



VOX 3

a vocal music collective

P.O. Box 408435, Chicago, IL 60640 • 773-784-0425 • www.vox3.org

Contact: Angela Zawada
773.968.7143
azawada1980@yahoo.com

(Chicago, IL) Fanciful stories of far-off lands fill the air at **VOX 3's** performance of "Myths & Fairytales" on November 16th. Embrace your inner child and come hear renditions of famous European and Middle Eastern fairy tales as set by Borodin, Schubert, Ravel and Franz Liszt. The concert is rounded off by selections from Steven Sondheim's musical "Into the Woods," which features a cast of well-known fairy tale characters. Join us for this "magical" evening of vocal music.

Myths and fairy tales are an important part of cultures the world over. One may not think of "Once upon a time..." as a way to introduce philosophy to a young child, but that's just what these stories do. The educational aims and moral didacticism of myths and fairy tales are easily concealed by their simplicity and charm. Understandably, it is just this charm that has drawn many of the most talented composers of Western music to set these stories to music. A pre-concert lecture by **VOX 3** member **Brandon Hayes** will highlight prominent examples of mythology in art, enhancing the rich imagery of this music.

Soprano **Kimberly Beasley** holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Colorado, a Master of Music from Valparaiso University, Indiana, and a Certificate of Vocal Performance from Northwestern University. Her stage credits include *Into the Woods*, *Suor Angelica*, *The Barber of Seville*, *Tartuffe*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, and *Carmen* in addition to being the musical director for productions of *A...My Name is Alice*, *West Side Story*, *The Ballad of Baby Doe*, *Children of Eden*, *Hello Dolly*, and *The Last Five Years*. Beasley has taught university courses in applied theory, opera scenes, vocal pedagogy, and opera history. She has performed as a soloist with the Southwest Michigan Symphony, Elmhurst Symphony, the Northwest Indiana Symphony, DuPage Opera Theatre, New Philharmonic, Light Opera Works, and in the chorus of Lyric Opera of Chicago and Grant Park Symphony Choruses. She serves on the voice faculties of Midwest Young Artists and the Voice and Opera Academy. Soprano **Ashlee Hardgrave** holds a Master of Music in Voice Performance from Roosevelt University and the Bachelor of Arts in Music from Arkansas Tech University. Recent opera roles include work with Intimate Opera Chicago and Chicago College of Performing Arts. Recent concert projects include collaboration with ATU alumni and Night Dances. She has created two one-woman shows, *Ain't It Grand?* in 2002 and *Five Alive!* in 2006. Soprano **Rebecca Prescott**, a rancher's daughter from Jerome, Idaho, is a Master of Music graduate of Roosevelt University, where she studied with Richard Stilwell. She has played roles onstage ranging from Desdemona in *Othello* with the Idaho Shakespeare Festival to The Governess in *The Turn of the Screw* with Sienna Repertory Theatre to Yum-Yum in *The Mikado* and Low-Dive Jenny in *The Threepenny Opera*. She also starred as Luisa in *The Fantasticks* and Sally in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* with the Three-Sided Players. She has performed often with the Millennium Chamber Players, having sung Lucia in Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia*, Barbarina in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, and the soprano solo in J.S. Bach's *Mass in G-major*. Most recently, she garnered rave reviews for her turn as Josephine in *H.M.S. Pinafore* in Hyde Park this year. Baritone **Brian von Rueden**, originally from Wausau, Wisconsin, holds a Master of Music from Roosevelt University and a Bachelor of Music from Valparaiso University. His most recent credits include *Le nozze di Figaro*, *The Wandering Scholar*, *The Rape of Lucretia*, Tom Stoppard's English version of *Prokofiev's Love for Three Oranges* and *L'infedeltà fedele* in Anghiari, Italy. Other opera credits include *The Scarf*, *Face on the Barroom Floor*, *The Impresario* and *The Mikado*. Von Rueden has appeared as the bass soloist for several Bach cantatas and masses, most notably with Ars Musica Chicago. As a director, he has staged the rarely seen American operas *A Childhood Miracle* and *The Scarf*. Von Rueden has studied with Mark Crayton, Richard Stilwell, Ralph Klapis, Rändel Wolfe, and Barbara Lattimer.

Pianist **James Morehead** is an Adjunct Professor of Music Theory/History and German Diction at Chicago College of Performing Arts of Roosevelt University and is staff accompanist for voice lessons, recitals and opera theater. He is also the choir master/organist at St. Helena's Episcopal Church in Burr Ridge, IL and the music director for VOX 3. James received his M. M. in Piano Performance and Music Theory from CCPA and his B. M. in Piano Performance from Duquesne University. His teachers have included Klaus Ebling, Emma S. Rocco, Kenneth Burky and Dmitry Rachmanov. He collaborated with Erin Carlisle-Norton and Adam Gustafson on a new work entitled "Fingers and Toes," and also premiered Gustafson's *The Rumi Cycle* with soprano Ashlee Hardgrave. James has performed throughout Chicago in recitals at Roosevelt University, Northwestern University, Depaul University and the University of Chicago. He has also appeared as a featured cabaret pianist at Gentry on Halsted, Spin Nightclub, Davenport's, the 410 Club and The Casino. Finally, James has participated in the Other Dance Festival and Around the Coyote Festival. James enjoys incorporating other art forms into his independent projects. He has worked with the Space/Movement project, and is currently involved with ecnDANCEWORKS.

VOX 3 is a collective of artists who educate both performers and audience through varied presentations of vocal music. The group's members perform music, execute administrative functions in the organization and educate the public about vocal music through concerts and quarterly publications of original articles.

Admission to *Myths and Fairytales* is free, although donations are welcome. The evening begins at 8:00pm on Friday, November 16, 2007 at Broadway United Methodist Church, 3344 N. Broadway Street.