



**PRESENTS ITS 25<sup>TH</sup> SEASON  
2008**

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**Artistic Director, Kyle Marrero  
PENSACOLA OPERA PRESENTS ITS ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE  
SHOWCASE PERFORMANCE OF *GIANNI SCHICCHI***

Pensacola, FL – As a special addition after its 2008 Season “On the Road,” Pensacola Opera will present its Artists in Residence, supported by members of the Pensacola Opera Chorus, in a showcase performance of Giacomo Puccini’s one-act opera *Gianni Schicchi*. Performances will be at the Pensacola Opera Center, 75 S. Tarragona St, at 7:30 PM on Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. The opera will be sung in English.

“We really urge everyone who can to come out and see *Schicchi* this weekend,” said Timothy Kennedy, Pensacola Opera’s Director of Education and Outreach. “Our Artists in Residence this year have been absolutely amazing, traveling with our school performances and supporting our main stage productions, and this will be the last chance Pensacola has to hear these incredible young artists.”

In *Gianni Schicchi*, Buoso Donati has died, and his relatives scheme to "correct" his will before it's discovered that he left all of his money to the local monastery. They enlist the help of the local trickster, Gianni Schicchi, and each relative promises him a reward if they give the best of the inheritance to him. The relatives are trapped by their own cleverness, however, and trickster Schicchi ends up the winner in this classic farce - based on Dante's *Divine Comedy*.

The bedroom set is being provided by Pandora de Balthazár. Her exquisite antiques and linens will turn the Pensacola Opera Center’s rehearsal hall into a sumptuous, decadent bedroom – the perfect backdrop for the family’s machinations. Each piece lent to the Opera for the production will be available for sale, with a percentage going to support Pensacola Opera programs.

Pensacola Opera’s 2008 Artists in Residence play the principal roles for *Gianni Schicchi*. Schicchi himself will be sung by baritone Todd Von Felker; Tenor Zechariah Baker sings the role of the young lover Rinucchio. Anna Steenerson will sing Lauretta, Schicchi’s daughter and Rinucchio’s intended. Rinucchio’s grasping aunt, Zita, will be sung by mezzo soprano Dawn Pierce. Pensacola Opera Chorus

members Greg Watson, Nicole Thietje, Ann Ferguson, David Suhor, Tobias Thietje, Craig Addison, Herb Tankersly, Janet Liles, Jessica Leese, Tresa Kirby, and young singer Raymond VerVoort fill the remaining roles.

Tickets for the production are \$12 for adults and \$5 for students, and can be purchased at the door. For more information, call (850) 433-6737.

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