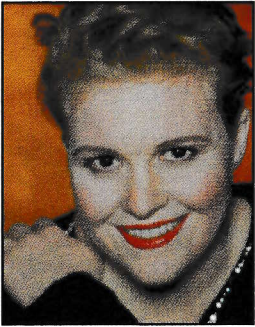


Sigrun Hjalmtysdottir, "Diddú", Soprano



Sigrun Hjalmtysdottir (Diddú) was born in Reykjavik, Iceland. In 1972 she was chosen to take the part of Miss Guomunsen in the television adaptation of Brekkukotsannall by the Nobel Prize winning author Halldor Laxness. She began drama studies in 1974, and has acted on stage, on television and in films. Sigrun studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London from 1979 to 1984, graduating with the AGSM diploma, and completed postgraduate studies there in 1985. Her operatic debut was with the Icelandic Opera in the role of Olympia in Offenbach's *Tales of Hoffmann* at the National Theatre. Other roles include *Marriage of Figaro*, *Carmina Burana*, *Magic Flute*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *La Traviata* and *L'elisir d'amore*, *Rigoletto*. She has also sung with the Iceland Symphony Orchestra opposite tenor Jose Carreras, and

appeared with orchestras and on the recital platform in the Nordic countries, Britain, Italy, United States, Japan and elsewhere. In March, 2005, she sang with Placido Domingo. Sigrun Hjalmtysdottir has received many awards. In 2006, Diddu appeared on A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor. This is Diddu's 3rd appearance with the Band!

Hugh Smith, Tenor



Hugh Smith made his professional debut in *Madama Butterfly* at the Teatro San Carlo, Naples, and has since appeared in leading tenor roles throughout the world. He holds a Masters in Music from Bowling Green State University, Ohio and continued his studies at the Academy of Vocal Arts, Philadelphia.

January 2005, Hugh sang with the Rotterdams Philharmonisch Orkest under Maestro Valery Gergiev; at the Netherlands Opera in *Norma*; in recital at Bowling Green State University; and the Madison Symphony. In the summer, Hugh appeared in *Madame Butterfly* at Tokyo's New National Theatre. He came back to St. Louis for the Band's dual concert series, *Sunday Serenades & Musical Mondays*. In September he performed in Norway. In December, he was in St. Louis, again, for the Band's annual Holiday concerts at Powell Hall.

January 2006 took him to Tel-Aviv for *Don Carlos*. Most recently, was in Wales for weekly performances of *Mazeppa*. He will appear twice this summer with the Compton Heights Band and will return for the December Holiday Pops concerts at Powell Symphony Hall on December 12, 2006! In the meantime, he will perform his Wagner's *Lohengrin* in Lyon, France, October 2006.

Hugh has appeared as soloist with orchestras throughout the world and the United States. His opera performances include: *La Traviata* (Lyric Opera of Chicago, Opera de Puerto Rico, and Theatre Sao Carlos in Lisbon), *Tosca* (Netherlands Opera), *Manon Lescaut* (Opera Pacific, Opera North, and Bayerische Staatsoper), *Don Carlo* (Opera National de Paris and Lithuanian Opera), *Carmen* (National New Theater, Tokyo; Opera Company of Philadelphia, Michigan Opera Theatre, and Toledo Opera), *Les Troyens* (Chatelet Theatre Musical De Paris), *Faust* (Dayton), *Attila* (Lyric Opera of Chicago and Bologna), *Un Ballo in Maschera* (Berlin Deutsche Oper), *Jenufa* (Lyric Opera of Chicago, Charleston and Spoleto USA), *Eugene Onegin* (Opera Pacific and Academy of Vocal Arts), *Il Trovatore* (Opera Pacific and Academy of Vocal Arts), *Arabella* (Chatelet Theatre de Musicale de Paris), *Mazeppa* (Welsh National Opera), *Norma* (Opera Geneve, Berlin Staatsoper, San Diego Opera, Netherlands Opera), *Madama Butterfly* (Tokyo; Houston; San Francisco; and Napoli - Teatro San Carlo), *Un Ballo in Maschera* (Academy of Vocal Arts), *La Boheme* (Cincinnati, Toledo, Dayton, Hamburgische Staatsoper and Baltimore Opera). For more bio information: www.chband.org/smith.html

The Compton Heights Concert Band

Edward Dolbashian, Music Director/Conductor
Harry F. Swanger, President/Executive Director

Presents

Sunday Serenades Musical Mondays

#4

July 23/24, 2006



Photo by Mary Butkus

The Compton Heights Concert Band Sponsors:

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Program Notes

By Ronald Swanger

La Boheme Scene:

What could be more romantic than a man and a woman, perfect strangers, meeting in Paris and falling totally in love? That's just what happens in the Parisian garret visualized by composer Giacomo Puccini as the setting for Act I of *La Boheme*.

Rodolpho, a penniless poet meets Mimi, a seamstress, who knocks at his door looking for a light for her candle which has gone out. Then, love and infatuation at first sight takes over!!

Rodolpho sings of Mimi's tiny cold hand "*Che Gelida Manina*" in the December freeze, and then asks the lovely seamstress her name. She responds with "*Si, my chiamono Mimi*" (although she doesn't know why she is called that, since her real name is Lucia).

Fate has brought this duo together on a cold December evening and they join in a lovely duet, "*O Soave Fanciulla*", totally entranced, as they leave the garret to join their friends at the Cafe Momus.

"*O Mio Babbino Caro*" from Gianni Schicchi

As early as *La Boheme*, Puccini had shown a gift for robust comedy, with which he never failed to leave even his most serious operatic works. His opera Gianni Schicchi allows him to be his comic best with rare moments of pause. *O Mio Babbino Caro* represents one of those delicate moments--when Schicchi's daughter, Lauretta, plaintively asks her dear father for help in her quest of marriage to her beloved Rinuccio, despite the complicated family problems. Needless to say, her father has a devious and comic plan to resolve the family's difficult situation.

"*Queen of the Night*"

In Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, the mysterious Queen of the Night, a fearful adversary for her enemies is in no mood to put up with opposition to her wishes for her daughter and for her vengeance against those she perceives as her enemies. To show her power, she sings a blazing coloratura aria, among the most brilliant of Mozart's creations.

"*Sempre Libera*" & "*Libiamo, libiamo!*"

Verdi's *La Traviata* is filled with gorgeous melodies which supply the music for the doomed relationship of the courtesan Violetta and her new lover, Alfredo. Alfredo toasts her beauty and allure with a drinking song, "*Libiamo, libiamo!*" Later, when thinking of her attraction for Alfredo, Violetta fantasizes at first that their love may be more than a transient fascination, but quickly regains her carefree attitude, by declaring that she will always be free ("*Sempre Libera*").

Tonight's printed program is abbreviated due to the storm power outages this week.
Thank you for your understanding and for attending tonight!

The Compton Heights Concert Band

Edward Dolbashian, Music Director & Conductor
Harry F. Swanger, President & Executive Director
Lucy Schroeder, Announcer

July 23, 2006 - Francis Park
July 24, 2006 - Tower Grove Park

Sigrun Hjalmtysdottir, "Diddú", Soprano Hugh Smith, Tenor

Program

From Maine to Oregon March	John Phillip Sousa
Barber of Seville Overture	Gioacchino Rossini
O Mio Babbino Caro from Gianni Schicchi Sigrun Hjalmtysdottir, Soprano	Giacomo Puccini / Tohru Takahashi
Come Back to Sorrento Hugh Smith, Tenor	E. DeCurtis / Paul Van Loan
Queen of the Night from the Magic Flute Sigrun Hjalmtysdottir, Soprano	W.A. Mozart
First Suite in Eb - 1st Movement	G. Holst
Core 'ngrato Hugh Smith, Tenor	S. Cardillo / Leonard B. Smith
Sempre libera from La Traviata Sigrun Hjalmtysdottir, Soprano	Giuseppe Verdi / Donald W. Stauffer
The Klaxon March	Henry Fillmore
<i>Intermission</i>	
The Footlifter March	Henry Fillmore
Che Gelida Manina from La Boheme Si, mi chiamano Mimi from La Boheme O Soave Fanciulla from La Boheme Hugh Smith, Tenor; Sigrun Hjalmtysdottir, Soprano	Giacomo Puccini / Leonard B. Smith Giacomo Puccini / E. L. Barrow Giacomo Puccini / Donald W. Stauffer
Suite From "Carmen" - Chorus and March	Bizet / Bellis
Madama Butterfly - Finale - Act I - Love Duet Hugh Smith, Tenor; Sigrun Hjalmtysdottir, Soprano	Puccini / Odom
Tannhauser March	R. Wagner / M.C. Meyrelles
The Prayer Amigos Para Siempre (Friends for Life) Libiamo, libiamo from La Traviata Hugh Smith, Tenor; Sigrun Hjalmtysdottir, Soprano	Foster/Sager/Trans. Jerry Robinson Andrew Lloyd Webber/D.Black/Tr. Robinson Giuseppe Verdi / Donald W. Stauffer