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*The Café is run by and benefits the Kids For Christ (KFC) Youth Group.
It is open before and after service each Sunday.

St. Timothy Lutheran Church



"Changing Hearts.
Changing Lives."

For More Info
Contact Office:

Pastor Ed Matthews
7965 Fillmore St.
Phila, PA 19111
215-745-4453

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You're Invited!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

at St. Timothy

Sunday December 24th 7:00 pm

Gian Carlo Menotti's Opera in One Act

Amahl and the Night Visitors



*Today's production has been made
possible by a generous gift
from our STC family.*

Gian Carlo Menotti's Opera in One Act

One night in Judea, a lame shepherd boy-turned-beggar tries to tell his mother about what he has seen outside: an enormous star with a long tail. His mother, used to his problem with telling tall tales, grows angry; she is even angrier when Amahl tells her that a knock at the door is three kings come 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 wood for the fire, Amahl asks the kings questions about their lives, then Amahl is sent out to ask the other shepherds to bring food for the kings, because he and his widowed mother have none to offer. That night, Amahl's mother tries to steal some of the kings' gold to use to help her sick child. She is caught, but 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 staff as an additional gift, and suddenly finds that he can walk. Amahl pleads for his mother to let him join them, and he is allowed to follow the kings to Bethlehem to adore and give thanks to the Christ child, who has healed his leg.

Amahl	Elizabeth Oliver
The Mother	Lisa Thomas
King Kasper	Timothy Oliver
King Melchoir	Todd Thomas
King Balthazar	Milo Morris
The Page	Raja Vaidya

Susan Rheingans (Stage Director) marks her directorial debut with this production of *Amahl and the Night Visitors* after receiving experience as an assistant director for productions of *La Boheme*, *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *I Pagliacci*. It is appropriate that Ms. Rheingans should begin her directing career with this opera, an icon of 20th Century American classical music, since her singing career has encompassed much contemporary music, including several commissions of new solo vocal music and more than a dozen premieres of solo works in the United States and Europe. Ms. Rheingans' operatic experience includes work with such diverse opera companies and directors as Goetz Friedrich and the Deutsche Oper Berlin, Christopher Alden and Long Beach Opera and Jim Wiest and Connie Koppe and Delaware Valley Opera Company. Ms. Rheingans is on the voice faculty at Settlement Music School and maintains a busy private voice studio in Fairless Hills, PA. Upcoming vocal engagements include a recital on January 26, 2007 at Settlement Music School (Main Branch), and two concerts with the Newtown Chamber Orchestra on February 24 and 25, 2007.

Timothy Oliver (Kasper) has performed the role of Kasper at least fifty times and, as one of his favorite roles, he is looking forward to the next fifty. He has portrayed over forty different operatic roles and has been featured by many area orchestras. His recent performances include Ralph Vaughn Williams' "Hodie" with the Susquehanna Valley Orchestra in Sunbury, PA, Orff's "Carmina Burana" for the City of Hope Foundation in the Kimmel Center's Verizon Hall and the Williamsport Symphony Orchestra, Christian in Herbert's "Red Mill" with the Rose Valley Orchestra, and Remendado in Bizet's "Carmen" for the Delaware Valley Opera Company. He holds a BA in Music from Lycoming College.

Elizabeth Oliver (Amahl) is pleased to mark her fifth season playing the role of "Amahl." Though written to be sung by a child, the role is dear to her heart, as it brings to life the childlike joy and profound meaning of the Advent season. The coloratura soprano has been performing regularly in the Philadelphia area since 1997 with such organizations as the Lancaster Opera Company, the Delaware Valley Opera Company, and the Philadelphia Singers. Other roles in her repertoire include "Rossina" in *The Barber of Seville*, "Josephine" in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, "Madame Goldentrill" and "Miss Silverpeal" (on separate occasions!) in *The Impresario*, and "Frasquita" in *Carmen*. She is happy not only to sing regularly with her husband, Tim, but to work side-by-side with him as well at Cunningham Piano Company, one of the city's oldest piano dealers.

Gabriel Gordon (Music Director/Conductor) is the Music Director of several Community and Professional orchestras in the Tri - state area, including The Old York Road Symphony, and The Independence Sinfonia. Mr. Gordon is the Assistant Director of the Strings International Music Festival featuring members of the Philadelphia Orchestra. Reviews have been unanimously positive, 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." As one of the founding members of the DaPonte String Quartet, he spent ten years honing his musical craft in the art of Chamber Music. "I am is a much better conductor for having spent those years in a string quartet." Rather than just beating time and giving orders, he feels a conductor is much more like a chamber music partner with the orchestra. This creates an amazing connection between the conductor and the players. New Jersey's Star Ledger confirms this by writing, "Mr. Gordon has a wonderful rapport with his musicians."

Soprano

Mandy Chestnut (Mother Cover)
Julie Ann Green
Sandra Hirsch
Sarah Pardys

Alto

Lisa Domenic
Mary Jones
Esther Kang
Lydia Thomas
Laura Wilent

Tenor

Ryan C. Connelly
William Garner

Bass

Collin Dill
Mark Horwedel (Page Cover)
Dan Pollak

Dancers

Anne Margaret O'Malley-
Castellanos
Brittany Holdahl
Kirsten Waterson

Children

Jaun Castellanos
Anthony Domenic
Nicholas Domenic
Gabriela Thomas
Samuel Thomas



The Independence Sinfonia, now in its eleventh season, is comprised of talented musicians from the Delaware Valley. These musicians all have "regular" jobs as doctors, lawyers, teachers, students as well as many other vocations. They sacrifice hours of hard work and practice to produce beautiful music for the community.

www.IndependenceSinfonia.org

February 4, 2007
"The Future of Music"
Beethoven Symphony No.2 Op. 36
Jenkintown High School
3:00 P.M.

May 13, 2007
"Diverse Revelations"
Mahler Symphony No. 4 in G Major
Jenkintown High School
3:00 P.M.

Music Director/ Conductor	Gabriel Gordon
Assistant Conductor/ Personnel Manager	Jeffrey Bradbury
Violin I	Jennifer Home Eden Kainer William Phillip
Violin II	Kim Dolan Amanda Godshall Steve Kadlecek
Viola	John Aumar Margot Cohen
Cello	Tony Gizzi Megan Stauffer Julie Wiberg
Double Bass	Heather Dickson
Flute	Lisa Davis
Oboe	Forrest Rowland Bill Steffee
Clarinet	William Fullard
Bassoon	Judy Frank
French Horn	Rashida Nannetti
Percussion	William Priebe
Orchestra Librarian	Kim Dolan

the introspective, almost poetic quality of the tormented king." As a recital and concert Atlantic Ocean. In a European tour of *I Pagliacci*, he performed Tonio in Fiesole, Pisa, Cagnes-sur-Mer, Sarlat, Luzerne, and Utrecht. Likewise, for nearly 20 seasons he has been a soloist for the Ocean City Pops Orchestra in New Jersey, as well as multiple return engagements with orchestras nationwide, including the touring divisions of Houston Grand Opera and San Francisco Opera.

Jane Hulting (ChorusMaster/Pianist) comes from a family of farmers in northern Minnesota. Her love of the land, music, and spirit came together in her interest in ethnomusicology, politics, singing. After receiving a music degree from Conservatory of Music in Kansas City, she returned to Minneapolis to sing and act. In grad school at the Annenberg School of Communications at UPenn, she studied the vocal sounds of the Kaluli people in Papua New Guinea. She devoted herself to Artistic Director/Conductor of the Anna Crusis Women's Choir, which pursued knowledge and repertoire from 24 different cultures around the globe, learning performance techniques and pronunciation from students from those countries. She commissioned a dozen works from women composers, including Jennifer Higdon and Andrea Clearfield. She sings with Choral Arts, Philadelphia Kantorei, and occasionally the Opera Company of Philadelphia. She serves as Chorus-Master and Music Director for operas and musicals in the region, including Delaware Valley Opera Co. In her desire for helping to develop health and wellbeing, she is a great advocate of yoga, and teaches 5 classes/week in Jenkintown, Chestnut Hill, Bala. She is the Music Director at the Unitarian-Universalist Church of the Restoration in Mt. Airy, teaches at the Rosemont School, coaches voice. She lives in Mt. Airy with her pedal-steel guitar-playing husband, her alto sax-toting son, and their delightful dog.

Macbeth. Milo was educated at the Boston Conservatory, University of the Arts, and Temple University. He also has extensive training and professional experience as a dancer. Milo's upcoming engagements include Balthazaar in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* with Delaware Valley Opera Company, and Alessio in *La Sonnambula* with Concert Opera Philadelphia.

Anne Margaret O'Malley-Castellanos (Assistant Director/Choreographer) received her BFA in Dance from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Over the last decade she has performed with the Philadelphia Civic Ballet, Camerata Opera Theater, Berk's Grand Opera, Opera Delaware, Latin Fiesta, Flamenco Olé, The Philadelphia Orchestra and the Ballet des Jeunes under the direction of Ursula Melita (with which she toured Europe several times). Her works have been performed in Spain, Italy, England, France and Ireland to great acclaim. In 1999 Anne Margaret Founded Flamenco Y Mas in Dublin, Ireland where she lived and performed for 8 years. She has been on the Faculty of Philadelphia's Chestnut Hill College's Summer Arts Programme for 15 years. Anne Margaret is very excited to be working on St. Tim's Amahl Production and performing with her children Juan and Elizabeth. For More information on Anne Margaret or Flamenco please visit www.geocities.com/flamencomas

Todd Thomas (Melchoir) is establishing himself with companies and journalists worldwide as a true Verdi baritone. Following his recent triumph in Puccini's *Tosca* at the New York City Opera, *The New York Times* wrote, "It also helped the Scarpia was sung by Todd Thomas in a vocally assured and dramatically charged performance, full of all the smugness and lustful rapacity that the role demands." *Opera News* agreed complimenting a recent *MacBeth* performance, "Todd Thomas...was warm and centered in his tone with subtle phrasing that emphasized

Production Coordinator	Lisa Helme! Thomas
Music Director Conductor	Gabriel Gordon
Stage Director	Susan Rheingans
Assistant Director/ Choreographer	Anne Margaret O'Malley- Castellanos
Chorus Master/Pianist	Jane Hulting
Production Assistant/Program/ Publicity/Props/Set Painting	Lisa Domenic
Set Design/Construction/ Painting/Technical Consultant	George Acker
Technical Support/ Power Point	Kathy Acker
Venue/Blessing	Pastor Ed Matthews
Hospitality/Set Painting	Debbie McGee
Lighthouse Café - Refreshments/Set Painting	STC Youth Group
Web Site Promotion/STC Logo/ Web Master	Christine Martino
Cast Costume Design/Creation/ Set Painting	Brittany Holdahl
Treasurer	Larry Martino
Box Office	Antoinette DuBeck STC Secretary
Prop/Costume Collaboration	St. John's Lutheran Church HISP Episcopal Church
Chorus Collaboration	Temple University Opera Theater

Ed Matthews (Pastor) leads the congregation at St. Timothy Lutheran Church. He holds a B.S. in Health Science from West Chester University with a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. Prior to entering the ministry, he was a respiratory therapist at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Pastor Ed and his wife Kelle have three children. Pastor Ed's vision for ministering in the Fox Chase/Rockledge Community is to bring people into their own personal relationship with Jesus. "I want people to know they matter to God, that no matter what our past is, God reaches out to us just to love us. We all need to come just as we are to faith in Jesus Christ. I want people to be genuine Christians in a real relationship with Christ. I want for them to experience the transforming power of the Holy Spirit in their lives and be changed forever." St. Timothy is pleased to bring "Amahl" to the stage once again as we present our annual Community Christmas Celebration.

Raja Vaidya (Page/Melchior Cover)

originally started with extensive Choral and Solo training. He garnered accolades in PMEA district chorus, and first chair in regional and all Pennsylvania State chorus as a Bass II. In college he won a place in the Touring Meistersingers at Ursinus College and later in the Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia. He has diligently worked his way up to Soloist and Chorus President in the Delaware Valley Opera Company. He has sung at the Mann Music center, Academy of Music, the Kimmel Center, New York's Saratoga Performing Arts Center and numerous other churches and local venues as ensemble soloist and principal roles. His past favorite roles include King Melchior in Amahl and the Night Visitors, Morales in *Carmen*, Fiorello in Barber of Seville, Wagner in Faust, and most recently a two week run as Papageno in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* for local venues. His other hobbies include teaching Martial arts for 21 years as a 4th degree black belt (former Olympic qualifier 1992) and more importantly, taking care of his beautiful

wife. Ever the optimist, he has accomplished all these things despite having a speech impediment which he considers not a handicap but a challenge to be overcome. Mr. Vaidya has a background in Biomedical Chemistry at Thomas Jefferson University and works as Senior Scientist for Immunicon Corporation where he develops diagnostic cancer seeking products. "There are still those people in the world who have been denied the gift of speech yet blessed with the gift of song".

Lisa Helmel Thomas (The Mother/Producer) has sung and understudied over 25 leading roles with companies including OperaDelaware, Sarasota Opera, Opera/Columbus, Pennsylvania Opera Theater, Opera Company of Philadelphia, Staddtheater Giessen (Germany), and the American Music Theater Festival. Like many of her colleagues in this production, this is her fifth year of singing the Mother in *Amahl*, performed both at St. Timothy's and with the Delaware Valley Opera. Other recent roles include the title role in Puccini's *Tosca* and Alice Ford in Verdi's *Falstaff* with the Delaware Valley Opera Summer Festival. Lisa holds a Bachelor's degree from Oberlin Conservatory and received her Master's in Opera at the Curtis Institute of Music. Now in her seventh year on the voice faculty at Philadelphia's Settlement Music School, Lisa is also Director of Music Ministries here at St. Timothy Lutheran Church. Upcoming performances include the title role in Verdi's *Aida* in a concert performance with the Delaware Valley Opera Company in February 2007.

Milo Morris (Balthazaar) originally from Boston and now living in Philadelphia, Milo has been a crowd-pleaser for audiences throughout the US and UK bringing roles to life for companies such as OperaDelaware, New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players, and Opera Memphis. Milo's recent portrayal of Dr. Dulcamara for Delaware Valley Opera Co. was praised by the *Chestnut Hill Local* saying that, "he sang with the kind of visceral immediacy that makes opera so special when it works." Among his favorite operatic roles are Dr. Bartolo in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and Ramfis in *Aida*, and Banquo in