# Coming Events

Tuesday, February 5, 2013 CHILDREN'S CONCERT Tuesday, April 23, 2013 2013 PIANO CONCERTO COMPETITION WINNER

Additional music selections for the three performances will be announced at a later time. If you wish to participate in The Jefferson City Symphony Orchestra please contact either Tom Higgins, Aimee Fine or Steven Houser.

Jcca concerts





# The Mikado

### featuring

# The Jefferson City Symphony Choir

Guest Conductor ~ Patrick Clark Choral Director ~ Ruth Robertson

November 6th, 2012 Lincoln University ~ Mitchell Auditorium



Financial assistance for this project has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.



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Dear Audience,

Thank you so much for being here this evening. Please take a moment to thank the Orchestra Musicians who consistently contribute so many beautiful musical moments for Jefferson City and the mid-Missouri Community.

Symphony Donations

Chamber Orchestra

# Program

Gilbert and Sullivan's



Act One

15 Minute Intermission ???

Act Two

jcca

## Soloists

The Mikado Of Japan Dick Dalton

Katisha Louise Whitworth

Nanki-Poo Michael Dodson

Ko-Ko Don Otto

Pooh-Bah Ian Linenfelser

Pish-Tush Bill Stine

Yum-Yum Becky Comley

**Peep-Bo** Rachel Pirtle

Pitti-Sing Kristin Van De Velde

Go-To Jeremy Stark

Three Little LU Girls Theressa Mello, Whitney Carter, Jasmine Daniel





### Chorus

**S**opranos

Betsy Branstetter Carmen Brown Judy Butler Rebecca Comley Virginia Duenckel Marie Duggan Naphtali Faris Pauline Kuntz Iva McDaniel Rachel Pirtle Ann Roberts Gloria Robinett Pati Tynes Gayle Unruh

#### Altos Betsy Bax Nancy Beart Whitney Carter Virginia Holt Margaret Jenkins Fritz

Julia Heise

Cheryl Hickman

Charlotte Parsons

Abigail Roberts

Eugenia Siegel

Kristin Van De Velde

Susan Lissant

Lu Lockwood

Lisa Peters

Tenors

James Borgwald William Bryant Dave Gregg Ken Lynch Grayson Peters Jeremy Stark

#### Basses

Carl Beach Dick Dalton John Finley Steve English Ian Linenfelser Stan Linsenbardt Brandon Orr Don Otto

#### Rehearsal Accompanist

Jimmie Kay Sanders



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**R**uth **R**obertson arrived at Lincoln University in 1995, just after receiving her Doctorate in Vocal Performance from the University of Kansas.

Her primary assignment is to teach singing to vocal majors whom she frequently enters in local and regional recitals, auditions and contests. Almost every year she has directed opera scenes recitals, involving both Lincoln University students and other talented singers from the community, many of whom appear this evening. She is delighted to help prepare the choristers and lead singers for this full musical, complete with an orchestra. She has directed several community choruses and adult church choirs in Missouri, Kansas and California. As a soloist she has sung locally with Cantorum and Symphony Chorus; in southern California and Central Europe with the Los Robles Masterworks Chorale; and in Wooster with the Ohio Light Opera. To her, "Music is the language of the soul, another way to pray aloud. It expresses much that the heart cannot say in words."



**D**On **O**tto has been an attorney, lobbyist, and theatre person in Jefferson City for many years.

He finds stage-directing concert productions such as this almost as challenging as writing in the third-person in order to pretend he did not write this blurb himself. "The key to a production such as this," Otto said out-loud to his computer screen as he was typing this into an email, "is to keep the focus on the singing and the orchestra while still

telling the story in an entertaining fashion. Therefore, my vision was akin to a 1940's radio show where the actors perform before a studio audience, with minimal but meaningful stage action, all while engaging an audience that everybody acknowledges is present in front of them." Also performing tonight as Ko-Ko, Otto relished the opportunity to write his own lyrics for *As Someday It May Happen* as well as to use he word 'akin' in the above sentence. Otto wants to give full credit to Donna, his wife of 5 <sup>1/2</sup> years for putting up with him as well as his parents Virginia and Don Sr. for inspiring him and his children Katherine and Jackson who, at an early age, gave him the motivation to get out of the house every once and a while....

### A Note from Don Otto, Stage Director

The Mikado was first performed in London on March 14, 1885 in the middle of a "Japanese Craze" that was sweeping England at the time. Merchants were doing a brisk business in selling fake Japanese Goods (the famous "black lacquer" found on many Japanese goods had just been successfully faked), travelogues on the orient by people who had never visited the island were best sellers, and an exhibition of a "real" Japanese village – chock full of ridiculous caricatures – had just opened.

In writing the Mikado, Arthur Sullivan and W.S. Gilbert were not out to make fun of the Japanese people, but rather to make fun of the <u>English</u> people's obsession, misconceptions and stereotypes. They also took great pains to poke fun at the very ridged class structure of their own English audience, all the while seemingly writing about "The Little Town of Titapu."

To make sure that the subversive's jokes and jabs would not get lost on the audience, Gilbert and Sullivan wrote into the original 1885 production the song "*I've Got a Little List.*" In that song, Gilbert and Sullivan abandoned even the pretense that they were talking about Japan, and wrote a song directly about contemporary British characters they thought society would be better off without.

Right from the start this list was modified by subsequent productions of the show to reflect the time and place of the performance, inserting those personages or character types that the audience might find particularly annoying. Indeed, it is now a well established tradition in productions of the Mikado that Ko-Ko's song is re-written by the performer (with approval by the director!) so that the audience does not look to a fictional Japan, but rather into the mirror, to see what parts of OUR culture that someone outside of it might think "might well be underground!"

Likewise in our production, we seek not to make fun of a people but to have fun with some of the media and pop-culture inspired images, old and new, here and abroad that color our notion of ourselves and the world around us.

We hope you enjoy our production and our *List*.

Guest Conductor Patrick Clark

All about patrick

Symphony Angels

Dr. Steven & Jan Houser Koonce

# Personnel

#### VIOLIN I

Cheryl Nield\*\* Andrew Bailey Annie Cave Johanna Hobratschk Evie Pinkley William Reagan Jaclyn Reehoff Crystal Remmel Nick Vellios

#### VIOLIN II

Susan Wallace\* Julia Ceglenski Marty Gardner Elizabeth Komaromi Jana Nelson Richard Stokes Rebecca Talbert Madjid Vasseghi

#### VIOLA

Janet Mengwasser\* Eddie Crouse Laura Eggeman Abby Peper Logan Richardson Warren Solomon

#### Cello

Jennifer Penserum\* Andrea Cheung Claire Crossnoe Aimee M. Fine Savannah Hoff Shannon Merciel Patrick Ordway Erin Perry Greg Spillman

#### BASS

Bonnie Verdot\* Alex Bennett Candy Cheung Michael Koestner Ben Phelps

#### FLUTE/PICCOLO

Tisha Celada\* Susan Capehart Beverly Katt

#### **OBOE/ENGLISH HORN**

Don Schilling\* Andrew Marjamaa\*

#### CLARINET

Steven Houser\* Earl Kliethermes

**TENOR SAXOPHONE** William McComb

#### **BASSOON** Karel Lowery\* Kayla Smith

#### FRENCH HORN

Charlie Turner\* Laura Griggs Lindsey Pierce

#### TRUMPET

Barry Sanders\* Bill Reagan Brandon Webb

#### TROMBONE

T.J. Higgins\* Courtney Barker Jim Merciel Karen Kramer

**TUBA** Bruce G. Connor

#### PERCUSSION Corey Burkhardt Charles Miller Kevin Pierce Jared Rivera Alice Wilson

**TYMPANI** Tom Higgins\*\*\*

**HARP** Jana Merciel

**PIANO/CELESTA** Jan Houser

Asst. Conductor Tom Higgins

#### **CONDUCTOR** *Patrick Clark*

\*\*\*JCSO President \*\*Concertmaster \*Principal Violin, Viola, Cello and String Bass performers, except for the principal, are listed in alphabetical order.

## A Note of Thanks from the JCSO Chorus

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church** in Jefferson City has allowed us to rehearse every Tuesday in their lovely facilities September and October both this fall and last. **Pastor Scott Musselman** and his congregation have been most welcoming and gracious.

At Lincoln University, Mr. Donald Govang, Chair of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts, has opened the educational wing of the Richardson Fine Arts Center available for our vocal leads to rehearse every Sunday afternoon in September and October as well as on various other dates for smaller coaching sessions. Willie Beatty, our Theater House Manager, made the Robert and Charlene Mitchell Auditorium available for *The Mikado's* cast auditions in August, and for various partial or full rehearsals in September and October in addition to the final two dress rehearsals and performance in November. Thanks for all your helpful suggestions, Willie and for fitting us in wherever you could. Carrie Skain, your talented lighting helps enhance our production from a mere "concert version" to a "greatly enhanced concert version."

THE SINGERS: Bless them! Don Otto has spent innumerable hours editing the libretto, rewriting "his little list," being the stage director and tending to many other details. All of the Leads have been very conscientious while preparing their roles and faithfully attending as many as three rehearsals per week. The three understudies, Lisa Peters (Peep-Bo), Gayle Unruh (Pitti-Sing) and Jeremy Stark (Nanki-Poo) have been equally industrious. Carl Beach was preparing to reprise his role as *the Mikado*, last performed with the JCSO over twenty years ago. An unwelcome encounter with the surgical knife "cut short" his plans. Carl's understudy Dick Dalton has seamlessly slid into the malicious role, with special thanks to Grayson Peters for rewriting many of the lyrics for "A More Humane Mikado." The choristers have done their part with their weekly preparation as well.

It is our joy for all of us vocalists to join with the **Jefferson City Symphony Orchestra** and our talented **Guest Conductor: Patrick Clark**. Thanks for bringing all our forces together, Maestro. Thanks to immediate past JCSO Conductor **Dr. Houser** for cooking up the idea to sing *The Mikado; to* **Bonnie Verdot** for serving as my principal contact with the Symphony; to **Crystal Remmel** for editing our ever-evolving, overly loquacious printed program; and also to **Farrah Fite** for her many efforts in coordinating the publicity for the Jefferson City Community Concert Association's 2012-2013 Season.

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