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**THE**  
**PIRATES**  
**OF PENZANCE**

March 12 & 14, 2010



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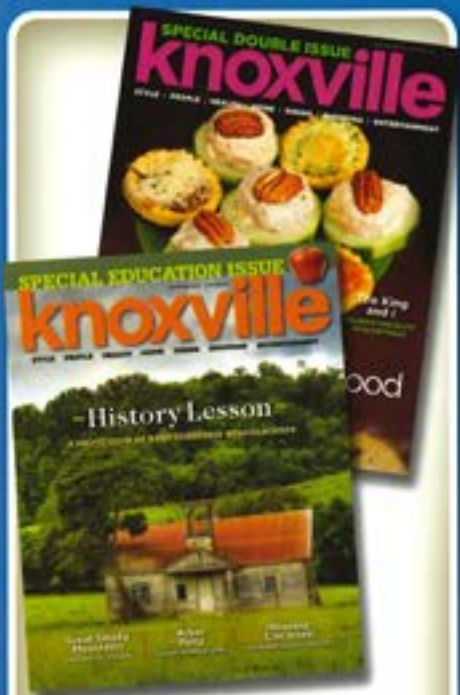
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## A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

*Ahoy and welcome to The Pirates of Penzance!* From the rousing overture to the Major-General's laments, patter piece – and through the tragic reprise of Mabel's waltz song, Gilbert & Sullivan, the master craftsmanship of 19th century English operetta, give us an unforgettable buffet of musical numbers that never fail to delight. And how appropriate it is that we have just presented Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore*, the melodramatic Italian opera which GSN parodied throughout their delicious waltz! It isn't the guilty party who inserted the direct musical quote from *L'elisir* and I hope you'll enjoy this tongue-in-cheek moment! Accompanying the performance will be a small pit orchestra, typical of the GSN era, playing the original orchestration.



**What's next?** Our 9th Annual Russian Festival Italian Street Fair arrives on April 24 with nine hours of a wide variety of entertainment, artisans, and cuisine. Among several new entertainers this year will be an appearance by the Knoxville Opera Gospel Choir, directed by Jeanne Melton, which was billed at our live *Knoxville Opera Goes to Church – A Celebration of Talent* event this past October. Also new to the Fair atmosphere will be a "Little Italy" street featuring only Italian cuisine, products and music. Returning to the festival that bears his name will be Signor Rossini himself and his beloved opera, *The Barber of Seville*! "Figaro! Figaro! Figaro!"

**As many of you are aware, my tenure at Knoxville Opera has been marked by very conservative fiscal policies, which have yielded debt-free operations for four consecutive years.** While our company continues its proud 22-year history of serving the East Tennessee community with opera productions and a variety of education and outreach programs, we still find ourselves in the midst of the ongoing economic storm. A report last year by Americans for the Arts found that about 10,000 arts organizations nationwide – about 17% of the total – have already closed or stand on the verge of collapse. Here at home, while we began this season with an operating surplus, we anticipate ending the year just slightly more than "break even" due to reduced contributions.

**If you love opera, if you want to ensure a vibrant and varied arts scene in Knoxville, if you want our company to continue supporting the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra and the Tennessee Theatre, if you believe that our education and outreach programs are critical to our students' development, and if you love the Rossini Festival, I invite you to invest in our future.** Your personal, corporate and foundation contributions will pay significant dividends both to our community and to you in the form of a variety of benefit packages. Please send your tax-deductible donation to Knoxville Opera, 612 East Depot Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917 or call me at 865-524-8795 for further information.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I wish to express my appreciation to those individuals, corporations, foundations and government agencies – and to our terrific Knoxville Opera Guild – whose support makes everything we do possible.

Most sincerely,

Brian Salecky  
Executive Director and Conductor



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# THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

Opera in Two Acts

Music by Sir Arthur Seymour Sullivan

Libretto by Sir William Schwenck Gilbert

First performance: December 31, 1879 at the Fifth Avenue Theatre, New York City

Friday Evening, March 12, 2010 at 8:00

Saturday Afternoon, March 13, 2010 at 2:45

Kennamer Theatre, Knoxville, Tennessee

Music Director and Conductor  
Stage Director and Choreographer

Brian Safesky  
Carroll Freeman



in order of vocal appearance:

Samuel, *the Pirate King's lieutenant*

Richard, *the Pirate King*

Frederic, *a pirate apprentice*

Ruth, *a peasant maid-of-all-work*

Edith, *General Stanley's daughter*

Kate, *General Stanley's daughter*

Isabel, *General Stanley's daughter*

Mabel, *General Stanley's daughter*

Major General Stanley *of the British Army*

Edward, *Sergeant of Police*

Jesse Sinek\*

David Keith\*

Marc Schreiner\*

Corinne Stevens

Jessica Gates

Leah Kaye Serr

Sarah Hoepfner\*

Rachel Anne Moore\*

Carroll Freeman

Julian Rodescu

\*Knoxville Opera artist

Rachel Anne Moore's crime victim, Jess Serr, and Leah Serr are local students who are members of the Knoxville Opera Studio program and are at this performance at the University of Tennessee.

For more information on our productions, visit [www.knoxvilleopera.com](http://www.knoxvilleopera.com) or call the Knoxville Cultural Center at 863-5500. Knoxville Music and Publishing is a proud sponsor.

*this performance will last approximately two hours and twenty minutes with one intermission.*

For a full list of ticket prices, visit [www.knoxvilleopera.com](http://www.knoxvilleopera.com). All ticket prices are non-refundable, but we do offer a 30-day advance cancellation policy. For more information, visit [www.knoxvilleopera.com](http://www.knoxvilleopera.com). Knoxville Opera is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All ticket prices are non-refundable, but we do offer a 30-day advance cancellation policy. For more information, visit [www.knoxvilleopera.com](http://www.knoxvilleopera.com). Knoxville Opera is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All ticket prices are non-refundable, but we do offer a 30-day advance cancellation policy. For more information, visit [www.knoxvilleopera.com](http://www.knoxvilleopera.com).



The public is invited to greet the principal cast following the Saturday performance at Bonefish Grill, 4610 Kingston Pike. Please call 588-5744 for reservations.

## Synopsis

**Act I:** On the coast of Cornwall, England the Pirates of Penzance celebrate the birthday of their apprentice Frederic. However, he reminds them and their "King" that his obligation is finished, since he was apprenticed only until his 21st birthday. The pirate hag Ruth, who had been Frederic's nursery maid, explains that the boy should never have been left with them: thanks to her failing ears, she had placed Frederic with a pirate, instead of a pilot! Frederic admits he is a "slave of duty" and that when he quits them he intends to destroy them, not because he doesn't love them, but because he loathes what they do. His Pirate friends understand, especially in light of their poor earnings, but before Frederic's apprenticeship ends, he tells them why they are so unsuccessful: Because the Pirates are known to be soft-hearted and have sworn never to victimize orphans (and everyone they catch, of course, claims to be one!).

Ruth is determined to stay with Frederic, even to wed him and, since he has spent his entire life with the Pirates completely deprived of knowing any other woman, the innocent—and gullible—boy accepts Ruth despite their difference in age. However, just as Frederic promises his hand, he hears a chorus of girls nearby. Upon seeing their beauty, his understanding of female pulchritude is shattered, and he realizes that Ruth has not been completely forthcoming about her own "assets." Frederic drops Ruth and waits for the lovelies to enter the beach. Once they are relaxing with toes in the water, Frederic reveals himself, confessing his profession. The girls are terribly intimidated by the scrapping boy...all but Mabel, who falls in love with Frederic instantly. The Pirates sneak up on the beach and grab a girl, but Major-General Stanley enters, identifies himself as the girls' father, and demands to know what is transpiring. When the Pirate King tells the Major-General that they have designs on his daughters, Stanley objects and, knowing the reputation of the Pirates of Penzance, claims he is an orphan, thus, disarming them. He, accompanied by Frederic, escorts his daughters back to his family estate. The disappointed Pirates—and a frustrated Ruth—are left behind.

**Act II:** The Major-General, who is actually no orphan, sits alone in the ruins of the family chapel, regretting the lie he told the Pirates earlier. Frederic, however, has a plan to lead a squad of inept police against his old gang. Before he can act, however, the Pirate King and Ruth arrive to tell him that he is still obligated to the Pirates: Because Frederic was born on February 29 of a leap year, he has served only five years, not the 21 required by his contract. A strong sense of duty forces Frederic to relent, and, because he is—once again—a member of the Pirates of Penzance, he must also reveal the truth that Major-General Stanley is not an orphan. The Pirate King vows that he will have revenge on the Major-General for this shameful duplicity. Mabel enters, begging Frederic not to return to the Pirates, but he reluctantly and dutifully ignores her pleas. The police try to bolster their sagging courage about attacking the Pirates, who ultimately manage to capture the Major-General, his daughters, and even the pitiful police. However, when Ruth divulges that the Pirates are, in fact, noblemen who swear their allegiance to the Queen, the tables are turned—and the Pirates are compelled to surrender to the police. However, because the Pirates are loyal—and royal—British subjects, they are forgiven. The Major-General's daughters take their pack of ex-pirates and police, Frederic wins Mabel, Ruth even gets a man, and everyone lives happily ever after!



Rossini's  
**The Barber of Seville**

April 23 @ 8:00 & April 25 @ 2:30

Presented with projected English translations

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**Maestro Brian Silesky** joined Knoxville Opera as its seventh Executive Director and Conductor in May 2005. His administration has been marked by a period of artistic growth, presenting exciting young artists and veterans, and increased stability. Mr. Silesky has enjoyed a fruitful, versatile, international career as a conductor of symphonic and chamber orchestras, operas and operettas, ballet and modern dance, Broadway musicals, and popular music. During his four decades of service to the performing arts, Mr. Silesky has also engaged in a wide variety of work as a producer, manager of concerts, opera, television, radio and videos, and has distinguished himself as an actor, pianist, music arranger, fund-raiser, educator, lecturer, author and consultant.

Mr. Silesky 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 New York City and on tour in Los Angeles, Washington, and Mexico, his twenty-five opera repertoire included the "Two From L'opéra de Cendrillon" releases of *Le Cendrillon*. Mr. Silesky also served as the artistic and administrative director of the NYC Opera National Company, conducting *Comme et Les Enfants* in 45 cities. The conductor has also appeared with the opera companies of Barcelona, Sydney, Chicago, Cincinnati, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Dayton, Central City, and Mountain. Maestro Silesky has performed with the leading symphony orchestras of Chicago, Maestros Winnipeg, Palm, Denver, San Diego, Syracuse, the Kennedy Center, Cincinnati's Grant Park, Napa, South Bend, Greensboro, China, and Curitiba, and the chamber orchestras of Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Fishtrap Island and Wisconsin. In his native New York City, Mr. Silesky has served as Music Director for the Congress of Strings, Musica La Mochi Chamber Orchestra, the Jamaica Symphony Orchestra, the Broadway revival of *Man of La Mancha* with Raul Julia and as Resident Conductor for George Albert's Tony Award production of *On Your Feet*. During his career he has conducted 16 legendary artists: Renée Stoner, Catherine Malfitano, and Mitchell Kay, and has accompanied hundreds of singers including Joan Sutherland, Richard Tucker, Sverre Milnes, and Robert Merrill.

Award-winning education, the Indiana University Ph.D. *Kaplan* graduate, a eclectic range of activities have included education positions with Indiana University, Hunter College and the Isaac World Arts Institute, and Artistic Adviser positions with the symphony orchestras of Denver and Texas, Wolf Dance Studios, the American Guild of Musical Artists, and the New York City Performing Arts Education Advisory Commission. From 1996 to 2000, he served as Co-founder, Executive Producer and fund-raiser for the Raul Julia Institute Honger Land's ten-million-dollar company.



**Carroll Freeman** is the Director of Opera at the University of Tennessee, the Artistic Director of Knoxville Opera Studio, and the Artistic Director of the Furman Opera Institute in Aiken. He was produced into the Knoxville Opera Hall of Fame in 2007.

Mr. Freeman began his professional career as a child with the Columbia Bachelor. As a young he associated with Leonard Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic, New York City Opera, and The Bell Telephone Hour on NBC TV. He starred as Pavarotti "Peter, the Chorus" on the CBS TV series, *Just One of Us*.

Mr. Freeman made his New York City Opera debut in *La Traviata* and his European debut at the Edinburgh Festival in *Les Huguenots*. *Les Huguenots* was a major success that he enjoyed in its world premiere with the Opera Theatre of St. Louis. His performance of Don Quixote in Peter Seiler's production of *Don Quixote* was seen worldwide, live in New York, Vienna, and Paris, and on video. He performed in Tokyo in the Japanese premiere of *Les Huguenots* and is featured on the Pro Arts CD, *Les Huguenots*, chosen by *CD Review* as one of the best classical CDs of 1999.

Mr. Freeman has performed with Houston Grand Opera, Baltimore Opera, San Diego Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Atlanta Opera, New Orleans Opera, Minnesota Opera, Michigan Opera Theater, and Opera Pacific, to name a few. He has appeared with the festivals of Wolf Trap Farm Park, Popsko Communiton, Stratton Springs, Lake George Opera, Chautauque, Central City Opera, ArtPark, and Des Moines Metro Opera. He has worked with the Dallas Symphony, the Saint Louis Symphony, the Houston Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Minnesota Symphony, National Symphony, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and at Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall. Mr. Freeman was a 1984 and 1985 winner of the National Opera Institute Award given at the Kennedy Center by the late Beverly Sills and Harold Prince. In 1986 *Opera News* chose him as one of America's most exciting young talents.

Mr. Freeman received his BM from the University of Southern Mississippi and his MPA from Oklahoma City University. A past Artistic Director of Mississippi Opera, the Opera Ensemble of Oklahoma Opera, Opera in the Ozarks, and Co-Director of the Des Moines Metro Opera apprentice program, he has stage directed for La Musica Linn in Italy, Knoxville Opera, Opera Grand Rapids, Nashvok Opera, Phoenix Metropolitan Opera, Opera El Paso, Mobile Opera, Tulsa Opera, Opera Company of Mid Michigan, and Mississippi Opera. He recently starred in the role of *Le Malin* with the Kinston State Opera Theatre. Mr. Freeman and his wife, Georgia State University Director of Opera, Kay Powell, are the proud parents of thirteen-year-old Adam.





**David Keith** (*The Pirate King*)  
*Mr. Keith's appearance is sponsored by Lawrence and Judy Schiffer*

**Birthplace:** Knoxville, Tennessee  
**Theatre Companies:** Goodspeed Opera House (CT), Clarence Brown Theatre (Knoxville), Westport County Playhouse (CT), Elitch Theatre (Denver), Williamstown Theatre Festival (MA)  
**Director:** *The Further Adventures of Tennessee Buck, The Curse*  
**Movies:** *An Officer and a Gentleman* (Golden Globe nominee), *Daredevil*, *Men of Honor*, *U-571*, *The Two Jakes*, *Heartbreak Hotel*, *Behind Enemy Lines*, *The Indian in the Cupboard*, *Major League II*, *White of the Eye*, *Firestarter*, *Back Roads*, *The Great Santini*, *Brubaker*, *Gulag*, *The Lords of Discipline*, *The Rose* and 60 more!  
**Television:** *High Incident*, *The Class*, *CSI: Miami*, *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*, *NCIS*, *Guts and Glory: The Rise and Fall of Oliver North*, *The Golden Moment: An Olympic Love Story*



**Rachel Anne Moore** (*Mabel*)  
*Ms. Moore's appearance is sponsored by Sheena McCall*

**Birthplace:** Seattle, Washington  
**U.S. Opera Companies:** Opera North, University of Tennessee Opera Theatre, Indiana University Opera Theatre  
**Orchestras:** Indiana University Philharmonic Orchestra



**MARC SCHREINER** (*Frederic*)

**Birthplace:** Rollingstone, Minnesota  
**U.S. Opera Companies:** Houston Grand Opera, Minnesota Opera, Nashville Opera, Opera Memphis, Syracuse Opera, Toledo Opera, Lake George Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Fargo-Moorhead Opera, EZCredit Theater  
**Orchestras & Festivals:** Salzburg Festspiel, Edinburgh Festival, Austin Symphony Orchestra, Valdosta Symphony Orchestra



**JULIAN RODESCU** (*Police Sergeant*)

**Birthplace:** Bucharest, Romania  
**Foreign Opera Companies:** Teatro alla Scala (Milan), Covent Garden (London), Maggio Musicale (Florence), Staatsoper Dresden, Teatro San Carlo (Naples), Teatro Carlo Felice (Genova), Teatro Real (Madrid), Lisbon Opera, Bilbao Opera, Tel Aviv Opera  
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**CORINNE STEVENS:** (*Ruth*)

**Birthplace:** White Plains, New York  
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**Orchestra:** Victoria Chamber Orchestra



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## *The Pirates of Penzance Ensemble*

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### **The Pirates and the Policemen**

Stefan Barner

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*-Sergei Rachmaninov*

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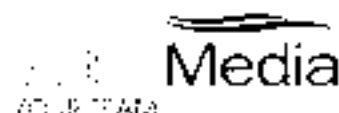
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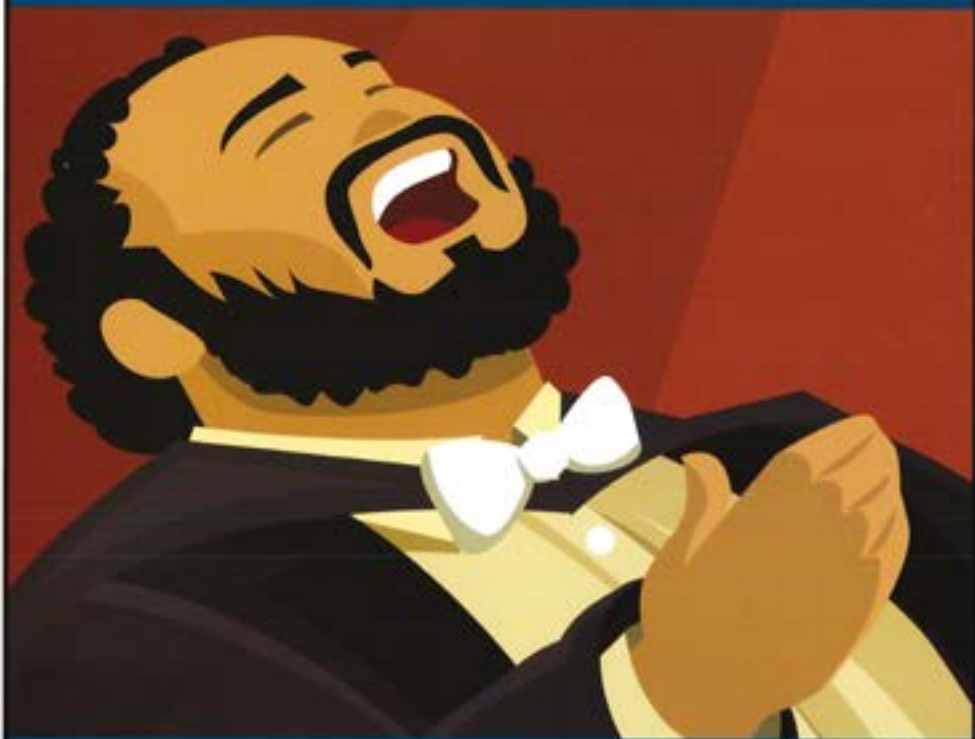
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