



2014

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Recommended Citation

Patsavas, Tia, "Civic Orchestra, Opera Theatre to Present 'Hansel and Gretel'" (2014). *News and Events*. Paper 2453.
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Civic Orchestra, Opera Theatre to Present ‘Hansel and Gretel’

Nov. 12, 2014

Illinois Wesleyan’s Civic Orchestra and Opera Theatre will present “Hansel and Gretel” Nov. 21 as a children’s matinee at 12:30 p.m. and full opera at 7:30 p.m. at the Bloomington Center of the Performing Arts, 600 N. East St. The Opera Theatre will stage an additional performance Nov. 22 at 7:30 p.m. in Presser Hall’s Westbrook Auditorium. All performances are free and open to the public.

In the late 19th century, German composer Engelbert Humperdinck created the operatic production of “Hansel and Gretel.” Based on the Brothers Grimm classic fairy tale, “Hansel and Gretel” is admired for its folk music-inspired themes. The production follows young siblings Hansel and Gretel as they travel through the haunted forests, desperate to escape from a grotesque witch.

Conducted by Visiting Assistant Professor of Music Lev Ivanov, the Illinois Wesleyan Civic Orchestra is an auditioned group of string, percussionist and wind students now in its 30th season. The Opera Theatre is under the direction of Robert Mangialardi, visiting assistant professor of music. Susan Klotzbach, University organist and adjunct faculty member, is music director and pianist. As a part of the Opera Program, the Opera Theatre course seeks to develop experience and training in all aspects of opera through the performance of one fully staged opera each semester.

For more information, contact the Illinois Wesleyan School of Music at 309-556-3346.

By Tia Patsavas '16