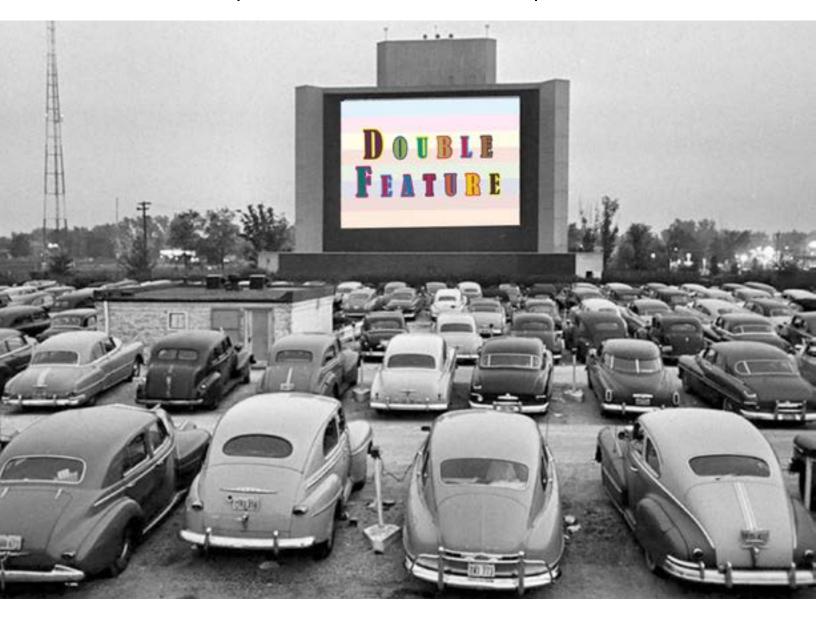




By Gioachino Rossini

Friday January 27 & Sunday January 29 7:00 pm | Center Stage Theater |Tickets \$20



WESTMONT COLLEGE OPERA PRODUCTION SPRING 2023

Dr. Ruth Lin, Musical Director | Christina Jensen, Stage Director | Sara Rockabrand, Vocal Director

Purchase Tickets at centerstagetheater.org



TRIAL BY JURY

Edwin has broken his promise of marriage to Angelina, jilting her on their wedding day. She responds not in tears and pleadings, but by hiring an attorney and taking him to court.

With the promise of another juicy trial, the chorus excitedly enter the courtroom and take their places.

Then, one by one the principal characters approach the bench. A very tardy Edwin runs into the courtroom. He takes his position as the Defendant and tries to explain his behavior toward Angelina. Next, the Judge enters. He entertains the court by telling them how – through hard work and a bit of wile – "he came to be a judge". A chorus of bridesmaids then escort a temporarily broken-hearted bride into court. She quickly changes her tune when she sets her sights on all of the attractive men in the courtroom. The Counsel for Angelina (the Plaintiff) advocates for her, weaving a tale of premeditated dalliance.

The Plaintiff takes her cue from her lawyer and feigns great heartbreak. She hopes the emotional distress she shows will not only sway the jury to her side, but also inflate the amount of damages awarded to her.

Thinking to save his wallet, the Defendant, agrees to marry the Plaintiff today and then another lady tomorrow. The Counsel for the Plaintiff quickly objects on the grounds that marrying two women at once is burglary. A desperate Defendant pleads that he is not a fit husband, especially when intoxicated. (The only way out of this marriage now is to say that he intends to be a cruel and negligent husband). The learned Judge does not buy this excuse. He proposes that they test this hypothesis and get the Defendant tipsy. The Counsel and the Plaintiff strenuously object to this proposal, though the Defendant is willing to try.

The whole case comes to a standstill until the Judge has an idea. He proposes to marry the Plaintiff. The Plaintiff readily agrees, knowing her new husband is richer and more socially connected than her previous lover. The entire court erupts in joy and they all exit to ensure that this husband-to-be does not run away.

THE SILKEN LADDER

Last night, Guilia and Dorvil were secretly married. However, they cannot start their life together until they break the news to Dormont, her guardian and tutor. They fear his disapproval since Dormont intended Guilia to marry Signore de Blansac.

Guilia concocts a clever plan. First, she creates a silken ladder out of her sheets. Every night – until they find the courage to reveal their relationship to Dormont – she will attach the ladder to her balcony, giving her new husband access to her room. Then, she will encourage a match between Signore de Blansac and her cousin, Lucilla, who has always carried a torch for him.

But first, Guilia must ensure that Signore de Blansac will repent of his licentious ways and be a true and faithful husband to Lucilla. Guilia employs Germano, the household servant, to spy on Blansac in exchange for a reward, which Germano misinterprets as her amorous favors. He hides behind the curtain to watch for Blansac.

Blansac arrives – with Dorvil, a friend he just happened to meet along the way – to woo Guilia. A jealous Dorvil attempts to dissuade Blansac from marrying Guilia, saying that she doesn't truly love him. Insulted, Blansac rises to the challenge and insists that Dorvil witness the triumphant seduction. Trapped in his own web, Dorvil hides in the wardrobe.

When Guilia returns, Blansac promises fidelity in love. Guilia is thrilled; her matchmaking now will not fail. Blansac mistakes her pleasure for romantic interest. Germano leaps forward, exclaiming that there is a man in his mistress' wardrobe. With feigned gallantry, Blansac extracts Dorvil, who sings of his disappointment at Guilia's apparent betrayal. Then they all turn on Germano to vent their anger and confusion.

When the others leave, Blansac starts making himself at home. Lucilla enters, looking for Guilia. Ecstatic with his supposed conquest, he tries it on with the meek Lucilla. He's taken aback by the force of the passion with which she meets his advances.

Night falls. Germano goes about his business of locking up the house for the night. He falls asleep half-hidden in Guilia's wardrobe. He overhears her plan to drop the silken ladder down for her nightly rendez-vous. She then leaves to prepare herself for her visitor. Thinking that Blansac is the intended lover, Germano blabs the plan to him.

Germano then hides under Guilia's bed in the hope of learning what women want. Lucilla slips into Guilia's room and encases herself in the wardrobe. She knows her cousin is expecting a man this evening and she is desperate to learn how to handle a man.

At midnight, Dorvil climbs up the ladder to his beloved. But, before they can enjoy the pleasure of each other's company, Blansac begins climbing up the ladder. In a panic, Guilia hides Dorvil. Blansac enters. Before he gets very far with Guilia, Dormont is heard outside. Guilia secrets Blansac in the wardrobe, just as her guardian enters.

Furious at Guilia's indiscretion, Dormont throws open the wardrobe. To everyone's surprise, Lucilla steps out. Unsatisfied, Dormont rages that there must be a man in the wardrobe. Blansac then appears. Dormont insists that Guilia and Blansac sign their marriage contract immediately. Germano is discovered trying to take shelter under the desk. Furious at his servant's brashness, Dormont nevertheless, wants to deal with Guilia first. He demands that Guilia take her husband's hand. Dorvil pops out of the chest, declaring that he is Guilia's husband. Guilia explains that her aunt charged her to marry only for love and so she married Dorvil. On this good advice, Blansac proposes to Lucilla. Dormont throws up his hands and gives them all his blessing. Rejoicing, they all sing about the power of love.

PRODUCTION TEAM

CostumersBonnie Scott, Olivia Knapp, Sophia Chan, & Lillian RobinsonSet and PropertiesNaomi Siragusa, Tasha Loh, Angela Tran, & Lillian RobinsonRehearsal PianistLonnie Ostrander

CAST

TRIAL BY JURY

Guilia

Dorvil

Lucilla

Blansac

Dormont

Germano

The Defendant (Edwin)	Micah Howard
The Plaintiff (Angelina)	Melissa Ellsworth
The Learned Judge	Sean Ryan
Counsel for the Plaintiff	Rachael Todd
Usher	Chandler Baker
Foreman of the Jury	Caleb Wilcox
Bridesmaids	Alyssa Burdick, Jordyn Clinton, Erin Hardin,
	Joy Sturges, & Katie Ticas
Jury	Chandler Baker, Nathan Carlin, Sibo Msibi,
	Lucca Rodriguez, & Caleb Wilcox
Public/Movie Personnel	Leighton Bell, Jessica Rosenfeld,
	Seqyouah Scales, & Phoebe Tilburt
THE SILKEN LADDER	

Joy Sturges Sibongakonkhe Msibi Nathan Carlin Katie Ticas Sean Ryan Caleb Wilcox

ORCHESTRA

<u>Violin I</u> Roxanna Montané Corrie Bascom

<u>Violin II</u> Elizabeth Callahan Genna Eberhard

<u>Viola</u> Isaac Siebelink Jordan Lam <u>Cello</u> Britta Thomas

<u>Bass</u> Ben Gillmer

<u>Flute</u> Mallory Phillips

<u>Oboe</u> Kirsten Potts Bassoon Tasha Loh

<u>Horn</u> Carly Field Sarah Remland

<u>Trumpet</u> Soren Warren Emma Bustemante

Videographer

Doug Conrad's Team

Photographer

Brad Elliot

Center Stage Theater

Teri Ball - Executive Director of Center Stage Theater Kai Kogo - Technical Director Britni Delorenzi - Stage Manager Jim Sirianni & Roni Ragone -

Music Department Staff

Keith Erickson Mandy Kellogg

Westmont Orchestra Crew

Eliana Choi Tasha Loh Carissa Corrigan Daniel Macy Genna Eberhard Andreas Olvera Carly Field Soren Warren Josh Jang

Special Thanks To

Dr. Michael Shasberger for his advanced planning of these productions

The Westmont Theatre Department. Especially Lynne Martens in the Costume Shop, for their help and support in costuming this production

Westmont Residence Life for help with opera bootcamp

Rachael Todd with help organizing meals for opera bootcamp

Marilyn Gilbert for her generosity and hospitality

BIOS

DR. RUTH LIN

Dr. Ruth Lin conducts the Westmont College Orchestra and serves as the Music department chair. Dr. Lin is an award-winning teacher and works with orchestras and conductors from around the country and around the world. She has presented at the College Orchestra Director Association Conference, and has co-authored an article for Association of Lutheran Church Musicians magazine, In Tempo. She earned her bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. Prior to her time at Westmont College, Dr. Lin was the Director of the Symphony Orchestra at Gustavus Adolphus College, where she also taught classes in classes in Conducting, Music Theory, Arranging, and a First Term Seminar in Film Music. She also served as the conductor of the Repertory Orchestra with the Minnesota Youth Symphonies.

CHRISTINA JENSEN

Christina Jensen, Stage Director, Dramaturge, and Playwright, thrives on the multifaceted challenges of telling stories. She explores the struggle between the emotional aspect of theatre and the cold logic of drama. Balancing these two opposing sides, as a director, she crafts beautiful and believable theatrical experiences.

After graduating from Westmont College with a double major in Music and Arts Criticism, Christina earned her M.F.A. in Dramaturgy from the American Repertory Theater/Moscow Art Theatre Institute for Advanced Theatre Training at Harvard University. While there she learned from world-renowned directors and worked with professional and student actors. She participated in several world premieres of new works as well as new productions of classic literature. During her study abroad in Moscow, she not only gained familiarity with the Russian language and culture, but also gained an appreciation for the creative soul of Moscow.

Christina has directed throughout Southern California. She has been a guest director for the University of California, Riverside, the Resident Stage Director of Redlands Opera Theatre, Stage Director for Independent Opera Company, and Stage Director/Playwright for FCC Players. *Trial By Jury & The Silken Ladder* will be her third collaboration with Westmont's Music Department. Her directorial credits include *The Tender Land, The Elixir of Love, Carmen, Gianni Schicchi, Faust, Eugene Onegin, Don Giovanni, HMS Pinafore, Amahl and the Night Visitors, Roméo et Juliette, Così Fan Tutte, Aleko, Pygmalion, Die Fledermaus, The Snow Maiden, The Tempest, and The Secret Garden.*

SARA ROCKABRAND

Sara Rockabrand (Vocal Director) retired to Santa Barbara in 2010 with her husband after an active teaching and performing career on the East Coast and the Midwest, and loves continuing to teach voice at Westmont College. She has been the Vocal Director for four previous Westmont opera productions and is delighted to have the opportunity to work once again with Director Christina Jensen, Music Director Dr. Ruth Lin and these wonderfully talented students in the production of this iconic American opera.

CHANDLER BAKER

Chandler Baker is a Junior studying physics and mathematics. He plays the bassoon and sings the bass. He has two arms and two legs and a cranium. His favorite type of noodle is penne. His resting heart rate is 71 beats per minute. The charges levied against him for foreign banking in Cuba have since disappeared and he walks a free man. Everybody has a price. If you must know, he plays the dictatorial Usher in *Trial By Jury*.

LEIGHTON BELL

Leighton Bell is a first year at Westmont. She is majoring in economics and business with a minor in music, focusing on the music industry for audio engineering and music production. She is also on the women's swim team where she is currently in season and spends most of her time outside of school training. She hopes to continue her passion for music production in Nashville after graduation. In her free time she loves the beach and going on walks with her dog.

ALYSSA BURDICK

Alyssa Burdick is a first year at Westmont, majoring in music and business. She is looking forward to participating in her first opera production as her role in the bridesmaids chorus! She is also part of Westmont's Choral Union and enjoys using the majority of her time towards the performing arts. She plans on attaining a BA in vocal performance and continuing her music education and career in New York!

NATHAN IGNACIO CARLIN

Nathan is a 3rd year Vocal Performance and Composition major at Westmont. This is his third opera experience, having playing characters like Grandpa Moss in Aaron Copland's *The Tender Land* and participating in the college's version of the *Elixir of Love*. Nathan Hopes to go on in his studies pursuing voice as his focus for his Master's degree and maybe later in life getting his Ph.D. For now Nathan continues to grow and progress here at Westmont with amazing faculty and great support from the program. Coming from a low income family, opportunities like this are something that Nathan is very grateful for. Nathan would like to thank his family, especially his mom, for supporting his career choice from the moment he decided that this was what he wanted to do. He thanks everyone who has shown up to support this great production and program, and hopes that you enjoy the hard work that everyone has put into this performance.

JORDYN CLINTON

Jordyn is a first year student who is super excited to be a Bridesmaid in the opera! You may have recently seen her in Westmont's production of *She Kills Monsters*, where she played the characters of Vera and Evil Gabbi. In her free time, Jordyn loves to travel, read and is an avid coffee lover. Back in Portland, she loves hiking and being outdoors. She can't wait to see where the next four years take her!

MELISSA ELLSWORTH

Melissa Ellsworth is a Freshman at Westmont studying political science on the pre- law track. She has been singing ever since she could talk and has been in a musical every year since she was eight. She is honored to be playing the part of Angelina in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Trial by Jury*. She would like to thank God, her family, Nichole Dechaine, and the amazing directors that made the opera possible Dr. Lin, Christian, and Mrs. Rockabrand. Enjoy the show!

ERIN HARDIN

Erin is a senior political science major and working towards a career as an attorney. She sings in Westmont's College Choir led by Dr. Daniel Gee and Neil Di Maggio and studies piano with Dr. Egle Januleviciute and voice with Chad Ruyle and Kathleen O'Brien. Erin played a townsperson in *The Tender Land* last year and is excited to join as a bridesmaid in *Trial by Jury*. Having spent her childhood dancing ballet, Erin likes to think she is slightly more graceful in real life. She would like to thank her past and present music and dance teachers, collaborative pianist Lonnie Ostrander for her encouragement and dedication to Westmont's music students, fellow cast/crew members, and opera directors Christina, Dr. Lin, and Mrs. Rockabrand for their hard work and investment in the show.

MICAH HOWARD

Micah Howard is a Junior studying Computer Science. He plays violin in Orchestra, sings tenor in College Choir and Chamber Singers, and sings in Jazz Ensemble. He joined Opera to grow in singing technique, to learn to be on stage, and have fun! He is playing Edwin, the assuredly innocent defendant, in *Trial By Jury*.

SIBOONGAKONKHE (SIBO) MSIBI

Sibo Msibi is a Swaziland native who joined an elite group of 20 fellows of the Vocal Institute at the Music Academy of the West this past summer. Sibo is the first Westmont student chosen for this honor. He is a senior majoring in vocal performance, he is in the College Choir and Chamber singers and has been casted to sing opera lead roles in his years being at Westmont. Sibo will be singing the lead role of Dorvil in *The Silken Ladder*.

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JESSICA ROSENFELD

Jessica Rosenfeld is a first year at Westmont College. She is a double major in General Chemistry and Trumpet Performance. She plays the trumpet in the orchestra and is a soprano singer in Choral Union. Music is something that is very important in her life, which is why she is doing a double major in the first place. While she doesn't seek a career in music, her life wouldn't be as bright and full without music. This is why she is glad to be part of the opera in the defendants chorus of *Trial by Jury*.

SEAN RYAN

Sean Ryan is all but simply delighted to be a part of the Westmont Opera once again in his junior year of college. Between all of his work on his physics and mathematics majors, he is relieved to get a break to work on fun, witty, and comical, but serious, baritone music. What roles does he play? Why, I was just getting to that! He is the Judge in *Trial by Jury* and Blansac in *The Silken Ladder*, just as he once played the Lion in *The Wizard of Oz*, Ryan in *High School Musical*, and Dulcamara in *The Elixir of Love*. Oh what days those were!

SEQUOYAH SCALES

Sequoyah is a freshman at Westmont College who is thrilled to be part of the Defendant's Chorus in *Trial by Jury*. She is currently studying political science and also is a part of Choral Union. She has participated in music and theater for most of her life. Some roles in musicals she has played in the past include Mrs. Potts in *Beauty and the Beast*, Mrs. Squires in *Music Man*, and Ripper in *High School Musical*. She has also participated in other aspects of theater including doing hair and makeup, set building, stage crew, stage manager, and tech. All around, she loves the setting and family in theatre, and can't wait to be part of this year's opera.

BONNIE SCOTT

Bonnie Scott is a Junior at Westmont College, majoring in political science, specializing in international affairs. She became interested in theater costume design her Sophomore year and is ecstatic that she has been able to work with such a talented group through this year's opera!

NAOMI SIRAGUSA

Naomi is a Junior Physics major who is excited to be back working on props and set design for this year's opera(s). She worked on the props and set design for last year's *The Tender Land* and loved it! Apart from opera and Physics, Naomi also loves reading, dancing in the rain, and hiking.

JOY STURGES

Joy Sturges is a Junior attending Westmont College, majoring in Religious Studies as well as a minor in Music. She is playing the role of Giulia in *The Silken Ladder*. Joy feels so very blessed and privileged to have been given this opportunity and has found true joy in being able to develop further as a performer. Some of her previous theater experiences include Glinda from *The Wizard of Oz*, the Narrator from *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Adina's cover for the production of *The Elixir of Love*, and as Laurie in last year's opera *The Tender Land*. She thanks her cast and crew for their hard work and kindness and would also like to give a special thank you to her wonderful directors Dr. Lin, Christina, and Mrs. Rockabrand for all their encouragement and time that they invested into this beautiful show.

KATIE TICAS

Katie Ticas is a senior majoring in pre-law, and pursuing a career in the law. This is her third time performing in a Westmont opera. She plays the role of Lucilla in *The Silken Ladder* and a bridesmaid in *Trial by Jury*. She previously played Junie Jenks in *The Tender Land* and a knife thrower in *The Elixir of Love*. Katie is incredibly grateful for her vocal teacher, Sara Rockabrand, who has encouraged her to breathe and trust her voice. Katie is grateful for her family and their support in her singing endeavors since she was young. Katie also gives thanks to her generous heavenly father for the gift of music, and her generous friends and professors.

PHOEBE TILBURT

Phoebe is psyched to be a part of *Trial by Jury* this year as part of the Defendant's Chorus! As a first-year quasidouble major (English and Pre-pharmacy), music has always served as a creative outlet for her, which is why you can also find her in Choral Union or taking voice lessons. You may have also seen her in the fall, being slayed by nearly everybody in *She Kills Monsters*. Some of her other favorite roles include Beth in *Little Women* and Ensemble in *Les Miserables*.

RACHAEL TODD

Rachael Todd is a sophomore, heavily involved in the music department and willing to dive into opera-tunities face first! While most of her hobbies do involve music, you might also see her manipulating the centrifugal force of pizza acrobatics, spending time with her friends and/or family, or indulging in her growing addiction for a good Starbies shaken espresso. She is absolutely thrilled to be singing for you as she sides with the plaintiff as a strong, independent–secretly hopeless romantic–woman of the court.

ANGELA TRAN

Angela Tran is a third-year kinesiology major/writing minor who loves learning about how things work behindthe-scenes. She loves helping her friends create props, sets, and costumes. This is her second year working on the opera's talented and hardworking crew. She is very proud of the opera directors, cast, and crew for working together on this incredible production.

CALEB WILCOX

Caleb Wilcox is a Junior studying engineering. When he's not studying, he loves to create music! He is in the Westmont College Choir and is taking voice lessons. He is also studying piano under the esteemed Neil Di Maggio. Music is a big part of his life and he is glad to be sharing it with you! He will be playing Dormont in the Silken Ladder and the Foreman in *Trial By Jury*.













"If you promise to do something you must do it. Though you might rue it, you must stick to it. And once you give your word then you cannot erase it, cannot replace it. You must simply face it. Yes, a promise is a promise. And the promise that you make is a promise you don't break! . . ." A slightly stern Clive Revill sang this in the 1986 remix of the classic fairy tale The Frog Prince. While the entirety of the song ends up high on the comedy meter, the moral of the song is deadly serious.

Broken promises are commonplace and come in varying degrees of severity. Whether they be colossal lies from one organization to another, personal tragedies such as betrayals in love or friendship, small mistakes such as a missed appointment, or simply deceiving oneself, broken promises can have devastating consequences. Unfortunately, at one time or another, we all will experience the shock of a broken promise. It is not a matter of if, but truly a matter of when and how many times we will be the victim of broken promises.

However, we need not fear the inevitable. And, we can use the theatre – as civilizations have used it for thousands of years – to help us deal with social bugaboos such as broken promises. The theatre can help us work through our cultural and individual response to lies, both great and small.

Both Trial By Jury and The Silken Ladder revolve around this central theme of broken promises. They deal with the most intimate of betrayal, real or supposed, between lovers. In Trial By Jury, Edwin has faithfully promised to marry Angelina. He reneges on his word on their wedding day. The ensuing comedy stems from Angelina's overly dramatic appearance of broken-heartedness. Through her words and her actions, the audience can clearly see that she is not devastated by her lover's wandering eye. In fact, she herself shamelessly flirts with every other man in the court. Through the screwball comedy, we are able to exercise the debilitating fear of rejection by claiming that the original promise was not spoken in exclusive earnestness.

The Silken Ladder, on the other hand, deals with several versions of broken promises. The most obvious example is Guilia's apparent infidelity with Blansac. Dorvil accuses his new bride of being unfaithful with another man; and from his perspective – peeking through a crack in the wardrobe – it could appear that she is. However, we know that her only thoughts are to vet the worldly Blansac in the hope of marrying him to her dear cousin. Guilia's marriage vows were never broken and this seemingly betrayal does not actually exist.

The other version is the continued threat of Blansac's roving fancy for other women. He promises to remain faithful to his wife. But, we only have his slippery word for proof. Besides, he made that promise to Guilia thinking he was all set to marry her. Only time will tell if he intends to remain true to the woman he ends up with, Lucilla. In this case, the threat of a broken promise hangs in the air. However, the characters choose trust over cynicism and model for us a healthy approach to promises.

In both of these operas, interpersonal relationships are destroyed left and right. They truthfully show us that broken promises occur frequently. However, whether it be in a dismissed case or whether it be in a happy ending, these operas encourage us to look beyond the anxiety of future disappointments and they pain they will surely cause to the promised contentment and joy that will follow the resolution of them. So, go ahead. Cast your anxiety of broken promises on us. I promise you will enjoy the show!

- Christina Jensen

UPCOMING MUSIC DEPARTMENT EVENTS

Spring 2023

Admission is free except when noted

JANUARY

Spring Operas: Gilbert and Sullivan's "Trial by Jury"; and "Rossini's "La Scala di Seta" (The Silken Ladder)

1/27 7:00 pm, Center Stage Theater

1/29 7:00 pm, Center Stage Theater \$20; \$15 seniors/students

FEBRUARY

Faculty Chamber Recital

2/3 7:00 pm, Deane Chapel, Westmont

Instrumental Guild Scholarship Competition

2/25 7:00 pm, Deane Chapel, Westmont

Orchestra Tour Concert

2/26 1:30 pm, Page Hall, Westmont

MARCH

Vocal Guild Scholarship Competition

3/4 7:00 pm, Deane Chapel, Westmont

Choral Masterworks Concert

3/5 7:00 pm, First Presbyterian Church *\$10; students free*

Chamber Winds and Orchestra Concert

3/26 7:00 pm, Deane Chapel, Westmont

APRIL

Composers' Concert

4/14 7:00 pm, Deane Chapel, Westmont

String Chamber Concert

4/16 7:00 pm, Deane Chapel, Westmont

Jazz Concert

4/19 8:00 pm, Deane Chapel, Westmont

Vocal Chamber Concert

4/22 7:00 pm, El Montecito Presbyerian Church

Spring Choral Concert

4/28 7:00 pm, First United Methodist Church

Orchestra Concerto Concert

4/29 7:00 pm, First Presbyterian Church *\$10; students free*

MAY

Choir Concert with the Santa Barbara Youth Symphony

5/7 4:00 pm, Lobero Theatre \$10; students free

To support the Westmont Music Department, including future Opera Performances, please visit:

westmont.edu/musicgiving