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the little match girl passion Coming to SWOSU

31 January,
2019

Southwestern Oklahoma State University Opera Workshop singers in Weatherford and dancers from the Oklahoma City Youth Ballet are teaming up to present the Oklahoma premiere of David Lang's Pulitzer Prize winning adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen story—the little match girl passion.

The production will take place at two times in the SWOSU Fine Arts Center in Weatherford—7 p.m. on Saturday, February 16, and 3 p.m. on Sunday, February 17. Admission is free with a canned food donation that will go to the Weatherford Food & Resource Center in honor of National Canned Food Month.

SWOSU Music Associate Professor Dr. Kristin Griffeath said the brief (35 minute) chamber work presents the music of post minimalist composer Lang. Singers will accompany the vocal lines with percussion instruments, presenting the tragic tale of an abused girl who freezes to death after failing to sell matches on the street. In an allegory of poverty, her suffering parallels the Passion of Christ.

Singers include Andrew Carlson, Peter Fischhaber, Abigail Kerr, Whitney Kleinpeter, Arianna Martin and Gina Patterson. Dancers include Ainsley Black, Mia Boggs, Madison Dennis, Kameryn Frazier, Ayla Govenlock, Xander Hennigh, Allie Roberts, Jacob Seagraves, Briana Wernke and Hannah White.

Original choreography will be by Oklahoma City Youth Ballet School Director and Ballet Master Penny Askew. Bryce Wood and the Fine Arts Auditorium staff will provide scenic and sound design, lighting is by Askew with direction by Drs. Robin and Kristin Griffeath, and the production will be conducted by Dr. Kristin Griffeath.

Griffeath said items of particular need for the food pantry include flour, sliced bread, canned chili, canned salmon, canned green beans and canned peaches. There will also be an opportunity for audience members to sign up to volunteer for the Weatherford Food and Resource Center directly following the performance.

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