PLOT SYNOPSIS

Act 1

Scene 1

Hansel and Gretel are the beloved children of Peter and Gertrud. Due to circumstances beyond their control, the family has become homeless and is temporarily living off the grid.

Peter had gone into town to sell brooms and other cleaning equipment in order try to better their living conditions. The children are playing and having a great time when their mother returns from an errand. She is furious that they have not done the few jobs she had left for them. She throws them out and tells them to go to the woods to pick some blueberries, saying their father will deal with them when he comes home.

When the children are gone, Gertrud bemoans the fact that she cannot do more for them. Just then, Peter returns and tells her that he has had a great day, showing her all the food he has purchased. He realizes the children are not there. When told that they have gone to the woods, he tells Gertrud of the terrible threat of the Witch of Illsenstein. The parents run to find their children.

Scene 2: The Woods

The children are having a great time, as usual, picking blueberries and flowers. Suddenly they realize that they have lost their way and that it is getting late and dark outside. In their fear of the unknown, the Sandman appears and sings to them. They become sleepy and drift off.

Intermission

Act 2

The children are sleeping peacefully when the Dew Fairy enters and awakens them gently with a song. Gretel and Hansel wake up and talk about the dreams of angels watching over them as they slept. Suddenly they realize that there is a house – or a structure made of candy in woods behind them. They hungrily decide to try a little piece of the candy when a strange voice interrupts them. When they try again the Candy Maker (Witch) appears and takes Hansel prisoner. The Witch puts a spell on them so that they cannot get away and tells of the great glee of having the opportunity to make more delicious candy out of the children.

When the Witch leaves his/her magic wand for a moment, Gretel breaks the spell on Hansel.

He/She tries to get Gretel to help with the candy oven and when he/she shows Gretel what to do, the children shove him/her into the oven, slam the door, and they are saved! When the Witch is dead, all of the other precious children, now candies, appear and their spell is broken.

Mother and Father appear to find Hansel and Gretel safe and sound. All ends happily with the family united and all of the candy children saved.
Welcome to the 2022-23 season of Opera at Western. We are thrilled to be back for all to enjoy the opera after several challenging years of production. The talented young singers at the Don Wright Faculty of Music are grateful for your continued support. We hope you enjoy our offerings of *Hansel and Gretel*, opera gala, and *Falstaff*. Opera is alive and well!

- Theodore Baerg

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Don Wright Faculty of Music fondly remembers the Late Reverend Edward Jackman. He was a generous supporter through the Jackman Foundation and through his recent estate gift. Reverend Jackman was kind and had a true passion for the arts. We miss seeing him at our opera performances. We want to thank Ilona Janoschek for her ongoing leadership gifts to opera and also thank the London Opera Guild for their support of our opera students through scholarships. Thank you to the Port Stanley Theatre for the use of their stage properties.

**Choral Work**

Understudies: *Gretel* Lucia Santilly; *Hansel* Madeline Berman; *Witch* Rebecca Crane

Chorus: Ottley Whitby, Antonia Sidiroopoulos, Christine Kuittinen, McKenna Mellon, Elizabeth Petersen, Josephine Raffaele, Isabella Lauer, Olivia McKay, Yasmeen Abu-Marie, Chelsea Boccongelle, Laura Karkouti

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**CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

- **Violins I**
  - Menelaos Menelaou
  - Jillian Yang
  - Chia-Hsuan Chen
  - Patricio Flores

- **Violins II**
  - Yanet Campbell
  - Ivan Li
  - Jeanny Jung
  - Paul Baek

- **Violas**
  - Tasman Tantasawat
  - Colman Yang
  - Zack Guo
  - Lexi White

- **Celli**
  - Ethan Allers
  - Eve Thompson

- **Bass**
  - Jude Melanson

- **Flutes**
  - Asta Coffey
  - Caedwyn Boyd (2nd/Picc)

- **Oboes**
  - Tinson Lee
  - Margaret Hancox

- **Clarinet**
  - Mian Wei
  - Kevin Weiss (2nd/Bass)

- **Bassoons**
  - Andrea Ferencova
  - Weiyi Han

- **Horns**
  - Ryan Duffy
  - Eric Phong

- **Timpani**
  - William Kim

- **Trombone**
  - Jazzmine Van Veld

- **Percussion**
  - Alex Brown

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