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BRIAN W. PARKER PRODUCTIONS
AND THEATER OOBLECK PRESENT

THE HUNCHBACK VARIATIONS
A CHAMBER OPERA

MUSIC BY MARK MESSING
LIBRETTO BY MICKLE MAHER
ADAPTED FROM HIS PLAY
THE HUNCHBACK VARIATIONS

JUNE 1 - JULY 1, 2012

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The Hunchback Variations

A Chamber Opera

MUSIC BY **MARK MESSING**

LIBRETTO BY **MICKLE MAHER**

ADAPTED FROM HIS PLAY THE HUNCHBACK VARIATIONS

LARRY ADAMS*
AS **QUASIMODO**

GEORGE ANDREW WOLFF*
AS **BEETHOVEN**

WITH

PAUL GHICA CELLO
CHRISTOPHER SARGENT PIANO

LIGHTING DESIGN **JESSE KLUG**
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER **CHERYL D. OLSZOWKA***
QUASIMODO'S MASK **RICHARD HENZEL**
PHOTOGRAPHY **JIM NEWBERRY**
ORIGINAL GRAPHIC DESIGN **COLM O'REILLY**
QUASIMODO'S PROSTHESIS **MISSY SWANSON**
PRODUCING COMPANY **THEATER OOBLECK**
PRODUCER **BRIAN W. PARKER PRODUCTIONS**

Theater Oobleck works without a director.

THERE ARE ELEVEN VARIATIONS.

Running time is approximately 75 minutes with no intermission.

STEINWAY & SONS

LARRY ADAMS
(Quasimodo)



Larry is a Chicago-based actor and has performed with many of the city's theatre companies, and recently originated the role of Quasimodo in Theatre Oobleck's ***The Hunchback Variations*** at Victory Gardens Theatre. Broadway/National: ***The Phantom of the Opera***. Chicago: Captain Von Trapp in ***The Sound of Music***, ***Sweeney Todd***, Father in Jefferson Award-winning ***Ragtime*** (Drury Lane Theatre), ***Passion*** (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), Emile deBecque in ***South Pacific*** and Starbuck in ***110 in the Shade*** (Light Opera Works), Renato in ***Do I Hear A Waltz***, and Phantom in ***Yeston and Kopit's Phantom*** (Theatre at the Center). Regional: Sweeney in ***Sweeney Todd*** (Fulton Theatre). In 2010 Larry was honored by Chicago Magazine as Chicago theatre's Best Singer. Early in his career, Larry worked primarily in opera, performing with such companies as Lake George Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, The Pennsylvania Opera Theatre, and Portland Symphony Orchestra. He has performed a wide variety of musical styles ranging from Opera, musical theatre, pop and minimalism and was a member of composer Conrad Cummings' Ensemble (heard on CRI's Emergency Music label) performing at PS122, The Knitting Factory and La MaMa in ***Photo-Op***, a collaboration with The Ridge Theatre. Larry Adams is a proud member of Actors' Equity, a graduate of The University of Wisconsin-Madison and is delighted to be back in New York.

GEORGE ANDREW WOLFF
(Beethoven)



George is thrilled to make his New York debut after originating the role of Beethoven in the world premiere of ***The Hunchback Variations*** with Theater Oobleck at Chicago's Victory Gardens Theatre. National/Tours: ***A Christmas Story, The Musical*** (1st National Tour) and ***The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*** (Chicago Sit-Down). Chicago/Regional: The Beadle in ***Sweeney Todd***, ***Ragtime***, ***Hairspray*** (Drury Lane Theatre), Nicely in ***Guys and Dolls***, Corny in ***Hairspray***, ***A Christmas Carol***, ***Light in the Piazza***, ***The Producers***, ***Sunset Boulevard*** (Marriott Theatre), ***Die Fledermaus***, ***Yeomen of the Guard***, ***Countess Maritza*** (Light Opera Works), ***Willy Wonka*** and ***The Emperor's New Clothes*** (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), ***Albert Herring*** (Monteux Opera Festival), ***Bon Appetit*** (Anchorage Opera), ***CATS*** (TATC), ***Treasure Island*** (Fulton Theatre), Quasimodo in rocker Dennis DeYoung's world-premiere ***The Hunchback of Notre Dame*** (Bailiwick Repertory), ***Annie Get Your Gun*** and ***Camelot*** (Ravinia Festival), and ***Side by Side by Sondheim*** (Second Stage) for which he earned a Joseph Jefferson Award Nomination. George has also performed with Opera Maine, Madison Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, Ohio Light Opera, the Monteux Opera Festival, and for a while, even had a career in gospel music. George is a proud graduate of Olivet Nazarene University, and is grateful to Mom, Brian, Susan and the boys for helping make this all possible.

PAUL GHICA
(Cello)

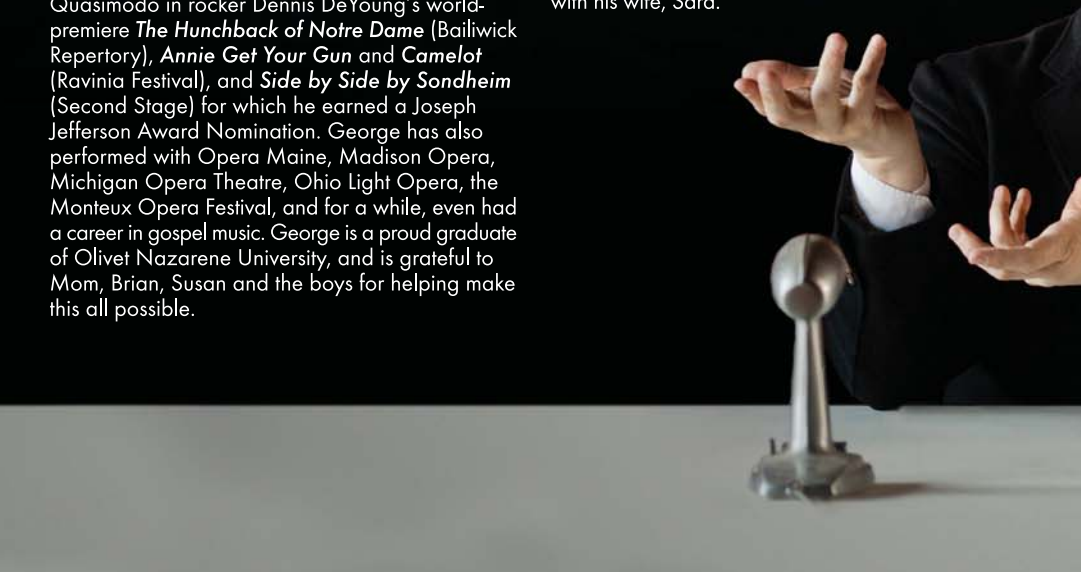
Paul is a Romanian-born cellist who now makes his career in Chicago. Ghica began his musical career studying with his father at the age of eight. He made his solo debut in orchestra at the age of 13 and performed with Emanuel Ax at age 15 before discovering his love for chamber music. Today, Ghica enjoys a diverse career, equally at home in the concert hall, the recording studio, and even Chicago's famed House of Blues. His artistry can be heard on numerous recordings, spanning the genres, from classical, Christian and even rock albums.

CHRISTOPHER SARGENT
(Piano)

Christopher has become one of Chicago's most in-demand pianists. Since 2004, he has worked regularly with Broadway in Chicago, where he performed in the world-premiere of Schoenberg and Boublil's ***The Pirate Queen***, and was assistant musical director for the stage version of ***Dirty Dancing***. He recently served as associate conductor and keyboardist for the Chicago production of ***Billy Elliot - The Musical***. Additionally, Chris has performed with the Milwaukee Symphony, Chicago Jazz Orchestra, Chicago Jazz Ensemble, and the Fulcrum Point New Music Project. He also works regularly with the Drury Lane Theatre, where he recently played ***Hairspray***. Later this summer Chris will serve as Musical Director for ***Come Fly Away***, featuring the music of Frank Sinatra and the choreography of Twyla Tharp.

JESSE KLUG
(Lighting Design)

Off Broadway: ***The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*** (for which he received a Lortel and Hewes nomination). National Tour: ***The Screwtape Letters***. Regional: The Goodman Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Northlight Theatre, Geffen Theatre, The Shakespeare Theatre Company, Marriott Lincolnshire Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare, Drury Lane Oakbrook where he serves a resident lighting designer, Victory Gardens, Lookingglass Theatre, Writers Theatre, Fulton Theatre, Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble, Paramount Theatre, Boars Head Theatre, American Theatre Company, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Fox Valley Repertory, Chicago Dramatist, Timeline Theatre Company, as well as Route 66 Theatre and Chicago Tap Theatre where he also serves as resident lighting designer. Also: The Guggenheim Museum and The New York Music Theatre Festival. He is the winner of both the Chicago After Dark Award and the Joseph Jefferson Award. An active member of the Chicago theatre community since 2001, Jesse is a proud member of United Scenic Artist Local 829, and resides in Chicago with his wife, Sara.



MICKLE MAHER

(Libretto)

Mickle is co-founder of Chicago's Theater Oobleck and the author of numerous plays, including ***An Apology for the Course and Outcome of Certain Events Delivered by Doctor John Faustus on This His Final Evening***, ***The Hunchback Variations***, ***The Strangerer***, ***Spirits to Enforce***, ***Cyrano*** (translator), ***The Cabinet***, and ***Lady Madeline***. His plays have appeared Off-Broadway and in numerous theaters around the world. He has been the recipient of a Creative Capital grant (for ***The Strangerer***) and, recently, an NEA grant for ***The Hunchback Variations***, and a MAP Fund grant (through Catastrophic Theatre) to write a play about a man with a talking hand. He currently teaches playwriting and related subjects at the University of Chicago and Columbia College. For the University of Chicago, he recently adapted Stanislavski's ***An Actor Prepares***. His plays are published by Hope and Nonthings.

MARK MESSING

(Music)

Mark is co-founder of ***Mucca Pazza***, a 30-piece mobile orchestra/marching band, and ***Opera-Matic*** which performs Lullaby Parades on bicycle-powered floats in Chicago neighborhoods at twilight. Recently he wrote new music for the Tony Kushner translation of ***Mother Courage*** performed by the Bricklayers Theater, music for Chicago Children's Theater's ***The Houdini Box*** based on the book by Brian Selsnick and music for ***The Thief of Baghdad*** for The Ljubljana Puppet Theater. He has also composed for Redmoon Theatre, Lookingglass Theater, Walkabout Theater, Lucky Plush Dance Company, Shirley Mordine and Company, and for numerous independent films including ***The First Breath of Tengan Rei*** (2009) by Junko Kajino and Ed M. Koziarski.

CHERYL D. OLSZOWKA

(Production Stage Manager)

Off-Broadway: ***Bachelorette*** (2econd Stage), ***Passion Play*** (Epic Theatre Ensemble), ***Good Bobby***, ***Some Kind of Bliss***, ***Personal Enemy***, ***Hysteria***, ***If That's All There Is*** (59E59), ***The Tin Pan Alley Rag*** (Roundabout), ***Bill W. & Dr. Bob*** (New World Stages), ***Pied-A-Terre*** (Theater Row). Regionally, Cheryl has worked with Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Hanover Theatre, Chester Theatre Company, Hudson Stage, New Repertory Theatre, Weston Playhouse, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, the Adirondack Theatre Festival, and the Goodman Theatre. Film & TV (DGA trainee): NYC 22, The Untitled James Gray Project, Notorious. She received her BFA in Stage Management from Boston University. Proud member of AEA.

BRIAN W. PARKER

(Producer)

Brian, a Chicago native, is thrilled to make his stage producing debut with this exciting new work from his hometown. Brian has had careers in fundraising, music, and higher education for the past 17 years. He served as lead producer on Jonathan Reid Gelt's debut recording ***Thirteen Stories Down***, on the Sh-K-Boom label, featuring some of Broadway's biggest names. An accomplished conductor, musician, and philanthropist, Parker now makes his home in New York City.

SPECIAL THANKS

Steve Johnson, John and Jill Bowling, Doris Cheeseman, Domingo Quintero, Christopher White, Bill Miller, Olivet Nazarene University, Harry Bleattler, Steve Salyers, Noah Hunter, Jonathan Reid Gealt, Leslie Buchbinder, Caroline O'Boyle, Richard Henzel, Blair Thomas, Pete Weathers, Jeff Bivens, Jeff Kowalkowski, Martha Bayne, Diana Slickman, David Isaacson, Michael Zerang, Mark Comiskey and Plasticene, Chicago Opera Vanguard, Light Opera Works, Opera Cabal, Victory Gardens Theater, Fred Lonberg-Holm, Mark Messing, Colm O'Reilly, Eric Leonardson, David Isaacson, John Corbett, Terri Kapsalis, and to all those who made donations specifically in support of this project.



ABOUT THEATER OOBLECK

Theater Oobleck is a Chicago-based company, 24 years old this year. Over those 24 years, Oobleck has launched 63 productions of idiosyncratic new works, all created and developed by members of the ensemble, working in concert to create a collective vision without an overseeing director.

Oobleck will be returning to New York this summer with the latest chapter in our ***Baudelaire in a Box*** series – a seven-year project translating the entirety of Charles Baudelaire's ***Les Fleurs du Mal*** into song and image. Look for us July 20-21 at Brooklyn's Jalopy Theater as a part of the ***Banners & Cranks Singing Picture Show***.

Previous Oobleck forays to New York include a six-week Off-Broadway engagement of Mickle Maher's ***The Strangerer*** at the Barrow Street Theatre, and three trips to the New York International Fringe Festival (with one production being named Outstanding Comedy of the Fringe). Oobleck works have been re-mounted by theaters in Austin, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, St. Louis, Philadelphia, Portland, Milwaukee, San Francisco, and Savannah; and internationally in the United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Norway, Finland, and Luxembourg. Theater Oobleck is funded through grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Alphawood Foundation, the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelly Foundation, the Illinois Arts Council, an agency of the State of Illinois, and through the generous support of its audiences. More information can be found at **theateroobleck.com**.

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This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

ART WORKS.

This production is made possible, in part, by the generous gifts to our KICKSTARTER campaign, including: Wayne & Judy Parker, Karen Hendley, Robert Peavler, Jerald Cohagan, Karen Schroeder, Cessalee Stovall, Austin Gary, Mark Quanstrom, Billy Huddleston, Elizabeth Rudolph, Keely Vasquez, Katy Master, David Elliott, Anne Michka, Daniel McDonald, Vallea Woodbury, Harlan & Susan Haimes, Deidre Harrison, Cheryl Coons, RJ Coleman, John Babbo, Domingo Qunitero, Barbara Hartness, Ann McMann, Jon & Michelle Klavohn, Dave Buchen & Clare Dolan, Jack Rubin, Laura Shatkus, Cara Salerno, Conrad Cummings, Peggy Roeder, Rudy Hogenmiller & Jim Harms, Rachel Greenawalt, Tim Carpenter, Anthony Alvarez, Don & Dena Reddick, John & Mary Thomson, Scott Hill, Bill Newell, Marc Hulett, Lynette Rea, Jonathan & Melinda Bartling, Stephen & Karen Ball, Stacy Perkins, Harry Bleattler, Beth Pennington, David Isaacson, Wylie Goodman, Hal Shipman, Emlyn Bean, Jackson Evans, Jonathan Draxton, Chris Schoen, Scott Baker, Arnie & Debbie Feffer, Gary Griffin, and Virginia Wolff.

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To make a tax-deductible donation to Theater Oobleck, visit theateroobleck.com or mail a check to Theater Oobleck, PO Box 607666, Chicago, Illinois, 60660.

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