

It's a Wonderful Life

(In English)

Opera in 2 acts by Jake Heggie
Libretto by Gene Scheer

Based on Based on the 1946 Frank Capra movie of the same name (by permission of Paramount Licensing, Inc.) and the short story "The Greatest Gift" by Philip Van Doren Stern.

Sung in English with English supertitles

Conductor

Patrick Summers

Director

Leonard Foglia

Set Designer

Robert Brill

Costume Designer

David C. Woolard

Lighting Designer

Brian Nason

Projection Designer

Elaine J. McCarthy

Choreographer

Keturah Stickann

Chorus Director

Ian Robertson

Dance Master

Lawrence Pech

Projection Design Associate

Maxwell Bowman

Sound Coordinator

Tod Nixon

Assistant Conductor

Joseph Marcheso

Cast

Clara

Golda Schultz (11/17, 20, 24, 25, 29,
12/1, 4, 7) * †

Kearstin Piper Brown (12/9) * †

A Voice

Patti LuPone

Angels First Class

Sarah Cambridge †

Ashley Dixon * †

Amitai Pati †

Christian Pursell †

George Bailey

William Burden

Young Sam

Joshua Partlow *

Young George

Benjamin Drever *

Young Mary

Violet Pasmooij *

Young Harry

Pablo Gracia *

Harry Bailey

Joshua Hopkins *

Uncle Billy Bailey

Keith Jameson * †

Mother Bailey

Catherine Cook

Mary's Suitor

Andrew Truett

Mary Hatch

Andriana Chuchman * †

Mr. Potter

Rod Gilfry

Ernie

William O'Neill

Sam Wainwright

Anders Fröhlich

Helen Bailey

Carole Schaffer

Ed

Anders Fröhlich

Christopher Filipowicz (12/01, 12/04)

Musical Preparation

Bryndon Hassman
Maureen Zoltek
John Elam †
Fabrizio Corona

Randall Colby Roberts
Mrs. Thompson Buffy Baggott
Woman Claire Kelm
Man Jere Torkelsen

Diction

Lynne Soffer

Mr. Delgado Michael Belle
Mrs. Delgado Erin Neff

Assistant Director

Jose Maria Condemi
E. Reed Fisher

Tommy Pablo Gracia *

Janie Violet Pasmooij *

Zuzu Cadence Goblirsch *

Stage Manager

Darin Burnett

Mr. Rufino Phillip Pickens

Mr. Martini Chester Pidduck

Assistant Stage Manager

Andrew G. Landis
Jennifer Harber
Jayme O'Hara
Jimmy Marcheso

Mrs. O'Malley Jesslyn Thomas *

* San Francisco Opera debut † Current Adler Fellow ‡ Role debut

Costume Supervisor

Jai Alltizer

PLACE AND TIME: The Heavens and Bedford Falls, New York; 1916-1945.

Head of Wig and Makeup

Jeanna Parham

Saturday, November 17, 2018, 7:30 PM
Tuesday, November 20, 2018, 7:30 PM
Saturday, November 24, 2018, 2:00 PM
Sunday, November 25, 2018, 2:00 PM
Thursday, November 29, 2018, 7:30 PM
Saturday, December 1, 2018, 7:30 PM
Tuesday, December 4, 2018, 7:30 PM
Friday, December 7, 2018, 7:30 PM
Sunday, December 9, 2018, 2:00 PM

Act I
Intermission
Act II

Sponsors

This production is made possible, in part, by John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn.

This production is made possible, in part, by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

This production is made possible, in part, by San Francisco Opera Guild.

This production is made possible, in part, by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Ms. Schultz's appearances are made possible by the Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Emerging Stars Fund.

Ms. Chuchman's appearances are made possible by the Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Emerging Stars Fund.

Additional funding is provided by Stephen and Diane Heiman.

Additional funding is provided by Dr. Susan and Mark R. Kroll.

Additional funding is provided by Bernice Lindstrom, in memory of John W. Lindstrom.

Additional funding is provided by Sara and Bill Morgan.

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Notes

A co-commission and co-production with Houston Grand Opera (premier 2016) and the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, the opera was performed at Indiana University in November 2017.

Townspeople.

SUPERNUMERARY:

James Crow

Please note that the opera has undergone significant revisions and cuts since its world premiere. Its opening music (which was originally atmospheric and ethereal-sounding) has become more festive and holiday appropriate. Furthermore, in the interest of dramatic flow, the role of Mr. Gower, the local pharmacist, has been excised, and additional music was created for George and Mary in Act I, as well as new Act II duets between Clara and Mary and George and Mr. Potter.

12/01 and 12/04 Due to illness, Mr. Fröhlich was unable to sing the role of Ed, and cover Mr. Filipowicz was in role for both performances. Mr. Fröhlich did perform his role as Sam Wainwright (mute) as well as his regular chorus role.