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“Ballymore”

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April 2, 2008

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“Ballymore”

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Northern Ireland will be brought to life in the School of Music’s “Ballymore,” a semi-comic opera set within the small town from which the production takes its name. This performance of the second act, titled “Losers,” will play at 7:30 p.m. April 4 and 5 in the Westbrook Auditorium of Presser Hall (1210 Park St., Bloomington).

Both shows are free and open to the public.

The opera examines the relationship between Hannah and Andy, a middle-aged couple attempting to pursue a continued romance despite the strains placed upon them by Mrs. Wilson, Hannah’s bedridden and devout mother. The extreme devotion of Hannah’s mother and the couple’s neighbors—the know-it-all Mrs. Cassidy and her daughter Cissy—is especially frustrating because of their avid veneration of St. Philomena, supposed miracle-worker and martyr who was removed from the calendar of saints on the technicality that she may never have existed. Hannah and Andy understandably long to escape to Riverview where they could lead a quiet, normal life.

Spanning one year during the 1960s, “Ballymore” is based on Brian Friehl’s play “Lovers.” The play was adapted for operatic performance by composer and librettist Richard Wargo, an Eastman School of Music graduate. The act selected for this production was originally commissioned by the Skylight Opera Company in Milwaukee, and premiered there in 1999.

A full calendar of School of Music events is available at <http://www2.iwu.edu/music/events/calendar.shtml>.

For additional information contact the music office at (309) 556-3061.

Production Members: Dr. Linda Farquarson (Conductor and Music Director), Robert Mangialardi (Stage Director).

Student Cast Members: Erin Moll, Amelia Ciskey, James Hornor, Megan Cullen, Sara Longtin, Mallory Roberts, Angela Born.

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