The Magic Flute*. Amy holds a Master of Music from Michigan State University, and a Bachelor of Music from Truman State University. In addition to performing, Amy enjoys ballet, aerial silks, and teaching. Originally from St. Louis, she currently resides in Austin where she sings with TCOC, One Ounce Opera, Gilbert & Sullivan Austin, and the Austin Opera Chorus. Visit www.amyselby.com to learn more.

Bruce Cain, Le Bailli



Dr. Cain came to Southwestern University as voice faculty and the director of the Opera Theatre in 1996. The Sun-Times has hailed him as "an eloquent soloist" and the Chicago Tribune praised his "sensitivity" as an artist. Concert performances include Haydn's *Mass in Time of War*, Beethoven's *Mass in C*, Handel's *Messiah*, Mozart's *Mass in c minor*, and Dvorak's *Stabat Mater*.

Operatic appearances include Papageno in *The Magic Flute*, Dr. Lomax in *Cold Sassy Tree*, and Ford in *Falstaff*. Upcoming performances include Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, and Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. He has performed on five continents. Dr. Cain received degrees from McMurry University, Indiana University, and Northwestern University. He has been director of the San Gabriel Chorale since 1998 and on the faculty for Spotlight on Opera since 2006. He is looking forward to his second engagement with TCOC.

Zachary Thomas Newman, Schmidt/Brühlmann, Werther (cover)



Tenor Zachary Thomas Newman has been busy this season singing in Canada, New York, Louisiana, Illinois, and Texas, making four house debuts, including Muddy River Opera Company and Operativo Houston, appearing in six new roles, and revisiting several others. Some favorites are Peter Quint in Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* and Larry/Matt in a self-

produced and self-directed showing of *The Face on the Barroom Floor*. Zachary's mission as a musician is to make opera more accessible to the general public and to make people feel the way he feels when listening to great music performed beautifully. Zachary is an avid believer in people creating their own opportunities and performing in non-traditional spaces to make music more relatable for people who are not classically trained musicians or who cannot afford to attend elite performances. For more information, visit www.zacharythomasnewman.com.

Leo Garcia, Chorus Master/Assistant Conductor, Johann



Leo Garcia is currently in his fifth year as choir director at Seguin High School. He previously spent time as a music educator at San Marcos High School and Alamo Heights High School. He earned both Bachelor's and Master's of Music degrees from Baylor University. While a student at Baylor, he was a member of the Baylor University Golden Wave Band, and

performed in many operas for both Baylor Opera Theater and Waco Lyric Opera. Leo is the choir director at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Seguin. He previously served as a tenor section leader at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in San Antonio for four years. He has performed with the San Antonio Chamber Choir and currently sings with IlluMen. He is excited that his students have the opportunity to perform in such a beautiful opera!

Valeria Hernandez, Käthchen



Valeria Hernandez is a junior at Seguin High School. In the Matador Choir, she holds the position of Co-President. Previously, she performed as a member of the chorus with Texas Concert Opera Collective in the December production of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, where she worked closely with many talented singers. Valeria was accepted to the Texas

Music Educators Association All-Region Mixed Choir, advanced to the pre-area round in the All-State process, and advanced in the Texas State Solo-Ensemble Contest in February 2018. In addition, she participated in a Masterclass with Cindy Sadler from Centenary College. She hopes to continue her musical studies at the university level. Valeria thanks her voice teacher and mentor, Elizabeth Cortés, for coaching her musically, and guiding her into becoming both a better musician and person. She would also like to thank her director, Leo Garcia, and the Matador Choir for their support.

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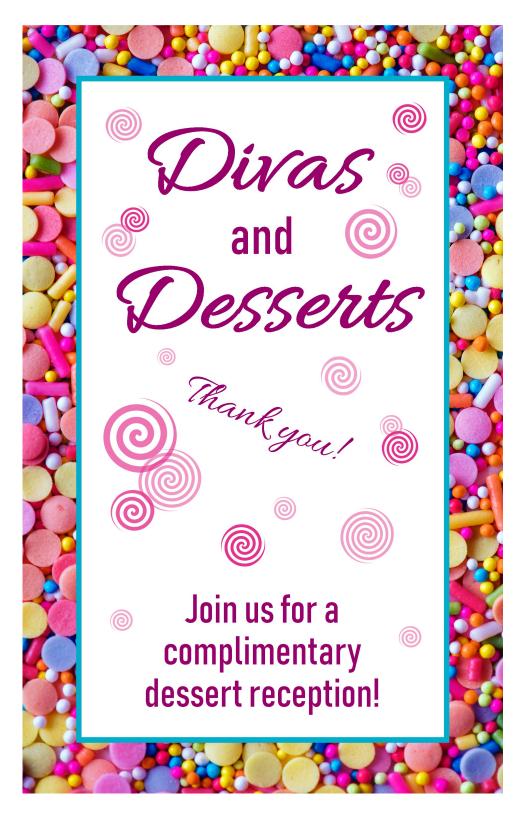
Texas Concert Opera Collective is a non-profit organization of 22 professional regional opera singers dedicated to developing audiences of the future by offering free performances to all students between Austin and San Antonio. TCOC works alongside music teachers throughout the region to bring renowned professionals in the industry to work one-on-one with students by offering masterclasses and scholarship opportunities. Students gain performance experience by singing as chorus members and comprimario roles in productions. A portion of the proceeds from each production, after costs are met, are donated directly back to the Seguin Independent School District Fine Arts Program.

Learn more about Texas Concert Opera Collective, our events, operas, and artists at www.texasconcertoperacollective.com.

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