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## AU Singer Actor Studio

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# AU Singer Actor Workshop

Directed by Charles Reid

## “An Afternoon of Opera Scenes”

*Sunday, April 9, 2017—4 p.m.*  
*Howard Performing Arts Center*

**Dialogues of the Carmelites.....Francis Poulenc**

*Act II – Scenes 1-3* (1899-1963)

*Chelsea Lake (Blanche de la Force), David Ortiz (Chevalier de la Force),  
Katia Nikolaus (Madame Lidoine), Georgina Zambrano (Mother Marie of the Incarnation),  
Peyton Ware (Sister Constance of St. Denis) – Joshua Goines, piano*

Backstory – a French opera in three acts with 12 scenes written in 1956. The opera tells a fictionalized version of the story of the Martyrs of Compiègne. In the closing days of the ‘Reign of Terror’ of the French Revolution, the Carmelite Nuns were guillotined in Paris for refusing to renounce their faith. In Act I, Blanche retreats from the chaos of war and joins a Carmelite monastery. She learns that the monastery is not a refuge, but theirs to defend. The young Constance shares with Blanche a dream that the two will die young together. Act I concludes with the death of the Mother Superior, which shakes all who have witnessed her death.

Our scene begins in Act II – Blanche has uneasy feelings about her duties towards the recently deceased Mother Superior. Mother Marie takes Blanche under her supervision. Preparing the grave, Constance explains to Blanche her hopes that Mother Marie will be the next prioress and struggles to understand the death of the previous prioress. Madame Lidoine is appointed the new prioress and addresses the Carmelites about their current situation. Blanche receives a visit from her brother. He encourages her to leave the monastery and return to her family. She refuses, choosing her place among her Sisters.

**Lucia di Lammermoor .....Gaetano Donizetti**

*Act I – Scenes 3 & 4* (1797-1848)

*Anna Lucia Kim (Lucy), Zachary Randolph (Edgar), Georgina Zambrano (Alisa) –  
Joshua Goines, piano*

Backstory – an Italian opera in three acts based loosely on Sir Walter Scott’s historical novel, The Bride of Lammermoor. European audiences were intrigued by the history of Scotland and the romance of its feuds and violent wars. In the first scenes of Act I, we learn that the Lammermoor guards are trying to catch Edgar of Ravenswood, who they believe has been sneaking in to the castle to meet Lucy. The guards wish to put an end to their romance.

Our scene begins when Lucy arrives at a park with her maidservant. She is expecting to meet Edgar. While waiting, she recalls the story of a Ravenswood girl who was killed her by a jealous ancestor, in the famous aria ‘Regnava nel silenzio.’ Alisa warns Lucy that it is an omen to stop loving Edgar. Edgar arrives, telling her he must leave quickly for France. He hopes to make peace so that he can openly marry Lucy. They swear a vow of marriage, exchange tokens and say goodbyes.

# Pause

**Albert Herring** ..... **Benjamin Britten**

*Act I, Scene 1*

*(1913-1976)*

*Megan Mocca (Lady Billows – an elderly aristocrat), Katia Nikolaus (Florence Pike – Lady B’s Housekeeper), Peyton Ware (Miss Wordsworth – a school teacher), Colin West (Mr. Gedge – the Vicar), Zachary Randolph (Mr. Upfold – the Mayor), Nathaniel Cogen (Superintendent Budd) – Karen West, piano*

Backstory – An comedic English chamber opera in three acts written in 1947. Eric Crozier worked with Britten to adapt Maupassant’s novella, *Le Rosier de Madame Husson*, and reset it in England.

Our scene (and the opera) begins with Florence frantically attempting to juggle her duties. She is primarily a housekeeper, but also currently in charge of secretarial duties and the investigation of candidates for the upcoming May Festival. Lady Billows has called a meeting of the town’s important leaders to decide on their nomination for the May Queen, but it soon becomes apparent that none of the girls in the area meet the high standards set to be awarded this honor. Superintendent Budd comes up with the awkward solution that they should consider a May King this year. They discuss Albert Herring’s name and realize that he passes muster, agreeing that this is the only possibility.

**La Bohème** ..... **Giacomo Puccini**

*Act IV*

*(1858-1924)*

*Annelise Burghardt (Mimi), David Ortiz (Rodolfo), Chelsea Lake (Musetta), Joshua Goines (Marcello), Colin West (Schaunard), Nathaniel Cogen (Coline) – Karen West, piano*

Backstory – An Italian opera in four acts based on the French story by Henri Murger, *Scènes de la vie de bohème*, in 1896. The opera opens with four young bohemian artists living under one roof. A poet, painter, musician and philosopher. Rodolfo stays behind to write and meets his new neighbor, Mimi. Both shy, their connection is instant and they fall in love. Marcello and his girlfriend, Musetta, have a much more rocky relationship. After some time Mimi and Rodolfo drift apart.

Our scene opens on the final act. Rodolfo and Marcello are both miserable due to lady problems, respectively missing Mimi and Musetta. The roommates arrive and fun ensues. Suddenly, Musetta arrives with Mimi, who is gravely ill with pneumonia. The best of each of the characters becomes apparent as they each look for ways to help Mimi back to health. Mimi offers kind words and even redemption to Musetta. Rodolfo is torn to see Mimi in this state, but the two are bound together in love again and share memories from the past.

## ***Special thanks to...***

*-Neighbor to Neighbor of Berrien Springs and PMC Earliteens for various props.*

*-Professor Charles Reid for direction, set concepts, lighting, and more.*

*-Chelsea Lake for serving as Assistant Director and putting in numerous extra hours.*

*-Lynnetta Hamstra and the staff of the Howard Performing Arts Center.*

*-The amazing students who invested so much in today’s performance!*

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*Please silence all electronic devices and refrain from recording and the use of flash photography for the duration of the performance. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.*