



A Choral Chamber Ensemble
Kerry Krebill, *Artistic Director*

7th Annual
Helena Choral Week
Thursday, June 24, 2010, 12:15 pm
Myrna Loy Arts Center

“The Stoned Guest”
(5.86 proof)

A Half-Act Opera by
P. D. Q. Bach (1807-1742?)

Laboriously Edited by
Professor Peter Schickele

CAST
(In order of appearance)

Donna Ribalda (a high-born lady of the lowlands)
Carmen Ghia (a woman of ailing repute)
Don Octave (an itinerant nobelman)
Dog
Il Commendatore (the stoned guest)
Swing

Evanne Browne, *Mezzanine-Soprano*
Gretchen Munding, *Off-Coloratura*
Thomas A. Gregg, *Bargain Counter Tenor*
Tucker, *Houndentenor**
Bobb Robinson, *Basso Blotto*
Frederick Peterbark, *Utility Infielder*

Directed passionately by Robert Tudor
Accompanied dispassionately by Jean Browne

* Understudy for Dog Donald Mitchell
(*Understudies never substitute for a listed player unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the performance.*)

Disclaimer: Musikanten Montana Director Kerry Krebill admits that it seemed like a good idea at the time.

This concert reluctantly sponsored by



Thanks to the Myrna Loy Arts Center for hosting this week's lunchtime concerts.

PROGRAM NOTES

P.D.Q. BACH (1807-1742?) was not only the last of the great Johann Sebastian Bach's 20-odd children, he was also the least and the oddest. Any account of his life that fails to mention the fact that one of his ears was slightly pointed would have to be considered seriously deficient. We have evidence of at least three attacks on the genre of opera by this midget among composers: 1) an opera in one unnatural act entitled HANSEL AND GRETEL AND TED AND ALICE; 2) a large work called THE CIVILIAN BARBER, only parts of which have been found; 3) the half-act opera THE STONED GUEST.

THE STONED GUEST was first performed at the *Howdyvolksteater* in Wein-am-Rhein, the town in which P.D.Q. Bach spent the longest period of his creative life, the Soused Period. The initial reception was mixed, with tomatoes and eggs predominating. One of the most notable aspects of the opera is its large canine part (known in the 18th Century as a *barcarolle*) which exceeds in virtuosity even the famous "Woofenpoof Song" from FIDO AND AENEAS. Tradition has it that P.D.Q. himself played the title role, which, if true, proves that type-casting was as common then as it is now. The work is recorded on Vanguard album (VSD6536) in a performance that can only be described as definitive.

Special Guest Artist for This Performance



Tucker is a border collie/something-large cross who was found about 10 years ago wandering around near Lazyman's Gulch outside of Rimini with no ID. Since then he's become a beloved part of an extended family and can usually be found hanging out at the *Queen City News*. He recently found local fame playing the ever-faithful "Shep" from Fort Benton at the downtown Helena History Fair and is pleased to make his first stage appearance during Helena Choral Week.