

Oklahoma State University
Michael and Anne Greenwood School of Music
Opera Theatre
presents



Hänsel und Gretel

Composed by Gian Engelbert Humperdinck

Libretto by Adelheid Wette after a Grimm fairytale.

English translation by Constance Bache, revised

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2024-2025

Thursday, October 9, 2025, 7:30 pm
and Friday, October 10, 2025, 7:30 pm
McKnight Center for the Performing Arts, Performance Hall

Enter and exit during applause only.

The use of photographic, recording equipment, and cell phones is forbidden during performances.

From the Director

Welcome to our reimagined Hansel and Gretel—a wild ride into a rural trailer park where magic feels a little more gritty and a lot more unexpected.

In this version, the forest hums with the presence of "angels"—animals who are, in fact, the lost children transformed by the Witch's spell. Our Sandman sparkles with a bit of Dolly Parton flair, and Gretel's glitter ball caps shine as brightly as her imagination. It's a playful yet heartfelt twist on the classic tale—rooted in humor, resourcefulness, and a touch of redneck charm. I hope you enjoy this bold new world we've built—where magic hides in the ordinary, and every creature has a story to tell.

Best,
Christiaan Bester



Hänsel & Gretel

Act One

Home

Second Act

The forest

INTERMISSION

(15 minutes)

Third Act

The witch's house



Cast



CHARACTERS

Peter, a trucker hat maker

Joshua Cominsky

Gertrude, aka Moira Rose, his wife

Nia Sier

Hänsel, their son

Nevaeh Hennessy

Gretel, their daughter

Adeline Skillman

The Witch aka Rosina Dainty Mouth

Lesley Friend

Sandman aka Dolly Parton

Jillian Morris

Dew fairy

Nia Sier

Animals/Children

Cat #1

Madeline Doneske

Cat #2

Tyler Cantrell

Raccoon

Van Hartman

Skunk

Connor Halley

Squirrel

Cole Rogers

Donkey

Mykaela Johnson

Fox

Landry Warder

Owl

Grae Taylor

Deer

Braden Flud

Rabbit

Erin Rogers

WARNING: PLEASE BE AWARE THIS PRODUCTION
INCLUDES THE USE OF FOG AND STROBE EFFECTS.

Oklahoma State University Voice Faculty

Lyndsee Bell, Soprano

Dr. Christiaan Bester, Baritone; Opera and Vocal Pedagogy

Dr. Anné-Marie Condacse, Soprano; Diction

April Golliver-Mohiuddin, Mezzo-Soprano; Opera

Dr. Christopher Haygood, Interim Director of Choral and Vocal Studies

Dr. Benjamin Kambs, Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education

Mitchell Martinez, Interim Associate Director of Choral and Vocal Studies

Steve Sanders, Tenor; Opera and "All but Classical"

Dr. Lucia Unrau, Director, Michael and Anne Greenwood School of Music
Dr. Brad Genevro, Assistant Director, Michael and Anne Greenwood School of Music

OSU Opera Orchestra
Luca Antonucci, conductor

Violin I
Sun Huh

Violin II
Caden Stine

Viola
Alyson Rake

Cello
Jennifer Ripley

Bass
Jacob Robinson

Percussion
Cheldon Gatz
Ella Atkins

Keyboard
Elena Lyalina

Flute/Piccolo
Isabella Trevino

Oboe
Belanna Castillo-Escobar

Clarinet
Carson Reedy
Sophia Genevivo

Bassoon
Jolene Villasenor

Trumpet
Connor Gilbert

French Horn
Tristan Christy
Wyatt McNickle

Trombone
Chloe Romack

Production Team

Conductor	Luca Antonucci
Stage Director	Dr. Christian Bester
General Director	Steve Sanders
General Director	April Golliver-Mohiuddin
Music Director	Megan Barth Argo
Rehearsal Accompanist	Elena Lyalina
Production Manager	Chrissi McCullough
Scenic Designer	Steve Sanders
Costume Designer	Crista Patrick
Choreographer	Laura Tyson
MCPA Lighting Director	Jay Warren
MCPA Audio Engineer	John Weber
Sound Engineer	Thess Holloway
Stage Manager	Lydia Raines
Assistant Stage Manager	Stephanie Duke
Scenic Design/Technical Director	Steve Sanders
Wigs	Crista Patrick
GSM Event Staff Coordinator	Ben Sidwell/Chris Van Zant
Program Design	Saundra Arnold
Photography	Robin Herod Photography
Production Crew	Josie Bryant
	Michael Burish
	Thess Holloway
Supertitles	Megan Barth Argo
	Pedro Vieira

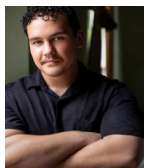
THE CAST

Tyler Cantrell (Cat #2)



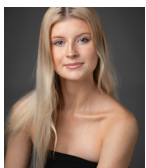
Hometown: Ada, OK
Major: Bachelor of Science in Economics
Year of Study: Freshman

Joshua Cominsky (Guest Artist/Peter)



Hometown: Austin, TX
Major: Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance
Year of Study: Senior at Oklahoma City University

Madeline Doneske (Cat #1)



Hometown: Oklahoma City, OK
Major: Bachelor of Arts in Strategic Communications
Year of Study: Freshman

Braden Flud (Deer)



Hometown: Edmond, OK
Major: Bachelor of Science in Music Industry
Year of Study: Sophomore

Connor Halley (Skunk)



Hometown: Edmond, OK
Major: Bachelor of Music in Education
Year of Study: Sophomore

Van Hartman (Raccoon)



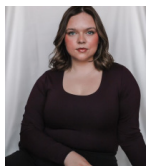
Hometown: Edmond, OK
Major: Bachelor of Music in Education
Year of Study: Freshman

Nevaeh Hennessy (Hänsel)



Hometown: Oklahoma City, OK
Major: Bachelor of Music in Education
Year of Study: Sophomore

Mykaela Johnson (Donkey)



Hometown: Noble, OK
Major: Bachelor of Music in Education
Year of Study: Senior

Jillian Morris (Dolly Parton)



Hometown: Oklahoma City, OK
Major: Master of Music, voice
Year of Study: Second yr.

Cole Rogers (Squirrel)



Hometown: Muskogee, OK
Major: Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering
Year of Study: Sophomore

Erin Rogers (Rabbit)



Hometown: Muskogee, OK
Major: Bachelor of Science in Interior Design
Year of Study: Junior

Landry Warder (Fox)



Hometown: Ramona, OK
Major: Bachelor of Arts in Theatre, Performance Emphasis
Year of Study: Sophomore

Nia Sier (Gertrude and Dew Fairy)



Hometown: Oklahoma City, OK
Major: Bachelor of Music in Education
Year of Study: Sophomore

Adeline Skillman (Gretel)



Hometown: Stillwater, OK
Major: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration-
Accounting
Year of Study: Junior

Grae Taylor (Owl)



Hometown: Pond Creek, OK
Major: Bachelor of Science in Music Industry and
Bachelor of Science in Political Science
Year of Study: Junior



Dramatic Soprano, **Lesley Anne Friend**, has been honored as a Metropolitan Opera National Council Awards Semi-Finalist, and by the Opera Birmingham Vocal Competition, Marguerite McCammon Vocal Competition, Connecticut Concert Opera, the Orpheus Competition, and the International Hans Gabor Belvedere Singing Competition. Her roles include the title roles in *Ariadne auf Naxos* and *Tosca*, Ellen Orford in *Peter Grimes*, Giorgetta in *Il Tabarro*, Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*, Fiordiligi in *Così fan Tutte*, Alma in *Hoiby's Summer & Smoke*, Erste Dame in *Die Zauberflöte*, Desdemona in *Otello*, Miss Jessel in *The Turn of the Screw*, Helmwig in *Die Walküre*, Female Chorus in *The Rape of Lucretia*, Elisabetta in *Maria Stuarda*, the title role in *Suor Angelica*, and Magda Sorel in *The Consul*. Lesley has worked with Virginia Opera, Sarasota Opera, Opera Memphis, Baltimore Concert Opera, and Opera on the Avalon.

Lesley has long been passionate about new works and less-performed repertoire. She has performed in regional and world premieres of works by numerous composers, including American composers Zachery Redler and Stephen Schwartz: singing *Magnanimous* in *Windows* and *Myra Foster* in *Seance on a Wet Afternoon*, respectively. Her orchestral work includes Varese's *Offrandes*, the music of Harry Partch, and Ginastera's *Cantata para América Mágica* in celebration of the composer's 100th birthday at Indiana University's Latin American Music Center. During Pride Month 2023, she was honored to perform a recital of music by LGBTQ+ English & American composers.

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Ms. Friend sang her first Verdi Requiem with Boston's Chorus Pro Musica and Mahler's Symphony No. 2 with the Hartt School of Music Choirs and Orchestra and the New Haven Chorale. She also performed Samuel Barber's *Knoxville: Summer 1915* and Stravinsky's *Pulcinella* with the Indiana University Orchestra. Lesley received her B.M. cum laude in Vocal Performance from Montclair State University, her M.M. in Opera from The Boston Conservatory, and an Artist Diploma from the University of Memphis. Currently, she is a doctoral candidate in the final stage of completing her Doctor of Music in Vocal Performance and Literature, with a minor in Music History at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University. Her doctoral research involves making musical theatre part of a traditional music curriculum, and she is a student of Carol Vaness.

Visit www.LesleyAnneFriend.com for production photos, recordings, and more.

We are excited to announce the launch of the Aria Society, a new opera guild established in response to the growing interest and enthusiasm surrounding the OSU Opera program. We invite you to become a part of this exciting new chapter by joining the Aria Society. Membership is available through a donation to the OSU Foundation – Opera Program Fund (22-03050), with a minimum annual contribution of \$125.
All gifts are tax-deductible.

Those who join by December 31 will be recognized as charter members of the Aria Society. As a member, you will enjoy access to exclusive social and educational events, while also helping to provide critical financial support for future OSU Opera productions.

We look forward to welcoming you into the Aria Society and building a vibrant community of opera enthusiasts together.

2025 Aria Society Events:

Mischief and Morals
November 21st
Friday at 6:00 p.m.
McKnight Center Patrons Lounge

Brunch and Buccaneers
February 1st
Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

Spring Finale
TBA

For more information, please contact Professor April Golliver-Mohiuddin via e-mail at april.golliver@okstate.edu.

CURRENT ARIA SOCIETY MEMBERS:

Steve & Patty Armbruster, Andrea & Ed Arquitt, Cathie & Ronald Barney,
Jerry & Mary Burson, Ryan Chung and Kirk Boersma, Eileen Ellison
Linda and Ray Ely Carolyn Gang & Ed Noltensmeyer
Marsha and Rodger Hilton, Kim Howerton, Nigel Jones
Pam & Gary Lanman, Julie & Jerry McCoy, Martha & Roger McMillian
Barbara Miller, April & Arfan Mohiuddin, Robert Raab & Bruce Waterfield
Chris & Pam Reding, Bradley and Jean Rickelman, Carroll & Dick Risk
Leanita Shelby, Tequia & Derrick Sier, Lucia Unrau & Peter Terry, Angela Varnadore

As always, a special thanks to the Friends of Music for their continuous support for opera at Oklahoma State University.



Many Thanks

The Michael and Anne Greenwood School of Music and the OSU Friends of Music organization gratefully acknowledge the commitment and generosity of individuals, corporations, foundations, and government agencies that support our mission. Because of the investment of our loyal donors, a new building is recently completed and many students are the beneficiaries of life-changing scholarships.

Thank you!

We encourage you to get involved. There exists continued need for student scholarships, student and faculty travel support, and facilities. Please contact us for more information at

405-385-0701.



Thank you for attending!

Michael and Anne Greenwood School Upcoming Events in the Recital Hall

Sunday, October 12, 2025, 2:30 pm-Junior Recital; Ben Eichenseer, horn
Tuesday, October 21, 2025, 7:30 pm-Faculty Recital; Heather Macdonald, oboe
Thursday, October 23, 2025, 1:30 pm- Piano Collective

Michael and Anne Greenwood School Upcoming Events in the Performance Hall

Thursday, October 16, 2025, 7:30 pm-University Singers/Chamber Choir Concert
Friday, October 24, 2025, 7:30 pm-OSU Symphonic Orchestra Concert
Sunday, October 26, 2025, 5:00 pm- OSU Wind Ensemble Concert

Noon Concert Series at the Edmon Low Library (Peggy V. Helmerich Browsing Room)

Thursday, October 16, 2025-Graduate Woodwind and Brass Quintets
Thursday, October 23, 2025-Flute Choir and Horn Ensembles
Thursday, November 13, 2025- Trombone Ensembles
Thursday, November 20, 2025-String and Clarinet Ensembles

Dates and times of events are subject to change.

Please feel free to confirm this information by calling (405) 744-6133.

*For ticket availability and pricing of all events in a McKnight Center venue,
please call the McKnight Center Box Office at (405) 744-9999.*