

"amahl and the night visitors"



castle singers and chamber players

present

"amahl and the night visitors"

an operetta in one act

words and music by

gian-carlo menotti

a christmas at wartburg production

dr. franklin e. williams
music director

duane davis
drama director

sue klopper
assistant music director

neumann auditorium, waverly, iowa
sunday, december 10, 1972

3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

cast

amahl — denis huston kaspar — robert blake
mother — gail hartwig balthazar — lee kirkegaard
melchoir — jay sandholm page — rick lynch

dancers

ron winter carol madoerin
jill smith terri shaver
mark bighley marcia sundet

chorus

<u>soprano</u>	<u>alto</u>	<u>tenor</u>	<u>bass</u>
londa olson	becki loots	kurt ullrich	tom england
rebecca platte	mindy barnes	jeff jakober	brad carter
janell johansen	gayle kugath	duane davis	phil tange
sandra	cathy	bruce	dave diekhoff
fredrickson	wiederanders	collmann	bill gruenstern
robin rice	ellen fisher	gary wendt	
kathy martens	anita jones	alvin bailey	
donna	janet miller	gerald tonne	
lechtenberg	karen riebkes		
dianne abbe	joan schon		
jan ottmar			
sharon			
zimmerman			

chamber players

<u>violin I</u>	<u>bass</u>	<u>clarinet</u>
brian clague	gerry grubb	donald langland
gail leget		
<u>violin II</u>	<u>flute</u>	<u>trumpet</u>
dave peterson	lori guhl	paul steege
liz wenske		
linda medburry	<u>oboe</u>	<u>percussion</u>
kathy mclaughlin	kris pohlmann	cathy wicket
	gretchen gies	
<u>viola</u>	<u>bassoon</u>	<u>piano</u>
sheryl buecksler	bill bittner	cynthia marten
<u>cello</u>	<u>french horn</u>	<u>celeste</u>
virginia ewoldt	carroll cutler	sue klopfers

costumes

cathy wiederanders	robin rice	ellen fisher
karen riebkes	janet miller	charyl kirchmann

set

bruce collmann	becki loots	mindy barnes
tom england	gary wendt	richard lynch
alvin bailey	david diekhoff	

props

gayle hartwig	londa olson	jan ottmar
janell johansen	terri shaver	gayle kugath
janet miller		

make-up

londa olson	janell johansen	terri shaver
gayle kugath	jan ottmar	

lights

al washburn	jeff preglor	charyl kirchmann
emily phillips		

program

kurt ullrich	jeff jakober	duane davis
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cover design

sandy fredrickson

publicity

sandy fredrickson	carol madoerin	jill smith
sharon zimmerman	kathy martens	karen riebkes

choreography

ron winter	anita jones, assistant
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miss joyce birkeland, mrs. alan hagen,
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the story

One December night, almost two thousand years ago, a little crippled boy named Amahl sat outside of the poor cottage where he lived with his widowed mother.

His mother tries to make him come inside; but he pays no attention to her. Finally he comes in and tells his mother of a wonderful star burning brightly in the sky but she does not believe it and thinks it only another fanciful tale.

In the middle of the night, three mysterious oriental kings and a page stop at the cottage seeking shelter for the night. They bear rich gifts which the mother notices immediately. She sends Amahl to summon the other shepherds to bring gifts and dance for the kings.

After the shepherds have gone, all in the house go to sleep except the mother. She decides to steal the gold to keep Amahl from starving; but is caught by the page. Melchior explains what kind of child they are seeking, then the mother wishes she could send a gift of her own. Amahl, in a burst of complete unselfishness, offers to give his crutch to the child; and to the incredulous joy of all he is miraculously cured of his lameness.

As the opera closes, Amahl's pipe is heard in the distance as he sturdily follows the three kings on the way to the child bearing his crutch on his back.

the dance

This dance suggests the pagan theme of fertility to accompany the gifts, being products of the harvest, which the shepherds present to the kings. The dancers represent the figures of nature; the soloist being the goddess of the land, who triumphs over the death caused by adverse forces encompassing the earth.