

An Afternoon of Comic Opera Presented by the Mendocino Chamber Opera

• **On Sunday, November 6 at 3:00 p.m.**



The Mendocino Chamber Opera, under the direction of Richard Goodman, will present a comic opera double bill in the Gualala Arts Center auditorium, performed

with piano accompaniment by Jack Leung.

Two short operas, sung in English, and fully staged, are "The Bear – Extravaganza in One Act" by William Walton, and "Doctor Miracle – an Operetta" in one act by Georges Bizet, composed in 1857.

The Bear/ is a hilarious one act opera by the beloved English composer, William Walton. The book, by the English playwright and poet Paul Dehn, is a direct adaptation for comic opera of Chekhov's famous play "The Bear". Other composers have set this play to opera but Walton's is the best known, the most often performed, and the most accessibly melodic and enjoyable. "The Bear" has a cast of three: "Popova," a youngish widow, played by Susan Makovkin; "Luka," her man servant, played by Jary Stavely; and "Smirnov," a landowner, played by Richard Goodman. Smirnov is trying to collect money owed to him by Popova's deceased husband. He behaves very crudely toward the widow, that is – like a bear. The plot progresses from hostility towards a duel, compounded by budding sexual attraction.

The plot of "Doctor Miracle" revolves about mistaken identity, thwarted love, and disguise, somewhat in the fashion of "The Barber of Seville", but here, in a very

French gesture, the main event is the presentation of an omelet. "Laurette," sung by Claire Barca, wants to marry a young soldier, "Silvio," played by Robert Goleman. "The Mayor," her father, sung by Dan Fowler, objects vociferously. Her mother, "Veronique," sung by Betsy Taylor, is caught between them. Dressed up as a cook, Silvio manages to insinuate himself into the house, but soon gets himself fired. He leaves a message behind. The omelet to be served up magnificently at dinner was not only unappetizing, but actually poisoned. Only the expert ministrations of Doctor Miracle will save the family.



Mendocino Chamber Opera appears through the sponsorship of the GAC Local Eyes series. Admission is \$18 and tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance though Gualala Arts office at 884-1138.

Elbe River Cruise - Prague to Berlin Planned for April, 2006

Enjoy three days in fascinating Prague prior to boarding the "Viking Schumann" to explore 'hidden' Germany's treasures. The scenic Elbe takes you through the heart of a beautiful region that retains its old world charm, through river gorges lined with castles, and cities rich with art and architecture. Enjoy a leisurely pace, regional cuisine and great service aboard the small, intimate "Viking Schumann". Disembark in the heart of each town to enjoy escorted shore excursions, evening strolls and local nightlife. A three night stay in Berlin caps this fascinating journey.

Swisstrek leaders Phil and Ann Graf have organized and will escort this extraordinary travel adventure. The tour is for members and friends of The Gualala Art Center and the Sonoma County Museum, and a donation for the sponsoring organizations is built into the price of the trip. The tour price starts at just under \$3000 per person.

For further information, call Phil or Ann Graf at 785-9213, or pick up a brochure at the office or from the table in the lobby of the Art Center.

Two More Winners

The environmental award winners from the Art in the Redwoods Show were Jacquetta Nisbet, who received the prize from the Redwood Coast Land Conservancy, and Joost Romeu, who was given the Friends Of Gualala River prize. Congratulations to both of these artists.



Gualala Arts Needs:

- For the Click! Show, there is a need for a couple of old laptop computers capable of playing CDs.
- A DVD player
- Large volume paper cutter.
- Strait jacket for Sus.
- Volunteers to help finish the Karel Metcalf Garden Terrace willing to work on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 – 12.