

Gian Carlo Menotti

Children's Operas

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Amahl and the Night Visitors
NBC Symphony Chorus and
Orchestra/Schippers



Rea Victor Gold Seal 6485

Help, Help, the Globolinks!
Madison Opera: Madison
Symphony Orchestra/Dekahn



Newport Classic 85633



Gian Carlo Menotti

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Photo courtesy British Broadcasting Corporation

Menotti Centenary 2011

Amahl and the Night Visitors



Photo by Marilyn Frenkel, courtesy Opera Carolina

Opera in One Act
Duration: 46'

Libretto by the composer available in English, Chinese, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, or Spanish.

WORLD PREMIERE

NBC-TV
24 December 1951

ORCHESTRATION & CAST

boy 5, S, T, Bar. 2B; SATB chorus; dancers
1211/1100/perc/hp/pl/str

SYNOPSIS

The story of a crippled shepherd boy Amahl, who offers his beloved crutch as a present to the Christ child, is healed, and joins the Three Kings on their way to Bethlehem.

Full Score: 50340770 (US\$59.95), Vocal Score: 50337790 (US\$22.50), Chorus Parts 50337800 (US\$4.95), Libretto 50340010 (US\$4.95)

The Boy Who Grew Too Fast

Opera in One Act
Duration: 40'

Libretto by the composer available in English, Dutch, or German.

WORLD PREMIERE

Opera Delaware
24 September 1982

ORCHESTRATION & CAST

S, girl 5, boy 5, T, T, Mz, Tr, B, non-singing role, children
1+pic.111/1100/imp/perc/pl/syn/str

SYNOPSIS

A nine-year-old boy who has just moved to town is mocked by his classmates because of his immense size and his name, Poponel Skosvodomont. Miss Hope, his new teacher, tells the boy of Dr. Shrink, who has invented a shrinking machine. The mother takes the boy to the doctor, who says he will be able to help Poponel reach a normal size but at a price — the boy must conform to everyone else's actions. When Mad Dog, a terrorist, comes to the school and demands a hostage, only Poponel volunteers. His act makes him grow until he overwhelms the terrorist.



Illustration by Jamie Wyeth, from Opera Delaware's premiere program

A Bride From Pluto

Opera in One Act
Duration: 38'

Libretto by the composer in English.

WORLD PREMIERE

Kennedy Center, Washington, DC
12 April 1982

ORCHESTRATION & CAST

Bar. Mz, B, 2S
1(pic)011/1100/imp/perc/pf/syn/2vn.va.vc.db

SYNOPSIS

Billy, the spoiled son of a tailor, wants to have much more than his parents can afford. When his father kicks him out of the house, he sees a strange object in the backyard, a spaceship from Pluto. It contains the Queen of Pluto, who has been searching the galaxy for a husband and has selected Billy. She says he can have anything he wants, but, in exchange, the Queen will replace his heart and soul with an electronic gadget that renders him immortal.

Chip and His Dog

Opera in Two Scenes
Duration: 30'

Libretto by the composer available in English, French or Italian.

WORLD PREMIERE

Canadian Children's Opera Chorus
Guelph Spring Festival, Guelph, Canada
5 May 1979

ORCHESTRATION & CAST
boy 5, mime, 2A, 2S, A, 2 non-singing roles; treble chorus
Il.bn/pl/vn.va.vc.db
SYNOPSIS
Set in a mythical kingdom, a clever dog and his devoted young master teach a bored and petulant princess that happiness cannot be bought, and "... a heart must be won by patience and love."
Vocal score: 50338690 (US\$22)

Help, Help, the Globolinks!

Opera in One Act
Duration: 70'

Libretto by the composer available in English, Dutch, French, or German

WORLD PREMIERE

Slate Opera of Hamburg, Germany
21 December 1968

ORCHESTRATION & CAST

S, S, high Bar, Bar, T, Mz, Bar, B; 12 children, globolinks
2121/2221/imp/perc/pf/str; ip

Red orch: 1(pic)11(bcd)/0/
1101/perc/pl.hrp/str; ip

Red orch: 2 pf

Vocal score: 50338550 (US\$40)



Photo courtesy G. Schirmer archives

The Singing Child

Opera in One Act
Duration: 45'

Libretto by the composer in English.

WORLD PREMIERE

Spoleto Festival USA, Charleston, SC
31 May 1993

ORCHESTRATION & CAST

2 boy 5, S, Bar, Mz, T
1111/1100/perc/pf/str

SYNOPSIS

A child of career-oriented, culture-vulture parents is left alone too often with a babysitter he does not like. Desperate for a companion to play with, 8-year-old Jeremy imagines a secret friend that appears as a singing child who chants, but never utters words. The two children learn to communicate this way, to the distraction of the parents who cannot see or hear and the needs of their child: familial happiness returns and Jeremy speaks once again. A cautionary tale about children's separation anxieties and emotional abandonment.



Photo by William Struts, courtesy Spoleto Festival USA