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2007-2008

30th Anniversary Season

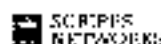
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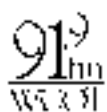
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Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to Knoxville Opera's seventh annual *Woo for the Arts!* In addition to experiencing Puccini's powerful *La Bohème* you will enjoy the University of Tennessee Opera Theatre's production of Verdi's *La Traviata* at the Bijou Theatre (the same opera and venue of our inauguration in November, 1978). On Saturday, our wildly popular Italian Street Fair transforms Gay Street and Market Square into nine hours of artistic and culinary fun and entertainment for every age to enjoy! This complex enterprise has been made possible by the hard work and generosity of our

Rossini Festival Committee, Michelle Fisher and Karry Sisk, their committee, the Opera staff, a variety of performers and sponsors, and hundreds of volunteers. Thank them all for giving this gift to our community! Tickets for this year's raffle grand prize - a trip to Napa Valley are for sale in the lobby on Friday night, as well as throughout the Fair on Saturday.

I am proud to report that our company will end this season, as in the past two years, debt-free and "in the black." This accomplishment is due to a combination of strong, conservative fiscal policies, the generous and diligent work of the stellar Knoxville Opera Guild, and the support of our many individual, corporate, government, and foundation sponsors. As our ability to continue serving the public remains in your generous hands, I eagerly invite you to make an end-of-season contribution at your earliest convenience. Your investment in Knoxville Opera benefits everyone in East Tennessee via our productions, concerts, events, and education and outreach programs.

What's coming next year - a new, bolder marketing look for the company as we seek to intrigue a wider audience, an encore of this season's sold-out *Elphinstone*, a first-time Halloween Spectacular composed of the most exclusive costume party in town along with a concert featuring Broadway divas *Phantom of the Opera* and *Sirius J. Bell*, and the return of two thrilling opera blockbusters - Verdi's *Rigoletto* and Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*. Subscribe now to reserve the best seats in the house and enjoy discounts up to 15%!

Brian Salesky

Brian Salesky
General Director and Conductor

2007-2008 Season Events

Post-Opera Dinner with the Stars	FR Apr. 16 11:00	Green Hills Grille
Rossini Festival Italian Street Fair	SA Apr. 19 12-4	Gay Street, Downtown
Opera Preview with Maestro Salesky	SU Apr. 20 1:45	Tennessee Theatre
Performance: <i>Tosca</i>	SU Apr. 20 2:30	Tennessee Theatre
Post-Opera Dinner with the Stars	SU Apr. 20 5:45	Green Hills Grille
KCCO Uroquet Tournament	SU May 18 Noon	UT Visitors Center
Maestro Wrap with Brian Salesky	MR May 19 5:30	Emporium, Gay Street

(Free to all contributors \$100 and above)

2008-2009 Season Events

KCCO Membership Party	To Be Announced	The Orangery
Oktoberfest	FR Oct. 10 6:00	The Isomizey
<i>(Korman Buffet and Burnberg's Student Dress/Nov. Menu)</i>		
Halloween Student Dress Rehearsal	FR Oct. 31	Tennessee Theatre
<i>Phantom of the Opera & Sweeney Todd</i>		
Halloween Spooktacular	SA Nov. 1 6:00	Tennessee Theatre
<i>Costume Party and Selections from Phantom of the Opera & Sweeney Todd</i>		
KCCO Opera Ball	SA Nov. 15 6:30	Cherokee Country Club
Chanukah Music Fest	SU Dec. 14 4:00	Temple Beth El
KCCO Metropolitan Opera Auditions	SA Jan. 30	To Be Announced
Student Dress Rehearsal: <i>Rigoletto</i>	TC Feb. 10	Tennessee Theatre
<i>Tick-Of-Holders' Bonus Dress Rehearsal</i>		
<i>Rigoletto</i>	WF Feb. 11 7:30	Tennessee Theatre
KCCO Pre-Opera Dinner	FR Feb. 13 5:30	Club LeConte
Opera Preview with Maestro Salesky	FR Feb. 13 7:15	Tennessee Theatre
Performance: <i>Rigoletto</i>	FR Feb. 13 8:00	Tennessee Theatre
<i>From Paris with Love</i>	SA Feb. 14 6:00	Tennessee Theatre
<i>(Inclusive onstage Valentine's Party)</i>		
Opera Preview with Maestro Salesky	SU Feb. 15 1:45	Tennessee Theatre
Performance: <i>Rigoletto</i>	SU Feb. 15 2:30	Tennessee Theatre
Post-Opera Dinner with the Stars	SU Feb. 15 6:15	Amerigo Restaurant
KCCO Martini Party	To Be Announced	To Be Announced
Student Dress Rehearsal: <i>Pagliacci</i>	WF Apr. 22	Tennessee Theatre
<i>Tick-Of-Holders' Bonus Dress Rehearsal</i>		
<i>Pagliacci</i>	TH Apr. 23 7:30	Tennessee Theatre
Rossini Festival Italian Street Fair	SA Apr. 25 12-4	South Gay Street
Performance: <i>Pagliacci</i>	SA Apr. 25 6:00	Tennessee Theatre
Opera Preview with Maestro Salesky	SU Apr. 26 1:45	Tennessee Theatre
Performance: <i>Pagliacci</i>	SU Apr. 26 2:30	Tennessee Theatre
Post-Opera Dinner with the Stars	SU Apr. 26 5:00	Amerigo Restaurant
KCCO Uroquet Tournament	SU May 18A Noon	UT Visitors Center

KNOXVILLE OPERA PRESENTS

Tosca

Opera in Three Acts

In Celebration of the 150th Birthday of the Composer

Music by Giacomo Puccini

Libretto by Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica
based on the drama *La Tosca* by Victorien Sardou

First performance: January 14, 1900, Rome, Italy

Friday, April 18, 2008 at 8:00 and Sunday, April 20, 2008 at 2:30
Tennessee Theatre, Knoxville, Tennessee

Music Director and Conductor

Brian Salesky

Stage Director

David Bamberger

CAST (in order of appearance)

Cesare Angelotti, cousin of the former Roman republic
Sacristan of the Church of Sant' Andrea della Valle
Mario Cavaradosi, painter and republican activist
Floria Tosca, celebrated opera singer
Baron Scarpia, Roman police chief
Spilotta, Roman police agent
Scarpione, Scarpia's aide de camp
Roberto, ex-convict
Shepherd Boy
Julia at Castel Sant' Angelo
Sergeant

Daniel T. Berry
Michael Wanko*
Thomas Studebaker
Rosemary Muscolento*
Daniel Sumegi*
Adam Lloyd
Terrance McCracken
Leon Duquella
Lyndon England*
Jeff Christmas
Burt Rosevear

* Knoxville Opera debut

Soldiers, Spies, Police, Citizens, Children

Knoxville Opera Chorus, Don Townsend, Chorusmaster

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There will be intermissions after Acts I and II

The performances will end at approximately 10:30 and 9:00 respectively.

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Tosca

Scene: Rome, Italy... June, 1800.

Act I. The Church of Sant'Andrea della Valle. Angelotti, an escaped political prisoner, hides in his family's private chapel. The sacristan assists the painter Cavaradossi who is there to resume his work on a portrait of Mary Magdalen. The artist muses about his lover, Floria Tosca, while admiring a miniature portrait of the celebrated singer. When the sacristan leaves, Angelotti reveals himself to Cavaradossi, his friend and political ally. Angelotti's story is interrupted by Tosca's arrival and he hurriedly departs. Tosca suggests that Cavaradossi join her for a rendezvous at his villa after her performance that night. However, upon noticing the portrait of Mary Magdalen, she recognizes the image as that of Angelotti's sister, the Marchesa Attavanti, and jealously suspects him of infidelity. He assuages her suspicions and she goes. Angelotti reappears, and his escape to Cavaradossi's villa is planned. A cannon shot warns that his escape has been discovered and the two flee. The sacristan recounts the political events of the day to his choir boys whose celebration is cut short by the appearance of Baron Scarpia, the police chief, who is searching for Angelotti. Tosca returns looking for Cavaradossi but finds Scarpia instead, who plants false doubts into her mind concerning Cavaradossi's fidelity. Physical evidence leads Scarpia to conclude that the painter is connected to the prisoner's escape. While the magnificent Te Deum unfolds, the irreverent Scarpia vows to send Cavaradossi to his death so that he may possess Tosca himself.

Act II. Scarpia's room at the Farnese Palace, that night. Scarpia anticipates his conquest of Tosca and sends a note inviting her to join him when she finishes her nearby performance. While Tosca's voice is heard in the distance, his agents, Spolotta and Scarrone, bring in the captured Cavaradossi who reveals nothing. Tosca arrives and Scarpia sends Cavaradossi off to be tortured. When she can no longer bear her lover's cries, she divulges Angelotti's hiding-place. Cavaradossi returns, discovers her betrayal, and that Napoleon Bonaparte has defeated the royalist forces. Exulting the victory, he is dragged away to prison. Left alone with Tosca, Scarpia bargains with her for Cavaradossi's life. She pleads for mercy in vain. Spolotta announces that Angelotti committed suicide just as Scarpia's agents discovered him at Cavaradossi's villa. Tosca finally agrees to yield to Scarpia in exchange for a mock execution of Cavaradossi and safe conduct for herself and the painter to leave the country. As Scarpia advances to embrace her, she stabs him to death.

Act III. A parapet on top of the Castle Sant'Angelo, just before dawn the next morning. Church bells ring the matins. A lonely shepherd sings a song of unrequited love. Awaiting his execution, Cavaradossi convinces a jailer to deliver a note to Tosca, and then starts writing a farewell letter. Tosca bursts in and explains the passport of safe-conduct, the murder of Scarpia, and the impending mock execution. They begin to dream of their future together. After the execution, the soldiers depart, and the horrified Tosca discovers the lifeless body of Cavaradossi. Spolotta enters with the soldiers, denouncing Tosca as Scarpia's murderer. With nothing to live for, she jumps from the ramparts to her death.

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Artist Bios



Maestro Brian Salesky is a Knoxville performer, conductor and conductor in May, 2007. His administrative career is marked by a steady, far-reaching growth, providing exciting, young artists and veterans, and financial stability in dealing with conservative, record debt from the black operations.
Maestro Salesky has enjoyed a highly versatile international career as a conductor, symphony and chamber orchestra conductor, soloist, and arranger. He has worked with major and popular orchestras. During his twenty-two years of service in the performing arts, he has developed a wide variety of works as a producer, arranger, conductor, soloist, soloist, and soloist, and has distinguished himself as an accomplished performer, conductor, educator, author, and performer.

Maestro Salesky first won critical plaudits during his six-year tenure as a resident conductor and administrator with the New York City Opera. With the company in NYC and on tour in Los Angeles, Washington and Mexico, his twenty-two opera repertoire includes the "First Night" world premier debut of *Il Trovatore*. Maestro Salesky also served as the artistic and administrative director of the NYC CBS National Company, conducting *Donizetti's Lucia di Lammermoore*.

The conductor has also worked with the opera companies of Barcelona, Sydney, Chicago, Cincinnati, Washington, DC, Atlanta, Denver, Portland, Ore, and Montreal. Maestro Salesky has performed with the leading symphony orchestras of Chicago, Madrid, Winnipeg, Fort Lauderdale, San Diego, Los Angeles, the Kennedy Center, Chicago's Grant Park, Naples, South Bend, Columbus, Ohio, and London, and the chamber orchestras of Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Indianapolis, and Woodstock, Tennessee, New York City. Maestro Salesky has served as Music Director of the Congress of Strings, Masquedale Music Chamber Orchestra, the Lanza-Seraphine Orchestra, the originally formed of Yaron Ta-Mendel with Paul Hill, and as Resident Conductor for the symphony's Tony Award production of *Anna Karenina*.

Away from the podium, the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music's education range of activities have included site visits, positions with Indiana University, Elmer College and the Israel Vocal Arts Institute, and Artistic Advisory positions with the symphony orchestras of Denver and Utah. World Studio studios, the American Council on Musical Arts, and the NYC Performing Arts Education Advisory Commission. He has accompanied hundreds of singers including Leonard Plonka, Catherine Malmgren, Richard Tucker, Sherrill Milnes, and Robert Merrill. From 1996 to 2001, he served as a co-founder, Executive Producer and fund-raiser for the \$100 million Funding Hungary Fund's \$10 million dollar campaign.

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Stage Director

David Bamberger, Executive Director of Knoxville Opera, has staged more than 150 productions on Broadway, including such stars as *Boyz n the City*, *Shogun*, *Milnes*, *James*, *Thru*, and *24* Broadway. After founding Knoxville Opera in 2001, he served as General Director for 28 years, guiding the organization's growth from its current status as one of the top regional opera companies in the United States. He opened Knoxville Opera's 20th Anniversary Season in 2019 with *Die Frau ohne Schatten*. He has performed at Cleveland, Broward, and other venues. The opera he created to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the United Arts Center in 2014 was named Best of a Field of Dreams.

Mr. Bamberger's stagings have been presented through the City of St. Louis, the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the New York City Opera, the Bolshoi of Cuba, the Los Angeles Music Center, for the National Opera Company, and he staged with *Regole* and *Le Grand Inconnu* and his work for the Israel Academy of Arts and Sciences in Jerusalem. His previous productions for Knoxville Opera include *Die Frau ohne Schatten*.

In spoken theatre, Mr. Bamberger's productions range from *Whiplash*, its own (the first in a New York production of Stephen's classic, *Whiplash*), *Death of a Salesman*, *Michael*, *Yentlow*, *Waiting for Godot*, *Samuel Beckett*. His writings include several articles for *Opera News*, and best-selling textbooks for students. His general history of the Jewish people, *From a to the Letter*, *From a to the Letter*, is now being used in Israel in translation in its Hebrew and English.

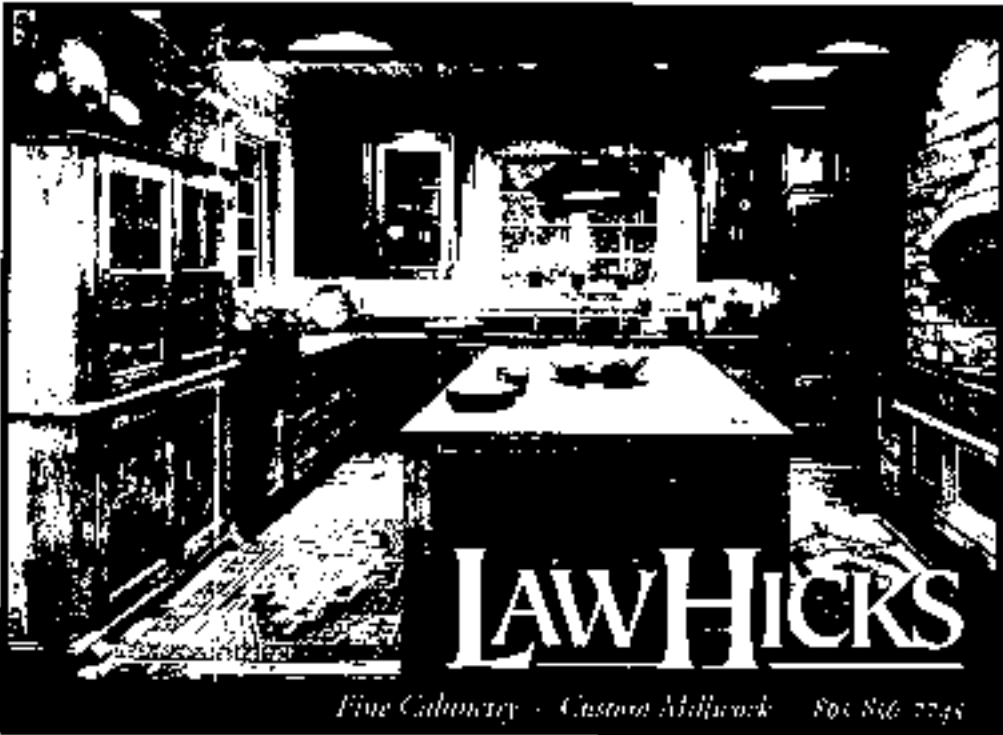
He has served on the Board of Directors of OPERA America, the Music Panel of Ohio Arts Council, and the Board of Directors of the National Alliance for Musical Theatre. He received the major opera award for Arts Administration in 2000. He was elected to the OPERA America to represent the opera industry before congress. In 2010, he was successful in getting congress support for the national Endowment for the Arts. In 2011, he became Artistic Director of the Opera Department at the local institution of Music.

The Encore Society

The Encore Society is our recognition program for donors who have included Knoxville Opera in their estate plans. It offers a variety of planned giving arrangements, including charitable gift annuities, trusts and bequests.

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Jennifer Harris (Floria Tosca)

Ms. Harris's appearance is sponsored by Mary Helen Dyers and Catherine & Mark Hill.
Birthplace: Traverse City, Michigan. **Opera companies:** Miami Lyric Opera, Arber Opera Theatre, Center City Opera Theater, Seagle Music Colony. **Orchestra soloist:** Venice (Florida) Symphony Orchestra.



Thomas Studebaker (Cavaradossi)

Mr. Studebaker's appearance is sponsored by Dorothy & J. Caesar Star III
Birthplace: Danville, Illinois. **Opera companies:** Teatro Colon de Buenos Aires, Teatro Municipal de Santiago, L'Opera de Montreal, Opera Australia, Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Seattle Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, New Orleans Opera, Opera Company of Philadelphia, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Sarasota Opera, Opera Orchestra of New York, Knoxville Opera. **Orchestra soloist:** London Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre Symphonique de Montreal, Tokyo Symphony, Nagoya Philharmonic, Israel Philharmonic, Westdeutscher Rundfunk, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, Sydney Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Richmond Symphony Orchestra, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. **Festival:** Bard Music Festival. **Teaching position:** Belmont University.



Daniel Sumegi (Scarpia)

Mr. Sumegi's appearance is sponsored by Kelly & Michael Conley
Birthplace: Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. **Opera companies:** Covent Garden, Scottish Opera, Welsh National Opera, Teatro Verdi di Trieste, Teatro Regio di Parma, Paris Opera, Opera Montpellier, Angers Nantes Opera, Hamburg Opera, Frankfurt Opera, Cologne Opera, Bonn Opera, Teatro Liceu Barcelona, Teatro Crecchi, Holland National Reissopera, Vlaamse Opera, Nationale Reissopera, Montreal Opera, Teatro Municipal Santiago, Opera Australia, State Opera of South Australia, Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Washington National Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Dallas Opera, Seattle Opera, San Diego Opera, Minnesota Opera, Palm Beach Opera, Utah Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, Austin Lyric

Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (U.K.), Gulbenkian Orchestra (Portugal), Orquesta Sinfonica de Tenerife (Spain), Sydney Philharmonia, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra. Festivals: Barcelona Olympic Games Arts Festival, Cincinnati May Festival.



Michael Wanko (Sacristan)

Birthplace: St. Louis, Missouri. **Opera companies:** Opera Theatre of Lucia, Opera Barga, New York City Opera, Lake George Opera, Utah Symphony & Opera, Ankerage Opera, Lake George Opera, Utah Opera Ensemble, Santa Barbara Grand Opera, Opera Idaho, Opera East Texas, Longview Opera, Eugene Opera. **Orchestra soloist:** New York Philharmonic Orchestra, New Jersey Symphony, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, St. Louis Chamber Orchestra, Scottsdale Symphony, Phoenix Chamber Orchestra. **Festivals:** Aspen Music Festival, Barga Music Festival, Minutemen Festival, Deer Valley Music Festival.



Daniel Berry (Angelotti)

Birthplace: Detroit, Michigan. **Opera companies:** Knoxville Opera, Florentine Opera, Skylight Opera. **Orchestra soloist:** Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Knoxville Symphony Orchestra, Oak Ridge Symphony Orchestra, Kingsport Symphony Orchestra, Symphony of the Mountains. **Radio:** WKOL-FM Morning Concert and Echoes of a Golden Age.



Adam Lloyd (Spoletta)

Birthplace: Orlando, Florida. **Opera companies:** Knoxville Opera, Ohio Light Opera, University of Tennessee Opera Theatre, Florida State University. **Orchestra soloist:** Oak Ridge Symphony. **Teaching positions:** Mississippi State Technical Community College, Crown Music Conservatory.



Lyndon England (Shepherd Boy)

Birthplace: Springfield, Tennessee. **Opera companies:** Nashville Opera, Austin Bay Opera, Proximus Civic Opera, University of Tennessee Opera Theatre.

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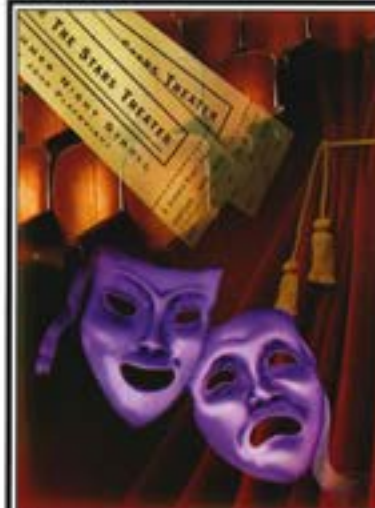
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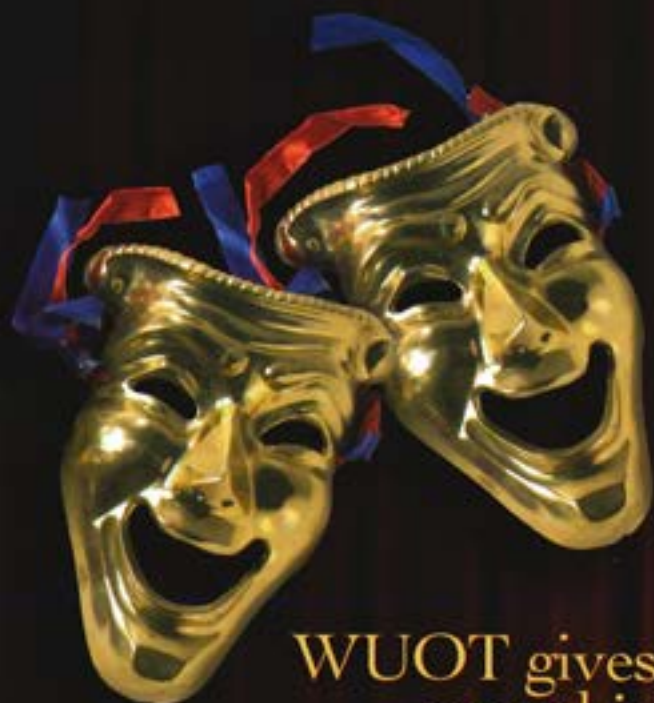


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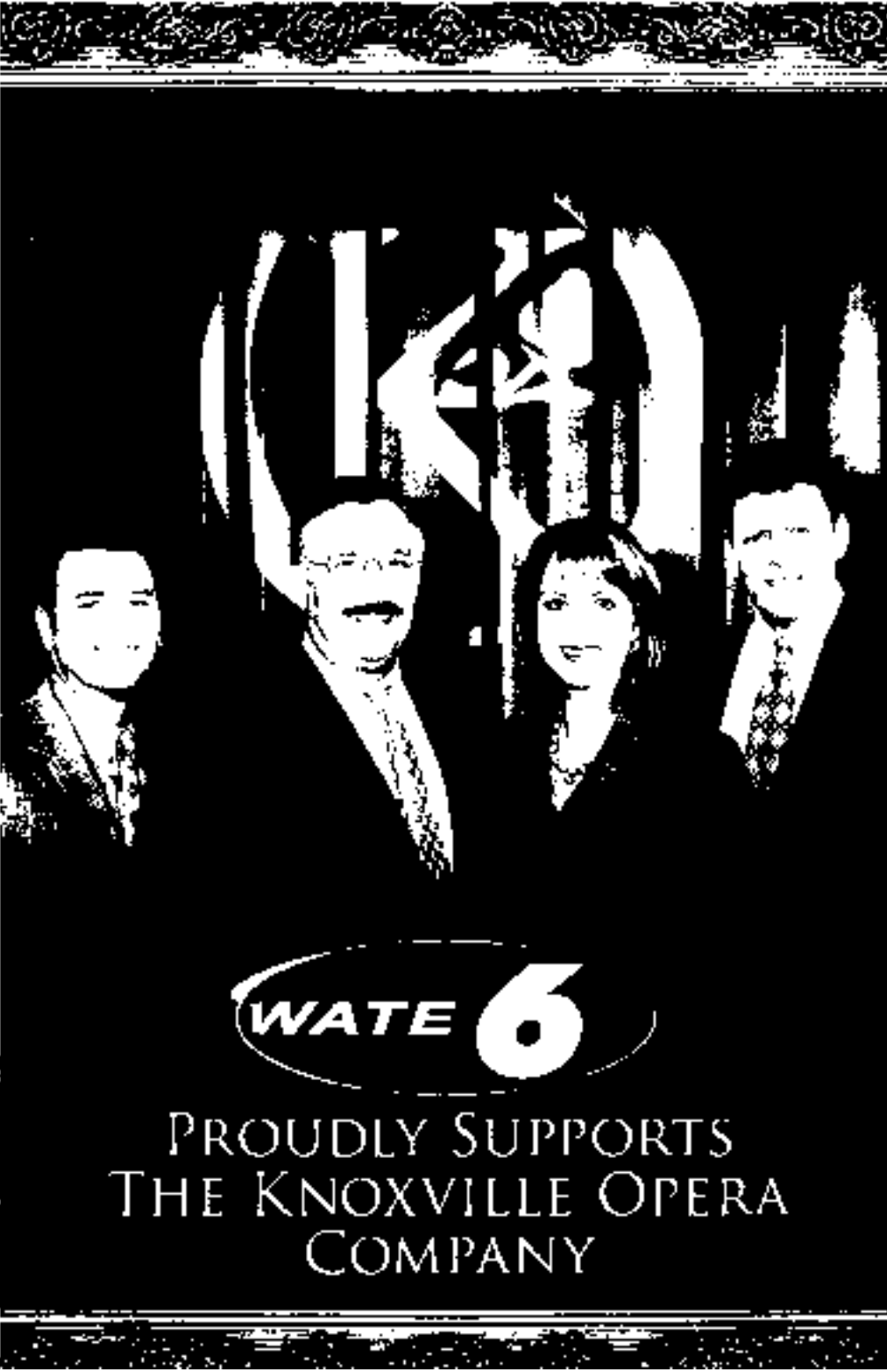
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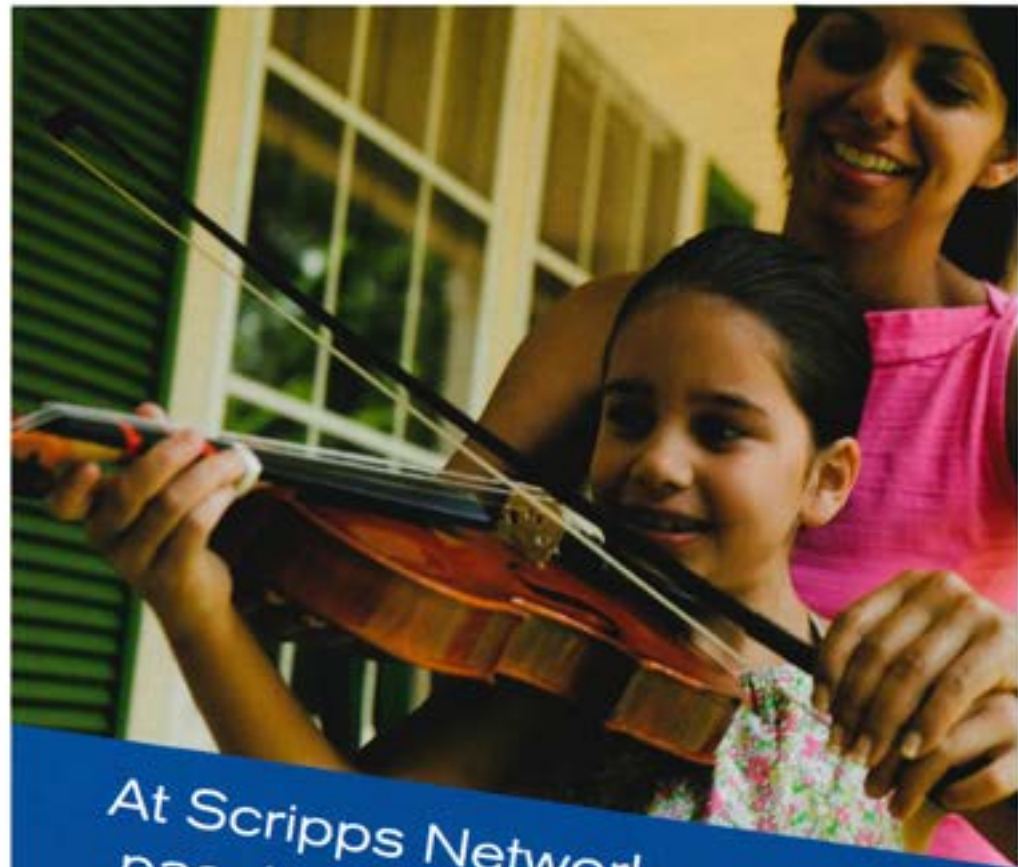


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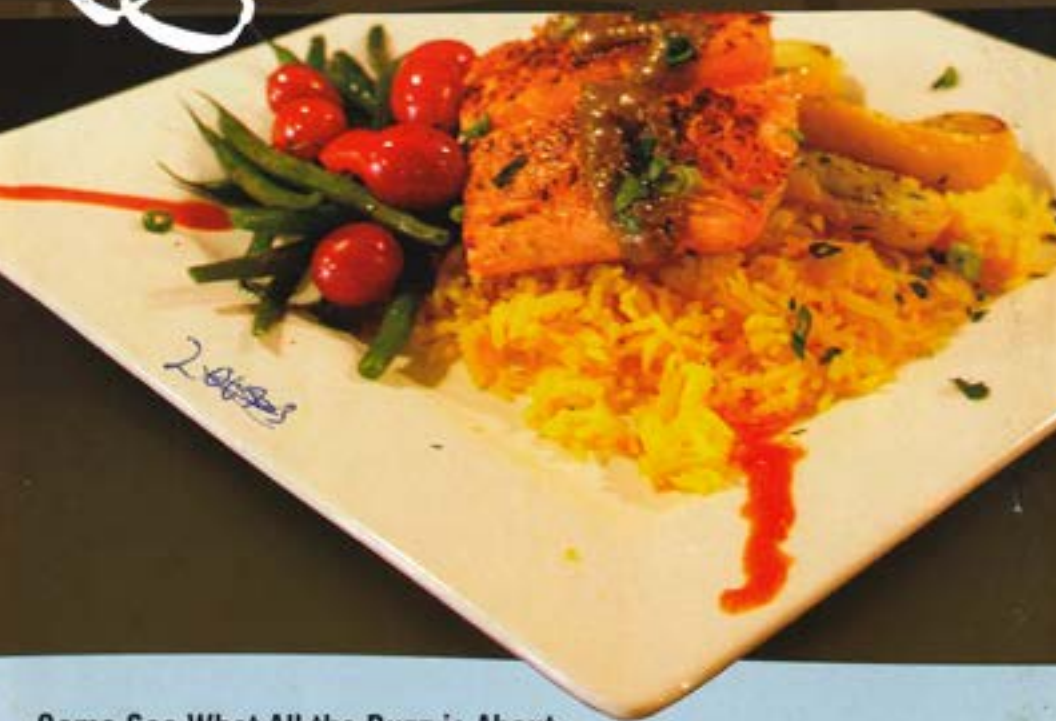
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