presents

chincha-chancha cooroo
or the
Weaver’s Wedding

Music by Bernard Hughes
Libretto by William Radice

Musical Direction by David Bass
Stage Direction by Kathy Lindsay and David Sandberg
Choreography by Deborah Mason

The Peabody School, Cambridge, MA
March 28 and 29, April 4 and 5, 2009
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or

The Weaver’s Wedding

Music by Bernard Hughes
Libretto by William Radice
Musical Direction by David Bass
Stage Direction by Kathy Lindsay and David Sandberg
Choreography by Deborah Mason

Produced by
Sue Hall
Dina Mardell
Carla Procaskey

Stage Manager
Marie Castro

Costumes
Kathy Lindsay

Makeup
David Rabkin
Elizabeth R. Stone

Program
Linda Senechal
Amy Rowe
Athena Lakri
Sue Hall

Directorial Team
Phil Budne
Cheryl Moreau

Additional
Choreography
Susan Fendell
Anisha Nakagawa

Lighting Design/
Technical Director
Dale Senechal

Orchestra
Realization
Ricardo Poza

Set Design
Peter Watson

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Crew Coordinator
Cheryl Moreau

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Development
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Publicity
Donna M. Keefe
Susan Fendell
Tom Hamill

March 28 and 29, April 4 and 5, 2009
The Peabody School, Cambridge, MA

This work was commissioned by the W11 Children’s Opera Trust
Act 1
Scene 1: Prologue
Scene 2: Rajah the Weaver at Home
Scene 3: The Feverish Scythe
Scene 4: The Sickly Cow
Scene 5: The Weaver Consoled
Scene 6: The Weaver Prepares
Scene 7: The Jackal Meets the King
Scene 8: The King and Queen’s Pleasure

INTERMISSION

Act 2
Scene 9: The Wedding-Procession
Scene 10: The King’s Alarm
Scene 11: Before the Wedding
Scene 12: The Feast
Scene 13: The Wedding-Night
Scene 14: The Weaver’s Training
Scene 15: The Cabinet Meets
Scene 16: The Investiture
Act 1  The Story Teller spins a tale to interest five children, and so we meet Rajah the Weaver. Rajah is no use at multi-tasking. He knows he should weave his cloth, cut his crops and milk his cow, but he gets confused. When his scythe gets hot, the clever Jackal advises him: "Dip your scythe in the water - That will make it cooler".

This advice works well, until Rajah plunges his cow into the pond to cool her down and drowns her, to the mortification of his neighbors in the village. To make amends, the Jackal promises to help Rajah find the ideal wife: a princess! The neighbors are doubtful but intrigued, as is Rajah. The Jackal tells him to "take a bath and brush your hair - Weave some beautiful clothes to wear", while he, the Jackal, is to go and meet the King, returning in three days time. Fortunately for Rajah, his friends the Weavers, Washerwomen, Milkmaids, Children, Village Elders and Peacocks are willing to help him.

Once at the palace, the Jackal impresses the court with his confident appearance (not to mention his very special and expensive shoes). Now while 'rajah' means king, our Rajah is a mere weaver. Without telling a single lie, the jackal makes him sound so impressive that the King and Queen are quite won over, as are the advisers from the Prime Minister all the way down to the Deputy Deputy Deputy Deputy Deputy Deputy Prime Minister. Besides the King needs a male heir, and the Princess is getting rather expensive. The Jackal is given a purse of gold with which to greet his master and begin to arrange the marriage.

Act 2  The Peacocks, Myna Birds, Koel Birds, Brain-Fever Birds, Doves, Frogs, Jackals and Mosquitoes are under orders from the Jackal to make as much noise as possible outside the palace, and the King is understandably alarmed. The Jackal explains that this is his master's wedding procession: "No bridegroom's train was ever larger!" It takes another bag of gold to buy some peace so that the King can get dressed without being deafened.

As the Jackal is weighing the purse of gold with satisfaction, Rajah arrives, magnificently attired. Knowing that his rustic tones would give him away, the Jackal instructs Rajah not to say a single word. Sure enough, the Weaver's dignified silence impresses the court deeply. A feast is prepared and the Jackal shares some of the gold with the Birds and the Beasts; Rajah and the Princess arrive together, Rajah smiling broadly but the Princess looking cross.

After the wedding, it becomes clear that the Princess is very angry to have been married to a man who refuses to speak. Rajah, meanwhile, cannot work out how to get into the marriage bed - literally! He wrecks the mosquito net, and as the dreaded insects invade, Rajah forgets his vow of silence. In a moment he has revealed his true identity.

The Princess is furious, but even in her rage, she comes up with a plan to get rid of the Mosquitoes. Rajah falls in love with her for being so clever and vows to obey her. Meanwhile, she decides to make the best of things by organizing his education in reading, dancing, music, fencing and archery. The results are stunning! So popular does Rajah become that the King is persuaded to declare him his heir-apparent. Chincha-Chancha Cooroo!
Our House

You’ve all worked really hard to make this production a reality. Congratulations on a job well done!

Buying or selling a house can be a major production as well. As a real estate agent, my job is to stage-manage the show. I put a lot of work into ensuring that everything goes smoothly and that all the players come out feeling great.

To show my appreciation for all that NCFO does for our community, I will donate $500 out of every deal to North Cambridge Family Opera, anytime I work with a NCFO family or friend (good through the end of 2009).

Please contact me for details, and by the way, I know that my daughter Ruby and my husband, Tim, are going to knock ’em dead!

Liz Lyster, real estate agent

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Cast – Saturday, March 28, 3 pm

The Leads

Story-Teller: Jeff Moore
The Kids: Chloe Adler, Sara Hauf, Erica Jaquith, Joshua Nolan, Eli Saltzman
Rajah the Weaver: Nate Burket
Jackal: Kathy Lindsay
Lead Peacock: Shoshanna Stern-Robbins
King: Robert Rogers
Queen: Phoebe Reuben
Prime Minister: Alyssa Berkson
Deputy Prime Minister: Robyn Lindsay
Princess: Emilija Baksys

The Villagers

Milkmaids, Washerwomen, Koel Birds
Cullen Fagan\(^2\), Kiraleah Page Fendell\(^2\), Susan Fendell\(^5\), Sue Hall, Kandice Hauf\(^5\), Sara Hauf\(^9\)

Village Children, Mosquitoes
Susan Bellows, Debbie Klein, Jeremy Klein, Julian Knight\(^2,14\), Jacob Ostacher, Laurie Ketter Ostacher, Sam Rowe

Village Elders, Doves, Wise Teachers
Reina Bass, Carmen DeBenedictis, Erica Jaquith\(^9\), Ruby Lyster, Tim Lyster, Ann Marie Mador, Don Picard\(^2\), Lisë Stern\(^6\)

Weavers, Jackals
Andy Adler, Chloe Adler\(^9\), Emma Adler, Eva Beram\(^9\), Nell Beram, Eloise Botka\(^2\), Chris Edel

The Courtiers

Brain-Fever Birds, Prime Ministers
Alyssa Berkson, Shaina Boyd\(^2\), Eliza Klein\(^2\), Robyn Lindsay, Rosemary Lindsay\(^12\), Lilly Sandberg\(^12\), Sophia Thurau-Gray\(^6\)

Frogs, Courtiers
Craig Burket\(^5\), Emily Gray\(^14\), Isabella Gray\(^7\), Lisa Lovett\(^8\), Trish Marti, Joshua Nolan\(^9\), Alexis Rabkin, Charlotte Reuben\(^3\)

Myna Birds, Courtiers
Jacob Klibaner\(^12\), Maisha Lakri\(^7\), Zohra Lakri, Eli Saltzman\(^12\), Faith Tracy, Tessa Tracy\(^9\), Tim Traversy

Peacocks, Courtiers
Nancy Chomitz, Elizabeth Harkavy\(^9\), Maribel Rawson-Stone, Shoshanna Stern-Robbins\(^9\), Isabela Trumble, Megan Wilson

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The Leads

Story-Teller: Steve LaMaster
The Kids: Reina Bass, Tess Carney, Maggie LaMaster, Katie Massie, Sarah Miller
Rajah the Weaver: Tim Traversy
Jackal: Megan Wilson
Lead Peacock: Anna Antoniadis
King: James Liu
Queen: Louise Ambler Osborn
Prime Minister: Will Osborn
Deputy Prime Minister: Anisha Nakagawa
Princess: Nancy Chomitz

The Villagers

Milkmaids, Washerwomen, Koel Birds
Emilija Baksys, Kiraleah Page Fendell², Susan Fendell⁵, Sue Hall, Kandice Hauf, Maggie LaMaster⁹
Village Children, Mosquitoes
Dina Gorelik², Lena Gorelik, Sara Hauf, Erica Jaquith, Cooper Kelley¹⁴, Hope Kelley, Joshua Nolan, Eli Saltzman
Village Elders, Doves, Wise Teachers
Reina Bass⁹, Zedal Berhane⁶, Emma Coolidge², Grace Gershenfeld⁶, Kathy Lindsay, Jeff Moore, Robert Rogers, Lisë Stern
Weavers, Jackals
Chris Edel², Jonathan Edel², Ruth Hertzman-Miller, Robbie Kelley¹⁴, Sarah Miller¹², Kailash Nakagawa⁹, Mike Nakagawa

The Courtiers

Brain-Fever Birds, Prime Ministers
Nate Burket, Molly Day⁸,⁹, Robyn Lindsay, Norah Mulvaney-Day², Anisha Nakagawa, Will Osborn, Rocky Tomascoff²
Frogs, Courtiers
Craig Burket⁵, Hanna Carney³, Rob Carney¹⁴, Tess Carney⁹, Pixie Christy, Julien Gordon³, L.J. Gordon, Nina Katz-Christy¹²
Myna Birds, Courtiers
Mattie Glenhaber⁷, Ezra Glenn, Ayta Hamill, Tom Hamill, Yona Hamill, Katie Massie¹², Jenny Mosely
Peacocks, Courtiers
Anna Antoniadis⁹, Diana Chigas, Laura Gill⁹, Nicole McElhoe⁷,⁹, Phoebe Reuben, Suzan Wolpow-Gill

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The Leads

Story-Teller: Jeff Moore
The Kids: Chloe Adler, Sara Hauf, Erica Jaquith, Joshua Nolan, Eli Saltzman
Rajah the Weaver: Nate Burket
Jackal: Kathy Lindsay
Lead Peacock: Shoshanna Stern-Robbins
King: Robert Rogers
Queen: Phoebe Reuben
Prime Minister: Alyssa Berkson
Deputy Prime Minister: Robyn Lindsay
Princess: Emilija Baksys

The Villagers

Milkmaids, Washerwomen, Koel Birds
Miriam Beit-Aharon⁵, Cullen Fagan²₁⁴, Kiraleah Page Fendell⁵, Susan Fendell⁵, Sue Hall, Kandice Hauf⁵, Sara Hauf⁹
Village Children, Mosquitoes
Susan Bellows, Debbie Klein, Jeremy Klein, Julian Knight²₁⁴, Jacob Ostacher, Laurie Ketter Ostacher, Sam Rowe
Village Elders, Doves, Wise Teachers
Reina Bass, Carmen DeBenedictis, Erica Jaquith⁹, Ruby Lyster, Tim Lyster, Ann Marie Mador, Don Picard², Lisë Stern⁶
Weavers, Jackals
Andy Adler, Chloe Adler⁹, Emma Adler, Eva Beram⁹, Nell Beram, Eloise Botka², Chris Edel, Jonathan Edel

The Courtiers

Brain-Fever Birds, Prime Ministers
Alyssa Berkson, Shaina Boyd², Eliza Klein², Robyn Lindsay, Rosemary Lindsay¹², Lilly Sandberg¹², Sophia Thurau-Gray⁶
Frogs, Courtiers
Craig Burket, Emily Gray¹⁴, Isabella Gray⁷, Lisa Lovett³, Trish Marti, Joshua Nolan⁹, Alexis Rabkin, Charlotte Reuben³
Myna Birds, Courtiers
Jacob Klibaner¹², Maisha Lakri⁷, Zohra Lakri, Eli Saltzman¹², Faith Tracy, Tessa Tracy⁹, Tim Traversy
Peacocks, Courtiers
Nancy Chomitz, Elizabeth Harkavy⁹, Rachael Harkavy⁹, Maribel Rawson-Stone, Shoshanna Stern-Robbins, Isabela Trumble, Megan Wilson

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Cast - Sunday, March 29, 6 pm

The Leads

Story-Teller: Steve LaMaster
The Kids: Reina Bass, Tess Carney, Maggie LaMaster, Katie Massie, Sarah Miller
Rajah the Weaver: Tim Traversy
Jackal: Megan Wilson
Lead Peacock: Anna Antoniadis
King: James Liu
Queen: Louise Ambler Osborn
Prime Minister: Will Osborn
Deputy Prime Minister: Anisha Nakagawa
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The Villagers

Milkmaids, Washerwomen, Koel Birds
Emilija Baksys, Miriam Beit-Aharon⁶, Kiraleah Page Fendell¹², Susan Fendell⁹, Sue Hall, Kandice Hauf, Maggie LaMaster⁹

Village Children, Mosquitoes
Chloe Adler, Dina Gorelik², Lena Gorelik, Sara Hauf, Cooper Kelley¹⁴, Hope Kelley, Joshua Nolan

Village Elders, Doves, Wise Teachers
Reina Bass⁹, Zedal Berhanœ⁶, Emma Coolidge², Grace Gershenfeld⁶, Kathy Lindsay, Jeff Moore, Robert Rogers, Lisë Stern, Chris Edel²

Weavers, Jackals
Jonathan Edel², Ruth Hertzman-Miller, Robbie Kelley¹⁴, Sarah Miller¹², Kailash Nakagawa⁹, Mike Nakagawa

The Courtiers

Brain-Fever Birds, Prime Ministers
Nate Burket, Molly Day⁸,⁹, Robyn Lindsay, Norah Mulvaney-Day², Anisha Nakagawa, Will Osborn, Rocky Tomascoff²

Frogs, Courtiers
Craig Burket, Hanna Carney³, Rob Carney¹⁴, Tess Carney⁹, Pixie Christy, Julien Gordon³, L.J. Gordon, Nina Katz-Christy¹²

Myna Birds, Courtiers
Mattie Glenhaber⁷, Ezra Glenn, Aytan Hamill, Tom Hamill, Yona Hamill, Katie Massie¹², Jenny Mosely

Peacocks, Courtiers
Anna Antoniadis⁹, Diana Chigas, Laura Gill⁹, Nicole McElhoe⁷,⁹, Phoebe Reuben, Suzan Wolpow-Gill

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Story-Teller: Steve LaMaster
The Kids: Reina Bass, Tess Carney, Maggie LaMaster, Katie Massie, Sarah Miller
Rajah the Weaver: Tim Traversy
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Chloe Adler, Dina Gorelik², Lena Gorelik, Sara Hauf, Cooper Kelley¹⁴, Hope Kelley, Amy Rowe, Sam Rowe
Village Elders, Doves, Wise Teachers
Reina Bass⁹, Zedal Berhané⁶, Emma Coolidge², Grace Gershenfeld⁶, Kathy Lindsay, Ann Marie Mador, Jeff Moore, Robert Rogers
Weavers, Jackals
Eva Beram, Nell Beram, Chris Edel², Jonathan Edel², Ruth Hertzman-Miller, Robbie Kelley¹⁴, Sarah Miller¹², Kailash Nakagawa⁹

The Courtiers

Brain-Fever Birds, Prime Ministers
Nate Burket, Molly Day⁶,⁹, Robyn Lindsay, Norah Mulvaney-Day², Anisha Nakagawa, Will Osborn, Rocky Tomasoff²
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The Kids: Chloe Adler, Sara Hauf, Erica Jaquith, Joshua Nolan, Eli Saltzman
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Lead Peacock: Shoshanna Stern-Robbins
King: Robert Rogers
Queen: Phoebe Reubem
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Deputy Prime Minister: Robyn Lindsay
Princess: Emilija Baksys

The Villagers

Milkmaids, Washerwomen, Koel Birds
Cullen Fagan2,14, Kiraleah Page Fendell2, Susan Fendell5, Sue Hall, Kandice Hauf5, Sara Hauf9
Village Children, Mosquitoes
Susan Bellows, Debbie Klein, Jeremy Klein, Julian Knight2,14, Jacob Ostacher, Laurie Ketter Ostacher, Amy Rowe, Sam Rowe
Village Elders, Doves, Wise Teachers
Reina Bass, Carmen DeBenedictis, Erica Jaquith9, Ruby Lyster, Tim Lyster, Don Picard2, Lisè Stern6
Weavers, Jackals
Andy Adler, Chloe Adler9, Emma Adler, Eva Beram9, Nell Beram, Eloise Botka2, Mike Nakagawa

The Courtiers

Brain-Fever Birds, Prime Ministers
Alyssa Berkson, Shaina Boyd2, Eliza Klein2, Robyn Lindsay, Rosemary Lindsay12, Lilly Sandberg12, Sophia Thurau-Gray6
Frogs, Courtiers
Craig Burket5, Emily Gray14, Isabella Gray7, Lisa Lovett8, Trish Marti, Joshua Nolan9, Alexis Rabkin, Charlotte Reuben9
Myna Birds, Courtiers
Jacob Klibaner12, Maisha Lakri7, Zohra Lakri, Eli Saltzman12, Faith Tracy, Tessa Tracy9, Tim Traversy
Peacocks, Courtiers
Nancy Chomitz, Anisha Nakagawa, Maribel Rawson-Stone, Shoshanna Stern-Robbins9, Isabela Trumble, Megan Wilson

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Cast – Sunday, April 5, 2 pm

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Weavers, Jackals
Chris Edel\(^2\), Jonathan Edel\(^2\), Ruth Hertzman-Miller, Robbie Kelley\(^14\), Sarah Miller\(^12\), Kailash Nakagawa\(^9\), Mike Nakagawa

The Courtiers

Brain-Fever Birds, Prime Ministers
Nate Burket, Molly Day\(^8\), Robyn Lindsay, Norah Mulvaney-Day\(^2\), Anisha Nakagawa, Will Osborn, Rocky Tomascoff\(^2\)
Frogs, Courtiers
Craig Burket, Hanna Carney\(^3\), Rob Carney\(^14\), Tess Carney\(^9\), Pixie Christy, Julien Gordon\(^3\), L.J. Gordon, Nina Katz-Christy\(^12\)
Myna Birds, Courtiers
Mattie Glenhaber\(^7\), Ezra Glenn, Aytaa Hamill, Tom Hamill, Yona Hamill, Katie Massie\(^12\), Jenny Mosely
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Anna Antoniadis\(^9\), Diana Chigas, Laura Gill\(^9\), Nicole McElhoe\(^7,9\), Phoebe Reuben, Suzan Wolpow-Gill

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Cast - Sunday, April 5, 6 pm

The Leads

Story-Teller: Jeff Moore
The Kids: Chloe Adler, Sara Hauf, Erica Jaquith, Joshua Nolan, Eli Saltzman
Rajah the Weaver: Nate Burket
Jackal: Kathy Lindsay
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Deputy Prime Minister: Robyn Lindsay
Princess: Emilija Baksys

The Villagers

Milkmaids, Washerwomen, Koel Birds
Miriam Beit-Aharon, Cullen Fagan\textsuperscript{2,14}, Kiraleah Page Fendell\textsuperscript{2}, Susan Fendell\textsuperscript{5}, Sue Hall, Kandice Hauf\textsuperscript{5}, Sara Hauf\textsuperscript{9}
Village Children, Mosquitoes
Susan Bellows, Debbie Klein, Jeremy Klein, Julian Knight\textsuperscript{2,14}, Jacob Ostacher, Laurie Ketter Ostacher, Amy Rowe, Sam Rowe
Village Elders, Doves, Wise Teachers
Reina Bass, Carmen DeBenedictis, Erica Jaquith\textsuperscript{9}, Ruby Lyster, Tim Lyster, Ann Marie Mador, Don Picard\textsuperscript{2}, Lisë Stern\textsuperscript{6}
Weavers, Jackals
Andy Adler, Chloe Adler\textsuperscript{9}, Emma Adler, Eva Beram\textsuperscript{9}, Nell Beram, Eloise Botka\textsuperscript{2}, Chris Edel, Jonathan Edel

The Courtiers

Brain-Fever Birds, Prime Ministers
Alyssa Berkson, Shaina Boyd\textsuperscript{2}, Eliza Klein\textsuperscript{2}, Robyn Lindsay, Rosemary Lindsay\textsuperscript{12}, Lilly Sandberg\textsuperscript{12}, Sophia Thurau-Gray\textsuperscript{6}
Frogs, Courtiers
Craig Burket\textsuperscript{5}, Emily Gray\textsuperscript{14}, Isabella Gray\textsuperscript{7}, Lisa Lovett\textsuperscript{3}, Trish Marti, Joshua Nolan\textsuperscript{9}, Alexis Rabkin, Charlotte Reuben\textsuperscript{9}
Myna Birds, Courtiers
Jacob Klibaner\textsuperscript{12}, Maisha Lakri\textsuperscript{7}, Zohra Lakri, Eli Saltzman\textsuperscript{12}, Faith Tracy, Tessa Tracy\textsuperscript{9}, Tim Traversy
Peacocks, Courtiers
Nancy Chomitz, Elizabeth Harkavy\textsuperscript{9}, Rachael Harkavy\textsuperscript{9}, Maribel Rawson-Stone, Shoshanna Stern-Robbins, Isabela Trumble, Megan Wilson

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Come and Praise
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anisha and kailash’ इ सोलोs were great!

क - congratulations on your very first solo. You were grrrrreat!

अ - congratulations on your first principal role! You’ve got the lot.

They’ve astounded me...
...and me
to the highest degree

love,
आई and Dad
So in its tenth anniversary year, North Cambridge Family Opera has returned to North Cambridge! This would not have been possible without the enthusiastic support of the staff at the Peabody School, especially principal Joellen Scannell, to whom we are extremely grateful.

We were fortunate again to have the support of BioMed Realty Trust, who have generously donated space for us to construct our sets. We also extend thanks to Markal, Inc., who have printed these programs for many years, for their support and for the donation envelopes. And of course, thanks to Iggy’s for their ongoing contributions of bread. Finally, our friends Dave and Wink Merrill continue to put up with all of the stuff that we’ve stored in their barn for...how many years is it now? Thank you both for your patience and generosity.

Once again, Andy Adler and Ann Braude have offered to house one of our visiting artists, our librettist William Radice. Andy and Ann, we appreciate your hospitality!

We are absolutely delighted that both Bernard Hughes and William Radice have been able to join us for the performances of the marvelous work that they created back in 2006. We appreciate the opportunity to get to know them, as well as their generous donation of their time towards teaching classes and supporting our fundraiser.

We are grateful to the John & Naomi Tomfohrde Foundation for their support. Many thanks also to our sponsors, Gravestar, Inc., Leader Bank, and FilmNation. Their financial backing makes these productions possible.

Finally, thanks to all of our volunteers. Somehow our production gets more ambitious every year, and somehow enough people step up to the plate to make this miracle happen. Thank you for ten years of friendship, community, and wonderful music. On to the next decade!
Be a part of our **2010 season** when we produce

**Springtime for Haman**

**Music and Libretto by**

**David Bass**

In this portrayal from the biblical Book of Esther, Queen Esther risks her life to save her cousin Mordechai and the Jewish people from Haman, the vengeful Grand Vizier of Persia.

Come be part of this original opera performed by an inter-generational cast!

Performances tentatively scheduled for March 20, 21, 27, and 28, 2010

To receive audition notices, sign up on the NCFO mailing list at [www.FamilyOpera.org](http://www.FamilyOpera.org)

Audition information posted on the website in mid-September
Production Crew

AUDIO
David Bass
Eric Reuter

CONCESSIONS AND USHERS
Ben Adler
Claudette Beit-Aharon
Michael Berkson
Staci Berkson
Ann Braude
Laura Brewer
Doreen Carney
Liz Coolidge
Ginny Chomitz
Marianne Farkas
Deb Gallagher
Richard Gill
Brad Harkavy
Keegan Harkavy
Heather Hoffman
Craig Kelley
Hope Kelley
Abram Klein
Daniel Klein
Debbie Klein
Eliza Klein
Pam Klein
Sandy Nortier
Talia Ostacher
Madhvi Patil
Alexa Rowe
Margaret Rowe
Tim Rowe
Julie Reuben
Elisabeth Sackton
Andrea Saltzman
Ilana Sandberg
Lilly Sandberg
Emily Scudder
Chris Shaw
Suzanne Shaw
Lili Silva
Lisa Thurau-Gray

COSTUMES
Emiliya Baksys
Susan Bellows
Alyssa Berkson
Alex Bowers
Molly Day
Chris Edel
Christine Edel
Susan Fendell
Erica Jaquith
Kathy Lindsay
Robyn Lindsay
Anisha Nakanaga
Will Osborn
Madhvi Patil
Carla Procaskey
Anne Tate
Sophia Thurau-Gray

MAKEUP
Alyssa Berkson
Rob Carney
Diana Chigas
Nancy Chomitz
Kati Farkas
Marianne Farkas
Kiraleah Page
Fendell
Susan Fendell
Lena Gorelik
Emily Gray
Rachael Harkavy
Eliza Klein
Pam Klein
Trish Marti
Norah Mulvaney-Day
Don Picard
David Rabkin
Phoebe Reuben
Ilana Sandberg
Lilly Sandberg
Elena Stone
Elizabeth R.
Stone
Magdalena Taber
Tessa Tracy
Megan Wilson

MUSICAL ASSISTANCE
Craig Burket
Sue Hall
Caroline Musica

PROGRAM
Nell Beram
Ezra Glenn
Sue Hall
Debbie Klein
Athena Lakri
Louise Ambler
Osborn
Laurie Ketter
Ostacher
Amy Rowe
Dale Senechal
Linda Senechal

REHEARSAL AND CAST SUPPORT
Staci Berkson
Diana Chigas
Ruth Hertzman-Miller
Dina Mardell
Emily Scudder
Lili Silva

SETS, LIGHTS, PAINTING
Mike Ames
Derek Boyd
Jon Chomitz
Chris Edel
Susan Fendell
Rajani Flanders
Deb Gallagher
Richard Gill
Jesse Gordon
Erica Jaquith
Mark Jaquith
Richard Klibaner
Sam Klibaner
Joe Klompus
Kathy Lindsay
Robyn Lindsay
Cheryl Moreau
Carla Procaskey
Jamie Sabino
Mark Saltzman
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Production Crew

Dale Senechal
Suzanne Shaw
Rocky Tomascoff
Pete Traversy
Tim Traversy
Dan Weinreb

STAGE CREW
Charlotte Ames
Derek Boyd
Mark Jaquith

Sam Klibaner
Cheryl Moreau
Jamie Sabino
Gabriel Stern-Robbins
Cory Tomascoff
Martha Wechsler
Dan Weinreb
Cindy Woolworth

STAGE MANAGEMENT
Olivia Brownlee
Marie Castro
Cheryl Moreau
Cindy Woolworth

T-SHIRTS
Jen Fuchel
Sue Hall

Kathy Lindsay

VIDEOGRAPHY
Angélica Brisk
Lynn Weissman
of
Weisswoman Productions

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We are pleased to salute **Zedal Berhane**, an impressive, talented young person and good friend! Brad and Fran

**Chloe** - You are a great kid! Love, Dad, Mom, and Ian

**Sarah** - Break a leg! We love you! Mom, Dad, Ilana and Rachel

To **Molly, Anna, Kira, Phoebe**, and **Nancy**: You guys rox my sox! Love you with all my heart! Lots of love, Alyssa

♪ **Or Hashemesh** – star light, star bright. Wherever you are and whatever you do, you light up the world. Love you! Mommy♫ (imagine me singing this – or don’t…)

Hi **Maggie** - It’s your sissy, Ada Grace. You'll be able to hear me during the performance when I shout your name. Now you can be sure it’s me! Hugs and kissing hands, Cooch

There is no such thing as a minor myna. You’re a major myna. Good luck, **Jacob**. Ellen, John, Peter and Andrew

Congratulations, **Eloise**! Great job! We’re very proud of you. Love, mom and dad

**Hope, Robbie & Cooper** - Thank you for making my life, and all of Cambridge, a wonderful mix of music and love. Love, Dad

I’m so proud of you, **Eli**! Much love, Grandma Joan

**Joshua** - We’re proud of our great wonderful multi-talented KID. ¡Tu eres siempre fenomenal! No podemos esperar escuchar tu solo. Love & kudos, Mommy & Daddy

Mazel tov to **Lisë and Shoshi**. - Larry

For **Sophia Thurau-Gray**: We hope you are having as much fun on stage as we are having watching you! Love, Mom and Dad

**Sue**, you showed me how to improve my life with a perfect wife. Love, David

To **Mom/Pixie/Grandma**, the hoppingest grandmother around: Congratulations and thanks for being such a great pal to our middle tadpole!!! xo Sam, Janie, Molly and Max

To **Shoshi**: My favorite daughter and an awesome star! Love, Abba

**Eliza**: Another terrific opera performance! We are proud of you. Lots of love, Mommy, Daddy, Jeremy, & Daniel

A big shout out to the King Open Kids: **Eliza, Elizabeth, Jacob, Lilly, Rachael, Shoshi, Tessa, and Zohra** – have a great performance. From the Klibaner/Sabino family

Dear **Sam**, This is the first time we’ve ever liked mosquitoes. Love, G&G

Good luck, **Mommy**, I love you. Have a great show! Xxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxox, Keegan and Daddy

Good luck, **Sam**! Have a great time. Love, Grandma

**Maggie**, we wish we could be there to see you perform on stage. We will be praying that you do your best. Love, Grandma and Papa

**Nina Katz-Christy**: It’s fun being in the frog pond with you. Grandma Pixie

To **Anisha and Kailash** - Weave On! The Kelleys

To our family star performer, our love, **Eli**. We love you. Grandma Betty and Grandpa Peter
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MIT salutes the North Cambridge Family Opera Company as it celebrates its tenth anniversary with an innovative and diverse season of performances.

The mission of MIT is to advance knowledge and educate students in science, technology, and other areas of scholarship that will best serve the nation and the world in the 21st century.
Star Notes

To Cullen--Jump! Dash! Run! You got the work done! Congratulations!! You’re the best. We love you. - Mommy, Daddy, & Owen

To my talented grandsons, Jacob Klibaner on stage and Sam Klibaner behind the scenes - GOOD LUCK from Grandma Jessie

To Emma C: Good luck! Break a leg & have a blast. We hope to sneak in & catch one of your performances: we promise not to squeal--we don't want to embarrass you! Love, Toober & Zots

To Nancy: We always knew that you were a princess. Now the rest of the world knows it, too! You are awesome! Love, Mom, Dad, Bro, Jupiter, Pandora

Nicole M: We are so proud of you! You are a splendid, marvelous peacock. We love you very much, Dad, Mami, Alex, Aba & Abu

Nancy: We think you are the greatest princess ever! We wish we were there to see you in person. Take lots of pictures. Love, love, Zeyda and GM Rita

Reina: Smallest elder, perfect kid; what a super job you did! To our sweetest little dove, we afford our fondest love. Dad, Mom, Robert, Lonnie, Nessie & Lucas

Dear Eliza, I am once again so proud of you and excited to see this year’s opera. Love, Grammy

Dearest Ruby, We love you beyond belief and oddly enough wish to say..."break a leg." Love, Grammy and Amy

To Princess Nancy, I wish I could be there to see you in the spotlight. I know you will be a star! Lots of love, Grandma Betty

Kiraleah, we know you will prove again how special you are in this opera. Only special people can enjoy singing & performing & do it well. Love, Pai & Grandma

To Pixie, who keeps us all focused on the future. Grampa Joe Katz

A big shout out to our neighbors and friends Queen Phoebe Reuben and frog divas Charlotte Reuben and Lisa Lovett! You rock (and croak)! Kandice and Sara

Thanks Dina, Carla and Sue, our fantastic team of producers whose superb work behind the scenes wove this challenging opera into a seamless fabric. Love, David

Good Luck, Emilija! Love, G & G

Congratulations to Amigos kids. You all did so well. Your friend, Charlotte

Dear Eva, I'm sorry I'm not there to help Mama with her lines, but luckily you are there to do it. Sing extra loud so I can hear you in Germany. Love, Papa

A todos los estudiantes de la Escuela Amigos: Eva Beram, Eloise Botka, Carmen DeBenedictis, Cullen Fagan, Erica Jaquith, Isabela Trumble, Ruby Lyster, Sara Hauf, Joshua Nolan, Alexis Rabkin, Maribel Rawson-Stone, Phoebe Reuben, Charlotte Reuben y Maisha Lakri: ¡Todos ustedes son fantasticos! Que tengan la mejor experiencia con esta ópera. ¡Que ricá oportunidad para brillar antes de sus familias y su comunidad! -- Sus Madres y Padres

For Shaina Boyd--Thank you for making the rehearsals fun for me! Love, Sophia
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www.centralsquaretheater.org Cambridge, MA 02139
Emma COO-lidge coo-roo, We love what you do, Elder and dove, We send our love--Woo Hoo! Love, M, M, and N

Thanks, Linda, for another great program, and Dale for the ageless stage extension and 10 years of superb lighting. It’s been a decade to remember. Love, David and Sue

Dear Tim, We love that you are performing in this opera and we wish to say in theatrical tradition..."break a leg." With love, Karen and Amy Funkenstein

Felicitaciones amigos. Ustedes hicieron muy bien. Tu amiga, Maisha

Norah and Molly - You weave the love in my heart! Love, Paul

Thank you Christine, Carla, and Robyn my golden seamstresses. Without you I would be a crotchety, crabby, cantankerous Jackal.

Jeremy: You are not an annoying mosquito! You are great. We love you--Mommy, Daddy, Daniel, & Eliza

To Nina, our delightful diva. Grampa Joe

To our favorite bird, Jacob, and our favorite stagehand, Sam - try not to break a wing or the set, but do break a leg. Mama and Dad.

To Jacob: We love to have you buzzing around! Love, Grandpa and Grandma Ostacher

Breathtaking sets and scenery once again this year. Thanks to Cheryl and our army of volunteers (especially Derek and Mark), who made it happen. Love, David and Sue

Chloe - Good luck, and have lots of fun performing! Love, Grandma

I love you, Rachael and Elizabeth. I hope you have a great opera. Love, Keegan

Congratulations, Eloise! We love you very much. Love, Grandma and Grandpa

To Feather and Tebekoakajoe: You guys are the best! Luv you! Love, Delicious

To Sara Hauf: Wish we could be there for your performance. Make sure to send us pictures. Love, Aunt Kathy and Cousin Cara

To Suzan and Laura: Have Fun, Enjoy! --Roslyn

Anisha and Siyan, We hope you sing yourself crazy! The Patil Varat

Cooper - we wish all mosquitoes were as cute and songful as you. With love always, Grammy and Pops

Dear Ruby, I am with you in spirit and so proud of you. I am happy to share with you the joy of singing and the adventure of opera. Have fun! Love, Boma Kessel--You're our favorite Rana Catesbiana! Love, Dad, Aunt Michele, Nana & Aba

Laura--Congratulations for an awesome 1st time in the spotlight. You make a great peacock, and we love your solo "pyaows"! Love, Mom & Dad

Jacob--We're so glad we could be here to see you in your first opera! We love you! Love, Grandpa and Grandma Ketter

Nina: Whether in our living room or on stage as a rebel, a person, a TV audience member, an ant and now a frog...you are an amazing actress! And person!!! xo Mom, Dad, Molly, Max
**Star Notes**

**Robbie** - You weave webs that enthral us all. We love you very much.
Grammy and Pops

**Sara Hauf** is a remarkable young actress and singer! She will always be a star in our family. With love and great admiration from Aunt Karen and Uncle Rob

**Alexis** - We are proud you joined NCFO! You’re a great addition to the cast! Nos alegra mucho verte en el escenario este año. Love and ribbets, Mommy & Daddy

Congratulations to **Sam**--a mosquito that stings and a boy who can sing! I look forward to hearing all about the opera. Have a great time performing!
Love, Great Aunt Marion

**Nicole M**: You are my STAR. I wish I could be there to see your performances. Hugs and kisses, Grandma

To my sweet daughter, **Ruby**, and husband, **Tim**: you are braver than I am! I love you both, Liz

To **Nate, Tim, Will, Nancy**, the **pizza eaters**, the many **Davids**, the **pizza**, and the **whole cast**: You guys are simply awesome. I love you all!!! –Emilija

To our favorite "kid", **Eli**: congratulations on your second opera! Xoxoxo, Mom, Dad and Jonah

Congratulations to **Sara Hauf**, a wonderful kid both on and off stage, from your proud Mom and Grandmom. You are our shining star. Break a leg and have fun!

Dear **Jeremy**, I am so excited to see you in your first opera. Break a leg!!!
Love, Grammy

**Eloise Botka** - you're a star! Love, Bubbie

**Joshua & Alexis**: It's great to see you on the stage. Congratulations and lots of love, Grandma & Grandpa

**Kathy, David, and Phil**, you all do so much, but thanks especially for a second straight year of inspiring the cast to be more than just singers. Love, David and Sue

We are so proud of you, **Laura**. We wish we could be there! With love from your family in Bellingham, Washington (Aunt Diane and Uncle Raymie)

To **Jacob**: Congratulations on your acting debut! You’re our star! Love, Mom, Dad and Talia

Dear **Amy** and **Sam**, We don't mean to bug you, but we wanted to let you know that your un-winged family members love you very much! Congratulations! Tim, Alexa and Margaret

Dear **Eva**, Break a leg! With love from your family in Baltimore

Dear **Sam**, You are pesky, you are loud, you are a GREAT mosquito! I love rehearsing and performing with you.
Love, Mom

**Emilija**--You're clever, you're brainy, you're beautiful, too; you rock as a princess, and we're proud of you!
Love, Mumu, Daddy and Roland

**Jen**, your graphics are brilliant. We are so lucky that you and **Matthew** are such enthusiastic supporters and give so generously of your talents. Love, David and Sue

**Maggie**: Wish we could be at your performances! We're rooting for you: our thoughts & prayers will whisk you on & off stage. Do your best, & enjoy! Nana & Pampy
Andy Adler (Weavers/Jackals) ended 49 years of avoiding stage performance when he sang in the NCFO production *Lifetime: Songs of Life and Evolution* (2007); a year later, he sang in NCFO’s *Powers of Ten* (2008). He produced the CDs of these concerts, which are for sale during intermission. Andy also serves on the board of NCFO. This is his first appearance in an opera. His daughter, Emma Adler, owes him a great debt of gratitude for doing so.

Chloe Adler (KID/Jackal Soloist, Weavers/Jackals, Village Children/Mosquitoes) is 12 years old and a 7th-grader at the Cambridgeport School. She is in her third season with NCFO, having appeared in *Puzzle Jigs* (2008) as Secretary of Jigland Security and in *Antiphony* (2006) as a Soldier Ant. Along with acting and singing, Chloe enjoys kung fu and is excited to be working toward her black belt test this spring. Chloe would like to thank her brother Ian for singing all the operas with her at home, her mom and dad for all their enthusiasm, and her music teachers, Emily Mott and Emily Browder.

Emma Adler (Weavers/Jackals) is in the 3rd grade at Graham and Parks Alternative Public School. Her first choral experience was in the NCFO production of *Lifetime: Songs of Life and Evolution* (2007). She has been a major fan of NCFO since seeing *Puzzle Jigs* (2003) when she was 3, and last year, she performed in that show as an Earth Jig. She is an avid reader who loves gymnastics and mathematics.

Anna Antoniadis (Lead Peacock, Peacocks/Courtiers) is a 6th-grader at Belmont Day School. She is 11 years old, and this is her fifth year with NCFO. Inside and outside of school, she plays basketball and soccer. She also loves to sing. She played a Peace Activist Aide in *Puzzle Jigs* last year, the Program Assistant in *Kids Court* in 2007, and smaller roles in previous shows. Anna has also performed with the Watertown Children’s Theatre in CATS and *Peter Pan*.

Emilija Baksys (The Princess, Milkmaids/Washerwomen/Koel Birds) is 14 years old and goes to the Woodward School for Girls. She had the Sky Jig solo in NCFO’s *Puzzle Jigs* (2008) and was in *Once Upon a Mattress* at Riverside Theater Works last summer. Emilija is her class scribe at school and in her Girl Scout troop. Besides singing in the opera, she enjoys hanging out with her friends, playing video games, and eating gum. She would like to thank her wonderful parents for being ever so cooperative in transporting her to that wonderful building every Sunday, the many Davids for just being there, and Nate for being the awesome one he is.

David Bass (Founder, Artistic Director) As a teenager, David was a prolific composer of pretentious music, but during his college studies, he became discouraged with pursuing music professionally. Instead, he received a BS in chemistry from Yale and a doctorate in chemical engineering from MIT, during which time he arranged dozens of songs for the a cappella groups at these institutions. After a 20-year hiatus from musical composition, David wrote the distinctly unpretentious *Space Opera* for the enjoyment of his three young children, their friends, and their families. He directed productions of *Space Opera* in the spring of 1999, 2000, and 2005. His second opera, *Coronation of Esther*, was performed in 2001; its sequel, *Springtime for Haman*, in 2004; and *Kids Court*, his first collaboration, in 2007. David has also directed two other family operas, *Antiphony* in 2002 and 2006, and *Puzzle Jigs* in 2003 and 2008; and in 2007 founded the NCFO Science Oratorio Chorus, which performs annually at the Cambridge Science Festival. He plans to continue writing and directing music for as long as he can avoid taking himself too seriously.

Reina Bass (KID/Dove Soloist, Village Elders/Doves) is now in middle school (6th grade), and has chosen to greet her transition to adolescence by being way too busy (dance, violin, opera, homework), not getting enough sleep (but she now drinks tea!), and standing up to (almost standing over) her mom. She wants to be a vet, so spends most of her free time playing with...
her dogs, watching “Animal Planet”, and begging her parents to get her a cat (or a rodent or a reptile or fish...)

Miriam Beit-Aharon (Villager Soloist, Milkmaids/Washerwomen/Koel Birds) is so happy to be back in the opera. In Space Opera (2000), she was a Storm Trooper and a Rebel. The next year, she was Hegai in Coronation of Esther (2001), and she later participated in Antiphony (2002), Puzzle Jigs (2003), Springtime for Haman (2004), and Space Opera (2005) again. Then Miriam performed in a second year of Antiphony (2006), as the Red Queen. She took a two-year break after being royalty, and is ecstatic to be back with NCFO for The Weaver’s Wedding. Thank you for reading this—and for coming to see our show!

Susan Bellows (Village Children/Mosquitoes) sang in NCFO’s two science oratorios, Lifetime: Songs of Life and Evolution (2007) and Powers of Ten (2008), with her son, Julian Bellows Knight. This is her first opera and the first time ever that she has played a mosquito.

Eva Beram (Jackal Soloist, Weavers/Jackals) is 8 years old and a 2nd-grader at the Amigos School. Her favorite color is red and her favorite food is ice cream. She loves to watch Disney Channel and play on Disney Channel Online. She has sung in the NCFO productions Lifetime: Songs of Life and Evolution (2007) and, as an Earth Jig, in Puzzle Jigs (2008). She would like to thank her family and her stuffed animals.

Nell Beram (Weavers/Jackals) has sung in NCFO’s science oratorio Lifetime: Songs of Life and Evolution (2007), and, as an Earth Jig, in Puzzle Jigs (2008) with her husband, Joe Klompus, and their daughter, Eva Beram. Nell’s favorite Indian food is saag paneer.

Zedal Berhane (Village Elder Soloist, Village Elders/Doves), a 12-year-old student at Graham and Parks School, loves to act. Her hobbies are dancing and singing, and she loves plays. She has been in two plays

Kesher Says ‘Mazal Tov’ to:

Emma Adler
Andy Adler
Eloise Botka
Laura Gill
Lisa Lovett
Charlotte Reuben
Phoebe Reuben
Suzan Wolpow-Gill

And all those involved in ‘The Weaver’s Wedding’
at her school—*The Wiz* and *Willy Wonka*—and is now doing *Fiddler on the Roof*. Zedal also loves soccer, hanging out with her friends, and going to the movies. Zedal has been in NCFO once before, for *Puzzle Jigs* (2008). She wants to give thanks to Lace Campbell for having plays at her school.

**Alyssa Berkson** (*Prime Minister, Brain-Fever Birds/Prime Ministers*) is a 12-year-old Framingham 6th-grader in her fourth appearance with NCFO; her past roles were Piece Activist in *Puzzle Jigs* (2008), Stagehand 6 in *Kids Court* (2007), and Desc Ant in *Antiphony* (2006). She has also appeared in productions with Walsh Middle School, Metrowest Family Theater, Clinton Community Theatre, PAC Family Players, and LiveWire Productions. In addition to singing, dancing, and acting in musical theater, Alyssa loves piano, saxophone, and overnight camp. She would like to thank David Bass and Sue Hall for giving her the chance to be in this show and her mom for driving her to rehearsals. She hopes you all enjoy the show!

**Eloise Botka** (*Weaver Soloist, Weavers/Jackals*) is 8 years old. This is her second time in the opera. She goes to the Amigos School, and this is her fourth year there. Eloise is on the YMCA swim team. She wants to thank her family, Andy and Emma Adler, and Nell and Eva Beram for their support. Weavers and Jackals rule!

**Shaina Boyd** (*Brain-Fever Bird Soloist, Brain-Fever Birds/Prime Ministers*), age 11, has been with NCFO for four years. She has also been in past musical productions, such as *Kids’ Cabaret*, *The Wiz*, and *Cinderella*. Shaina is in 5th grade at Graham and Parks School in Cambridge. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, writing, drawing, and going on her computer for as long as her parents allow her.

**Phil Budne** (*Associate Dramatic Director, IT Guru*) Phil has been in and around the NCFO since 1999 (before it was the NCFO), singing, painting, webbing and boarding. This is Phil’s second year on the dramatic team, sitting on his hands in the audience and trying not to yell while the cast makes its magic.
Cast Biographies

Craig Burket  
*(Frog Soloist, Frogs/Courtiers)* served as an assistant music director for *Kids Court* and *Lifetime: Songs of Life and Evolution* in 2007 and was a People Jig in *Puzzle Jigs* (2008), as well as a performer in three previous NCFO productions. He also appeared as Mr. Sowerberry in *Oliver!* with Metrowest Family Theater in 2005. In the distant past, he sang with the New England Conservatory Chorus and played violin in the orchestras of the Opera Company of Boston, Boston Concert Opera, and the Handel & Haydn Society.

Nate Burket  
*(Rajah the Weaver, Brain-Fever Birds/Prime Ministers)* attends the Robert Adams Middle School in Holliston and is very excited to return for his seventh production with NCFO. He played Luke Skywalker in *Space Opera* (2005), the Fly in *Antiphony* (2006), Johnny Strepp in *Kids Court* (2007), and a People Jig in *Puzzle Jigs* (2008). He sang in the NCFO Festival Chorus performances of *Lifetime: Songs of Life and Evolution* (2007) and *Powers of Ten* (2008). He has performed with Metrowest Family Theater (*Oliver!*), the Christmas Revels (2005), and Summer Revels (2006), and has starred in several musicals with the Hockomock Area YMCA Theater and the Mansfield Arts and Education Center. He likes to act, sing, dance, play electric guitar, and hang out with his friends.

Hanna Carney  
*(Frog Soloist, Frogs/Courtiers)* is an 8-year-old 3rd-grader at Cambridge Montessori School. This is Hanna’s second appearance with NCFO: in 2008, she debuted as Bob Barker in *Puzzle Jigs*.

Rob Carney  

Tess Carney  
*(KID/Frog Soloist, Frogs/Courtiers)* is in the 6th grade and attends Cambridge Montessori School. She is 11 years old. She has been in NCFO for five years and counting. Her previous roles have been the Secretary of Jigland Security in *Puzzle Jigs* (2008), the Forewoman in the Jury in *Kids Court* (2007), the Wasp in *Antiphony* (2006), and Rebel 2 in *Space Opera* (2005).

Diana Chigas  
*(Peacocks/Courtiers)* is proud to be following the leadership of her daughter, Anna Antoniadis, this year as a Courtier/Peacock. Diana has been involved with NCFO for five years, and has enjoyed working, singing, and playing with everyone in the cast. When she is not being a Courtier/Peacock, Diana teaches negotiation and conflict resolution at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and directs the Reflecting on Peace Practice project at a small nonprofit, which takes her to conflict areas around the world to help organizations plan and implement their peace and development work.

Nancy Chomitz  
*(The Princess, Peacocks/Courtiers)* is a 14-year-old freshman at Lexington High School. This is her seventh year performing with NCFO. Previous roles include *Puzzle Jigs* (2003), as a...
Cast Biographies

Doggie Jig; Springtime for Haman (2004), as a Beggar; Space Opera (2005), as a Scientist; Antiphony (2006), as a Vigil Ant; Kids Court (2007), as Pinky Bender solo; and Puzzle Jigs (2008), as a Piece Activist Aide. She was also in the Lexington Youth Summer Theater production of Willy Wonka as Charlie’s dad. Nancy loves to sing and, in general, have fun. She would like to thank her parents, her friends, David and Sue, and her voice teacher, Laura, for supporting her during her biggest role. She might even thank her twin brother, if he’s nice.

Pixie Christy (Frogs/Courtiers) has a long background in music, singing, and performing. She studied at the Juilliard School of Music and sang for 30 years in bluegrass bands. She looks forward to her fourth year performing with NCFO, where she accompanies her granddaughter Nina Katz-Christy.

Emma Coolidge (Village Elder Soloist, Village Elders/Doves) is 12 years old and in 6th grade at Cambridge Friends School. Emma plays recorder and clarinet and does African dance. She was a Water Jig in NCFO’s Puzzle Jigs in 2008. She attends Farm and Wilderness camp in Vermont every summer, and she loves hiking; swimming in lakes, ponds, and oceans; growing and eating vegetables; and climbing trees.

Molly Day (Last Prime Minister/Brain-Fever Bird Soloist, Brain-Fever Birds/Prime Ministers) is 12 years old and Weavers Wedding is the sixth NCFO production she has performed in! She is in 6th grade at Watertown Middle School and is participating in a show there and also has done many shows at Watertown Children’s Theatre. She loves soccer, reading, writing, and would love to thank her mom, dad, her cats, Zoe and Xander, and her sister.

Carmen DeBenedictis (Village Elders/Doves) is in the 4th grade at the Amigos School and enjoys singing, dancing, and playing basketball. She is also a member of the Longy Children’s Chorus. Carmen lives in Cambridge with her dads and her favorite brother, James.
Cast Biographies

Christopher Edel (Villager Soloist, Weavers/Jackals) used to play lots of music as a bassist in several local Chicago rock bands and community orchestras. One day, his band decided, “Let’s move to L.A.,” and they did. Six months later, he realized that the rock-and-roll life was just plain crazy. After finally growing and raising a child, he discovered NCFO and the joy of being an Earth Jig (Puzzle Jigs, 2008). In the mid-nineties, he realized that he was a violin maker, though he never really decided to become one. He now restores fine old violins (mostly Italian) for Reuning and Son in Boston.

Jonathan Edel (Weaver Soloist, Weavers/Jackals) is an 8th-grader at the Tobin School. This is his second year at the opera: he rocked as an Earth Jig in last year’s production of Puzzle Jigs. He plays the violin, likes to cook, and hopes you enjoy the show.

Cullen Fagan (Villager Soloist, Milkmaids/Washerwomen/Koel Birds) is a 4th-grader at the Amigos School. She has two cats and a little brother. She enjoys reading, writing, animals, and opera (of course). She also has many great friends whom she would like to thank.

Kiraleah Page Fendell (Milkmaid/Koel Bird Soloist, Milkmaids/Washerwomen/Koel Birds) is 13 years old and goes to Prospect Hill Academy. She has appeared in Puzzle Jigs, Kids Court, Antiphony, and Space Opera. Kiraleah also has performed in Kids Cabaret, Boston Children’s Opera, and the Boston Dance Company production of The Nutcracker. Kiraleah plays piano and tennis, and loves singing and animals. Thank you to my mom for being so supportive and my dad for driving me to the opera. And “hi” to Grandma and Pai - wish you were here!

Susan Fendell (Associate Choreographer, Villager Soloist, Milkmaids/Washerwomen/Koel Birds) is a public interest attorney by day and a Broadway singer and dancer at night (in her dreams). After last year’s lead as the Mother in Puzzle Jigs, she’s one step closer! (Thanks, David, for giving me that opportunity.) Susan has appeared with NCFOC in Kids Court, Antiphony, and Space Opera. Susan wishes to thank Magen Slesinger, her voice teacher, for supporting her dreams, the cast and crew for being so fun to work with, and Kiraleah, Peter, her parents, and the rest of her friends and family for their love.

Grace Gershenfeld (Villager Soloist, Village Elders/Doves) is 12 years old and in the 6th grade at Cambridge Friends School. In her spare time she enjoys gymnastics, circus, writing, reading, drawing, hanging out with her friends, and playing with her cats and dog. This is her fifth season with NCFOC.

Laura Gill (Peacock Soloist, Peacocks/Courtiers) is 9 years old and goes to the Peabody School. This is her first time in the opera, but she has been in school concerts twice every year since kindergarten. She loves to read and play piano, and wants to thank her mom for supporting her in practicing for the opera. It’s also fun to be in the opera with her friend, Nicole.

Mattie Glenhaber (Myna Bird Soloist, Myna Birds/Courtiers) is 11 years old, lives in Somerville, and is in the 5th grade at the East Somerville Community School, “Unidos” program. This is her first opera, but she sang in Powers of Ten last year. She was probably chosen to be a Myna Bird because she is really good at being annoying.

Ezra Glenn (Myna Birds/Courtiers) lives in Somerville with his wife Melissa and their three kids: Mattie (see above), Linus and Toby (twin 8 year olds, not in this show, but you can see them in the upcoming Science Festival chorus in May). He works in the Department of Urban Studies and...
Planning at MIT. This is his first opera, and pretty much his first time singing on stage.

Julien Gordon (Frog Soloist, Frogs/Courtiers) This is Julien's fifth opera with NCFO and his Mom (LJ Gordon)’s first time appearing in any opera or on any stage. Julien lives with his mom, teenage brother and sister and their three cats in North Cambridge. Julien is 11 years old and a 6th-grader at Cambridge Friends School and hopes to become a veterinarian and/or engineer when he gets older and taller. Julien has appeared in the last four NCFO shows with his father, Jesse Gordon, and both were amazing in Puzzle Jigs last year, as well as in Antiphony, Space Opera, and Kids Court.

L.J. Gordon (Frogs/Courtiers) See above.

Dina Gorelik (Village Child Soloist, Village Children/Mosquitoes) is 7 years old. She lives in Newton where she attends Burr Elementary School. Dina enjoys taking rhythmic gymnastics classes and learning how to dance hip-hop. She loves her family, her cousins and all her friends. Dina is thrilled to perform with NCFO for the first time.

Lena Gorelik (Village Children/Mosquitoes) has lived in Newton for the last few years. Lena was born in Moscow, Russia where she spent her childhood and college years. Lena sings with Koleinu - Jewish community chorus for the last three years but this is her first opera performance. She is happy to perform together with her daughter Dina and grateful to her family and friends for their support.

Emily Gray (Courtier Soloist, Frogs/Courtiers) This is Emily’s second appearance with NCFO, having performed as a People Jig in last year’s production of Puzzle Jigs. Emily is in 7th grade at the Kennedy-Longfellow School. She performed in Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre’s The Nutcracker for five years, and has sung in the annual King’s Chapel Christmas Pageant for the past three years. Emily enjoys singing, playing soccer and hanging out with her friends. She is looking forward to another great season with NCFO.

Isabella Gray (Courtier Soloist, Frogs/Courtiers) is in the 5th grade at the Baldwin School. This is her second appearance with NCFO having performed last year as a People Jig. Also, Isabella has danced in Jose Mateo’s Ballet Theatre productions of The Nutcracker three times. She enjoys swimming, soccer, reading and hanging out with her friends.

Sue Hall (Associate Producer, Milkmaids/Washerwomen/Koel Birds) Sue and David’s household is a little quieter this year, with Robert off at WPI as a freshman. She actually has had time to take a beginner adult tap dance class, which is loads of fun, although she’s grateful for her resident tutors, Lonnie and Reina. Sue’s voice can be heard all over NCFO practice CDs, but she shuns the limelight and has gratefully stepped back into the chorus after her one and only tiny solo appearance last year in Puzzle Jigs.

Aytan Hamill (Myna Birds/Courtiers) is making his second appearance with the NCFO, having first played a Doggie Jig in...
Cast Biographies

last year's production of Puzzle Jigs. Aytan is in the 3rd grade at Belmont's Winn Brook School where he enjoys reading, math and martial arts. Aytan's other hobbies include cross-country skiing and computer games. In addition, he never refuses a game of Uno.

Tom Hamill (Myna Birds/Courtiers) has been performing with the NCFO since the 2003 production of Puzzle Jigs. He also recently appeared as Breton Beret in the Voke's Theater's production of A Man of No Importance. In the distant past Tom performed with such roles as The Tall Kid in the Back Row in The Music Man and The Guy Who Sells Motel and Hat in Fiddler on the Roof. When not singing, Tom works as a Systems Analyst at athenahealth, inc. in Watertown, MA.

Yona Hamill (Myna Birds/Courtiers) has been in every one of the NCFO's operas since the 2003 Production of Puzzle Jigs. Yona has played a wide variety of animal roles with our company ranging from a Doggie Jig to an Ant to this year's role as a Myna Bird. Yona attends the Westwood High School and enjoys skiing, basketball and music videos. Yona would like to thank his mother for, well, basically everything.

Elizabeth Harkavy (Peacock Soloist, Peacocks/Courtiers) is in 5th grade at King Open School. This is her third year in the NCFO. She has been a doggy jig in Puzzle Jigs and a kid in Kids Court. Elizabeth has also participated in many other plays such as The Music Man and Into the Woods. She also enjoys running, swimming, softball, reading and having fun. She hopes to be able to do the opera again next year.

Rachael Harkavy (Peacock Soloist, Peacocks/Courtiers) is 12 years old and goes to the King Open School. This is her third year with the NCFOC. She was a jury kid in Kids Court, and a tree jig in Puzzle Jigs. She has also been in plays at her school: Rachael was Jack in Into the Woods and a salesperson in The Music Man. Her other interests are reading, soccer, and swimming. Rachael would like to thank her mom for driving her to rehearsal. To everyone in the show, break a leg!
Kandice Hauf (Villager Soloist, Milkmaids/Washerwomen/Koel Birds) is enjoying her third season with NCFO where she has (de)evolved from kid to dog to koel bird. When not performing and driving Sara to activities she is a professor and historian of China.

Sara Hauf (KID/Koel Bird Soloist, Milkmaids/Washerwomen/Koel Birds, Village Children/Mosquitoes) is 10 and a 4th-grader at the Amigos School. She loves to play soccer, is on the competitive team in gymnastics, and is a Girl Scout. Performing in NCFO as a jury kid, dog and now kid/koel bird, Sara has learned how much fun NCFO is.

Ruth Hertzman-Miller (Weavers/Jackals) returns to NCFO for her third consecutive year. In real life she is an internist at Cambridge Health Alliance and a mother of three (one of whom appeared in utero in NCFO’s Kids Court in 2007). She thanks her husband David Miller for shuttling their two younger daughters to numerous Sunday activities so that she and Sarah can attend rehearsals.

Bernard Hughes (Composer) studied Music at Oxford University and has just completed a PhD in Composition at the University of London. His work has been performed by groups, including the BBC Singers, at major venues around Britain including Coventry Cathedral. Bernard’s first opera for young people Chincha-Chancha Cooroo, to a libretto by the poet and scholar William Radice, was commissioned by the celebrated company W11 Opera. Their second collaboration was the chamber opera Dumbfounded! based on the work of the Edwardian short story writer, Saki. Bernard also writes about music, including a major article on the music of Param Vir in April 2004 and he writes a regular column for a monthly contemporary music journal. In an earlier career as a comedian, Bernard won the prestigious Perrier Award at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. He is a qualified cricket coach and lives with his wife and two small children in London. Chincha-Chancha Cooroo is dedicated to his son, Pen, who

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* Wayne Potash & The Music Fun Band *
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Baldwin School, Cafetorium
28 Sacramento Street, Cambridge

$7 / Person
$20 / Family
Under 2 years: Free
Purchase Family Tickets by March 27th: $15

Lunch Foods; Bake Sale; Face Painting; Games, Raffle
www.cambridgenurseryschool.org
Cast Biographies

Erica Jaquith (KID/Dove Soloist, Village Elders/Doves, Village Children/Mosquitoes) is 11 years old and in the 6th grade at the Amigos School. This is her fourth production with the NCFO. She was a Water Jig in Puzzle Jigs, a jury kid in Kids Court, and Nonexist Ant in Antiphony. She enjoys riding her unicycle, stilting and manipulating various inanimate objects with the Open Air Circus, doing arts and crafts and reading and reading and reading. She would like to thank her sponsors, including Famous Seamus Flaherty…oh, wait, wrong show. She would also like to apologize for any redundancy this may have caused you.

Nina Katz-Christy (Frog Soloist, Frogs/Courtiers) is 10 years old and a 4th-grader at Cambridge Montessori School. She played a Rebel/Alien in Space Opera and a Soldier Ant in Antiphony, an Audience Kid in Kids Court, and a People Jig in Puzzle Jigs. She would like to thank her Grandma Pixie, another Frog/Courtier, for being in their fourth opera together. She would also like to thank her sister Molly, her brother Max, and all her friends and family for coming to see the show. Hope you like it!

Donna Keefe (General Manager, Development, Publicity) joined the company in October 2008. Donna brings her experience in arts administration and operations with fundraising and media expertise, her enthusiasm, and love of the arts to NCFO. Prior to coming to NCFO, she was the Operations and Project Manager at the Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center. She is the Founder and Executive Director of Son- dela, the contemporary South African art exhibition, “A Decade of Democracy: Witnessing South Africa,” that opened in Boston at the Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists in 2004 and toured the US and South Africa. Donna has worked with a wide range of community organizations in the areas of development, special events, marketing and publicity, which include the Boston Pan-African Forum, Boston Society of Architects Task Force to End Homelessness, Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center, Cambridge Women’s Commission, Ethiopian Community Mutual Assistance Association, Hildebrand Family Self-Help Center, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Mount Auburn Hospital, and the St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church. She is delighted to be working with the talented, creative, and dedicated members of NCFO and to be a part of their Tenth Anniversary season. Good luck to the cast and crew for another successful show!

Cooper Kelley (Villager Soloist, Village Children/Mosquitoes) is a 3rd-grader at the Baldwin School in Cambridge. Cooper sang in the science oratorios, Lifetime and Powers of Ten, and was an Earth Jig in last year’s Puzzle Jigs. His big moment last year on stage/video was his histrionic reaction when his brother dumped sand on his head when playing an Earth Jig in the “real world.” When not thoroughly enjoying being an annoying mosquito, he likes soccer, reading, playing with Legos and playing with his friends.

Eloise,
We love you. Great Job!

Love, Aunt Lizzy, Aunt Michelle, and Uncle Jeff
Hope Kelley (Village Children/Mosquitoes) sang in the science oratorios, *Lifetime* and *Powers of Ten*, and was an Earth Jig in last year’s *Puzzle Jigs*. She has been an avid fan of NCFO since the first *Space Opera* and had been in the audience (usually seeing both casts) every year but one. She thanks the opera for giving her the opportunity to play such a fun part. When not singing, she can be seen biking around town, reading to her boys and volunteering in many capacities.

Robbie Kelley (Villager Soloist, Weavers/Jackals) is a 6th-grader at the Baldwin School in Cambridge. Robbie sang in the science oratorios, *Lifetime* and *Powers of Ten*, and was an Earth Jig in last year’s *Puzzle Jigs*. He thanks the opera for granting him the opportunity to dump sand on his brother’s head several times through the different takes of the “real world” video and for his chance to star as a flea. This year he gets to shine with his wisdom and cunning as a jackal. He loves playing instruments (piano, fife, recorder, clarinet), reading, drawing, ceramics, soccer and playing tag football with his friends.

Debbie Klein (Village Children/Mosquitoes) is happy to be back for her fourth opera, after a two year hiatus. She wants to thank her son, Jeremy and daughter, Eliza for keeping her on track at opera rehearsals. She also wants to thank her husband, Abram and son, Daniel, for getting the grocery shopping and jigsaw puzzles done on Sunday afternoons.

Eliza Klein (Brain-Fever Bird Soloist, Brain-Fever Birds/Prime Ministers) is a 6th-grader at the King Open School. She has now been in six NCFOC productions. *Weavers Wedding* is the first where she gets to sing as a bird AND a human! Eliza would like to thank her friends Lilly, Shoshi, and Rachael for hanging out with her at rehearsals and finishing her half eaten broccoli and onion pizza.

Jeremy Klein (Village Children/Mosquitoes) is in the 3rd grade at the King Open School. This is his first year doing the North Cambridge Family Opera. He likes to read, play violin, play baseball and hang out with friends.

Jacob Klibaner (Myna Bird Soloist, Myna Birds/Courtiers) This is Jacob’s fourth performance with the NCFO having been in *Antiphony, Kids Court* and been Bob Barker in last year’s performance of *Puzzle Jigs*. He is also a member of the King Open Players where he has played Rapunzel’s Prince in *Into the Woods* and Charlie Cowell in *The Music Man*. A 7th-grader at the King Open School in Cambridge, Jacob is a Boy Scout, does fencing and Tae Kwon Do and takes piano lessons. He also runs Jacob’s Pet Sitting (look for his ad in the program). Jacob lives in Cambridge with his parents, brother Sam (who is in the stage crew) and a deadly cat named Lola.


Maisha Lakri (Myna Bird Soloist, Myna Birds/Courtiers) is 9 years old and goes to the Amigos School. This is her first year with the NCFO. She has previously performed as a chicken, a bee, an angel, and a refugee with the In Spite of Life Players. She is interested in animals and hopes to perform as a wolf someday.

Zohra Lakri (Myna Birds/Courtiers) is 12 years old. She goes to the King Open School. Zohra likes piano, soccer, fencing, and double-dutch, and she likes to play other sports too. Zohra works as a junior assistant for the science club for girls program. She loves to travel.

Maggie LaMaster (KID/Koel Bird Soloist,
Cast Biographies

Milkmaids/Washerwomen/Koel Birds), at 9 years old, is in 3rd grade at the Peabody School in North Cambridge. 2009 is her third year in the NCFO, and she’s excited to be playing the role of “Sam”. Friends of all ages are a reason Maggie enjoys participating in NCFO productions. When not performing, Maggie enjoys reading, canoeing, skiing, and spending time with her younger sister Ada Grace.

Steve LaMaster (The Story-Teller) works as the Director of Rehabilitation for Vinfen in Cambridge, having moved here from Iowa in 2003. The opera has played an important role in Steve’s efforts to be involved in the local community, and he recommends the experience for far more than musical/performance reasons. Steve is grateful to his wife, Rachelle, for supporting his involvement, friends for attending performances, and the greater Cambridge community for their support of participatory arts programs. Steve also cherishes membership in the First Church Cambridge Community, the White Mules Ski Club, completing annual canoe trips, and practicing catch-and-release fishing.

Kathy Lindsay (Dramatic Director, Costume Design, The Jackal, Village Elders/Doves)
It was so simple
To sort out my bio.
The Artistic Director was so impressed
By my non-verbal ingenuity
He's put me in charge
Of the acting now.
The first thing I've done
Is to give those actors,
Costumes in their own story:
A wedding-procession
To convince the Audience
Of our Jackal's majesty and power!
Simple!
Are you ready?

Robyn Lindsay (Deputy Prime Minister, Brain-Fever Birds/Prime Ministers) is a 10th-grader at Waltham High School. She has previously performed with NCFO as a Worker Ant and a Soldier Ant in Antiphony,

Leaping, dancing, hip hop and tap, Reina!
Do your split and toe heel fuh-lap, Reina!

Put out the dogs, Give them a hug, Feed them their dinner, Frolic on the rug!

You love everybody, People make you glad, You love to sing opera With your mom & dad!

congratulations, reina, on your 7th opera!
a Rebel and a Stormtrooper in Space Opera, a People Jig and a Sky Jig in The Puzzle Jigs, a Chamberlain in Springtime for Haman, and a Kid in Kids Court. When not acting, she loves to play the French horn.

Rosemary Lindsay (Brain-Fever Bird Soloist, Brain-Fever Birds/Prime Ministers) is an 8th-grader at the McDevitt School in Waltham. She has previously performed with NCFO as a Rebel in Space Opera (2000), a Worker Ant in Antiphony, a People Jig in Puzzle Jigs and a Kid in Kids Court. When not acting, she loves to read, cook or read.

James Liu (The King), baritone, is a physician by day and singer by night. He has sung in choruses for over twenty years, with groups including the National Cathedral Men’s Choir, the Back Bay Chorale, the New World Chorale, and most recently the Cantata Singers. He has soloed in performances of the St. Matthew Passion, Judas Maccabeus, Les Noces and Howells’s Requiem. He is devoted to classical art song, and his repertoire includes Die schöne Müllerin, Winterreise, Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen, Dichterliebe, Histoires naturelles and Don Quichotte à Dulcinée. He has worked at WHRB as a classical music announcer and producer. He has appeared in Idome neo (Opera Hub; Ensemble), Don Giovanni (Boston Opera Collaborative; Ensemble), The Magic Flute (Boston Opera Collaborative; Second Man in Armour), The Marriage of Figaro (Indian Hill Music; Count Almaviva), and Otello (Lowell House Opera; Montano). He is a voice student of Frank Kelley, and indebted to his wife, Alexandra Bowers, for her support and infinite patience.

Lisa Lovett (Frog Soloist, Frogs/Courtiers) is performing in NCFOC for her third year with her daughters Phoebe and Charlotte Reuben. She works for Wide Horizons for Children as a social worker helping families who are adopting children internationally, particularly from Ethiopia and Colombia. She would like to thank her spouse Julie Reuben for her support.

Ruby Lyster (Village Elders/Doves) is a 4th-grader at the Amigos School in Cambridge. Although this is her first time with NCFO, she performed in “Aunt Betty” with the Boston Children’s Opera in 2007. Her most recent on-stage appearance was during a vacation at the Club Med in Punta Cana...only having to practice twice held a lot of appeal!

Tim Lyster (Village Elders/Doves) does most of his singing at Christmas, when he and his family belt out carols using as many harmonies as possible. Most of Tim’s harmonies are based on his experience as a tuba player in a brass band, and are therefore suited to his low voice. Tim and his family also like to sing Happy Birthday in the most obnoxious, loud way possible, so beware of letting him know about any upcoming dates.

Ann Marie Mador (Village Elders/Doves) lives in Cambridge with her husband Brad and their three children, Rachael, Eliza-
Cast Biographies

Beth and Keegan. This is Ann Marie’s third season with NCFO. She and two of her children, Rachael and Elizabeth, appeared in Kids Court and Puzzle Jigs. Her son Keegan, who is 6, can’t wait until he is old enough to perform with the rest of the family. Brad likes to help by clapping loudly from the audience. When not singing together, Ann Marie and her family love to bike, swim and camp. This summer they hope to camp in the Adirondacks with other family members and friends.

Dina Mardell (Associate Producer) is delighted to be part of the production team again this year. Besides being part of the wonderful community of NCFO, Dina loves the outdoors, teaching and spending time with her family.

Trish Marti (Frogs/Courtiers) returns to the NCFO for a second year with her daughters Emily and Isabella Gray, having performed together last year as People Jigs. Trish is looking forward to being a frog this year and is thankful for the very helpful acting tips on how to be a frog offered by her 6 year old son Thomas. Ribbit, ribbit...

Deborah Mason (Choreographer) takes her passion and commitment to the class and community. She inspires young dancers, setting high standards for creative excellence and physical prowess. She is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Deborah Mason School of Dance, which has served as a training ground for dancers since 1975. She is the Founder and Executive Director of the Cambridge Youth Dance Program, a non-profit dance and performing arts program for serious dancers in the Cambridge area. Her credits include a leading role in the musical Cinderella in SummerStock, touring New York City, Chicago, Kansas City, and Boston. Deborah has worked with some of the finest dancers in the dance world such as Brenda Buffalino of the American Tap Dance Orchestra, Leon Collins, Sue Ronson, the Nicholas brothers, Gregory Hines, Savion Glover, and Luigi. Having served the City of Cambridge for 37 years, she was commissioned by Mayor Reeves to serve on the Board for the Arts in Cambridge. She has been honored with the Key to the City of Cambridge, and has been cited from the city of Boston for her continued success. She has been honored by Mayor Sheila Russell for her dedication to young women’s development, received the Galluccio Award for her commitment to youth sports, was recently cited by the United States Senate in Washington, DC for providing a high quality arts education for decades, and was recently nominated for Coca Cola Company’s Distinguished Teachers in the Arts award program. Deborah’s expertise in training continues to produce accomplished dancers and the studio’s outstanding faculty is the tradition of excellence that is synonymous with the name Deborah Mason School of Dance.

Katie Massie (KID/Myna Bird Soloist, Myna Birds/Courtiers) is almost 11 years old and she is finishing up her third show with NCFO. She was in Antiphony, Puzzle

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Southern New England
Cast Biographies

Jigs, and now Weaver’s Wedding. She lives in Somerville, MA with her parents and two cats. In her free time she likes to play soccer, sing, dance, act, and play with her cousins. She would like to thank Pat Michaels for teaching her how to sing very high, and her friends and family for their support. She is dedicating this performance to Violet Massie-Vereker and Milena Kagel.

Nicole McElhoe (Courtier/Peacock Soloist, Peacocks/Courtiers), age 9, is in 3rd grade in Arlington. This is her first production. She enjoys performing, dancing and gymnastics.

Sarah Miller (KID/Jackal Soloist, Weavers/Jackals) is in her fourth NCFO performance. She was last seen as Samphyre in NCFO’s Puzzle Jigs in 2008. A fourth-grader at Ward School in Newton, she enjoys reading, Israeli folk dance, playing board games, and of course singing. She has two sisters, ages 1 and 7.

Jeffrey Moore (The Story-Teller, Village Elders/Doves) is singing in his tenth opera production with NCFO, following two Space Operas, two Antiphonies, two Puzzle Jigs, the two-part Esther cycle, and one brush with the law for impersonating a rapper. Jeff lives in Waltham with his two daughters, one cat, and one jackal. And TRILLIONS of bacteria (cue bacteria noises).

Cheryl Moreau (Technical and Crew Coordinator, Directorial Team) After studying theater at Emerson College and literature of the theater at UMASS Boston, Cheryl put her experience to the test as a stage manager for the original Boston Shakespeare Company. She has produced shows and organized technical services for NCFO for almost a decade. Successful past productions include Antiphony (2002 and 2006), Puzzle Jigs (2003 and 2008), Springtime for Haman (2004), Space Opera (2005), and Kids Court (2007).

Jenny Mosely (Props Design, Myna Birds/Courtiers) has designed props for every NCFO production since 2001, and

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Cast Biographies

has performed in the chorus for *Coronation of Esther, Antiphony* (2002), *Puzzle Jigs* (2003), *Springtime for Haman* (2004) and *Space Opera* (2005). She is an origami artist, known internationally for her original designs made from business cards, and her work in the mathematical theory of curved origami. Her works have been exhibited at the Mingei International Museum in San Diego, the Peabody-Essex Museum in Salem, and the Worcester Art Museum.

**Norah Mulvaney-Day** (*Brain-Fever Bird Soloist, Brain-Fever Birds/Prime Ministers*) is excited to be performing as a Prime Minister with her daughter Molly this year. Previously Norah performed with NCFO as a stagehand in *Kids Court* and a rebel in *Space Opera*. When she is not singing, she works as a health services researcher, and enjoys gardening, cooking, taking long walks, and watching old movies with her family. She would like to thank Molly for being in the show with her this year, and her husband Paul and daughter Emma for their support.

**Anisha Nakagawa** (*Assistant Choreographer, Deputy Prime Minister, Brain-Fever Birds/Prime Ministers, Peacocks/Courtiers*) is a 12-year-old, 7th-grader at the Baldwin School in Cambridge. This is her seventh year with the NCFO, having previously appeared as an Earth Jig in her opera debut, a Citizen, a Rebel, a Black Ant, a Jury Kid, and a Water Jig. She also sang in the *Lifetime* (the only singer to perform in every song) and *Powers of Ten* oratorios. In addition to singing, she plays soccer and cello, and learns Indian classical dance. She would like to thank all her singing coaches, as well as the acting crew and stage hands.

**Kailash Nakagawa** (*Jackal Soloist, Weavers/Jackals*), an 8-year-old, 2nd-grader at the Haggerty School in Cambridge, joins NCFO for a second year after his opera debut as an Earth Jig in last year's production. He also performed in the *Lifetime* and *Powers of Ten* science oratorios. When he’s not singing or playing soccer, he learns Indian Classical dance and likes following technological advances in the IEEE Spectrum and Scientific American. He would like to thank his singing coaches and school music teacher.

**Mike Nakagawa** (*Weavers/Jackals*) joins his kids again in his sixth NCFO production. After forcing his way through intentional dissonance in a two-part harmony last year, he is now struggling through it in a four-part harmony. He thanks the whole crew for continuing this great community asset.

**Joshua Nolan** (*KID/Frog Soloist, Frogs/Courtiers, Village Children/Mosquitoes*) My name is Joshua Nolan, I’m in 7th grade at the Amigos School, and my 13th Birthday will be during the shows, on April 3rd. I was in the NCFO performance of *Puzzle Jigs* last year, and have sung before. I play piano and trumpet, love soccer and frisbee, and participate in a ballet class.

**Louise Ambler Osborn** (*The Queen*) has played Princess Leia in NCFO’s production of *Space Opera*, the Worker Queen in *An-
Cast Biographies

tiphony, and the Sun in Puzzle Jigs. She works for From the Top, the engaging and fun NPR and PBS shows featuring the best young classical musicians in the country. Louise also sings at St. John’s Church in Charlestown. Many thanks to David, Sue, and the rest of the crew for giving kids and their parents a chance to share the stage and make music together.

Will Osborn (Prime Minister, Brain-Fever Birds/Prime Ministers) is a 7th-grader at the Boston Latin School. This winter he played Peter Cratchitt and Young Scrooge in the New Rep’s A Christmas Carol. At NCFO, he has learned a lot in many roles—the charming fiddling grasshopper Gaspard in Antiphony, the slimy Plaintiff’s Attorney in Kids Court, the menacing Stormtrooper #11 in Space Opera, and the Undersecretary of Jigland Security in Puzzle Jigs. At Creative Arts at Park, he played the Drake in Honk, Pockets in Newsies, and Frank in Dear Edwina. Will used to study violin and now studies piano at the Longy School of Music.

Jacob Ostacher (Village Children/Mosquitoes) My name is Jacob Ostacher. I am in 3rd grade and I go to Haggerty. This is my first year in the opera. Last year I sang in the oratorio, Powers of Ten.

Laurie Ketter Ostacher (Village Children/Mosquitoes) is excited to be performing with her son, Jacob, in her first performance. Last year we sang in the oratorio, Powers of Ten.

Don Picard (Village Elder Soloist, Village Elders/Doves) would like to thank his daughter, Carmen DeBenedictis, for helping him return to the stage in his first NCFO production. He was most recently seen singing in the St. Louis Church choir when he was 8. He’s doing his best to hit the high notes, but it isn’t as easy as it once was.

Carla Procaskey (Associate Producer) This is the sixth year Carla has been with NCFO. She likes mountains, playing in the snow, making things and being in the country.

Lexis Rabkin (Frogs/Courtiers) I’m a 10-year-old in the 5th grade of the Amigos School in Cambridge. This is my first year of NCFO. I have been in the Jose Mateo’s

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Nutcracker for four years. I like making skits, playing with my friends and doing art projects.

William Radice (Librettist) was born in 1951 in London, and has had a varied career as a poet, writer, scholar and university teacher. He has written or edited more than 30 books, including 8 books of his own poetry. As a specialist in Bengali language and literature, he is particularly well known for his translations for Penguin of the poems and stories of Rabindranath Tagore. After completing a D.Phil in Bengali literature at Oxford in 1987, he became a Lecturer in Bengali at SOAS, rising to be Head of the Departments of South and South East Asia. In 2005 he went part-time at SOAS, to allow more time for writing, Chincha-chancha Cooroo is based on a story in the very first book he translated from Bengali, The Stupid Tiger and Other Tales by Upendrakishore Raychaudhuri (Andre Deutsch, London, 1981). His most recent book of poems is The Dancing Mouse/Die Tanzende Maus (Hirundo Press, Hamburg, 2008), and his latest translation is of two plays by Tagore The Post Office and Card Country (Visva-Bharati, Kolkata, 2009). In the music field, he is collaborating with Bernard Hughes on an opera based on the stories of Saki, and with the Malaysian composer Johan Othman on an opera based on the classic Persian poem The Conference of the Birds. William Radice is married with two grown-up daughters and one grandson. Their main home is in Northumberland in the North-East of England. More information at www.williamradice.com

Maribel Rawson-Stone (Peacocks/Courtiers), 11 years old and a student at the Amigos School, was a People Jig in Puzzle Jigs last year. She takes singing lessons and loves playing soccer. She would like to thank her family for their support.

Charlotte Reuben (Frog Soloist, Frogs/Courtiers) is in the 4th grade of the Amigos School. She has appeared in NCFOC as a child, a doggie, and this year, as a frog. Charlotte plays soccer and basketball, loves the Red Sox, and recently began taking cello lessons.

Congratulations to all involved in the Weaver’s Wedding. A great group!!

& Kudos to the Weaver for making his life better!

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Phoebe Reuben (The Queen, Peacocks/Courtiers) is in the 8th grade of the Amigos School. This is her third year with the NCFOC but her first year as royalty. In addition to singing, Phoebe loves animals, soccer and playing the flute.

Robert Rogers (The King, Village Elders/Doves) After a long absence from singing on stage, Robert is happy to be a part of NCFO’s production of Weaver’s Wedding. Thanks to everyone for making it a wonderful and fun experience!

Amy Rowe (Village Children/Mosquitoes) lives in Cambridge with her husband and three children. Previously a Doggie in Puzzle Jigs, Amy’s favorite things about opera are spending time with her son, Sam, and having an excuse to sing in the car, at least when the kids don’t protest too much.

Sam Rowe (Village Children/Mosquitoes), age 8 3/4, is a 3rd-grader at Shady Hill. In his second opera season, Sam goes from cute and cuddly (a puppy in Puzzle Jigs) to annoying and potentially lethal. Sam is singing in the opera with his mom, Amy.

Eli Saltzman (KID/Myna Bird Soloist, Myna Birds/Courtiers, Village Children/Mosquitoes) is 11 years old and attends 6th grade at the Cambridgeport School. In 2008, he was a blue-faced Sky Jig in NCFO’s Puzzle Jigs. He also performed for two years with the Boston Children’s Chorus. When not singing or humming, he enjoys playing fiddle with his teacher, Jessica Corwin —whom he would like to thank for all her patience and inspiration.

Lilly Sandberg (Brain-Fever Bird Soloist, Brain-Fever Birds/Prime Ministers) is a 7th-grader at the King Open School. This is her seventh year in NCFOC. In her free time, Lilly enjoys playing soccer, performing and art.

David Sandberg (Dramatic Director) This is David’s ninth year with the opera company: the first five performing in a variety of roles, and the last four as a dramatic director. As with every opera since his first, the highlight of this experience is the opportunity to work with his amazing daughters, one of whom, Lilly, joins him in this show. He is delighted to be sharing directorial duties with Kathy for the second time, and congratulates the wonderful and extremely hardworking cast on another innovative and exciting American premiere.

When not directing the opera, David is an ersatz cantor at the Tremont Street synagogue in Cambridge and an occasional Savoyard performing the Gilbert and Sullivan canon whenever he can.

Dale Senechal (Lighting Designer, Technical Director) has been the Technical Director for NCFOC since 1999, responsible for overseeing and implementing all technical aspects of company productions. Prior to that he had been Technical Director for the Kentucky Shakespeare Festival, the Opera Company of Boston, and Wellesley College Theatre. He was Scenic Designer/Master Carpenter for Turtle Lane Players, and Master Carpenter at the Castle Hill Festival. This year marks the 37th anniversary of his first participation in the world of theater when he played the lead role of Oliver in the musical of the same name.

Lisë Stern (Village Elder Soloist, Village Elders/Doves) Lisë (class of Space Opera 2005) returns to NCFO for the fifth time; previous roles include a fountainous Water Jig in Puzzle Jigs and a singing and dancing Stagehand in Kids Court. She is the food editor for Hannaford fresh magazine and writes on food and travel for several publications. Her books include How to Keep Kosher and The Boston Food Lover. Her experience in the food world inspired her to write a screenplay, The Bakery. She is mother to fellow opera performer,
Cast Biographies

Shoshanna Stern-Robbins, and would like to thank her teenaged sons for their enthusiastic support of all things musical, and her friend Larry for his enthusiastic support of all things.

Shoshanna Stern-Robbins (Lead Peacock, Peacocks/Courtiers) Shoshi (class of Space Opera 2005), arrives in her fifth NCFO opera fresh from playing Ethel Toffelmier in the King Open production of The Music Man. She played a Water Jig in Puzzle Jigs; in Kids Court she was Frances the Production Assistant; she was also a Soldier Ant in Anthiphony and a Stormtrooper in Space Opera. Shoshi, a 6th-grader, has acted in several plays at school, including Rapunzel in Into the Woods and Lucy in You're a Good Man Charlie Brown. She is daughter to fellow opera performer, Lisë Stern, and would like to thank her family and friends for their support.

Elizabeth Stone (Makeup Designer) used to play with her mother's makeup when she was young. Look where it got her. Heartfelt thanks to David Rabkin, Dina and everyone on the makeup crew.

Sophia Thurau-Gray (Last Prime Minister, Brain-Fever Birds/Prime Ministers) is a 5th-grader at Graham and Parks Elementary School in Cambridge. She enjoys performing; last year she was a Sky Piece in the NCFO's Puzzle Jigs. Sophia was an Oompa Loompa in the Beyond the Fourth Wall Production of Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory last year and is playing the role of a village girl in Fiddler on the Roof this year. In addition to acting, Sophia enjoys fencing, textile arts—sewing, knitting, and weaving—and playing the piano.

Rocky Tomascoff (Brain-Fever Bird Soloist, Brain-Fever Birds/Prime Ministers) This is Rocky's third year with NFCO, and she enjoys being a part of such a musical, collaborative project.

Faith Tracy (Myna Birds/Courtiers) has performed in four operas with NCFO. Thank you NCFO for giving me an opportunity to learn to sing so much later in life. This has been a special time being with her daughter Tessa who always inspires and motivates her mom. Thank you to Joe for taking such good care of Cameron, age 6, and Nolan, age 5, who will soon be performing. They are waiting for the next production of Space Opera. She misses performing with Ryan, age 14, who was in the last four NCFO productions, but will be looking forward to having him enthusiastically supporting her in the audience.

Tessa Tracy (Myna Bird Soloist, Myna Birds/Courtiers) is 12 years old and in the 7th grade at the King Open School. This is her fifth year performing with NCFO. She started when she was 8 years old and her love for performing has branched off into school productions, Into the Woods last year and Music Man this year, put on by Beyond the Fourth Wall at the King Open School. Tessa also had a part in The Tempest for the Cambridge All City Drama Club at the CRLS last year. She also enjoys singing at church at St. Catherine's in Somerville. Tessa loves soccer, double dutch, baking, traveling (recently visiting
Japan and NYC), and being with her friends. She has three brothers who think she is pretty amazing! She misses performing with her older brother, Ryan, though. Those were the good old days.

**Tim Traversy** (Rajah the Weaver, Myna Birds/Courtiers) is a 7th-grader at the Peabody School. Past performances of Tim’s include the NCFO’s *Kids Court* and *Puzzle Jigs*, *Christmas Revels*, Longwood Players’ *Merrily We Roll Along*, and Watertown Children’s Theater’s *Peter Pan*. Tim has also performed with the Peabody Early Bird Singers, and has trained at Wheelock Family Theater, New England Conservatory, and the New School of Music. Tim enjoys playing basketball and hockey, film making, playing the cello, and dancing. He’s thrilled to be playing Rajah in this year’s performance.

**Isabela Trumble** (Peacocks/Courtiers) I am a 5th-grader at Escuela Amigos. My previous experiences in performance include Bilingual Theatre & Movement, as well as West African Drumming & Dance through the Martin Luther King Community School. I also enjoyed a great year at Boston Children’s Opera in the 2006-07 season. I would like to thank my tía Natatcha for always inspiring me and my abuelita for taking me to a very funny performance of *Candide* in Milan.

**Peter Watson** (Set Design) has been “in theatre” since childhood, receiving set-building instruction from his father and subsequently majoring in theatre at school in London. Following a successful college-level teaching career in England, Peter toured India for three years with RTG—a theatre company performing Shakespeare and musical comedy. Since settling in New England, Peter has designed over fifty shows for a wide variety of performance groups and is currently adjunct Professor of Scenic Design at Lasell College in Newton, and Technical Director at Dana Hall School in Wellesley. This is Peter’s fourth show for NCFO: he also designed the set for *Antiphony* (2006), *Kids Court* (2007) and *Puzzle Jigs* (2008).

**Megan Wilson** (The Jackal, Peacocks/Courtiers) attends Belmont High School, from which she hopes to graduate in the absurdly near future; aside from music, she enjoys history, classics, and mathematics. She helped out with makeup for *Puzzle Jigs* in 2008, but this year she pops up on stage as well. She joined her first choir ten years ago, her first theater group nine years ago, and began vocal lessons five years ago. Thanks to Ma for driving here, Jenny for driving home, and Wex for forcing the audition.

**Suzan Wolpow-Gill** (Peacocks/Courtiers) is enjoying this first experience in NCFO; it is her first return to formal singing since “major girls’ chorus” in high school, long ago. Suzan is a psychotherapist and consultant working in Cambridge and is happy to be in this year’s opera with her favorite peacocks, her daughter Laura, and Laura’s friend of 9 years (!), Nicole. She is also glad to be participating with this great community group.
Mission Statement

The North Cambridge Family Opera (NCFO) provides an opportunity for children and adults to experience and enjoy telling a story through song by performing original, high-quality, fully-sung operas and oratorios for audiences of all ages. Our casts of children and adults come from Cambridge and other communities in the greater Boston area. We encourage participation by multiple family members. Solo and chorus roles varying widely in difficulty are assigned to both children and adults, so that everyone is both challenged and given an opportunity to succeed. To the extent possible, productions are financed through donations and volunteerism.

NCFO began as participants in the second North Cambridge (NoCa) All Arts Open Studios weekend in May 1999, and has since incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit and produced a family opera every spring.

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