

FOOD FOR BRITAIN

THE LORD MAYOR'S FUND, 1947

Permit No. 199.

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM OPERA CLASS

PRESENTS

HANSEL AND GRETEL

HUMPERDINCK

AT THE HUT
Monday, May 12th
Tuesday, May 13th
Wednesday, May 14th
1947

ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK was born in Siegburg, in the Rhein provinces, in 1854. He rose with lightning rapidity to fame. He was a pupil of the famous Rheinberger at Munich and won a prize which took him to Italy, where, at Naples, he met Richard Wagner and returned with him to Bayreuth to assist with the production of "Parsifal."

He composed "Hansel and Gretel" in 1893 and Gustav Kobbe refers to it as "perhaps the most important contribution to German opera during the decade that followed Wagner's death." It achieved immediate popularity everywhere and has been a favourite with musicians and the public ever since. It was produced in London in 1895.

A great number of the melodies are German folk songs, but his own inventions are just as successful and beautiful.

This work is a fairy opera in three acts. The story is an old one of the mother who, finding her children idle, sends them to the woods to gather strawberries for their frugal meal. Bemoaning their poverty, she falls asleep exhausted, only to be awakened by the riotous song of her homecoming drunk husband. Her reproaches are silenced at the sight of the sumptuous food he has brought home. When he asks for the children, he is horrified to hear of them being in the woods where lives the wicked fairy.

In the woods, the children have eaten all the berries they gathered. Unable to find their way home through tiredness and the darkness, they fall asleep and angels come down to watch over them.

Morning comes and the dew fairy sprinkles them with dew; they awake to see the sugar-covered house with a row of ginger-bread children. When they break off and eat bits of the house, the wicked witch comes out and catches them, to imprison them and later bake them in the oven. But instead, the witch is pushed into the oven—and all ends happily.

Act I: Peter's cottage in a wood

Act II: In the forest

Act III: The enchanted glade

HANSEL AND GRETEL

The Cast

* HANSEL	- - - - -	MARIE BATES
GRETEL	- - - - -	PEGGY FEARN
PETER (a broom maker)	- - -	WALTER WOTZKE
GERTRUDE (his wife)	- - - -	LILLIAN SIGGS
SANDMAN (the sleep fairy)	- - - -	LORNA LEE
DEW FAIRY	- - - - -	LORNA GRAY
WITCH	- - - - -	BARBARA HOWARD

ANGELS AND CHILDREN

LORNA GRAY	VALERIE CLISBY
LORNA LEE	CHARLOTTE HOLDER
GEAN FLECKER	VIVIENNE DUCE
FAY SUTER	PHYLLIS TURNER
KHAMA KEMPSON	LENORE KOEHNE
HEATHER ROBERTSON	BARBARA WELCH
MARGARET SWIFT	HELEN ADAMS
WILMA McCAULEY	BETTY MITCHELL
DOROTHY SANDERS	MARGARET LEWIS
MERLE DAYMAN	

Production under the direction of
MISS BARBARA HOWARD

At the Piano - - - ALISON HOLDER

Stage Management	- -	Ray Langsford
Settings	- - -	Michael James
Lighting	- - -	Bruce Walton
Decorations	- - -	Gwen Walsh