

PRESS RELEASE

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BRINGING OPERA TO ANNAPOLIS CHILDREN: Humperdinck's *Hansel & Gretel* Coming to Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts.

Annapolis Opera's Children's Opera in partnership with the Peabody Institute will present an abridged version of *Hansel & Gretel* at Maryland Hall. The music features popular opera music by Engelbert Humperdinck. The opera is performed in English, and is approximately 50 minutes long.

Saturday, January 31, 2015 at 10:30 a.m.

Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts, 801 Chase Street, Annapolis, MD 21401.

Cast members, Annapolis Opera and Peabody Institute staff will be available after the performance for a Q&A session about the production. This provides children the opportunity to meet the characters and families are encouraged to participate.

The Children's Opera is a program to educate elementary and middle school-aged children about music and opera. Each year the program produces a different children's opera and performs them in Maryland Hall. The artists that are performing are students from the Peabody Institute, which is in keeping with our mission to promote Mid-Atlantic region young artists.

TICKETS: Box Office 410.280.5640. \$15 or www.annapolisopera.org

STORY: *Hänsel und Gretel* is an opera by nineteenth-century composer Engelbert Humperdinck, who described it as a *Märchenoper* (fairy tale opera). The libretto was written by Adelheid Wette (Humperdinck's sister), based on the Grimm Brothers' Hansel and Gretel. It is much admired for its folk music-inspired themes, one of the most famous being the Abendsegen ("Evening Benediction") from Act 2. Humperdinck composed *Hansel and Gretel* in Frankfurt in 1891 and 1892. The opera was first performed in Weimar on December 23, 1893, and was conducted by Richard Strauss.

Photos may be taken during performance; no flash please. Press can come at 10:00 a.m. to set up if desired.

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