

HESSTON COLLEGE  
PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS

# *Amahl* *and the Night Visitors*

An Opera in One Act  
Words and music by Gian Carlo Menotti

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Thursday, November 28, 2013, 8 p.m.  
Saturday, November 30, 2013, 4 p.m.

Hesston Mennonite Church

**HESSTON  
COLLEGE**   
START HERE, GO EVERYWHERE

## **DIRECTORS**

Stage Director

Rachel Jantzi

Music Director

Matthew Schloneger

Conductor/  
Chorus Master

Bradley Kauffman

Rehearsal Pianist

Kenneth Rodgers

## **CAST**

Mother

Holly Swartzendruber

Amahl

Rachelle Adrian (*November 30*)

Kayla Kauffman (*November 28*)

King Kasper

Matthew Schloneger

King Melchior

Joshua Booth

King Balthazaar

Tony Brown

Page

Nathanael Ressler

Dancers

Mischa De Jesus, Jessica Donnelly

Savannah Mitchell, Bry Young

*Amahl and the Night Visitors* is the first opera commissioned especially for television, and was premiered by the NBC Television Opera Theatre in New York City on December 24, 1951.

## **SETTING**

The interior and front yard of a hut where Amahl and his mother live

## **TIME**

Early evening

## **ORCHESTRA**

Violin I	Rebecca Schloneger, *Havela Lehman
Violin II	Adrienne Dougherty, *Alyssa Becker
Viola	Paul Regier, *Quinn Kathrineberg
Cello	*Emma Cloud
Bass	Evan Vermilyea
Flute	Vada Snider
Oboe	Cindy Thompson, *Elsa Miller
Clarinet	Charisse Tierney
Bassoon	Liz Schrag
Horn	Jordan Robert
Trumpet	*Grant Flaming
Percussion	*Jeffrey Smoker, *Christina Hershey
Piano	Kenneth Rodgers
Keyboard	Faith Wenger

*\*Hesston College student*

## **CHORUS**

### **Soprano:**

Mary Bender  
Karli Mast  
Rebecca Rhodes  
Emily Taylor  
Taylor Zehr

### **Alto:**

Laura Baker  
Rebecca Eichelberger  
Vicky Gunawan  
Rachelle Haarer  
Morgan Martin  
Holly Peters

### **Tenor:**

Davis Cook  
Bryce Elder  
Galed Krisjayanta  
Jay Marston

### **Bass:**

Spencer Berning  
Matt Lind  
Jason Schroeder

## **SET, COSTUMES & CHOREOGRAPHY**

Original Set Design	Doug Peters
Set Construction	Tim Goertzen
Choreography	The Dancers
Costume Coordinator	Rachel Jantzi
Costume Assistant	Megan Goodrich

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Bethel College, North Newton, Kan.

Kathleen Neff and First Mennonite Church, Newton, Kan.

Megan Tyner

## **NOTES FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Composer Gian Carlo Menotti wrote the following about Amahl and the Night Visitors:

“This is an opera for children because it tries to recapture my own childhood. You see, when I was a Child, I lived in Italy, and in Italy we have no Santa Claus. I suppose that Santa Claus is much too busy with American children to be able to handle Italian children as well. Our gifts were brought to us by the Three Kings, instead.”

Menotti drew on his childhood memories to create this beloved opera, which to me has always captured the essence of what Christmas is really all about. As you watch this performance, reflect on these words sung between the kings and Amahl’s mother and the profound message of the image of Christ found in an impoverished little boy:

*Have you seen a Child the color of wheat, the color of dawn? His eyes are mild, His hands are those of a King, as King he was born. Incense, myrrh, and gold we bring to His side, And the Eastern Star is our guide.*

*Have you seen a Child the color of earth, the color of thorn? His eyes are sad, His hands are those of the poor, as poor He was born. Incense, myrrh, and gold we bring to His side, And the Eastern Star is our guide.*

*Yes, I know a child... The child I know on his palm holds my heart. He’s my child, my son, my darling, my own, and his name is Amahl.*

–Matthew Schloneger