The Premiere Performance of
The
Coronation of Esther

Music and Libretto by David Bass

Presented by the North Cambridge Family Opera Company

at the Tobin School
197 Vassal Lane Cambridge, MA
March 10 & 11, 2001
March 17 & 18, 2001
March 24 & 25, 2001
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The Coronation of Esther
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North Cambridge Family Opera

The North Cambridge Family Opera company began as an informal group of children and adults who gathered to perform at the North Cambridge (NoCa) open studios weekend in May 1999. We found the experience of singing opera to be a unique way to strengthen families, to build friendships, and to enhance relationships between generations.

Our mission is to provide children and adults the opportunity to experience and enjoy the telling of a story through song, by performing operas which are

◆ sung throughout (few spoken lines, if any);
◆ based on stories appealing to children (both boys and girls), as well as to adults; and
◆ musically accessible to children but sophisticated enough to hold the interest of adults.

Casts and crews are comprised of children and adults, with participation by multiple family members encouraged. Both children and adults are cast in solo roles.

To the extent possible, the productions are financed through donations and volunteerism. We seek to minimize fees on performers and admission so that financial considerations will not prevent families from participating in a production or attending a performance.

For more information, and to sign up for our mailing list, check out our web site at:

www.familyopera.com

Offices Hours By Appointment

Jonathan K. Moy, D.C.
1093 Beacon Street
Brookline, MA 02446
Telephone: (617) 566-0934
The North Cambridge Family Opera Company
Presents
The
Coronation of Esther
Music and Libretto by David Bass
Produced and Directed by David Bass
http://www.familyopera.com

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Shellie Léger

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GRAPHIC DESIGN
Cheryl Moreau

SOUND
Rob Ignacio of Porter Square Studio

CONCESSION CAPTAIN
Claudette Beit-Aharon

MAKEUP
Leilah Feinstein & Shellie Léger

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Synopsis

The opera opens in Shushan, in ancient Persia, to which King Ahashveros has just moved the seat of government of his vast empire. To celebrate, the King has held a six-month long party culminating in a week-long feast for the entire population of Shushan. The king entertains the rowdy male population, while his beautiful but modest Queen Vashti entertains the women. In his wine-induced exuberance, the King boasts of Vashti's beauty to the crowd and orders her to disrobe before the men of Shushan. She refuses, and the enraged king orders Memucan, his Grand Vizier, to devise a suitable punishment. On Memucan's advice, the King orders Vashti to be irrevocably banished and all her possessions confiscated.

Some months later, Ahashveros regrets the banishment of his favorite wife and seeks to blame Memucan. Memucan suggests that a contest be held to find a replacement for Vashti. All the fairest maidens in the Persian empire would be collected and placed under the care of Hegai, the keeper of the King's women. Then each evening, Ahashveros would "interview" one of the candidates until dawn, until he has gone through them all or until he finds one to make his queen. The King says he will let Memucan live if the plan allows him to find a woman who can replace Vashti.

Mordechai is a Jew in Shushan with political ambitions. He has raised his orphaned cousin Esther from infancy, and she is now a beautiful young woman. Although Esther has no interest in being queen, Mordechai gives her to Memucan anyway, in hopes of currying favor with the Grand Vizier and gaining access in the King's palace. Esther becomes Hegai's favorite, and when it's her turn to see the King, Hegai advises her to dress elaborately for him, as the other interviewees have done. However, Esther chooses to wear only a plain white dress. Esther's beauty and modest dress reminds the King of Vashti, and he selects her to be his new queen. Esther is crowned, and all the Persians celebrate.
CAST
March 10th and March 18th

SOLOISTS
in order of appearance

Ahashveros ...............Christian Nolen/David Sandberg
Vashti ......................Kathryn Van Eck
Bizzetha ....................Indigo Dow
Mehuman ....................Jennifer Dudley
Memucan ....................Joe Cesario
Mordechaiti ................Garrett Murphy
Esther ......................Tamara Ivanovic
Hegai .......................Ines Ivanovic
Monica .....................Ann Marie King
High Priest ................Anne Dow

And a CHORUS of Movers and Shakers:

Beit-Aharon, Miriam Beit-Aharon, Nathan Beit-Aharon,
Noah Beit-Aharon, Joe Cesario, Diana Dill, Evie Dill,
Anne Dow, Indigo Dow, Jennifer Dudley, Leilah
Feinstein, Chad Green, Sue Hall, Violet Haszonics, Ines
Ivanovic, Ludmilla Ivanovic, Tamara Ivanovic, Kieran
Kinnare, Nina Krane, Ann Marie King, Shellie Léger,
Kathy Lindsay, Jeff Moore, Cheryl Moreau, Jenny
Mosley, Garrett Murphy, Chace Nolen, Christian Nolen,
Patrick O'Sullivan, Mary Lou Pierron, Timmy Pierron,
William Pike, Paul Raila, Christine Reif, David Sandberg,
Ilana Sandberg, Estée Schpeiser, Tarsha Stacke, Chan-
Sophie Vester, Jodi Waldron, Martha Wechsler, Adam
Weinreb, Dan Weinreb, Cindy Woolworth
CAST
March 11th and March 24th

SOLOISTS
in order of appearance

Ahashveros .................. Christian Nolen
Vashti .................. Kathryn Van Eck/Nancy Johnston
Bizzetha .................. Adam Weinreb
Mehuman .................. Chace Nolan
Memucan .................. Paul Raila
Mordechai .................. Robert Bass
Esther .................. Lonnie Bass
Hegai .................. Nina Krane
Monica .................. Shellie Léger
High Priest .................. Frankie Walker

And a CHORUS of Movers and Shakers:

Beit-Aharon, Miriam Beit-Aharon, Nathan Beit-Aharon,
Noah Beit-Aharon, Joe Cesario, Diana Dill, Evie Dill,
Anne Dow, Indigo Dow, Jennifer Dudley, Leilah
Feinstein, Chad Green, Sue Hall, Violet Haszonics, Ines
Ivanovic, Ludmilla Ivanovic, Tamara Ivanovic, Kieran
Kinnare, Nina Krane, Ann Marie King, Shellie Léger,
Kathy Lindsay, Jeff Moore, Cheryl Moreau, Jenny
Mosley, Garrett Murphy, Chace Nolen, Christian Nolen,
Patrick O'Sullivan, Mary Lou Pierron, Timmy Pierron,
William Pike, Paul Raila, Christine Reif, David Sandberg,
Ilana Sandberg, Estée Schpeiser, Tarsha Stacke,
Chana-Sophie Vester, Jodi Waldron, Martha Wechsler,
Adam Weinreb, Dan Weinreb, Cindy Woolworth
CAST
March 17th and March 25th

SOLOISTS
in order of appearance

Ahashveros .................. David Sandberg
Vashti ......................... Shoshana Feinstein
Bizzetha ........................ Chad Green
Mehuman ........................ Evie Dill
Memucan ........................ Jeff Moore
Mordechai ...................... Patrick O'Sullivan
Esther ........................ Leilah Feinstein
Hegai ........................... Miriam Beit-Aharon
Monica ........................ Christine Reif
High Priest ..................... Kathy Lindsay

And a CHORUS of Movers and Shakers:

Beit-Aharon, Miriam Beit-Aharon, Nathan Beit-Aharon,
Noah Beit-Aharon, Joe Cesario, Diana Dill, Evie Dill,
Anne Dow, Indigo Dow, Jennifer Dudley, Leilah
Feinstein, Chad Green, Sue Hall, Violet Haszonics, Ines
Ivanovic, Ludmilla Ivanovic, Tamara Ivanovic, Kieran
Kinnare, Nina Krane, Ann Marie King, Shellie Léger,
Kathy Lindsay, Jeff Moore, Cheryl Moreau, Jenny
Mosley, Garrett Murphy, Chace Nolen, Christian Nolen,
Patrick O’Sullivan, Mary Lou Pierron, Timmy Pierron,
William Pike, Paul Raila, Christine Reif, David Sandberg,
Ilana Sandberg, Estée Schpeiser, Tarsha Stacke,
Chana-Sophie Vester, Jodi Waldron, Martha Wechsler,
Adam Weinreb, Dan Weinreb, Cindy Woolworth
In the Palace of King Ahashveros of Persia in Shushan

1. The Men's Party (I) ........ The Men of Shushan
2. The Women's Party ................. Queen Vashti and the Women of Shushan
3. The Men's Party (II) ........ Bizzetha, Mehumian and Ahashveros
4. The Best ...................... Ahashveros and the Men
5. The King's Command ........ Ahashveros, Mehumian, the Men, and the Women
6. If I Perish ..................... Vashti
7. Ocean of Love .................... Vashti
8. The King's Rage ................. Vashti and Ahashveros
9. Memucan's Wisdom ................. Memucan
10. Finale ......................... Ahashveros, Vashti, the Men, and the Women
ACT II

In and around the Palace of King Ahashveros in Shushan

1. I Miss Her ........................................ Ahashveros
2. Plan B ........................................ Ahashveros and Memucan
3. The King’s Gate .................................. Mordechai and the Citizens of Shushan
4. Tryst .............................................. Mordechai and Esther
5. Come Away ...................................... Hegai
6. What to Wear ..................................... Hegai
7. No Fury ............................................. Monica
8. Plain White Dress .............................. Esther and Ahashveros
Charlotte Ames (Chorus) age 8, is in third grade at Bridge School in Lexington. She enjoys art, humorous literature, bike rides, soccer, basketball, girl scouting, and collecting cute animals. She has a pet hamster named Nibbles.

David Bass (Director) is the founder and musical director of the North Cambridge Family Opera company. He was a prolific composer of pretentious music as a teenager, but became discouraged in college and pursued a career in chemical engineering instead. After a 20-year hiatus from musical composition, David has written two distinctly unpretentious operas for the enjoyment of his three young children, their friends, and their families: Space Opera, which he produced and directed May 1999 and May 2000, and the Coronation of Esther. David plans to continue writing music for as long as he can avoid taking himself too seriously.

Lonnie Bass (Esther) is almost 9 and is a 3rd-grader at the Cambridge Friends School. Lonnie studies Suzuki violin and sings in a chorus at the Longy School of Music, and she studies gymnastics at the Deborah Mason School of Dance. Lonnie also likes playing soccer, Barbies, and computer games, writing and illustrating her own stories, and playing with her little sister and big brother. She was Jabba the Hutt in the 1999 production of Space Opera and Luke Skywalker in the 2000 production.

Robert Bass (Mordechai) is 11 and a 6th-grader at the Longfellow School in Cambridge. Robert enjoys music: he plays clarinet and drums and sings in a chorus at the Longy School of Music. Robert also likes programming his computer, video games, jumping on the trampoline, and building Legos. He was Luke Skywalker in the 1999 production of Space Opera and Han Solo in the 2000 production.

Jonathan Beit-Aharon (Chorus) enjoys doing things with his children. Having been but a lowly shepherd in the Middle East, he has definitely come a long way to become an invitee to the great king's feast.

Miriam Beit-Aharon (Hegai) is a 9-year-old home-schooler, first in her grade. Having been killed twice by Chewbacca in last year's performance of Space Opera, this year, Miriam has acquired a more peaceful job as a eunuch. Down at the king's gate, Miriam is a Mover.

Nathan Beit-Aharon (Chorus) is a 17-year-old Junior at Newton North High School, but Esther is still his first bacchanalia. Last year he helped choreograph the storm-troopers in David Bass' Space Opera. There being no Lord Low Priest of Persia, Nathan has no solo. Down at the king's gate, Nathan is a Shaker.

Noah Beit-Aharon (Chorus) is a 13-year-old home-schooler, head storm-trooper last year in Space Opera. Noah has been celebrating
for half a year in preparation for *The Coronation of Esther*, and he really enjoys the king's most regal splendor.

**Joe Cesario** (Memucan): Joe is the Human Resource Coordinator at Coolidge House Genesis Elder Care in Brookline. He is the Music Director at Saint Peter's in Malden, studies voice with Hanni Myers of Newton, sings with and occasionally solos with the Avenue of the Arts Chorale, Boston and Polynmia Chorale Society, Melrose. Joe has also sung with the Brookline Chorus and Boston Lyric Opera.

**Diana Dill** (Chorus) is a Cambridge psychologist. She likes to bike, garden, design interior spaces, read, write, and sing. This is her first opera, and her first time on stage since age 14, and it revives her childhood interest in theatre, when she used to write plays for the neighborhood.

**Evie Dill** (Mehuman) is 6 1/2 and goes to Cambridge Friends School. She likes to sing, play violin and song flute, read, write songs, and act. Past roles have included Terry the Pterodactyl in *Prehistoric Pork*, Nightmare Girl in *Superman*, Princess in *The Singing Ringing Tree*, and a bouncing baby opposite Alan Alda in *It's a Kid's World*.

**Anne Dow** (High Priest) is a veteran of many years singing in oratorios and cantatas with Boston's Chorus Pro Musica and the Cantata Singers, but had not sung opera since college. It took her grandson Indigo to bring it about. (He has succeeded in persuading this kindergarten art failure to join him in potting on a wheel, too!) Other interests include folk music (she accompanies herself on guitar and mountain dulcimer), sea kayaking, SCUBA, cross-country skiing, travel, and food. Around the edges, she develops multi-media programs to teach English in Asia - making as much use as possible of music!

**Indigo Dow** (Bizzetha) is a 4th grader at Cambridge Friends School. He has played djembe (a Senegalese drum) since he was in diapers and often accompanies African dancing. He also plays the piano and the steel drum. As a kindergartner, he made his singing debut at Symphony Hall in a performance of *Amistad* under the baton of its composer, John Williams. He loves attending musical theater and is excited about getting to be on the other side of the footlights in *The Coronation of Esther*. In addition to music, he likes video and computer games, magic, snowboarding, sailing, kayaking, snorkeling - and spicy food!

**Jennifer Dudley** (Mehuman) is a 10 year old home-schooler who likes to act and sing. She has 3 cats and she loves them all. Some of her favorite activities are skiing and swimming. Last spring she appeared as Luke Skywalker in the North Cambridge Family Opera production of *Space Opera*. Her most recent shows are *The Miracle Worker* and
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Good luck!

Chace,

Goo, Gah,

(Drool, Cheese)

Theo!

Congratulations Nina!

From
Emma,
Mama,
and
Daddy

To the Cast of
The Coronation of Esther:
Best of Luck!!

Saul and Jackie
Feinstein
Grandparents of Leilah
and
Parents of Shoshana

Lonnie,

Break a leg. I know you'll make as good a cousin as you do a sister!

From Robert
To the Guy Who's Always Tops to Us!
Congratulations
Patrick O'Sullivan!
from Mom & Dad

NINA & FRIENDS
☆☆☆☆
☆☆BREAK A LEG!☆
much love,
The Schwartz and Brantley Families
and
Friends

Congratulations to North Cambridge Family Opera Co.
At Purim time we're glad to trek,
To the north of Cambridge, there to fête,
Good over evil once and for all.
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Miriam, Noah and Nathan swell the chorus,
Joined by their parents, grandparents too
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Leilah Feinstein (Esther) enjoys theatre very much, and when she was in 5th grade she played the role of Scheherazade, the storyteller in Aladdin and the Magic Lamp, a production of the Hennigan School. She is a member of the Riverside Theatre Works company in Hyde Park, where she recently played the role of Hodel in Fiddler on the Roof and Rizzo in Grease. She is currently working on the role of Fastrada in Pippin, to be presented in June. She has devoted her time to dancing, her life to singing and acting, and hopes to have her own punk-rock band sometime in the near future. Some of her hobbies include: talking to her friends on the phone, hanging out with her friends, and doing impersonations of Manny the Crocodile Hunter and Ms. Swan from Mad TV.

Shoshana Feinstein (Vashti) is the founder of Impromptu Music Studios in Providence, R.I. where she tutors private voice and piano. An advocate of the Bel Canto school, Shoshana studied voice at Boston University, The Bel Canto Institute under the direction of Jane Bakken-Klavier, and received her degree in Music and Theatre from Roger Williams University. Boston’s distinguished tenor Mr. Kaji Aso is her vocal coach and she has performed the roles of Carmen, Violetta, Madama Butterfly and most recently Donna Anna with him. As well as performing with The Bel Canto Opera Company of Rhode Island and The Opera company of Boston, Shoshana performs with her original band Shoshana’s Anam Cara. She released her first CD Anam Cara available on Judith Records and has begun production of her second CD. To find out much more about Shoshana, please visit her web site: www.womeninproduction.com

Chad Green (Bizzetha) is 11 years old and in 6th grade at the St. Peter School in Cambridge. This is Chad’s second North Cambridge Family Opera performance. He made his debut in the 1999 production of Space Opera as Stormtrooper #4 and Rebel #4. In his spare time, Chad loves to play sports, read, sleep and play video games.

Sue Hall (Chorus) is the mom of Lonnie and Robert Bass (as well as 3-year-old future star Reina Bass). David may be king of the Bass household, but Sue is the power behind the throne. Before her transition to stay-at-home mom, she taught math and operations to undergrad and MBA students at Babson College. She enjoys playing the piano and playing on the computer and was also in the chorus in the 1999 and 2000 productions of Space Opera.

Violet Haszonics (Chorus) is 8 years old. It is her first time in the Opera. Violet has a big sense of humor and is very creative. She likes to draw, read, and build things. She wants to be an archaeologist
and/or computer game maker when she grows up. Violet goes to Cambridge Friends School and takes Tae Kwon Do lessons.

Ines Ivanovic (Hegai) is in the first grade at the Waldorf School and wants to be there through high school. She wants to be rich and build a castle when she grows up. She has studied cello for the past three years at the Suzuki School of Newton with Ben Petterson and ballet at the Boston Ballet School, playing a “mouse” for the past two years with the Ballet Theatre of Boston. She has performed as part of the Pow Wow Production 2000 at the Powers Music School and she has been part of both the Circus Yoga Program at Kripalu and the Ogontz Suzuki Summer Camp. Ines wants to find a tennis coach and start competing all over the world. She is mostly excited about being part of this production, especially when playing Hegai—but she doesn’t want to do too much, so that she can have more time to play by herself at home. Thank you Mr. David Bass for giving me this chance!

Ludmilla R. L. Ivanovic (Chorus) It is for these moments that I insisted on adding yet “another project” to our already busy family life (and I hope my husband will agree when he sees the show): After seeing Ahashveros banishing Vashti for the first time in rehearsal, my children were very upset. Since then, our car ride home has consisted of reversing the whole play, to the extent that Vashti banishes Ahashveros for not appearing before “the women of the town wearing nothing but his crown!” My dream of becoming an actress unites with the reverence I experience every day of learning to be a Mother. I’d like to thank Linda for attempting to make me into an alto and to David for this incredible family opportunity.

Tamara Ivanovic (Esther) is very proud and excited to be part of her first opera experience with the NCFOC. In the past year, she has taken on the challenge to try home schooling (and loving it!), which has enabled her to be part of the Boston Ballet’s Nutcracker (as a Polichinelle) and to join the Tumble Kids Gymnastics Team (Bahamas meet, 2001). In the past, she has performed in three productions of Pow Wow at the Power’s Music School (1998-99-2000). The Atrium School and the Suzuki School of Newton have also offered opportunities to perform, as well as incredible experiences as part of Circus Yoga at Kripalu, Ogontz Suzuki Summer Camp (violin) and Ballet Theatre of Boston’s The Nutcracker. Tamara would like to thank all of her wonderful teachers and especially David Bass for giving her the wonderful opportunity to “be Esther.”

Nancy Lee Johnston (Vashti) studied opera performance at the American Institute of Musical Studies (AIMS) in Graz, Austria, and most recently coached in Vienna with Kristin Okerlund of the Vienna
State Opera. Nancy Lee has found herself drawn to the Viennese Operetta and song and always includes them with her concert repertoire. She has sung in Boston, California, Connecticut, and Vermont and she has performed with the San Diego and Connecticut Opera choruses. For her other life, Nancy Lee is the Technical Writer for Kaplan College Online Colleges.

Ann Marie King (Monica) is excited to be performing as Monica in The Coronation of Esther. She has performed in many musical theater productions in the New England area. Some of her favorite roles are Philia in A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Miss Jones in How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, and Morgan le Fey in Camelot. Other favorite roles include Bianca in Taming of the Shrew, and Peg in O My Heart, and Valentine’s Day in a dinner theater production of Holiday’s, Inc. In her spare time, she is also a cantor at church, a performer in road shows, a spokesmodel, and an actor in commercials. She thanks her family, friends, and theatergoers for their support, especially her parents, brother, the Dalys, Tim, and Steve.

Kieran Kinnane (Chorus): This is Kieran's second year with the NCFOC. Now that he is in second grade, he signs up for 3 slices of pizza instead of just 2 after rehearsals; that is, when he doesn't have to rush back home to Ipswich.

Nina Krane (Hegai) is 8 years old and lives in Somerville and is a 3rd grader at the Cambridge Friends School. She sang the role of C3-PO in her opera debut, the 2000 Family Opera production of Space Opera. Nina loves reading, classic crooners, and funny movies. To her family and friends, Nina is already a STAR!

Shellie Léger (Monica) is a 40-year-old single mom of three. Two of her children join her for Coronation of Esther, Estée and Leon Schpeiser. Isobel cheers them on from the audience. Shellie has an MSW and an MBA. Although she has a lot more fun singing and dancing and directing, she is not ready to leave her day job. In her first life she acted in NYC in several productions, mostly under the Manhattan Bridge in a loft with no heat...ah...to be young again. Greek tragedy was her favorite, because she got to wear really cool clothes. Shellie is having a blast singing Monica, the Persian version of trailer trash, and a woman after her own heart—still trying to marry up.

Kathy Lindsay (High Priest): Engineer by day, mother of two by night, Kathy is glad to have such an artistic outlet to fill in the gaps. Tired of the paranoia involved with being a droid, she has found religion, and where else to start but at the top!

Jeff Moore (Memucan) is a Waltham softwaresmith, is in his third sea-
son with NCFOC. This is the first time he won't be playing Darth Vader, and it's quite an adjustment. He's not allowed to order King Ahashveros around, and he has to learn to sing without a helmet. An MIT grad, Jeff has been singing David Bass's music for nearly twenty years, including the last two years nonstop around the house; just ask his wife Kathy Lindsay or his two daughters.

Cheryl Moreau (Chorus) performed in the 2000 production of *Space Opera* as a Storm Trooper and participates in publicity, graphics, fund-raising, and administration for the opera company. Her other interests include gardening, fine cuisine, knitting, nineteenth-century literature, early music, volunteer work for Cambridge Friends School, camping, reading, yoga, and taking care of Dan and Adam.

Jenny Mosley (Chorus) is a software consultant and homemaker in Belmont. She is an expert on origami made from business cards. This is her first performance on a public stage in over 30 years.

Garrett Murphy (Mordechai), age 11 is a 5th grader in Wellesley. He's in his fifth year with the Boston Children's Opera, and also has sung with Youth Pro Musica, Revels, and the B.U. Grad. School of Opera. He "moonlights" in musicals- most recently as Young Josh in *Big* at the Footlight Club.

Patrick O'Sullivan (Mordechai) This twelve-year-old debuted as Hans Solo in last year's production of *Space Opera*. Patrick is a member of the Handel and Haydn children's chorus, Somerville's Openair Circus, the Boy Scouts, and editor and restaurant critic for Dr. Information, a home schooling newspaper. Patrick enjoys history, double-diamond skiing, gourmet food, and telling his mother she's singing off pitch.

Mary Lou Pierron (Chorus), mother of Timmy, is a psychologist at Somerville Mental Health Center. This is her first performance with the Opera. Her previous theatrical credits occurred so many years ago that they have been lost in the mists of time.

Timmy Pierron (Chorus) is an 8-1/2-year-old 3rd grader at Cambridge Friends School. This is his first performance with the Opera although, at age 5, he was a terrific mischievous monkey in *Too Many Hats*. Timmy's passions include Nintendo, Pokemon, and whistling. (Ask him for a demonstration!)

William Pike, (Chorus) a Physicist/rocket scientist for a defense company in NH, was born in New York City, raised in rural Maine, and currently resides in the metropolis of Arlington. This is William's first appearance in an opera. In fact, he has never seen or heard opera before (except for Bugs Bunny's *Barber of Seville*). His current hobbies include contra dancing, studying for Bar Mitzvah, and commuting...
to work.

**Paul Raila** (Memucan) is now in his third season with NCFOC. His musical theater credits include the roles of: Obi-Wan Kenobi in *Space Opera*, Matt in *The Fantastiks*, and the Barber in *Man of LaMancha*. He has sung in the Chorus for productions of *Pirates of Penzance*, *Trial by Jury*, and *Camelot*. He currently sings with the Cambridge Community Chorus (mixed voice chorus), and in his distant guilty past also sang with the MIT Logarithms (men's a cappella ensemble). When not dispensing questionable advice to biblical Kings he provides first rate advice for the development of New Media technologies and applications.

**Christine Reif** (Monica) is not new to disappointment. She has been snubbed by some of the best, including "Slick Willy" Clinton, John F. Kennedy, Stephen Stills, Jeff Bridges and Mel Gibson. Says Chris, "Well, I guess I'll have to make do with my husband (Tom Kinnare, stage crew)." Chris is also not new to the NCFOC, having given a startlingly life-like performance as a Stormtrooper in last year's production of *Space Opera*. She attributes her success in the earlier role to her many years of motherhood and project management.

**David Sandberg** (Ahashveros) has been performing light opera and other musical theater since high school, including playing the Major General in a Hebrew production of the *Pirates of Penzance*. He is the unofficial cantor of Temple Beth Shalom on Tremont Street in Cambridge. During the week, he is the in-house counsel of a Cambridge software company and is also half-way through his courses for a PhD in English literature.

**Ilana Sandberg** (Chorus) will be seven years old in May. She likes gymnastics, swimming and ice-skating. She enjoys playing with her cats, dog and mouse. She also likes her little sister Lilly, who wishes she were old enough to be in the show.

**Estée Schpelser** (Chorus) is an 8-year-old 3rd grader at the Fitzgerald School. She loves acting and singing, though her first love is writing. She hopes to both write and illustrate books about animals when she grows up, in addition to being a veterinarian and a teacher!

**Levon Schpelser** (Chorus) is a 12-year-old 6th grader at the Fitzgerald School. He loves vintage rock and roll, Napster, Baldur's Gate II, and the comedy studio at the Hong Kong in Harvard Square. He's a great DJ and wants to go to Stanford when he grows up to study law.

**Tarsha Stacke, MS Ed.** (Chorus) has a budding complementary Healing Arts Practice called Stepping Stones and a cozy Bed and Breakfast called Patchwork Quilt. She is a practitioner of the following modali-
ties: movement, tai chi and chi kung - bodywork, shiatsu and reflexology - herbal remedies, homeopathy and education, a teacher of young children with special needs. She is a part-time faculty member of the Waldorf School in Lexington and the Boston Shiatsu School in Cambridge. Encouraged to take up singing by her teacher Nancy Johnston, this is Tarsha's first singing endeavor.

Kathryn Van Eck (Vashti) is excited to make her debut with NCFO. Originally from the Chicago area, she recently graduated from Indiana University School of Music with a Bachelor's Degree in Voice Performance. She has sung many roles; a few of which are Sorella Infirmiera In Puccini's Suor Angelica, Julie in Showboat, and the Matchmaker in Fiddler on the Roof. Specializing in contemporary music, she has been chosen to sing the world premieres of pieces by Alexander de Varon, Lincoln Hanks, Jason Bahr, Molly Klien, and Donald Freund, the chairman of the composition department at IU. In addition to contemporary music, her oratorio experience includes soloing with the University Singers in their performance of the Messiah and the Wachet auf cantata by Johann Sebastian Bach, under the baton of Dr. Jan Harrington, performances of The Seven Last Words by Thomas Dubois and King David by Arthur Honegger. Ms. Van Eck sings with the Boston Coro di Camera at 1st and 2nd Unitarian Universalist Church.

Chana–Sophie Vester (Chorus) was born in Freiburg, Germany in September 1994. At age 2 she returned to the United States with her mother, Devorah. Since 1997, Chana-Sophie and Devorah have been living in Cambridge and Arlington. Chana-Sophie is a lover of the arts: music, dance and, especially, all creative crafts such as painting, drawing, ceramics and constructive design. Chana-Sophie also has a passion for literature and animals, above all, cats and horses. She is an active member of the Tremont Street Shul in Cambridge and is currently in the first grade at Moimonides in Brookline.

Frank Walker (High Priest) currently resides in Watertown. Mr. Walker attended the New England and Boston Conservatories of Music. He has appeared with the Boston Lyric Opera, Longwood Opera, and the Opera Company of Boston. He was Darth Vader in last year's production of Space Opera.

Martha Wechsler (Chorus) is a 9-year-old 3rd grader at the Butler School in Belmont. She is learning to play the cello, and she likes to draw and visit art museums.

Adam Weinreb (Chorus) is a 9-year old 3rd-grader at Cambridge Friends School, where he and Lonnie encouraged their friends to join the opera company. He performed in the 2000 production of Space
Opera as a Jawa and a Storm Trooper. He also appreciates the music of The Beatles, Eiffel 65, and Blue Man Group. He likes reptiles, Legos, computer games, and anything from Australia.

**Dan Weinreb** (Chorus) performed in the 2000 production of Space Opera as General Dodonna, a Storm Trooper, a Rebel, and an Alien. His other interests include object-oriented databases and other software, kites, reading, progressive rock, Cheryl, and Adam.

**Cindy Woolworth** (Chorus) is an artistic Lexington matron whose previous singing credits include the New Jersey All-State Chorus, the Choralaires of MIT, and two seasons of Space Opera. Her other interests include parenting Charlotte and Harry Ames, spending time with Mike Ames, software testing, costumery, gardening, photography, sky events—and playing.

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Karen

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Set Crew:
Mike Ames
David Bass
Johathan Beit-Aharon
Nathan Beit-Aharon
Noah Beit-Aharon
David Browne
Phil Budne
Tom Kinnare
Jenny Mosley
Garrett Murphy
Steve Murphy
Paul Raila
Donald O'Sullivan
Patrick O'Sullivan
David Sandberg
Matthew Schreiner
Dale Senechal
Dan Weinreb
and an assortment of
cast members who
helped paint the set

Makeup
Leilah Feinstein
Shellie Léger

Stage Crew:
Mike Ames
Tom Kinnare

Light Board:
Dale Senechal

Props:
Sue Hall
Martha Weschler
Lonnie Bass
Robert Bass

Score Reproduction:
Kiki Mercer
Paul Mercer

Cast Photos:
Paul Raila
Alysa Dudley

Concessions/Usners
Bonnie Donohue
Shana Feinstein
Mary Klagholz
Amy Krane
Dina Mardell
Linda Papatopoli
Lilly Sandberg
and other generous
volunteers

T-Shirts:
Cheryl Moreau
Shellie Léger
Sue Hall

Costumes:
Roberta Green
Sue Hall
Kathy Lindsay
Linda Papatopoli
Chris Reif
Lisa Thomas
Cindy Woolworth

Thanks to adult cast members who helped shepherd children backstage.

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We would like to thank the Mark Sandman Music Education Fund, whose generous grant to the North Cambridge Family Opera Company helped to support this production.

We are deeply grateful to Principal Donald Watson of the Tobin School and to the City of Cambridge for their gracious support and use of their facilities.

Thanks also to Frederick Birkett and the Benjamin Banneker Charter School for providing space for set construction, and to the Deborah Mason School of Dance for providing rehearsal space.

Sociable thanks to our cast, crew, and friends for their boundless energy, enthusiasm, and financial support for this exciting project.

And, to Temple Beth El, Belmont, Mass: Thank you for your support!

North Cambridge Family Opera Company.

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**Star Notes**

Good luck Shayna! Hope the Dave Matthews Band doesn’t forget to show up! Love, Steven Seagal

Break a leg, Shellie! XO, Leilah

Go Estée! Love, Matthew

To the Cast of Esther: Break a leg! From, Kiki, Paul, and Robert Mercer

Jennifer, Congratulations on a “royally” good job! Love, Mom, Dad, Rachel and Heather

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THINK AGAIN are artists who strike back at mainstream ideas that perpetuate injustice. We believe that xerox machines and wheat-paste can still incite people to THINK AGAIN. AgitArt@aol.com
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Last night for dinner I had macaroni and cheese
At first I thought for sure it would be carrots and peas
Oh I got so excited by the change in the menu
That I will never switch to any other venue
Now I can't take that haute cuisine and I won't forget
My mother's awful brussel sprouts in sauce vinaigrette
Just try to make me eat such lousy stuff if you dare,
Because it's only macs and cheddar for Kieran Kinnare!

HAPPY SCEPTER HOLDING,
KIERAN! DON'T DROP IT!
LOVE, THE MAMA AND DADA

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The friends and family of Dan Weinreb, Adam Weinreb, and Cheryl Moreau wish the cast of The Coronation of Esther an "Ocean of Love", and best wishes for a successful opera season.

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