
OTTERBEIN
COLLEGE

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GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The magic of madrigals will flavor the Otterbein College Children's Theatre Nov. 21-23 musical production of "The Sleeping Beauty."

"The medieval music will help evoke the Renaissance era," says the play's music director, David DeVenney, "and create that atmosphere of 'otherworldliness' belonging to nymphs and fairies."

Madrigals, a popular form of music from the Renaissance, are usually sung one or two on a part. Often composed for particular occasions during a time when music was a vital ingredient in all festivities, the subject matter of the poetry set to music dealt with every aspect of life.

"They were often sung after dinner," DeVenney says, "and one was expected to be able to carry his or her own part in the madrigal."

All 13 cast members sing and dance throughout "The Sleeping Beauty." Choreographer for the production's dance numbers is Otterbein's Joanne VanSant. DeVenney stresses that little musical accompaniment, with the exception of a recorder and an organ used for one dance and dream sequence, will be employed. In addition to the madrigals, several simple, melodic folksongs will be threaded throughout the play.

DeVenney, instructor of music at Otterbein, believes the music will hold a definite appeal for children in the audience. "The music is very fast, up-tempo, bouncy and joyous. It's the kind of music that's fun to sing, and fun to listen to as well. I think it will help remove them from everyday reality and make things seem more magical."

Guest director Pamela Hill of Opera Columbus selected a 1947 script that doubles the action of the traditional tale by incorporating the interesting subplot of Elano. Elano,

the queen's page who will one day become prince, fails to invite the bad fairy, Frytania, to the infant Beauty's christening. The childish error in judgement is discovered too late by the king and queen, spawning Frytania's wrath and subsequent curse sworn to befall Beauty at age 16.

Elano must learn to overcome his fear in order to undo the bad fairy's evil. Although a good fairy's spell is able to alter the wicked curse cast on Beauty from instant death to 100 years of sleep, it is Elano's strength of character that must mature to save the day. If Beauty is to awaken, he must face up to the fearful Frytania.

All performances of "The Sleeping Beauty" will be at Cowan Hall on the Otterbein campus. Performance dates and times are Friday, Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 22, 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 23, 1:30 p.m. Tickets may be purchased beginning Nov. 10 at the Cowan Hall box office, 890-3028, 1-4:30 p.m. weekdays, and at the door for one hour prior to each performance.