

**CCM**

**MUSICALS SERIES  
PRESENTS**

# **HANSEL AND GRETEL**

Composed by Engelbert Humperdink

Libretto by Adelheid Wette

Based on Grimm brother's fairy tale

**8 p.m. Feb. 13-15, 2025  
Cohen Family Studio Theater**

University of  
**CINCINNATI** | **COLLEGE-CONSERVATORY  
OF MUSIC**

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI COLLEGE-CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC  
DIVISION OF THEATRE ARTS, PRODUCTION AND ARTS ADMINISTRATION  
PRESENTS

# HANSEL AND GRETEL

Composed by  
**Engelbert Humperdink**

Libretto by  
**Adelheid Wette**

Reduced Orchestration by  
**Kathleen Kelly**

Director  
**Kenneth Shaw**

Assistant Director  
**Kaylyn Taylor Baldwin**

Prop Manager  
**Jaye Bloemeke\***

Movement Director/  
Choreographer  
**Susan Moser**

Costume Designers  
**Cassie Smith\*, Peggie  
Dona\***

Assistant Conductor,  
Musical Preparation, and  
Dialect Coach  
**Corey Battey**

Conductor  
**Brett Scott**

Sound Designer  
**Macay Smith\***

Assistant Conductor  
**Ethan Neal\***

Scenic Designer  
**Evan Reiner\***

Cincinnati Youth Choir  
Supervisor  
**Rachel Feldman\***

Technical Director  
**Corvo Hopkins\***

Lighting Designer  
**Ashton Karp\***

Production Stage Manager  
**Ali Fishbain\***

Approximate Run Time is two hours. Including two 15 minute intermissions.  
**\*Denotes CCM Student**

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# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

For opera companies, Hänsel und Gretel is often presented during the Christmas holiday season. The music is beautiful and the mere notion of a house made entirely of delicious sweets is an irresistible fantasy for all. Yet, just under Humperdinck's music lurks a decidedly disturbing story!

The Brothers Grimm wrote the story in 1812, loosely basing it upon the hard times brought on by famine. The original story has the parents abandoning their children deep in the woods because they hadn't enough food to sustain four people. It's a brutal, selfish thing to do, but there are documented real stories of parents doing exactly this - and worse - in times of famine. Add to this the idea of a cannibalistic Witch, and one would be hard-pressed to find a more horrific tale.

It was, therefore, my intention to let this production turn quite deliberately to 'the dark side'. I have set the opera in the Victorian era, with a big nod to the quirky Steampunk style. Humperdinck, however, doesn't cooperate well with my initial vision for this production! His music is simply too beautiful, too frothy, too hopeful! Even the Witch is given music that might well be described as nothing more evil than mischievous!

I know when I'm beat! So, without rancor, I've gladly given my stage direction over to Mr. Humperdinck's brilliant score and have left the designers who, through their Set, Properties, Costume, Lighting and Sound designs have built for us that darker world I sought from the start.

We also wish to allow this production to serve as a reminder that our beloved city has quite a number of organizations and agencies created specifically for the protection of children.

Similar to the horrors in our story, unfortunately, today's world sees abuses against children on a daily basis. As artists, we often feel that what we do on the stage is doing little to affect the world except by entertaining the public, perhaps providing a brief respite from the daily grind. But sometimes we're given the opportunity to highlight positive aspects of the local community.

With this production, we simply highlight some of our organizations that are focused upon child protection hoping we might help in this small way to raise awareness, and to encourage you toward a simple mantra - If you see something, say something. You may one day actually save a life!

We hope you enjoy tonight's performance!

**Kenneth Shaw**  
Professor of Voice  
Artistic Director

# SYNOPSIS

## Act I: The Cottage

Hänsel and Gretel, siblings in a humble household, are left alone while their parents work. As they try to distract themselves from their hunger, they accidentally break a milk jug meant for their supper. Their Mother returns, scolds them for their mischief, and sends them to the forest to gather strawberries. Stressed and without hope, she sinks into her sadness. Soon however, the Father arrives home, excited about the food he has earned by selling brooms. However, his joy turns to fear when he realizes the children have gone into the dark forest, a place rumored to be haunted by a strange, wicked Witch.

## Act II: The Forest

In the forest, Hänsel and Gretel gather strawberries and play games to pass the time. As night falls, they realize they've lost their way. The siblings grow frightened but find comfort in singing to keep their spirits up. The Sandman appears, resentfully sprinkling magic dust to lull them to sleep. As they drift off, they pray for protection, as angels and moths surround them providing heavenly protection.

## Act III: The Witch's Yummy House

At dawn, Hänsel and Gretel awaken, gently roused by the Dew Fairy and butterflies of the morning. She sprinkles drops of morning dew and reassures them after their night in the forest. The children find they've awakened near a magical house made of incredibly scrumptious goodies. Drawn by the house's sugary allure, the siblings begin to nibble on its walls. The evil, bizarre Witch emerges, capturing the siblings with the intent to fatten Hänsel for her next meal while forcing Gretel to help. Using their wit and teamwork, the children trick the Witch into getting too close to her oven, and they push her in, burning her alive. With her spell broken, it is revealed that items in the yard were actually enchanted children who have happily returned to life emerging from the property with their parents to thank the two hapless children. Their own parents arrive, and the family joyfully reunites, celebrating their triumph over evil.

# THE COMPANY

Hansel.....	Samantha Pape+, Shir Ordo^
Gretel.....	Cade Chishman+, Alea Vernon^
Mother.....	Lauren Albano+, Laura Stanell ^
Father .....	Lucas Maceroni+, Michael Temesi^
Witch.....	Alex Harron+, Lauren Albano^
Dew Fairy .....	Sydney Horran+, Leah Yachanek^
Sandman .....	Clark Xiong+, Jack Brunch^
Ensemble .....	Sofiya Chvojka, Noji Soto-Anglade, Carlos Pagan-Vasquez, Elaina Hill, Natalie Marshall
Childrens Chorus .....	Shaili Shah, Mabel Smith, Ani Dylan Darley-Emerson, Carla Pacheco, Ena McCarthy, Lucia Miramonti, Serrin Cornish Scott, Ava Zhang

^ Performs Friday, February 14

+ Performs Thursday, February 13 and Saturday, February 15

## COMPANY PROFILES

Student bios are organized by major and within each section they are listed alphabetically by name. The bios on this page include Acting, Ballet, Musical Theatre, Opera and Voice students.

[ccm.uc.edu/programs/bios](http://ccm.uc.edu/programs/bios)

# ORCHESTRA ROSTER

Brett Scott, Conductor

## **Violin 1**

Lindsey Tootle

## **Violin 2**

Rodney Ho

## **Viola**

Aiden Knox

## **Cello**

Benji Berners

## **Clarinet**

Kevin Lawrence

## **Flute**

Annie Darlin Gordon

## **Horn**

Lucy Williams

Sety Johnson

## **Piano**

Calvin Stovall

# PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Stage Manager..... Maltida Dalton  
Production Assistant ..... Ibn Whitfield  
Assistant Production Managers ..... Annalee Crosser, Bethany Untener  
Head Carpenter..... Blake Yavuz  
Scenic Charge Artist..... Ej Goodman  
Automation Engineer ..... Billy Blank  
Set/Props Running Crew ..... Maxwell Cohen, Sequoia Goggin,  
Elyse Matula, J Perry  
Assistant Lighting Designer ..... Jacob Kaplan  
Production Electrician/Programmer..... Rob Chalk  
Lighting Board Operator ..... Kyrie Paez  
Desk Electrician ..... Chloe Hessling  
Follow Spot Operators ..... Hanks Burns-Pavlik, Nick Feldmann  
Assistant Costume Designer..... Julia Schillaci  
Wigs ..... Kaylyn Taylor Baldwin

# PRODUCTION PROFILES

Student bios are organized by major and within each section they are listed alphabetically by name. The bios on this page include Costume Design and Technology, Lighting Design and Technology, Make-Up and Wig Design, Sound Design, Stage Design, Stage Properties, Stage Management and Technical Production.

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## TAPAA FACULTY AND STAFF

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