

Vernon Bruce Opera Group
Manuel & Gretel
December 1960



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THE MANOEL THEATRE MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

THE VERNON-BRICE OPERA GROUP

FROM

THE HOVE ACADEMY OF MUSIC

PRESENT

Hansel and Gretel

A FAIRY OPERA

BY

HUMPERDINCK

CONDUCTOR

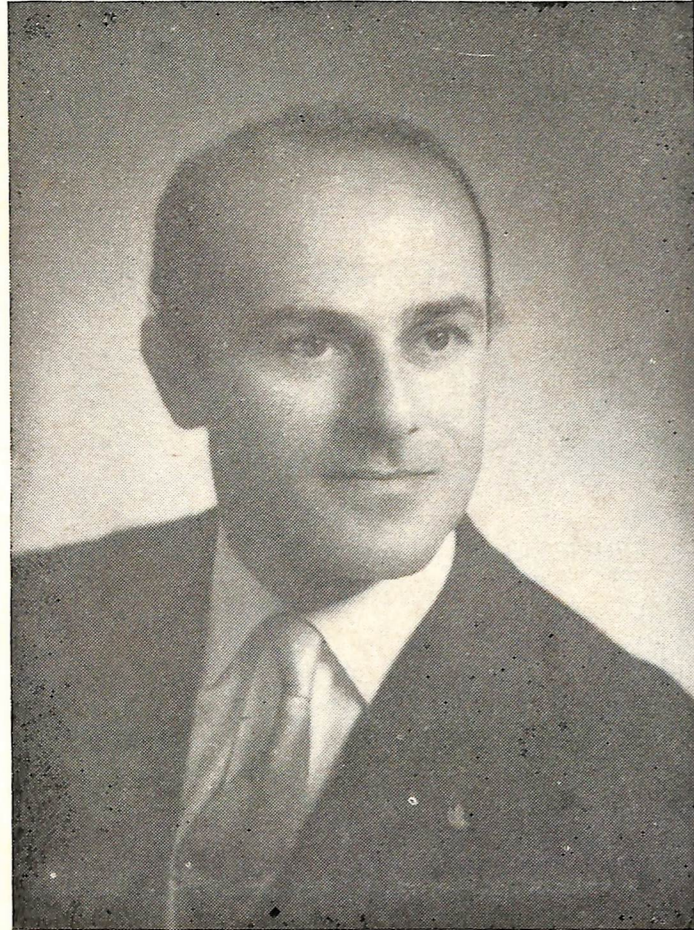
JOSEPH SAMMUT

Manoel Theatre

FRIDAY, 26th DECEMBER, 1969, at 7.30 p.m.

SATURDAY, 27th DECEMBER, 1969, at 7.30 p.m.

SUNDAY, 28th DECEMBER, 1969, at 3 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.



JOSEPH SAMMUT
Conductor

Joseph Sammut

Maestro Joseph Sammut has during the last few years imposed himself on all musical activities of a certain importance. His patience in instructing the Members of his Orchestra and his fine conducting have earned him universal admiration.

The British Council Concerts are indeed major achievements and his other various activities, such as conducting the "Chorus Melitensis", various operas, and other musical activities show his versatility and his dynamic temperament.

No other praise fits him better as a climax to his career than the public declaration by Bliss, when the latter extolled the fine playing of the Orchestra, being conducted by him, as rehearsed by Maestro Sammut.



Sheila Bain SHEILA BAIN
Producer

Although Miss Bain has resided in Malta for some years, this is the first time she has undertaken any theatrical work on the Island. This she has done only at the invitation of her friend and colleague Diana Vernon for whom she produced "Hansel and Gretel" in Hove some years ago.

A working life of over thirty years in the theatre cannot be described here, sufficient to say that it included numerous provincial tours, some west-end shows, and endless Rep. and involved playing every type of part in a wide variety of plays both classical and commercial. In more recent years Miss Bain has concentrated almost entirely on production, eventually running her own company. This company known as The Kings Players visited schools or performed to audiences of school children in theatres. These performances were accompanied by lectures on Shakespeare and the history of Drama which Miss Bain gave all over the British Isles and on the continent.

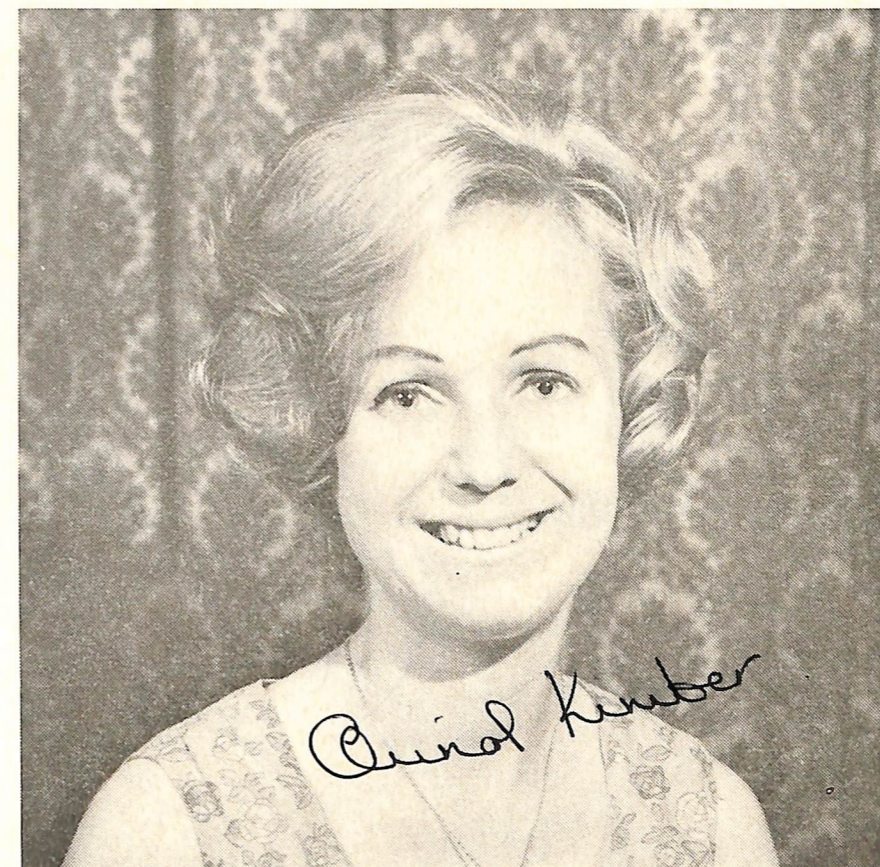
It is a lifelong love of opera and music that finally wakened a desire in Miss Bain to work with an operatic coach and to give young singers some very necessary training in acting



CELIA CROSS
Hansel

Celia Cross (aged 19) has made several appearances with the Glyndebourne Festival Opera. In 1965 in "Der Rosenkavalier", in 1966 in "Werther", in 1967 in "La Boheme", and again in 1969 in "Werther". She also appeared in the 1968 Brighton Arts Festival production of Malcolm Williamson's opera "Julius Caesar Jones".

Celia has had many successes in Music Festivals throughout the South of England, and is studying full-time towards a career in opera.



AURIOL KIMBER
Gretel

Winner of the Mimi Scharrar Award in 1967, Auriol has achieved great success in Festivals in all parts of England.

She has appeared with the Glyndebourne Festival Opera in the 1966 production of "Werther" and again in 1967 in "La Boheme". She also appeared in "Julius Caesar Jones" in 1968.



DIANA VERNON
The Witch

Diana Vernon trained at the Royal Academy of Music, where she won the Gold Medal for Operatic Singing. She also took extensive training under the famous teacher Berta Nicklaus-Kempner for operatic work.

Seven years ago, she started the Hove Academy of Music for the special training of young people towards professional careers in singing.

The Hove Academy of Music, which provides a complete musical education, drama and languages, has proved very successful. All the Vocal Technique is taught by Diana Vernon, and the young cast appearing in this production have been trained by her.

THE STORY

Act I: THE COTTAGE

The poor broom-maker and his wife, with their two children, Hansel and Gretel, live in a small cottage near to the forest. Hansel makes brooms for his father to sell, and Gretel knits to help her mother. While their mother is out, the hungry children get tired of working, and start to dance. Their mother comes home exhausted and worried because they have nothing to eat and, finding the children playing, she gets angry and orders them to go into the forest to pick wild strawberries for supper. Her husband returns from the town having had a good day, but is horrified to hear that the children have been sent to the haunted wood.

Act II: THE FOREST

Hansel and Gretel are enjoying themselves in the forest when all at once they realise that the sun has set and they are lost. They are terrified, and imagine that they see and hear frightening shapes and sounds all around them; but the Sandman appears and lulls them to sleep. During the night they dream that Angels from Heaven come to watch over them.

Act III: THE GINGERBREAD HOUSE

The Dew Fairy wakes Hansel and Gretel in the morning and suddenly they see a beautiful little house made of sweets and cakes. They start to eat, and get caught by the Witch, who turns children into gingerbread. But Hansel and Gretel outwit the horrible witch and instead turn her into gingerbread. They have just released all the other children whom the Witch has ensnared, when their parents arrive to take them safely home again.

HANSEL and GRETEL

Monique Fabri

Tagyeta Tilney

Brigitte Dowling

Soren Camilleri

Lilian Attard

DREAM BALLET

Felicity Fish
Joanna Arrigo
Judith Rice

Cast in order of appearance:

GRETEL	AURIOL KIMBER
HANSEL	CELIA CROSS
MOTHER	JILL MORFORD
FATHER	DEREK STURT
SANDMAN	{ VICTORIA BURGE ELIZABETH BRICE
DEW FAIRY	JANET ROBOTHAM
THE WITCH	DIANA VERNON

PUPILS OF
LILIAN ATTARD BALLET SCHOOL

Choreography:
LILIAN ATTARD and JENI LYNAM, A.R.A.D.

Patricia Borg Olivier, Tagyeta Tilney, Patricia Attard Kingswell, Felicity Fish, Brigitte Dowling, Joan Attard, Jennifer Camilleri, Marie Victoire Loport, Johanna Arrigo, Anne Cavallo, Edith Balestra, Monique Fabri, Judith Rice, Rita Hayhurst.

Jennifer Camilleri *mfaporto* *Ally*

FOR THE MANOEL THEATRE

Head Electrician	<i>Rita Hayhurst</i>	VANNI LAUS
Sound		J. AZZOPARDI
Stage Hands		J. DALLI F. MIFSUD
Set designed by	<i>C. Balestra</i>	HARRY ALDEN
Set painted by		GEORGE MUNRO

CHORUS OF GINGERBREAD CHILDREN

(By kind permission of the Sacred Heart Convent)

Ann Wirth, Patricia Wirth, Tagyeta Tilney, Patricia Paris, Connie Vella, Christine Busuttil, Juliana Bonnici, Joan Pace, Amanda von Brockdorf, Rachelle Micallef, Marisa Micallef, Anne Marie Camilleri, Sara Kelly, Christine Arrigo, Caroline Nicholson, Shirley Ann Captur, Mary Cremona Barbaro, Celia Jaccarini, Jane Cassar, Helen Lucas, Bridget Azzopardi, Jacqueline Cachia, Jennifer Borg, Tanya Vella, Tanja Barnes.

Patricia Attard Kingswell

Repetiteur: JULIAN ELLOWAY.

Julian Ellaway

Producer: SHEILA BAIN

Steve Brothwell
James Falkland
George Rossiter

The Producer acknowledges with thanks the assistance given by: STEVE BROTHWELL, JAMES FALKLAND, GEORGE ROSSITER and VICTOR SOLER.

Victor Soler
Sheila Bain



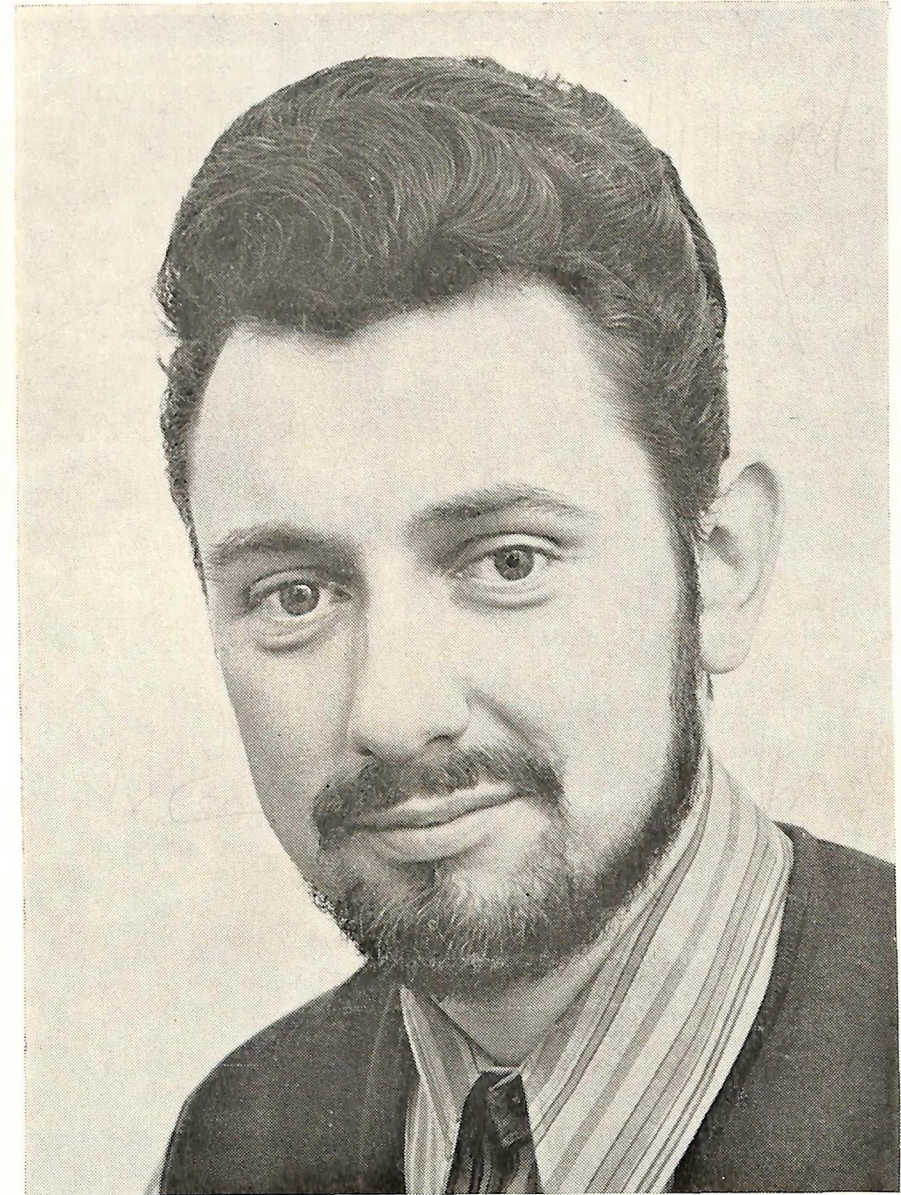
JILL MORFORD
Mother

Jill Morford

Mezzo-Soprano Champion of Brighton, Jill Morford started studying as a pianist, but later turned to singing.

This is her first solo role in opera. She appeared in "Julius Caesar Jones" as leader of the chorus, and understudy to "Nora".

Now studying for Final Diploma in Singing (L.R.A.M.) which she will take in April.



DEREK STURT
Father

Derek M-Sturt

Derek Sturt is making his second appearance with the Opera Group, having sung the part of Father in 1966. Derek is in great demand with opera groups all over the south of England.



JOSEPHINE LEE
Musical Adviser

Josephine Lee

A famous name, and well loved by all musicians who have had the pleasure of her support and superb accompaniment.

She was for 17 years accompanist for the B.B.C. Now teaching at The Hove Academy, she is pianist, coach, and musical adviser for the production.

VICTORIA BURGE
(Sandman)

Victoria Burge

Victoria read French at Grenoble University.

Joined the Hove Academy in 1968, and is now studying full-time, having won a Senior Award from Brighton Education Authority.

She is working towards her Final Diploma in Singing.

JANET ROBOTHAM
(Dew Fairy)

Janet joined the Hove Academy in 1967, and was awarded the Diana Vernon Scholarship to study singing.

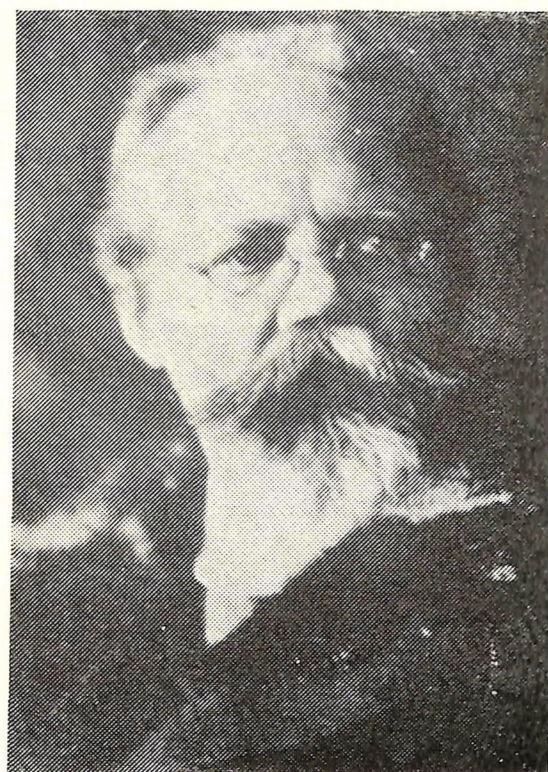
This is her first appearance in opera.

ELIZABETH BRICE
(Sandman)

*Have
Elizabeth
Brice*

The daughter of Diana Vernon, Principal of the Hove Academy, she has appeared at Glyndebourne in "Werther", and also in "Julius Caesar Jones".

The youngest member of the cast.



ENGELBERT
HUMPERDINCK

Engelbert Humperdinck was born in Siegburg on the Rhine in 1854. He attended the local grammar school and soon showed his musical abilities. He won a 'Mozart Scholarship' and a 'Mendelssohn Foundation Prize', thereby studying in Italy. He met Wagner in Naples, and at his invitation assisted him at Bayreuth in the production of "Parsifal". Humperdinck actually wrote a little of the music, in a transition scene, where Wagner's music was found to be too short to fill the required time. Humperdinck then won another Prize — the 'Meyerbeer Prize' of Berlin, and from 1881 to 1887 he travelled and taught in Italy, France and Spain.

His works include "Humoreske" for Orchestra, "Hansel and Gretel", "Dornröschen" "Königskinder" and "Gaudeamus" (all Operas) and much incidental music to Shakespeare's plays. The Libretto for "Hansel and Gretel" was written by Humperdinck's sister Adelheid Wette, and was based on the well-known Grimm's Fairytale. Humperdinck finally settled in Boppard on the Rhine, spending his last few years teaching and in retirement. He produced no musical work during the ten years before his death in Neustrelitz in 1921.

MANOEL THEATRE MANAGEMENT

COMMITTEE

Colonel G. C. GATT — *Chairman.*

Dr. VICTOR A. MERCIECA LL.D. — *Hon. Treasurer.*

Mr. A. AGIUS FERRANTE, L.P. — *Hon. Secretary.*

Mrs. INES BONELLO CASHA — *Member.*

Notary Dr. V. M. PELLEGRINI, LL.D. — *Member.*

Mr. MICHAEL KISSAUN — *Manager.*

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ARIEL PLAYERS — "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs — 1st to 4th January 1970.

THEATRICAL ENTERPRISES (MALTA) Ltd.— "The Eagle with Two Heads" — 7th to 10th January, 1970.

VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT by the Guild of Maltese Authors and Composers (U.K.A.M.) — 14th January 1970.

MALTA BAND CLUBS ASSOCIATION — "Annual Councert" — 17th January, 1970.

Late comers will not be admitted to the Auditorium.

Smoking is not permitted in the Auditorium, in Boxes, or in the Gallery.

The Management reserve the right to vary or omit any part of the programme without previous notice.

Patrons are reminded that the taking of photographs during the performance is not allowed.

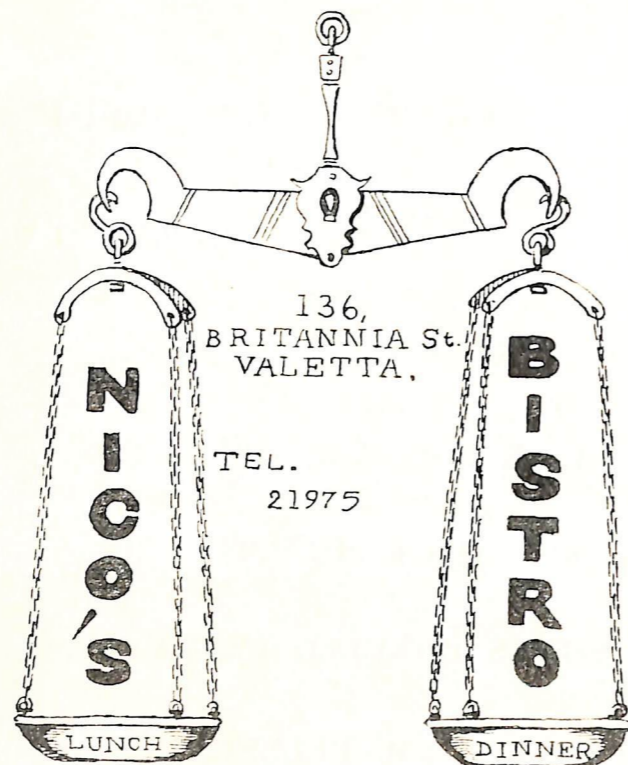
Children, even when accompanied by their parents, will be required to occupy individual seats.

The compilation, layout and editing of this programme was carried out by Dr. V. M. Pellegrini.

The Cover is by Chev. Em. Vin. Cremona:

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