

Dandi Orchestra Productions – Calgary, Canada

PROGRAMME CREDITS

Story by Judd Palmer

Orchestrations and Original Compositions by Dave Pierce and Donovan Seidle

Produced by Dandi Productions

BIOS – *The Mysterious Maestro*

About Dandi Productions

Dandi Productions was established by performers Doug McKeag and Onalea Gilbertson to develop, promote and tour new and innovative Symphony works for Young Orchestra audiences. Dandi presented the North American Premieres of three Roald Dahl “Revolting Rhymes”, and produced the WORLD Premieres of two additional full-orchestra concert-stories: *The Mysterious Maestro* and *The Twins and the Monster*. As Artistic Producers, Doug and Onalea believe passionately in the fundamental importance of music in young peoples’ lives. As Singers and Actors themselves, they have appeared with major theatres across Canada, in a wide variety of musicals and plays. They develop their productions with a keen sense of humour, top-notch performers, and the highest of entertainment standards. Featuring puppets by the Old Trout Puppet Workshop, these concerts are in turn spellbinding, heartbreaking, scary and hysterically funny.

Dandi has toured across North America, and has performed with the Toronto, Vancouver, Edmonton and Winnipeg Symphony Orchestras, l’orchestres symphoniques de Québec and Montréal, the Calgary Philharmonic, The Grand Rapids Symphony; and was presented at the Hollywood Bowl by the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Judd Palmer (Author, Designer) designs the puppets and masks for all of DANDI's concert-stories. He also wrote the story of "The Mysterious Maestro". With his company **The Old Trout Puppet Workshop**, Judd has worked with puppets in every conceivable way. He authored and created the puppets for The Ice King -- A Tale of the Franklin Expedition, The Tooth Fairy, The Death of Benevuto Cellini and The Unlikely Birth of Istvan. He has also built and operated puppets on YTV's Nunavan, Disney's Honey I Shrank the Kids and Planet Grog. “The Maestro” (the illustrated book) will be published in fall, '02.

Onalea Gilbertson, (Vocalist) Onalea is a theatre and concert performer at home with orchestra, cabaret and electronica. Most of the year she performs and creates as part of the ensemble of One Yellow Rabbit, recent shows include: *Hayride (April 2006)*, *In Klezskavania*, *Dream Machine and Featherland*. Other favorite performances include: Guest Soloist (Land’s End Chamber Ensemble’s Halloween Cabaret); *Songs for Caligari* (Beat-Niq); *Little Mercy’s First Murder* (GZT,Vertigo); *The Chet Baker Project* (Crow’s Theatre, Calgary); *Into The Woods* (Citadel); *Joni Mitchell: River, Assassins*,(ATP); Bernstein’s *Mass* (CPO) ; *We’re Only In It For The Money* (Whip It

Dandi Productions Inc 2001 Ramsay St SE Calgary AB T2G 4H9
Tel 403 234-0768 Canada Fax 403 234-0767
Email info@dandiproductions.com
Website: www.dandiproductions.com

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Out Ensemble) and opening for Daniel Lanois (Calgary International Jazz Festival, 2005).

With Dandi Productions, a company formed with her partner Doug McKeag, she has created and performed innovative programming for symphony orchestras across Canada and internationally. She leads the ten-piece Dandi Orchestra, the Dandi Trio, and has released 3 CD's all available at onlea.com.

Dave Pierce (Composer, Arranger) is an award-winning composer whose work can be heard on PBS, CBC, Fashion TV, Global TV, Much Music and Bravo. Among his Theatre credits, Dave's compositions and/or arrangements are played nightly in shows such as *Chicago*, *Red Rock Diner*, *Forever Swing*, *Hotel Porter*, *The Las Vegas Story Concert* and *The Tim Tamashiro Show*. Dave's compositions and orchestrations have been performed by Symphony Pops Orchestras across North America and Europe. He has expert creative knowledge in large-scale productions, and has scored for fireworks displays, production stage shows, and Event Spectaculars. Dave is the Musical Director for the Grandstand Show at The Calgary Stampede, which plays to 25,000 people nightly.

Donovan Seidle (Composer) is a graduate of the University of Calgary where he studied violin performance. He completed the degree in 1999, achieving a BMus with distinction and the Department of Music Award. As a composer/arranger, Donovan has worked with Dave Pierce since 1997 on original live production shows such as the Grandstand Show, *Red Rock Diner*, *Forever Swing* and *Hotel Porter*. Donovan has composed soundtracks for several independent films, drama productions, dance projects and the Calgary-based animation studio Aurenya. He is currently pursuing a Masters degree in violin performance with Almita Vamos at Northwestern University in Chicago.

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