





# About THE CONSUL

*The Consul* is an opera that could have only been born of the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century. At its core is the story of individuals struggling to stay afloat in a sea of social and political upheaval; this core is surrounded by themes of familial and social duty and the cold, faceless impotence of bureaucracy. The composer never names the totalitarian State where the events of *The Consul* take place: it could as easily be Hitler's Germany as Tito's Yugoslavia or one of the Baltic countries under Stalin's Soviet domination. And though the opera is unambiguously dated, its themes and circumstances remind us of the harsh realities faced by the marginalized and oppressed in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; the chords set in motion by Menotti more than half a century ago are still sounding today.

One hundred years ago — on 7 July, 1911 — Gian Carlo Menotti was born to a coffee trader and his wife in northern Italy, near the Swiss border. The precocious prodigy was writing songs at age seven, and by age eleven had completed a short opera; at twelve he entered the Milan Conservatory, later finishing his studies in composition at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.

Menotti became one of the most popular opera composers of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, penning nearly thirty operas over a period of about sixty years. Unlike most composers, Menotti wrote his own libretti and often personally staged productions of his operas. He also provided the libretti for *Vanessa* and *A Hand of Bridge*, operas by Samuel Barber. Menotti and Barber were partners in life and work for more than forty years.

*The Consul* was Menotti's first full-length opera. Most of his mature works were conceived in a realist style with contemporary audiences in mind, and *The Consul* was intended for Broadway, where it began its first run soon after a March 1, 1950 première in Philadelphia. This work won Menotti his first Pulitzer Prize for Music—he was awarded a second Pulitzer for *The Saint of Bleecker Street* in 1955.

Later in life, Menotti founded the Festival of Two Worlds in Spoleto, Italy and Charleston, South Carolina; the venue remains vital in the opera world today. In the 1980s, Menotti led the Teatro dell'Opera in Rome for a time, and he was the recipient of the Kennedy Center Honor for Achievement in the Arts in 1984. He died in Monaco in 2007.

"Any subject is good for opera if the composer feels it so intensely that he must sing it out."

- Gian Carlo Menotti





# The Consul

by Gian-Carlo Menotti

## ACT I – SCENE I

Home of John and Magda Sorel; a shabby apartment  
in a large European city. Early morning.

## ACT I – SCENE II

The waiting room of the consulate; cheerless and cold.  
Later the same day.

## ACT II – SCENE I

The Sorel Apartment; late afternoon a month later.

INTERMISSION – 15 minutes

## ACT II – SCENE II

The consulate waiting room; a few days later

## ACT III – SCENE I

The consulate; late afternoon several days later

## ACT III – SCENE II

The Sorel apartment; that evening





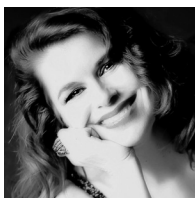
# The CAST



## **Eric Jordan (John Sorel)**

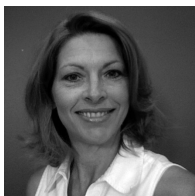
Bass Eric Jordan has been sought by opera companies for his trademark “big bass and presence to match” (*Opera News*). His voice is described as possessing “a resonant, ringing tone” (*St Louis Post-Dispatch*), and *The New York Times* once opined that his “powerful, nuanced singing and thoughtful acting amounted to a wholly remarkable portrayal.”

Last season brought his debut with the Metropolitan Opera in productions of *Don Carlo*, *Magic Flute* and *Pelléas et Mélisande* and with Dallas Opera as Friar Laurence in *Romeo and Juliette*. He also sings at Bob Jones University as Mephistopheles in *Faust*, in a re-engagement to the Cesky Krumlov Festival as Leporello in *Don Giovanni*, Alidoro in *La Cenerentola* with the Belleayre Music Festival, and a Verdi *Requiem* in Connecticut. This summer he sings Bruckner’s *Te Deum* at the Spoleto Festival. Eric Jordan holds Music degrees from the University of California at Los Angeles and the New England Conservatory of Music. A 1998 regional finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, he received additional training with the Central City Opera House Association, the International Institute of Vocal Arts and the Israeli Institute of Vocal Arts.



## **Karen Young (Magda Sorel)**

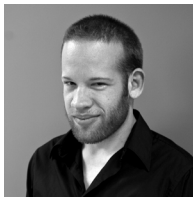
Karen is thrilled to reprise her role as Magda Sorel and bring the beautiful experience of Menotti’s *The Consul* to UAHuntsville students. This opera has given the students tremendous vocal and dramatic challenges this semester, and presented them with an opportunity to learn and perform a very complex work. She believes this is a timely and important story to tell, as unfortunately, the problem of social oppression still exists today. She would like to thank the entire cast and crew for their tireless work and dedication to this project. She would especially like to thank her students, “I am so incredibly proud of you,” her friend and colleague, David Harwell, for his enthusiasm and his genius; and most importantly, her husband, Glenn, for his never ending love and support!



## **Melanie Scalfano (The Mother)**

Melanie has been a musician for as long as she can remember, and has always wanted to sing in an opera production. She is so appreciative that this opportunity has been presented to her at this point in her life. She joins UAHuntsville Opera Theatre while pursuing a second bachelors degree in Music and is in her final year. Her previous theatre experience includes Marion the Librarian in *The Music Man*. Melanie works as a physical therapist and is the mother of four.





### **Rob Henderson (Secret Police Agent)**

Rob Henderson is a Vocal Performance major at UAHuntsville with intent to pursue Master's and Doctoral degrees in choral conducting. Rob made his debut with UAHuntsville Opera Theatre with *Opera Extremes* last year. He is exited, honored, and humbled by the chance to work with such an amazing group of people on his very first full opera production. Rob would like to thank his family and friends for their love, patience, and support.



### **Marilyn West (The Secretary)**

Marilyn is very excited to be a part of this show! She is pursuing a Music major/Theatre minor at UAHuntsville, where she studies voice with Karen Young and acting with David Harwell. Marilyn has been involved in several shows with UAHuntsville Opera Theatre, including roles like Dido in *Dido and Aeneas* and Dot in *Sunday in the Park with George*. She will graduate in May, and hopes to continue performing. To her friends, family, and teachers she says, "Thanks for the support and unwavering encouragement. I've learned so much, and I'm so, so lucky."



### **Ben Corlandi (Mr. Kofner)**

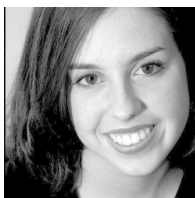
Ben's roles include James Wilson in 1776, the Pharaoh in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Silvio in *Pagliacci*, Colline in *La Boheme*, and Williams Jennings Bryan in *Ballad of Baby Doe*. Recently he performed in *Andrea Chenier* and *Carmen* with Nashville Opera as well as in *Faust* with Opera Birmingham. In October Ben will begin his second season singing professionally with Nashville Opera.



### **Amelia Cohen (the Foreign Woman)**

Amelia got her start in music at the age of two while growing up in Decatur, Alabama when her mother taught her to sing "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head." Since then, Amelia has been performing in North Alabama in local choruses, ensembles, musical theater, and operas. In 2000, Amelia joined the cast of the Huntsville Opera Theater (H.O.T.) and performed the "Countess Ceprano" in *Rigoletto* plus many others. Amelia's most recent performance was as Yvonne in UAHuntsville's production of *Sunday In The Park with George*. She would like to thank Karen and David for giving her this opportunity to be a part of the UAHuntsville Opera Theatre productions. She also thanks Martha Brouse for excellent vocal teaching.





**Megan Poff (Anna Gomez)**

Megan (Brand) Poff, a coloratura soprano, is most known for her works in Baroque and 20th Century Music. She is currently serving as Adjunct Voice Faculty in the Music Department at UAHuntsville. Some of her notable opera stage credits include: Marie, *Daughter of the Regiment*; Mrs. Hayes, *Susannah*; Gertrude Stein, *The Mother of Us All*; Lola, *Gallantry*. She dedicates this performance to her husband, Lucifer (Jay Poff), as he has had to endure eight long months in hell without her.



**Bess Jernigan (Vera Boronel)**

Bess is a senior at UAHuntsville completing her degree in Music Education with a Choral Music emphasis. While at UAH, she has studied in the voice studio of Karen Young and piano studio of Dr. Sarkis Baltaian and Mr. Ron Roberts. She is grateful to have this opportunity and appreciates all those who have made this such a wonderful experience.



**James Desta (The Magician - Nika Magadoff)**

James studies in the voice studio of the wonderful Karen Young, and is in his 4th year at UAHuntsville as a double-major in Psychology and Music (with performance emphasis) and a Theatre minor. A member of both the UAHuntsville Concert Choir and Chamber Choir under Dr. Erin Colwitz, James also serves as president of the UAHuntsville chapter of Alpha Psi Omega, the national theatre honor society, director of First United Methodist Church's youth choir, and private voice instructor at Colors Fine Arts, Inc. James has been involved with many of UAHuntsville Theatre's productions, including *Sunday in the Park With George*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Rimers of Eldritch*, *The Country Club*, *The Zoo Story*, and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. He is incredibly excited about being in his first opera (what a work to start with!) and thankful to David Harwell, Patricia Kiley, and Karen Young for all the wisdom and guidance they have given him throughout his time at UAHuntsville.



**Sheldon Taffe (Assan)**

Sheldon will be graduating this fall with a degree in English and a minor in HR management. This is the second opera that he has participated in at UAHuntsville; the first being *Dido and Aeneas*. He is excited about working with all the talented musicians and feels honored to be a part of this special production.





### **James Lawlor (Chorus)**

*The Consul* is James Lawlor's first opera and first appearance with UAHuntsville Opera Theatre. He previously spent several happy years with the Whole Backstage Theatre in Guntersville, AL. James recently graduated with a double major in Chemistry and Math, and can usually be found tutoring, singing with the Concert and Chamber Choirs, or working on applications for grad school in Biomedical Engineering. He would like to thank the directors for the opportunity to return to the stage with some of his best friends.



### **Dean Gillmore (Chorus)**

This is Dean Gillmore's first appearance with UAHuntsville Opera Theatre, and his first theatrical experience ever! He is a Mechanical Engineering major in his 3rd year. He would like to thank the directors for this fantastic opportunity to experience theatre and sends his love to his family and friends.



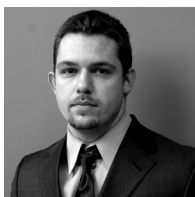
### **Charlie Rogers (Chorus)**

This is Charlie's second opera performance, last appearing in *Pagliacci* at Renaissance Theatre. A graduate of UAHuntsville with a BA in Music, he is a systems engineer for T&W Operations. In his spare time, he fixes computers and is preparing his first novel for submission to publishers. He would like to thank David and Karen for this great opportunity to work with his friends and his talented wife, Birdie.



### **Velma Puckett - Chorus**

This is Velma Puckett's first appearance with UAHuntsville Opera Theatre and her first opera ever! She is a Music major focusing on performance and this is her senior year. In addition to her performing schedule, she is the music director at a local church. She would like to thank the directors for this wonderful opportunity to try something new.



### **Erik Aldridge – Thug**

Erik is pleased to be joining his first UAHuntsville Opera Theatre production. He is a 2007 graduate from UAH with a B.S. in business administration. He would like to thank David Harwell and Karen Young for the opportunity to join *The Consul*.

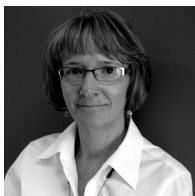




### **Jamie Lanzillo - Thug**

This is Jaime's first production with UAHuntsville Opera Theatre. He is a sophomore majoring in Accounting with a minor in Business Management. He is thrilled and honored to perform in this production.

# The ORCHESTRA



### **Amy Helser - Flute**

Amy is a 2010 graduate of UAHuntsville with a Bachelor of Music with an emphasis in flute performance. Since graduating, Amy has returned to her "old" life as a medical transcriptionist, and has started teaching flute and piano lessons. She is much appreciative of a continued relationship with the UAH music and theater departments, and feels blessed to be spending time with all her UAH friends, none of which would be possible without the support and tolerance of a loving husband, Kelly, and daughter, Robin.



### **Michael Wood – Clarinetist**

Michael has been a part of the pit orchestra for several previous UAHuntsville Opera Theatre productions such as the *Mystery of Edwin Drood* and *Sunday in the Park with George*. He is a senior Music-Technology student and is also a clarinetist in the UAHuntsville Wind Ensemble.



### **Zachariah Tucker - Bassoon**

This is Zach's first performance with UAHuntsville Opera Theatre. A native of Huntsville, he is a junior at UAH pursuing a degree in Electrical Engineering. He also performs with the UAHuntsville wind ensemble.



### **Angelina Uno-Antonison- French Hornist**

Angelina graduated from UAHuntsville with a BA in Music and a BS in Computer Science in December 2010. Angelina currently works as a software developer for Wyle, CAS Group. Past UAHuntsville Opera Theatre productions she has participated in are *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and *Sunday in the Park with George*.







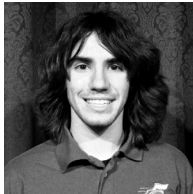
### **Shannon Therrell - Trumpet**

*The Consul* is Shannon's first performance with UAHuntsville Opera Theatre. She is in her sophomore year studying music education. She performs with the UAHuntsville wind ensemble and brass quintet.



### **John Simmons - Trumpet**

This is John's first appearance with UAHuntsville Opera Theatre. He is a senior studying for a degree in Computer science and has a bachelors in trumpet performance. He is also a member of the UAHuntsville jazz ensemble and wind ensemble.



### **Justin Swearinger - Percussion**

Justin is a sophomore from Iowa. He is majoring in Instrumental Music Education (his primary instrument being percussion) and participates in numerous ensembles associated with the university - as well as a few outside of the school. This is the third show he has been a part of with UAHuntsville Opera Theatre but was involved with theatre in high school. He would like to thank the cast, the production team, and his friends for their support and for making him laugh all the time.



### **Lisa Wiggins- Violinist**

Lisa Wiggins graduated from the New England Conservatory of Music and has lived and worked as a violinist on 3 continents. Now living in north Alabama, Lisa plays in the Huntsville, Chattanooga and Mobile symphonies. She also teaches the violin.



### **Jacob Frank- Violinist**

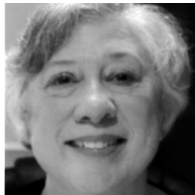
Jacob Frank has played violin since the age of 10, and has played with different professional music groups since he was 15. Jacob is a violin teacher with the Huntsville Symphony School, as well as a conductor for both the Decatur Youth Orchestra and the Huntsville Youth's Philharmonia Orchestra. He enjoys playing on the UA-Huntsville campus for productions and concerts.





### **Charles Hogue - Viola**

A native of New Mexico, Charles attended the Mannes College of Music and played with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago before coming to Huntsville to play with the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra. He is currently studying to be a Medical Assistant.



### **Veneta Billmeyer- Cellist**

Veneta has a Bachelor of Music degree in cello with a minor in piano from the University of Alabama. She attended the International String Congress in Puerto Rico under the tutelage of Pablo Casals, and performed and recorded on many radio and TV stations. She has performed with the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra and numerous other orchestras and chamber groups around the country. She is currently an adjunct professor



### **Nick Walker - Bass**

Nick Walker has been a freelance bassist in Huntsville since 2004. He received a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Alabama A&M in 2006, and a Master's degree in Music Education from Auburn University in 2009. He is involved with numerous ensembles including Rolling Jazz Revue, Matt Gibbs Trio and with Amy McCarley. He is also active in Huntsville's classical music and theatre scenes having performed in orchestras for *RENT*, *Don Giovanni*, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *the Drowsy Chaperone*, *Pippin*, and *Brahms's Serenade No. 1* among others.



### **"Sunday in the Park With George"**

March 2011 - UAH Theatre





# The PRODUCERS



## **David C. Harwell – Director/Designer**

David is thrilled to be directing this incredible work of dramatic music and storytelling by the master -- Menotti. He joined the faculty of UAHuntsville in 2005, and as the director of UAHuntsville Theatre has produced twenty-five plays, operas and musicals on the UAH campus. A native of Huntsville and alumni of Grissom High School, David holds a B.F.A. in Theatre from the University of Montevallo and an M.F.A. in Design from the University of Illinois – Champaign/Urbana. He is very grateful for this gifted cast, outstanding production team, and his brilliant and patient colleagues, Karen Young, Curtis Lindsay and Dave Ragsdale. In addition he says, “Thank you, Eric Jordan, for sharing these precious and life changing days with us.”



## **C. David Ragsdale - Conductor**

C. David Ragsdale is the conductor of the Wind Ensemble and an assistant professor of music at UAHuntsville. *The Consul* is Ragsdale's seventh collaboration with UAHuntsville Opera Theatre as music conductor. Previous engagements include the University's first two opera endeavors: *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and *Pagliacci*, as well as musicals: *Sunday in the Park with George*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. In addition to his conducting duties at UAH, Ragsdale conducts the Huntsville Youth Orchestra and the Huntsville Chamber Winds and is a contributing author for two music textbooks published by McGraw-Hill and GIA Publications.



## **Curtis Lindsay – Musical Director/Accompanist**

Curtis Lindsay is a recent graduate of UAHuntsville, where he majored in Music and minored in Philosophy. He is currently the accompanist for the UAHuntsville Concert and Chamber Choirs and staff musician at Grace United Methodist Church. Powered by pounds of coffee, he has participated in the casts and orchestras of a number of dramas both musical and prosaic over the past fifteen years.





### **Melissa “Birdie” Jones – Production Stage Manager**

Melissa is thrilled to be helping out in her fourth UAHuntsville Opera Theatre production. She is an officer in the Alpha Psi Omega Theatre Honor Society and a member of the UAHuntsville Concert Choir, Chamber Choir and Wind Ensemble. She would like to thank Karen Young and David Harwell for the wonderful opportunity to participate in the production of such a timely and moving work, and she sends her love to the cast and crew. She says, “Break a leg everyone!”



### **Heather Bossard – Costume Designer**

*The Consul* is Heather’s second performance with UAHuntsville Theatre, the first being *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*. She graduates in December with a major in Biology and two minors in marine science and theatre.



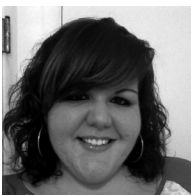
### **Johnna Doty – Sound Design**

A graduate of the University of Montevallo in music, Johnna earned a sound design MA from Boston University in 1994. She has worked professionally in NYC and regionally, and was an assistant professor at the City University of New York - Borough of Manhattan Community College. A native of Florence, Alabama, she now resides in Huntsville and teaches theatre part-time at UAHuntsville. This is her sixth sound design for UAHuntsville Opera Theatre .



### **Kate Corlandi – Assistant Stage Manager**

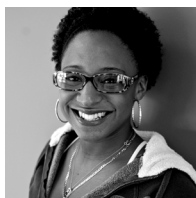
Kate has experience onstage and behind the scenes. She has worked in stage management, production coordination, technical direction, properties coordination, advertising coordination, costume coordination/production, and assistant direction. Groups she has worked with include Nashville Opera, Opera Birmingham, HCCA, IMP, UAHuntsville Opera Theatre , and Ars Nova. In October, Kate will begin her second season assisting the Lead Costumer of Nashville Opera.



### **Stephanie Davidson – Scenic Artist**

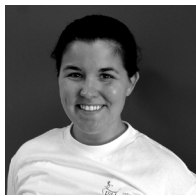
Stephanie is a junior working on her second degree, a B.F.A. in Art Studio with a minor in Theatre. She is from Huntsville, AL. She had a great time working on the opera! It’s been such a learning experience for her. She loves to paint, read and shop when she has free time. She also likes to travel.





### **Jessica Lane – Props Mistress**

Jessica is a senior here at UAH with expectations to graduate this December. She is no stranger to UAH Theatre. This is her fifth production and she is very excited to end her college career with a new experience. She would like to thank David Harwell for the opportunity and will miss everyone! Break a leg guys!



### **Ashley McCreight Osborne – Production assistant**

Ashley is a senior at the University of Alabama in Huntsville seeking a BA in English. She has always had a love of the theatre and this experience has been a fantastic one. On her days off from work and school, she enjoys spending her spare time with her husband, Mike, and their cat, Buddha.



### **Jane Pearson – Run Crew**

This is Jane's first time working backstage for a UAHuntsville Opera Theatre. She graduated from UAHuntsville in May 2010 with a Bachelor's degree in English with a minor in Business Administration. She is excited to be back in the Arts scene. Her prior experience working backstage includes her high school's theater productions, *Guys and Dolls* and *Broadway Review*. She is thrilled to be helping the rest of the cast and crew out with *The Consul* and wishes everyone in the cast to "break a leg!"



### **"Dido and Aeneas"**

December 2010 - UAH Theatre and Music





# The DONORS

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## Special Thanks

Lori Larson and Don Boyer for performing “Tu Revien Dras”  
Cil Spina and Donna Lamp for excellent administration  
Student Activities for making this opera free to UAH students  
Marcy Bonebright for writing and re-writing  
WLRH for its invaluable service to the arts  
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Will Hall – UC Director for sound and light support

If you would like to become a donor,  
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# The Kennedy Center

THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

**The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival-44,  
part of the *Rubenstein Arts Access Program*,  
is generously funded by David and Alice Rubenstein.**

**Additional support is provided by  
the U.S. Department of Education, the Dr. Gerald and Paula  
McNichols Foundation,  
The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein, and  
the National Committee for the Performing Arts.**

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival. Those productions invited to the regional festival will be considered for national awards of distinguished achievement, to be presented at the KCACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC in the spring of 2012.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.





## PRODUCTION STAFF

Director/Designer:	David Harwell
Conductor:	C. David Ragsdale
Musical Director/Accompanist:	Curtis Lindsay
Production Stage Manager:	Melissa “Birdie” Jones
Costume Designer:	Heather Bossard
Sound Design:	Johnna Doty
Assistant Stage Manager:	Kate Corlandi
Scenic Artist:	Stephanie Davidson
Props Mistress:	Jessica Lane
Production Assistant:	Ashley McCreight
Graphic Design:	Susan Altman
Run Crew:	Jane Pearson
Magician:	Russell Davis
Hair and Makeup:	Nikki Shed
	Jessica Brown
Paint crew:	Katie Kutschat
	Setareh Tajbakhsh
	Ashley Craig
Build crew:	Jared Waylander
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	Sean Charles
	Kyle Clark
	Bill Fleming
	Nick Flynt
	Jimmy Ayala
	Brian Inzer
	Mark Eccleston
	Maggie Conger
	Nick Huskinson
	Darius Danner
	Allen Bailey
Costume crew:	Brea Roper

