Press Release
November 29, 2017

Washington National Opera
presents

a revival of its beloved holiday production of

**The Little Prince**

By Rachel Portman and Nicholas Wright

December 14–17, 2017
in the Kennedy Center Terrace Theater

Cast features past and present members of the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program

(WASHINGTON)—Washington National Opera (WNO) presents the return of the family holiday opera *The Little Prince*, based on the classic children’s book by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, December 14–17, 2017, in the Kennedy Center Terrace Theater. The WNO revival features a cast of current and former Domingo-Cafritz Young Artists, its original creative team, score by Academy Award®-winner Rachel Portman, and English-language libretto by Nicholas Wright. The production is directed by WNO Artistic Director Francesca Zambello; the WNO Orchestra is conducted by James Lowe in his WNO debut.

**Synopsis**

On his tiny home planet, a young boy spends his days protecting his only friend—a rose—from miniature volcanoes and ravenous baobab trees. When loneliness sets in, he begins a mystical quest across the cosmos to find new companionship. During his journey, he encounters several other intergalactic inhabitants—among them a delusional king, a rich businessman, a dancing kazoo player, and a wearied

~more~
lamplighter—before meeting a pilot on Earth who has crash-landed in the Sahara Desert. The two become unlikely friends, learning lessons from the desert’s many creatures until the prince realizes just how special his rose really is.

**Casting**

*The Little Prince*’s cast features current and former members of WNO’s Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program, the company’s signature artist-development program. Led by WNO Children’s Chorus alumni, Henry Baratz and Holden Browne in the title role, the production sees current Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Michael Adams playing The Pilot. Former Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Christian Bowers, who originated the role of The Pilot, reprises his role for a single performance for the December 16 matinee performance.

Other roles in the opera are performed by members of WNO’s Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program, including Arnold Livingston Geis, Allegra De Vita, Madison Leonard, and Timothy J. Bruno, as well as Alexander McKissick, and Christopher Kenney in their WNO debuts. Former Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Raquel González also performs. *The Little Prince* also features the return of WNO’s Children’s Chorus, composed of 19 D.C.-area children, under the direction of chorus master Steven Gathman.

The production features original set and costume design by the late Maria Björnson, (best known for her award-winning designs for Broadway’s *The Phantom of the Opera*), lighting design by Mark McCullough, and choreography by Eric Sean Fogel. *The Little Prince* opens on Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Kennedy Center Terrace Theater and runs for five performances, including December 15, 16 (matinee and evening), and 17. The December 16 matinee performance is sensory friendly. The opera’s running time is approximately two hours, including one 25-minute intermission. Visit WNO’s [website](#) for complete production details and casting information.

Washington National Opera’s 2017–2018 season continues with Verdi’s soaring drama *Don Carlo*, Rossini’s delightful comedy *The Barber of Seville*, and Bernstein’s biting satire *Candide*. The season also features a festival weekend of four world premieres as
part of the American Opera Initiative, a concert featuring Marian Anderson Vocal Award winner John Holiday, and more.

**The Little Prince Performance Information**

Thursday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m. • Friday, December 15 at 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, December 16 at 2* and 7:30 p.m. • Sunday, December 17 at 2 p.m.  

*The December 16 matinee performance is sensory friendly.

**The Little Prince Production Information**

Music by Rachel Portman • Libretto by Nicholas Wright  
WNO Revival • Performed in English with Projected English Titles  
December 14, 15, 16m, 16e, and 17, 2017

**Cast and Creative Team**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Little Prince</td>
<td>Henry Baratz + Holden Browne +</td>
<td>Conductor</td>
<td>James Lowe*</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Pilot</td>
<td>Michael Adams ‡ (December 14, 15, 16, 17)</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Francesca Zambello</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Snake/The Vain Man/Baobab/Hunter</td>
<td>Christian Bowers ± (December 16m)</td>
<td>Original Set and Costume Designer</td>
<td>Maria Björnson ©</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Fox/A Rose</td>
<td>Arnold Livingston Geis ‡</td>
<td>Lighting Designer</td>
<td>Mark McCullough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Water/A Rose</td>
<td>Allegra De Vita ‡</td>
<td>Additional Set Design</td>
<td>Paul Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Rose/A Rose</td>
<td>Raquel González ±</td>
<td>Associate Costume Designer</td>
<td>Sue Willmington</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Lamplighter/Drunkard/Baobab/Hunter</td>
<td>Madison Leonard ‡</td>
<td>Hair and Makeup Designer</td>
<td>David C. Zimmerman</td>
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<tr>
<td>The King/Baobab/Hunter</td>
<td>Alexander McKissick ‡*</td>
<td>Associate Director and Choreographer</td>
<td>Eric Sean Fogel</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Businessman/Baobab/Hunter</td>
<td>Timothy J. Bruno ‡</td>
<td>Assistant Director</td>
<td>Corinne M. Hayes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christopher Kenney ‡*</td>
<td>Children’s Chorus Master</td>
<td>Steven Gathman</td>
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* Washington National Opera Debut  
‡ Alumni of the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program  
‡‡ Current member of the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program  
*Alumni of WNO Children’s Chorus

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Ticket Information

Tickets start at $45 and are available online, in person at the Kennedy Center Box Office, and by calling (202) 467-4600 or (800) 444-1324. For all other ticket-related customer service inquiries, call the Advance Sales Box Office at (202) 416-8540.

ABOUT WASHINGTON NATIONAL OPERA

Washington National Opera (WNO) is one of the leading opera companies in the United States. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Francesca Zambello, the company presents a diverse season of grand opera—including both classics from the repertory and more contemporary pieces—plus several newly commissioned American works and a variety of special concerts and events. The WNO Orchestra is led by Music Director Philippe Auguin. Founded in 1956 and an affiliate of the Kennedy Center since 2011, WNO has a storied legacy of world premieres, new productions, international tours, live recordings and radio broadcasts, and innovative education and community-engagement programs. Throughout its history, WNO has been led by titans in the opera field, including the legendary Plácido Domingo, who headed the company from 1996 to 2011.

WNO contributes to the future of opera through two signature artist-development programs. The Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program, now celebrating 15 years, has become one of the nation’s most competitive and comprehensive professional training programs for young singers and collaborative pianists. Alumni of the program have won major competitions and gone on to successful careers at major opera houses in the U.S. and abroad. The WNO Opera Institute nurtures the ambitions of high-school-age singers from across the nation during an intensive three-week summer program held at American University in Washington.

Among the company’s most successful recent programs is the 2012 launch of the American Opera Initiative, a comprehensive commissioning program that works to expand the American operatic repertory, to give WNO’s Young Artists the chance to collaborate with living composers and librettists on new works, and to make American opera more relevant to 21st-century audiences. The most popular of WNO’s community-engagement programs is Mars, Incorporated Opera in the Outfield, during which an opera is broadcast live from the Kennedy Center Opera House stage to the high-definition scoreboard at Nationals Park. The company’s other education programs include the Kids Create Opera program at local elementary schools, Look-In performances for students in grades 4–8, and the Student Dress Rehearsal Program for middle and high school students. The company also offers free Opera Insights programs before every performance in the Opera House.

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#LittlePrinceDC
FUNDING CREDITS

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PRESS CONTACTS
Rachelle Roe
(202) 416-8443
rbroe@kennedy-center.org

Maria Rodriguez
(202) 416-8442
mtrodriguez@kennedy-center.org

TICKETS & INFORMATION
(202) 467-4600; (800) 444-1324
www.kennedy-center.org/wno