

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Richard Soltan

*whose generosity made this performance possible*

Larry Martino

*for his timely moral and practical support*

The Magee Family and Blake Florists

*for the beautiful reception following the performance*

*For their generous support*

*by way of time, talent and resources,*

*we thank:*

The Ed Matthews Family and St. Timothy Lutheran Church

Sandra Day, James Wiest

and the Delaware Valley Opera Company

William Fullard and the Independence Sinfonia

Marian Stieber and the Rowan University Opera Department

Jack and Judy Keisler



ST. Timothy Lutheran Church  
*A Community Church*

*presents*

**AMAHIL**  
**AND THE NIGHT VISITORS**

*with*

The Delaware Valley Opera Company

and Independence Sinfonia

Albert Chaney

Stage Director

Gabriel Gordon

Music Director

*followed by a Christmas Carol Singalong*

*and Reception*

Sunday, November 28, 2004

3:00 pm

**Use of cell phones, pagers, and flash photography  
is NOT permitted during the performance.**

## The Cast

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Amahl, a young shepherd boy .....Elizabeth Oliver  
 His Mother.....Lisa Helmel Thomas  
 King Kaspar.....Timothy Oliver  
 King Melchior.....Daniel Schauble  
 King Balthazar.....Milo Morris  
 The Page.....Raja Bhavesh Vaidya

## Shepherds

.....Joyce Brommer  
 .....Barbara Brivic  
 .....Jeffrey U. Chapman  
 .....Mary Ann Cleary  
 .....Elie Dworkin  
 .....Katherine Essig  
 .....Michael McCollum  
 .....Dave Perelman  
 .....Mark Rohl  
 .....Rick Scheel  
 .....Christina D. Woody



## ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATIONS

St. Timothy Lutheran Church recently celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2002 shortly after the building underwent an extensive renovation. As a community church with a growing membership, its vision is to move the Christian church into the 21st century while maintaining the essentials of biblical Christian doctrine. Sunday Worship at St. Timothy includes praise and worship led by the Praise Band and Worship Choir as well as traditional hymns. Programs offered throughout the week include an evening Bible study, a very active Youth Group, Men's Fellowship, Ladies' Study Group, and a Seniors Group. Pastor Ed Matthew's vision for ministering in the Fox Chase/ Rockledge Community is to bring people into their own relationship with Christ. "I want people to know that they matter to God, that no matter what our past is, God reaches out to us to love us. We all need to come just as we are....to experience the transforming power of the Holy Spirit in our lives and be changed forever."

For more information, call 215-745-4453 or visit [www.lighthousecafestore.com](http://www.lighthousecafestore.com)

The Delaware Valley Opera Company (originally incorporated as the Delaware Valley Lyric Opera Guild) was started in 1979. The intention of its founders was to offer a stepping stone for singers, providing training and education through exposure to all facets of operatic production, and performance opportunities in a variety of operas. During the first year, two operas and a concert were produced at various Center City locations while a permanent space was sought.

In 1981, the Company discovered the Hermitage Mansion, one of Philadelphia's historic Fairmount Park homes, and began to lease it from the City. A year later, an outdoor stage was built in the natural amphitheater behind the Mansion and became the Paul D. Osimo Theatre. The Mansion serves also as the Company's administrative base, rehearsal space, costume and scenery storage site, and the location for its Winter Concert Series in the living room.

The primary focus of the Company is its Summer Festival - three operatic productions in June, July and August in the Osimo Theatre. During its 25 years of existence, the Company has performed over 100 performances and presented more than 52 operas.

For more information, call 215-725-4171 or visit [www.dvopera.org](http://www.dvopera.org)

The Independence Sinfonia, now in its ninth season, is comprised of talented volunteers from the Delaware Valley. Our players range in age from students to retirees, but they are all united in their love for the performance of fine literature for chamber orchestra. A self-governing community organization, the Independence Sinfonia welcomes your support as volunteers and donors in the furtherance of our artistic mission.

For more information, call 215-836-2240 or visit [www.independencesinfonia.com](http://www.independencesinfonia.com)

# Independence Sinfonia

Gabriel Gordon, Music Director

## Violin

Justine Budge  
Linda Baldwin  
Daria Blyskal  
Amanda Godshall  
Harold Golden  
Pat Neiman

## Viola

Jeff Bradbury  
John Safian

## Cello

Toni Gizzi  
Ruth Sosa  
Megan Stauffer  
Julie Wiberg

## Bass

Larry Jones

## Flute

Lisa Davis

## Oboe

Woody Rowland  
Lynda Cantor

## Clarinet

William Fullard

## Bassoon

Jay Tinkleman

## Horn

Julie Rivers

## Trumpet

Jim Edwards

## Harp

Madeline Blood

## Percussion

Ken Miller

## Upcoming Concerts

February 27, 2005

Penn State University Campus,  
Abington

March 6, 2005

Philadelphia Cathedral  
37<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut Streets,  
Philadelphia

## *Who's Who in the Cast*

**Elizabeth Oliver (Amahl)** is enjoying an active singing career in Philadelphia and its surrounding counties. She recently performed the Shepherd in Puccini's *Tosca* with Delaware Valley Opera and Josephine in Gilbert and Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore* for the Lancaster Opera Company. Other roles with LOC include Rosina in Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*, Frasquita in Bizet's *Carmen* and Barbarina in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*. An Indiana University (Bloomington) graduate, her opera credits include Madame Goldentrill and Miss Silverpeal in Mozart's *The Impresario* and Oscar in Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera* with the Delaware Valley Opera Company, and Suor Osmina in Puccini's *Suor Angelica* with the Wissahickon Woods Opera Company. Ms. Oliver performs throughout the Philadelphia area with choral groups such as the Philadelphia Singers Chorale, Pennsylvania Pro Musica, and the New Jersey Chamber Music Society. Originally from Lansdale, Montgomery County, she and her husband, Tim, perform concerts of musical theater selections, arias, and art songs in and around Philadelphia.

**Lisa Helmel Thomas (The Mother)** made her Delaware Valley Opera debut as Mimi in *La Boheme* in 2001, and most recently sang the title role in Puccini's *Tosca* with the same company this past summer. The following year, she went on to essay Verdi's *Lady Macbeth*, performed in concert, and has sung the Mother in Giancarlo Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors* with DVOC for the past two seasons. Lisa received her Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance from Oberlin Conservatory, auditioned for Boris Goldovsky and was accepted at the Curtis Institute of Music, where she received her Master's in Opera degree and the Ralph Festorazzi Award for "Most Promising Vocal Student." She has performed and covered over 25 roles with companies such as The Opera Company of Philadelphia, Opera/Columbus, OperaDelaware, Sarasota Opera, Pennsylvania Opera Theater, and Stadttheater Giessen in Germany. She is in her fifth year on the Voice faculty at the Settlement School of Music and also maintains a private studio. Her busy performing schedule

## Who's Who (continued)

includes work with local organizations such as the Opera Company of Philadelphia, The Philadelphia Singers, the Bay Atlantic Symphony and the Ocean City Pops Orchestra.

Since 2003, Lisa has been Director of Music Ministries here at St. Timothy's, where she serves as pianist, organist, choir director, and keyboard/vocalist on the Praise Team. As a pianist, she has accompanied numerous vocal recitals, most notably those of her husband, baritone Todd Thomas, which has taken them as far as Russelsheim, Germany, where they performed to critical acclaim. Their most recent collaboration was a Schumann and Vaughn Williams recital at Elmira College (NY) this past September. Lisa and Todd not only sing and collaborate in concert, but continually celebrate their most important project: parenting three very energetic children – Lydia (13), Gabriela (8), and Samuel (5).

**Timothy Oliver (King Kaspar)** was seen most recently as Spoletta in Puccini's *Tosca*, and for the past two years has sung King Kaspar in Delaware Valley Opera's production of Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, a role he has performed with various companies. Other performances include the Swan in Orff's *Carmina Burana* with the Williamsport Symphony Orchestra, *Broadway Duets* performed with his wife, Elizabeth, with the Old York Road Symphony Orchestra and Mozart's *Vespers* coupled with Bach *Cantata No. 8* with the West Jersey Chamber Orchestra. In the Fulton Opera House with the Lancaster Opera Company, he has portrayed Count Almaviva in Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Don Curzio and Don Basilio in Mozart's *Le Nozze di*

*Figaro*, Remendado in Bizet's *Carmen*, Goro in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, and Ralph Rackstraw in Gilbert and Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore*.

Mr. Oliver has performed over twenty different operatic roles with companies including the Delaware Valley Opera Company, Haddonfield Arts, and Piccolo Opera Company. He is also a member of The Philadelphia Singers, the official adjunct to the Philadelphia Orchestra. He lives in Philadelphia and holds a B.A. in Music from Lycoming College.

Amahl, a shepherd, tries to tell his mother about what he has seen outside; an enormous star with a long tail. His mother, used to his habitual lying, grows angry; she is even angrier when Amahl tells her that at the door are three kings coming to visit them. The kings enter and tell the two peasants that they have come to find a king, and they show the rich gifts they have brought him. While Amahl's mother is out gathering the neighbors, Amahl asks the kings questions about their lives. The mother returns, and the villagers present their gifts to the visitors. That night, Amahl's mother tries to steal some of the kings' gold to use to help her child; she is caught, and when the kings offer to let her keep the gold, explaining that the king they seek will need nothing but love to rule his kingdom, she returns it. Amahl offers his crutch as an additional gift, and suddenly finds that he can walk. He leaves with the kings to pay homage to the child who has healed him.



## About the Opera

*Amahl and the Night Visitors* was the first opera ever written for American television. The head of NBC's Opera Company commissioned Menotti to write an opera. The composer at first seemed disinterested in the idea and it lay dormant for several years. A visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art brought inspiration. Menotti was deeply impressed by *The Adoration of the Magi* by Flemish artist Hieronymus Bosch. He began the opera only weeks before the scheduled broadcast on Christmas Eve 1951, and rehearsals started before the score was finished. The premiere was a great success and it was rebroadcast on Christmas Eve for years to follow.

## About the Directors (continued)

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Greater Newark Youth Orchestra. His guest conducting has included many ensembles from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Israel.

Amy Chmielewski (Costume Designer) recently made her designing debut at with DVOC's 2004 Summer Festival. Her recent credits include Assistant Designer for *Rigoletto* with Center City Opera Theatre and Cutter/Draper for *Comedy of Errors* with The Lantern Theatre. She would like to thank Connie for giving her this opportunity. She would like to thank Millie for taking Amy under her wing. But above all, she would like to thank her Mom and Dad for their unwavering support and love. Here's to another great show!



## Behind the Scenes

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Stage Direction .....	Albert Chaney
Set Design.....	Albert Chaney
Musical Preparation.....	Gabriel Gordon, Elise Auerbach
Pianists.....	Doris Coleman, Rosemary Harkins, Bernard Kunkel
Producer.....	Lisa Thomas
Stage Management, Lighting.....	Jack and Judy Keisler
Set Construction.....	Sandra Day, Jack and Judy Keisler
Costumes, Hair, and Makeup.....	Amy Chmielewski
Props.....	Jack and Judy Keisler
Program.....	Lisa Thomas
Reception.....	Phil and Debbie Magee, Larry Martino

## Who's Who (continued)

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**Daniel Schauble (King Melchior)** made his operatic debut at 53 three seasons ago as Melchior in DVOC's smash hit *Amahl & the Night Visitors*. This is his third year singing this role with DVOC. Since that time he has performed the roles of Dr. Bartolo and Antonio in *The Marriage of Figaro* - Mozart; Mr. Gobineau in *The Medium* - Menotti. In 2004 season Dan recently performed the role of Count Ceprano in a production of *Rigoletto* at the Trinity Center in Philadelphia. Presently he is under contract with Vox Amadeus directed by Valentine Radu and Vox Novae et Antique directed by Robert Ross. At the University of Pennsylvania he has continued to perform as bass soloist with Ancient Voices a superior Renaissance Chorale, directed by William Parberry. He has been singing as bass soloist since 1973 at Congregation Or Ami in Lafayette Hill, Pa. Dan is choral director at Central High School in Philadelphia. He was director of music at Roxborough Presbyterian Church for 18 years. He was assistant director of the All Philadelphia Boys Choir directed by Robert Hamilton. He is quite involved in Real Estate and lives with his wife Jaclynn in Lafayette Hill, PA. They have four wonderful children

**Milo Morris (King Balthazar)** With a voice described as "robust" by the *Lancaster Intelligencer Journal*, Milo Morris is a solid and versatile performer. At home in the basso buffo repertoire as well as demanding, dramatic bel canto and verismo roles, Milo brings a wide variety of performance experience to the stage including numerous opera, operetta, and musical theatre credits. Milo's recent interpretations have included Ramfis in *Aida*, Banquo in *Macbeth*, and the Boatswain in *HMS Pinafore*. Originally from Boston and now living in Philadelphia, Milo has been a crowdpleaser for audiences throughout the midAtlantic and Northeast, bringing roles to life for Opera Delaware, New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players, and Lancaster Opera Company. Among his favorite operatic roles are the title role in *Don Pasquale*, Dr. Bartolo in operatic roles are the title role in *Don Pasquale*, Dr. Bartolo in *Le Nozze Le Nozze di Figaro*, and Colline in *La Boheme*. Locally, Mr. Morris has sung leading roles with Mozart & Friends Opera Festival,

## Who's Who (continued)

ConcertOpera Philadelphia, and Delaware Valley Opera Company. Milo has also appeared as a guest artist in operas and recitals at the University of Maine at Farmington, Philadelphia Biblical University, and Rowan University.

Milo was educated at the Boston Conservatory, University of the Arts, and Temple University. He also studied acting and dance at the various institutions he attended, in addition to studying at professional dance studios in Boston and Philadelphia.

**Bhavesh K. Vaidya - a.k.a. "Raja" (The Page)** possesses an extensive background in choral singing that began in high school. In college, Mr. Vaidya sang with the acclaimed Meistersingers of Ursinus College under the direction of Dr. John French. Soon after, he sang with the Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia accompanied by the Philadelphia Orchestra where he has performed at the Philadelphia Academy of Music, Mann Music Center, New York's Saratoga Performing Arts Center and numerous local venues. He has appeared in numerous productions of DVOC in the chorus and, more recently, solo work. Highlights include *200 years of American Music*, *The Barber of Seville*, where he served double duty as Fiorello and Captain of the Guard; *Dialogues of the Carmelites* as the Jailer and 2nd Officer. He appeared the last two DVOC productions as the Page in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, and as Sciarrone in *Tosca*. Other recent shows include 'Singin' in the Rain' in Narberth as a production singer, primary male dancer, evil villain, and fight choreographer. His other hobbies include teaching/training in Tang Soo Do, kickboxing, and jujitsu for 19 years. As former world champion and Olympic qualifier 1992 he is head instructor at the Daniel Pope Karate Institute in Springfield and taught privately (see ad in program). Mr. Vaidya is currently completing his Master's Degree in Biomedical Chemistry at Thomas Jefferson University with a solid publication record in cancer research and Cardiovascular research. He has recently been reunited with his wife after 11 months' delay by immigration and sends his love out to her. Vaidya also thanks a great cast and crew, and the support of his family and voice teacher. His favorite quote - "There are still those people in the world who have been denied the gift of speech yet blessed with the gift of song."

## About the Directors

**Albert Chaney (Stage Director)** began his artistic life as a soprano. Among the many pieces he performed with the Videon Boys Choir was one he still enjoys today, the Shepherds Chorus from *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Since that time his life in music has grown to include several aspects. While working now primarily as a stage director, Mr. Chaney was trained as an operatic singing-actor at Temple University in Philadelphia and the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria; studying with a number of noted teachers and coaches including Louise McClelland, Martin Rich and Florence Berggren.

He has appeared on concert programs, opera stages and on tour in Austria, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Romania and the United States. A lyric-baritone, his roles have ranged from the small part of the Master of Ceremonies in the world premiere production of *What Now, Semyon?* to the title role in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*.

As an administrator, Mr. Chaney spent five years as Co-General Director of ConcertOpera, Philadelphia, having been with the company for two years already as Business Manager and Audition Coordinator.

Now fully at home as a stage director, Mr. Chaney makes his Delaware Valley Opera Company debut with this production of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. In seasons past he has staged productions for, among others, ConcertOpera, Philadelphia and the Opera Society of New Jersey.

**Gabriel Gordon (Conductor, Music Director)** is the Music Director of numerous Youth, Community, and professional orchestras in the tri-state area. These orchestras include the Greater Newark Youth Orchestra, the Old York Road Symphony, and The Independence Sinfonia. Reviews have been unanimous, as Classical New Jersey and many others say, "Watching and listening to the maestro lead the orchestra is a treat in itself. Every gesture has a clear purpose, is significantly nuanced and is explicitly observed by the musicians. Even the uninitiated couldn't fail to understand the maestro's direction." Mr. Gordon has also conducted the Atlanta Symphony, and will lead the New Jersey Symphony later this year in a side-by-side concert with the