

PLAYBILL

Michael Taylor's

A Truce of Carols

Performed by Mission City Opera (2010)

Presented by Lyric Theatre Digital Mainstage+
Streaming On-Demand December 21-27, 2020



SYNOPSIS

The story of "TRUCE" began on Christmas Eve 1914, when German troops began decorating the area around their trenches in the region of Ypres, Belgium, for Weihnachten (Christmas). They placed candles on trees then continued the celebration by singing Christmas carols, most notably Stille Nacht (Silent Night). The British troops in the trenches across from them responded by singing English carols. The two sides shouted Christmas greetings to each other. Soon there after, visits across the "No Man's Land" took place, where the soldiers exchanged small gifts of whisky, jam, cigars, chocolate, sometimes addresses, and drank together. The artillery in the region fell silent that night.

The truce also allowed burial parties a breathing spell to retrieve recently-fallen soldiers and bring them back behind their own lines. Proper burials took place as soldiers from both sides mourned the dead together and paid their respects, in spite of opposition at higher levels of the military. The truce spread to other areas of the lines, and there are many stories of soccer matches between the opposing forces. It lasted everywhere through Christmas night and in some areas, continued until New Year's Day.

Our story begins with sights and sounds of pre-war Europe as we are drawn into the overture. We meet Constance and Jonathan our British couple first, then Inge, Christian and Karl the German Family. How does the war affect all of their lives? Michael Taylor's poignant portrayal of this amazing historical event allows us to experience this as well.

CAST

Constance	Erin Lahm
Jonathan Prescott	Jeffrey Taylor
Inge	Shelly Welch
Lt. Karl Gottlieb	Clifford Romig
Lt. Worthing	Adam Flowers
Markus	Sacha Joggerst
Gunther	Norman DeVol
Timothy	Dan Galpin
Sgt. Angus Mack	Robert Snedegar
Andrew	Dennis Gaushell
Kenny	Brandon Keith Biggs
Kraus	Alex Frankel
Berthold	Radu Liceaa
Christian (3 years)	Michael Voelker
Christian (7 years)	William Voelker
Soldiers	Michael Barrientes, Phil Ho, Ping Li, Radu Licea, Tom McGourin, Michael Oliver

ORCHESTRA

Orchestra Managers	Ann Byler & Barny Abrams
Violin	Doug Perry**, Karen Lindblom*, Ann Byler, Hazel Cheilek, Marina Dantcheva, Anita Engles, Jane Johnson, Cathie Lowmiller
Viola	Goetz Leonhardt, Jennifer Gille
Cello	Garth Cummings*, Beth Davis
Bass	Nancy Sitton
Harp/Keyboard	Samuel Cisneros
Flute	Amy Streeper, Peggy George
Oboe	Joel Greene, Julianne Stafford
Clarinet	Nancy Abrams, Wen-Liang Chung
Bassoon	Barny Abrams
French Horn	Brian Anderson, Travis Fernandez
Trombone	Bill Sommerfeld
Trumpet	Guy J. Clark, Laura Shea-Clark
Percussion	Chizuko Lobbia

** Concertmaster

* Principal

PRODUCTION TEAM

Composer/Director/ Conductor	Michael Taylor
Executive Producer	Sharon Kaye
Lighting Designer	Carolyn Foot
Costume Designer	Erika Voelker
Hair & Wig Designer	Rande Harris
Scenic Designer & Construction	Robert Snedegar
Technical Director	Gerald "Rover" Spotts
Master Electrician	Ken Foot
Stage Manager	Natasha Rivadeneyra
Asst. Stage Manager	Troy Raiburn
Properties	Kelly McCoy-Prael, Dorothy Vollendorf
Box Office	Linda Eserini
House Manager	Atom Biggs
Chorus Manager	Tom McGourin
Concessions	Sonja Biggs

DIGITAL MAINSTAGE+

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Lyric Theatre is excited to offer a new kind of theatre experience!

Our Digital Mainstage "plus" events include a fully orchestrated and staged production, plus discussions with directors and designers, stories from behind the curtain, and a social hour where you can meet the cast, orchestra, crew, and other members of the audience from the safety of your home!

TRUCE OF CAROLS

DIGITAL MAINSTAGE+ PRODUCTION

Event Producer.....Dennis Gaushell

Special Features Producer....Asha Kelly

Technical Crew.....Steve Austin, Larry Byler

Digital Marketing.....Ann Byler, Jeff Yaeger

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Note: These biographies are from the 2010 playbill.

Michael Barrientos (Ensemble) makes his Mission City Opera debut. A computer science grad student by day and singer by night (and by shower), Michael has performed with a cappella and choral groups at UC Berkeley and Stanford. He has also been a chorus member with Berkeley Opera and West Bay Opera.

Brandon Keith Biggs (Kenny) makes his MCO debut in Truce. He is a blind, 18 year old bass-baritone. He studies with Carl Franzen and performs in his monthly concerts. Brandon has performed in numerous musicals and charity events around the Silicon Valley. Brandon's immediate goal is to major in opera at a four-year college.

Norman DeVol (Gunther) is an accomplished soloist from San Francisco Peninsula currently living in San Bruno . He received his B.A. in voice from San Jose State University where he studied with Jeanne Garson. Norman has performed with professional symphonies and opera companies throughout Northern California, including the Sacramento Symphony, Auburn Symphony, Apollo Opera, Camellia Symphony, Monterey Symphony, Opera La Piccola Scala, Mission City Opera, Pocket Opera, West Bay Opera and Berkeley Opera. Reviewing a recent performance of Mozart's Die Zauberflote, the Santa Clara WEEKLY called him "the vocal standout of the evening. His clear and flexible voice rang from beginning to end with strength, stability, and true artistry, as one hopes to hear in a heroic Tamino. One sensed the experience and knowledge behind every nuance, and true artistic respect for each famous note." Norman's interpretation of Rodolphe in the Piccola Scala production of La Boheme garnered him a nomination for a Sacramento regional theater Elly Award. When he's not singing, Norman also teaches voice privately, is a choral director and accompanist. He is currently the assistant conductor of the internationally acclaimed Masterworks Chorale based at the College of San Mateo and is a member of the San Francisco Opera Chorus.

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Adam Flowers (Lt. Worthing) A Northern California native, has appeared in opera houses and concert halls across North America and Asia. Recently Mr. Flowers performed the role of Cavaradossi in "Tosca" at Phoenix Hall in Osaka, Japan in July of 2010 and Edgardo in North Bay Opera 's production of "Lucia di Lammermoor" in the March of 2010. Mr. Flowers has performed in the regular chorus at San Francisco Opera for the 2010-2011 season and was a resident artist at Opera San Jose from 2001-2006, where he performed over 35 leading tenor roles. He currently studies with Deborah Benedict at her vocal studio in Corte Madera, California.

Carolyn Foot (Lighting Designer) is delighted to be returning to Mission City Opera. She designed and was technical director for MADAMA BUTTERFLY, MAGIC FLUTE, CARMEN, LA TRAVIATA, and MARRIAGE OF FIGARO. Her design credits for other companies include; BOOK OF LIZ and RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME for Renegade Theater Experiment; ROMEO AND JULIET, PETE 'N KEELY, RUN FOR YOUR WIFE, KING AND I, and GREATER TUNA for Palo Alto Players for whom she is also the Master Electrician. Carolyn Holds a BA in Theater Arts from UC Santa Cruz.

Alex Frankel (Kraus) makes his Mission City Opera debut as Kraus in Truce of Carols, recent credits include Nanki-Poo in The Mikado at Lyric Theatre SJ, Beppe (cover) in I Pagliacci, Sonoma City Opera and as the understudy of Don Ottavio in Livermore Valley Opera's acclaimed production of Don Gio vanni. Many thanks to Sascha and Jillian Joggerst, Eugene, and Mom and Dad!

Dan Galpin (Timothy) is glad to be back in the trenches. He's also perform:ned the roles of Basilio (La nozze di Figaro), Goro (Madama Butterfly), and Pa pageno (Die Zauberflute) with Mission City. Other favorite roles performed include Tamino (Die Zauberflute), Frederic and the Major General (Pirates of Penzance), Colonel Fairfax and Jack Point (Yeomen of the Guard), The Baker (Into the Woods), and Ralph Rackstraw (HMS Pinafore).

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Dennis Gaushell (Andrew and Ensemble) Previous musical experience includes Iolanthe, Camelot, Victorian Carolers, Fiddler on the Roof, La Boheme (as the Sargeant), When he's not on stage or rehearsing, he enjoys his job forecasting electricity for California, playing guitar and singing, backpacking, golf and spending time with his children and grandchildren.

Phil Ho (Ensemble) organizes a group of volunteer musicians to bring live music to senior homes throughout the Peninsula and South Bay. He sings and performs every weekend with his volunteers at senior homes. Phil studies voice and performance techniques with soprano Katya Roemer.

Sascha Joggerst (Markus) has performed with opera companies in Germany, England and the US. His credits include the title role in Le Nozze di Figaro, Silvio (Pagliacci), the Father (Hansel and Gretel), Schaunard (La Boheme), Escamillo, Le Dancaire and Morales (Carmen), Frank (Die Fledermaus), Baron Douphol (La Traviata), Perichaud (La Rondine), Yamadori (Madama Butterfly), Amantio (Gianni Schicchi) as well as Guglielmo (Cosi fan tutte) and Almaviva (Nozze di Figaro). Mr. Joggerst performed recitals of Schumann's Dichterliebe, Liederkreis and Beethoven's An die ferne Geliebte in London as well as the Christmas Oratorio (Saint-Saens) and Vaughan Williams' Serenade to Music. Future engagements include the title role in Mission City Opera's upcoming production of Don Giovanni, Mercutio in Gounod's Romeo and Juliette, Morales in Carmen as well as soloist appearances with the Saint Saens Christmas Oratorio and Brahms' Liebeslieder. Mr. Joggerst has been a studio artist at Opera San Jose and a student at the International Vocal Arts Institute in Montreal, Canada. He holds degrees from The Royal Academy of Music in London and the Conservatory of Music Lubeck.

Sharon Kaye (Executive Producer) has performed in the US, Europe, and Pacific Rim with musical groups such as the San Francisco Lyric Opera, Livermore Valley Opera, San Jose Lyric Theatre, and Mission City Opera. She has also sung with the Grammy-Award-Winning San Francisco Symphony and the San Francisco Opera Chorus. Her roles include the Dames of Gilbert

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& Sullivan to Verdi's Azucena, from Strauss' Octavian to Ward's Elizabeth Proctor and from Moore's Augusta Tabor to Carmen and Dalila. Sharon's CD, *Classic Christmas*, highlights her long relationship with master vocal coach, Russell Norman, and she has also been invited to record with the Bulgarian Radio Orchestra in Sophia. Sharon is an active member of the American Guild of Musical Artists, and she served as president of the National Association of Teachers of Singing of the Bay Area for four years. Sharon enjoys working with private school children in San Jose as well as with Gorin School of Music in Mountain View as well as maintaining her vocal studio in Sunnyvale. She founded Mission City Opera in 1996 and currently serves as the opera's general director.

Erin Lahm (Constance) has been actively performing in the San Francisco Bay Area since moving here in 2008. Ms. Lahm is delighted to be appearing as Constance in this production, a role she created for the world premiere last season. She made her debut with Mission City Opera in 2009 as Barbarina in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*. In the 2008-09 season, she appeared with the San Francisco Cabaret Opera in John Bilotta's *Quantum Mechanic*, Purcell's *Dioclesian*, and Mark Alburger's *Antigone*. Ms. Lahm has made numerous appearances as a soloist with Bay Area Classical Harmonies performing the soprano solos in pieces such as Bach's *Cantata No. 147 and 140*, Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, and Handel's *Chanda No. 8*. Over the course of two summers, Ms. Lahm was a resident artist at the Ezio Pinza Council for American Singers of Opera in Oderzo, Italy where she performed in a series of concerts, throughout the area. She is a new resident of Santa Clara and is currently the choral music director at Archbishop Mitty High School in San Jose.

Ping Li (Ensemble) began singing in 2009 in the Silicon Valley Performing Arts Group in Santa Clara, a Chinese choir. He has been studying under Ying Wang, a principal singer from the Chinese national opera house. Though this is Ping's first performance in an opera, he is very excited to join Mission City Opera this season.

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Radu Licea (Berthold) is excited to be in the Truce of Carols ensemble. He enjoyed as well singing as a tenor in the Chorus of Mission City Opera in *Le Nozze di Figaro* and *La Boheme*.

Tom McGourin (Ensemble) acted at Santa Clara University. He has performed in all of MCO's productions, and in four recent Lyric Theatre productions. He has also performed in several movies and TV show episodes. He is on the Board of Directors of MCO and two other arts nonprofits. He is the Cast Manager for Truce.

Troy Raiburn (Assistant Stage Manager) is very happy to be returning to MCO as Assistant Stage Manager. He enjoys unwinding after work by playing video games, reading, and drinking a glass of wine with his wife.

Natasha Rivadeneyra (Stage Manager) is very happy to be returning as Stage Manager for MCO. She recently Stage Managed Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Sunset Boulevard* with Palo Alto Players. She would like to thank her husband for being such a great sport about getting talked into being her Assistant Stage Manager.

Clifton Romig (Lt. Gottlieb) Clifton is a former member of the resident artist program at Opera San Jose and has performed with the Santa Fe Opera, Opera Colorado; Eugene Opera, Eugene Symphony and numerous opera companies in the San Francisco Bay Area such as Berkeley Opera, West Bay Opera, North Bay Opera and Pocket Opera. Clifton is also a member of the San Francisco Opera Chorus, singing in 2-4 productions per season. His repertoire includes dozens of roles from operas such as *The Barber of Seville*, *Rigoletto*, *Carmen*, *Eugene Onegin*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Faust*, *La Boheme*, *Don Giovanni*, *The Magic Flute*, *Così fan Tutte*, *The Abduction from the Seraglio* and *Billy Budd*. Upcoming engagements include a Christmas concert with the St. Helena Chamber Choir featuring the music of Charpentier and Bach, the role of Raimondo in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* with North Bay Opera and the role of Stolnick in Pocket Opera's upcoming production of Moniuszko's *Halka*. A native New Yorker, Clifton has a degree in German from Middlebury College and a

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Masters in Music from Indiana University, where he studied with the late Margaret Harshaw. He enjoys photography, mountain biking, motorcycling and cooking. He lives with his wife, Susan, in San Francisco's Richmond District.

Rover Spotts (Technical Director) This is Rover Spotts' second year working with Mission City Opera. He's been very busy this year working with a number of the South Bay companies in various technical capacities. rover thanks his team for their dedication and hard work. He also thanks Akio Patrick, Carolyn Foot and Don Krajewski for their valuable assistance and advice. He is looking forward to a successful MCO 2010-11 season and then designing the lighting for Lyric Theatre's spring 2011 production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Carousel."

Jeffrey Taylor (Jonathan) made his debut with Mission City Opera last year when he created the role of Jonathan in Truce of Carols. Jeff is no stranger to Bay Area theaters, having performed major roles in Urinetown, Cabaret, and The Producers at Aragon High School; 1776 with Lyric Theater of San Jose, and Bright Young People with the American Conservatory Theater Young Conservatory. While in high school, he started the all male a capella group, September, and performed regularly with the ACT Young Conservatory Cabaret ensemble. He is currently in his freshman year at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music where he studies voice with Leroy Kromm.

Michael Taylor (Composer/Director/Conductor) Mr. Taylor has appeared as a soloist with many San Francisco Bay Area opera companies, including Opera San Jose and the San Francisco opera Center, and was a regional finalist in both the San Francisco Opera Merola Auditions and the Metropolitan Opera Auditions. A winner of the 1989 Bel Canto Foundation competition, Mr. Taylor studied in Siena, Italy at La Scala. He also performed several roles in the San Francisco production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Phantom of the Opera" during the show's nearly six-year run. Mr. Taylor's stage directing and conducting credits include both opera and musical theater with many companies in San Francisco Bay Area, including the Lyric Theater of San Jose and Livermore

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Valley Opera. He directed and conducted Mission City Opera's premier production of Johann Strauss' opera "Die Fledermaus," and has conducted or directed most of the company's opera performances since then, including the company's annual Christmas show, "Amahl and the Night Visitors." While "Truce of Carols" is his first opera, Mr. Taylor's composing history includes many choral works, as well a student musical, Kids of the Rock, commissioned by the Nueva School in Hillsboro, CA.

Erika Voelker (Costume Designer) has always been in love with the arts. Having been a dancer she was able to perform at the Flint Center in Cupertino in Jubilee 2000, Movement in Time in 2000, and Spirit of the Dance 2004. She received the Doris Richards Award in 2000 for outstanding dancer. She has volunteered at Mission City Opera since 2002. In 2008 she was the makeup artist for MCO's Madame Butterfly. Also in 2008 she was the dancer and choreographer for MCO's Amahl and the Night Visitors. In 2010 she she took on the job of costume designer for MCO's La Boheme.

Michael Voelker Michael is 3 years old and loves music, singing, and dancing. He is in preschool and is a very active and creative child. Grandson of Sharon Kaye founder, artistic director, and amazing singer of Mission City Opera, this is Michael's first performance.

William Voelker At the tender age of 14 months William was in a dance performance called Spirit of the Dance 2004 at the Flint Center in Cupertino. In 2008 he played the role of 'Trouble' in Mission City Opera's Madame Butterfly. In Mission City Opera's Amahl and the Night Visitors he was part of the chorus as well as one of the child dancers. He was cast as 'Christian' last year in the world premiere of Truce of Carols for Mission City Opera and was an urchin in their 2010 's La Boheme. Grandson of Sharon Kaye founder, artistic director, and amazing singer of Mission City Opera. William has grown up with opera in his life since birth.

Dorothy Vollendorf (Properties) is delighted to service the Bay Area Art community as a Production Artist. Her hope is to inspire

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the public to take part in the art of storytelling. Recently, she interned at Music @ Menlo and Marin Theatre Company in production after obtaining a BFA from the University of Delaware in Fine Art and Theatre Production.

Shelly Welch (Inge) is a budding actress and singer who loves the community aspect of theater and is excited to sing with Mission City Opera. She is an operatic soprano with a wide range and repertoire and performs regularly in concert for the Franzen Vocal Studio. She also loves musical theater and can be seen performing in and volunteering for various theaters in the bay area. She has most recently appeared as Marian in Redwood City Community Theater 's Production of Music Man, Tzeitel in Woodside Community Theatre's production of Fiddler on the Roof, and Nimue in Lyric Theatre's production of Camelot.