

ENTERTAINMENT

A Star Is Born



Queenie Samuel had an added treat on her recent visit to Oakland, California to witness the birth of her second grandson Ryan Isaiah Wilson. Born February 10, 1992 at 7# 7oz, to proud parents Allen and Sophia Wilson. Prior to leaving Oakland Queenie had the good fortune to meet none other than the legend of filmdom, Sidney Portier. She found him to be very charming and entertaining. Mr. Portier was in Oakland for the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame Inc. Gathering at the Parc Oakland Hotel, February 21-23

The Jazz Society of Oregon Presents All Star Group

Two evenings of mainstream Jazz, March 30 and 31, featuring an All Star group straight from the Salishan Jazz Weekend.

Billed as the Night After, the spirit of Salishan Jazz will continue for two more nights, March 30 and 31, at the Hobbit.

This year we are honored to feature Jazz Weekend veterans Red Holloway on saxophones, Andy Simpkins on bass, Gerald Wiggins on piano, and Salishan newcomer Paul Humphreys on drums.

Red Holloway has been a favorite of Portland jazz fans, having played many times here, more recently at Mt. Hood Festival of Jazz, and to full houses at the Jazz Society's First Jazz '91.

Andy Simpkins played at the very first Otter Crest Jazz Party and continues the tradition of repeat performances of the best. Simpkins has long been recognized as one of the top world class bassists. We are honored with his rare Portland appearance.

The beauty and artistry of *Gerald Wiggins*, as well as his ability to blend in with and enhance a broad spectrum of musical chairs has earned the respect and admiration of his fellow musicians as well as his loyal fans.

Paul Humphreys has appeared in movies, television shows, and commercials, Jazz Festivals and cruises, as well as recordings with the top Jazz musicians and Big Bands. His versatility has enabled him to be drummer of choice with the world's top acts.

Opera Season Continues with *Hansel and Gretel*; Humperdinck's Operate A Favorite With Adults and Children Alike

Engelbert Humperdinck's poignant tale of two children lost in the woods has long been a favorite with audiences of all ages. Sent in search of food for their starving family, Hansel and Gretel find themselves lost in the confusing world of an enchanted forest, far beyond the help of their family. Naive but resourceful, the pair, with some help from the heavens, conquer their own fear and turn the tables on the evil witch who's bent on their destruction.

Although *Hansel and Gretel* was originally conceived for children, Humperdinck avoided the temptation to write down to his young audiences. His composition is remarkable for its skillful blending of folklike melodies within a complex and highly sophisticated harmonic vocabulary.

Sung in English *Hansel and Gretel* is certain to provide an uplifting evening in which virtue and sincerity triumph to reunite the family.

The Cast: Soprano Maureen O'Flynn, still remembered for her vivid portrayal of Gilda in the Company's 1990 *Rigoletto*, sings the role of Gretel. Since then, Ms. O'Flynn has captivated audiences at La Fenice, Venice and on national television's "Live from Lincoln Center" in the New York City Operate production of *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Later this season she is scheduled to make her La Scala debut.

Mezzo-soprano Christine Meadows, a Portland native, returns to Portland Opera in the role of Hansel. Ms. Meadows won the 1985 Eleanor Lieber Auditions and went on to New York City Opera roles in *Carmen*, *The Mikado*, *The Magic Flute*, and *Mefistofele*.

Reprising her Metropolitan Opera role of *The Witch* for which she won an Emmy Award will be one of the finest singing-actresses of our time-mezzo-soprano Rosalind Elias. Winner of two Emmys and three Grammys, Ms. Elias has performed leading roles with great distinction in the major opera houses throughout the world. As *The Witch*, she makes her Company debut in a singing role (she directed the highly acclaimed *Don Pasquale* here in 1990).

Baritone Richard Paul Fink makes his Portland Operate debut in the role of Peter, the Father. Mr. Fink is a two-time winner of both the Metropolitan Opera and the San Francisco Opera Auditions. He made his European debut in 1988 and has performed in Germany, Italy, Hungary, Austria, Ireland, and England in addition to his U.S. performances with Houston Grand Opera, San Diego Opera, among many others.

Portland mezzo-soprano Alyce Rogers, last seen with the Company as Dame Quickly in the recent *Falstaff*, sings Gertrude, the Mother.

Portland soprano Barbara Custer sings the Sandman. Ms. Custer last appeared with the Portland Opera in the

1988 *The Magic Flute*.

Sandy resident, Susan St. John, performs as the Dew Fairy. Ms. St. John last appeared on the Portland Opera stage in *Fidelio* (1979).

The Portland Opera Orchestra will perform under the baton of Maestro Matthias Kuntzsch, former director of the Staatstheater Saarbrücken. Mr. Kuntzsch last appeared on the Portland Opera podium for the 1988 *The Magic Flute*.

Portland native, Elizabeth Bachman, directs. She made her theatrical debut here as a five-year-old at the Ladybug Theatre at the Children's Zoo. Since then she has gone on to direct productions throughout the U.S., including the Zeffirelli production of *La Traviata* at the Metropolitan Opera.

Hansel and Gretel features the Portland Opera Children's Chorus, with 24 young singers from throughout the metropolitan area, under the direction of Portland Opera Chorus Master Carol Lucas.

Sets and costumes for *Hansel and Gretel* are owned by Portland Opera. Sets were designed by John Scheffler; costumes by Franco Colavecchia, for Houston Grand Opera. Angel costumes were designed by Portland Opera's Minnie Jardine.

Hansel and Gretel will be sung in English with projected text.

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