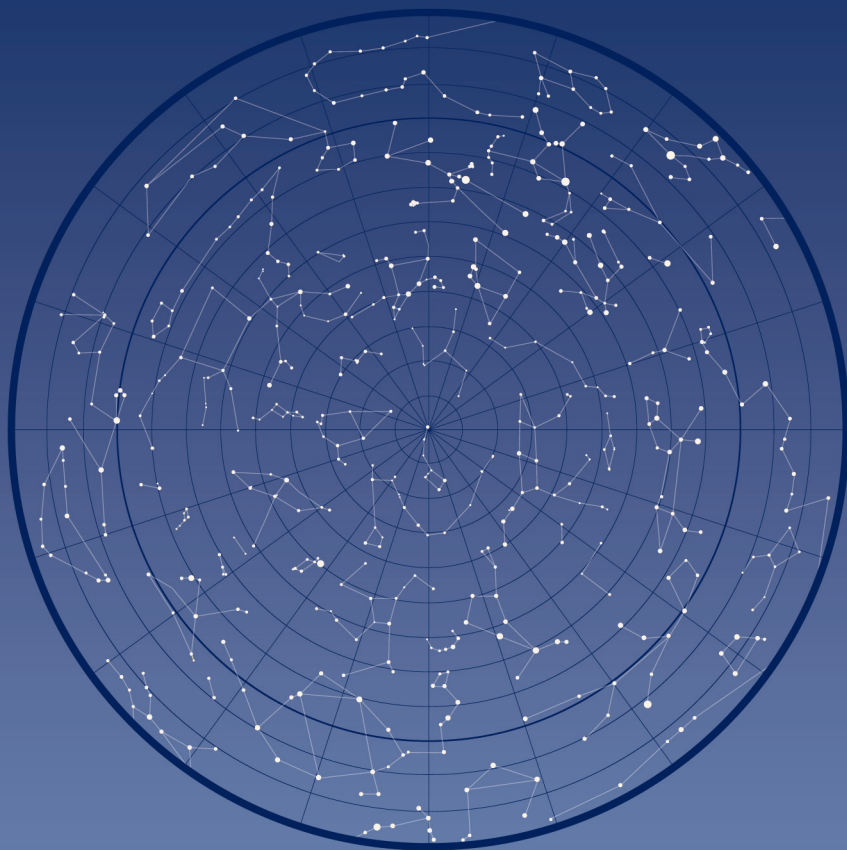


HESSTON COLLEGE THEATRE PRESENTS

Silent Sky



By Lauren Gunderson

Performed with permission through Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

DIRECTORS' NOTES

Lauren Gunderson has written a beautiful story that not only recognizes the astronomer Henrietta Leavitt's achievements, but also celebrates the curiosity, wonder, and reverence she held for our universe. It also gives us a glimpse of the patience and persistence needed within her field, as a woman in 1900.

Henrietta was a real woman who, along with her peers-Williamina Fleming and Annie Cannon-made significant discoveries that led to our knowledge of the stars. Please read up on these fantastically brilliant, barrier-breaking women after this production.

Leavitt found that she could accurately and consistently relate the period of a given star's brightness cycle to its absolute magnitude. The discovery of this simple and unknown relationship made it possible, for the first time, to calculate their distance from Earth. Henrietta Leavitt had just become, in the words of George Johnson, author of the book *Miss Leavitt's Stars*, 'the woman who discovered how to measure the Universe'. - G. Mariani, *Henrietta Leavitt- Celebrating the Forgotten Astronomer*

This show is dedicated to Jim Brueggeman, a senior engineer on the control systems of the International Space Station and my uncle. Mar. 1939-Nov. 2020

Rachel Jantzi, director

Among the music selections you will hear this evening, are songs from the time the play is set. We chose music written by composers whom Margaret, as a composer, would have known: Robert Schumann, Claude Debussy, Edward MacDowell, and Gustav Mahler. In addition, we specifically chose music written by two women: Clara Schumann and Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel. Finally, several of the vocal selections mention love, how nature reflects human emotion, and the beauty and mystery of night skies—common themes in the music of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Holly Swartzendruber, music director

TIME AND PLACE

1900-1920

Outside church in Wisconsin

Harvard Observatory 2nd floor office

Leavitt home, Wisconsin

Ocean Liner in Atlantic

Henrietta's home, Cambridge, Massachusetts

CAST

Henrietta Leavitt.....	Kaytlen Keough
Williamina Fleming.....	Savannah Zink
Annie Cannon.....	Kelly Miller
Margaret Leavitt.....	Rachel Weaver
Peter Shaw.....	Xavier Jang

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....	Rachel Jantzi
Music Director.....	Holly Swartzendruber
Accompanist.....	Ken Rodgers
Set and Lighting Design.....	Doug Peters
Scene Shop Manager, Carpenter.....	Jim Diller
Carpenter.....	Gerry Selzer
Stage Manager.....	Alex Miller

PRODUCTION CREW

Assistant Stage Manager.....	Kayla Gunn
Light Board Operator.....	Jacob Hess
Lighting Assistant/Running Crew.....	Tristan Costin
Sound Board Operator.....	Josh Fleming
Props Master/Running Crew.....	Madison Higdon
House Manager/Running Crew.....	Silas Nicholson
Head Usher/Running Crew.....	Isaac Tice
Costume Crew.....	Shanti Kauffman, Alyssa Nolt, Diane Soguilon

+Live Music will be provided by faculty members Holly Swartzendruber and Ken Rodgers throughout the show

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Everence for financial contributions to our theatre program

Judy Reimer, Les Guhr, Ty Rhodes, Nealee Johnston, Bob Beitler, Drew Hiebert for the use of Hesston High School's auditorium, it's equipment and any additional assistance.

Dave Uhler of Berkeley Square Media, Topeka for video production

ALSO, THANKS TO...

Christie Hoskisson in the Hesston College Bookstore, Hesston College Music Department, Russell Adrian, Margaret Wiebe, Rita Peters, Hesston College Facilities, Larry Bartel, Scott Jantzi

Runtime is approximately two hours. There will be one 10-minute intermission. Please do not film or take photos of the show as this violates licensing laws and can be a distraction to the actors. Please turn off cell phones and completely silence them for the courtesy of the audience and the performers.

*Face masks must remain on throughout the duration of the performance. We reserve the right to dismiss anyone should this guideline be violated.



HESSTON COLLEGE UPCOMING PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS

Feb 28 - Performing Arts Virtual Visit

For prospective students - register at
www.hesston.edu/visit | 3 p.m.

March 28 - Renewed Life

Tickets Required | Contact Hesston College Bookstore
620-327-8105

April 14-18 - Superior Donuts

Tickets Required | Contact Hesston College Bookstore
620-327-8105

April 30 - Bel Canto Concert

Hesston College Campus | Free Admission | 7 p.m.

May 1 - Theatre Showcase

Hesston College Campus | Free Admission | 1 p.m.

Date TBA - Summer Theatre Camp

Hesston College Campus | See more at hesston.edu/theatrecamp