

The Magic Fruit Co-OpéRa Opens at the Arcata Co-op June 25-27



By Megan "Megbeam"
Workman,
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What a thrilling few months we have had preparing the Co-OpéRa's debut show for you!

We first introduced Co-OpéRa in the Spring 2010 edition of your Co-op News.

The working people's opera means that all characters and instruments are played by Co-op employees, who have been volunteering their time to create Co-OpéRa.

They will be performing a series of twelve vignettes collectively entitled *The Magic Fruit*, adapted from Mozart's opera *Die Zauberflöte*, or *The Magic Flute*.

A vignette is scheduled to begin every 45 minutes somewhere in the Arcata store Friday, June 25 through Sunday, June 27.

Act I

The story begins with the introduction of two characters:

Tamino, the young owner of a modest farm, and Papageno, a happy-go-lucky artist who works with the Magic Birds under the auspices of the Queen of Easy Money.

After falsely attesting to rescuing Tamino from one of the Queen's errant and mutated birds, and slandering the name of his employer, three Toxic Ladies-in-Waiting—emissaries of the Queen and Tamino's true rescuers—reprimand Papageno and show Tamino an image of Pamina, the Queen's daughter and embodiment of Food Security.

The Queen appears and charges Tamino with the task of rescuing the princess, purportedly abducted by Sarastro, a figure who the Queen describes as mischievous and evil, but who is actually the Chief Leader on the World Leaders Council on Compassion.

Tamino and Papageno are sent on their way, accompanied by magic fruit and two magic instruments to be used in time of dire need.

Pamina makes her first appearance near the Council's headquarters. Papageno enters a small clearing and finds Pamina there, lost, weeping and lamenting her current quandary.

Papageno soon learns that Pamina had actually run away from her mother's tyranny. Meanwhile, Tamino is invited to



Original Artwork by Riley Cox

undergo the tests necessary to be inducted into the Council.

He charms the forest creatures with the flute given him and hastens to follow the sound of Papageno's melodica and hence, the Princess.

In a blunderous move, a flock of hideous birds sent by the Queen give chase to Pamina and Papageno. However, Papageno uses her magic melodica in their defense, and the two are left unharmed.

Sarastro then appears, and, under his command, Tamino and Pamina are ushered into the temple of Ordeals to prove their dedication to the Cooperative Spirit and thus worthy of induction to the Temple of Compassion's Circle of Leaders.

Act II

Sarastro informs his Emissaries of the Cooperative Spirit of Cosmic Unity's plans to induct the Farmer onto the Council.

Cosmic Unity has chosen Tamino, a Farmer's Son, to be the Guardian of Food Security, represented by Pamina.

Tamino, however, must prove that he is ready to be admitted

as a leader in the Temple of Compassion. Therefore Sarastro has taken under his protection Pamina, daughter of the Queen of Easy Money, to whom is due all darkness and fear.

But the couple must go through severe ordeals in order to thwart the sinister machinations of the Queen.

In the succeeding scenes we watch the couple face the ordeals together, over which Tamino and Pamina triumph, with the assistance of the Magic Fruit, Magic Music, and their own purity of purpose.

Darkness is banished and the young pair enter into the light of the Temple of Compassion.

Papageno also accompanies Tamino and Pamina through their ordeals. She is the artist who supports Tamino's mission and Sarastro's wise guidance.

Her reward is the union with the Companion as Cooperative Partner of her dreams. They provide a celebration of living life in a compassionate way.

If you miss the live versions of this extraordinary spectacle, there will be video versions available on the Co-op's YouTube channel later in the summer.

VOCALISTS

Christo Ball -- Queen's Entourage

Les Craig -- Queen of Easy Money

Melissa Donahue -- Danger Bird

Julia Dorso -- Sarastro's Entourage

Hannah Earheart -- Pamina

Regina Espinosa -- Speaker/Chorus

Gabe Fugate -- Sarastro

Megan May -- Monster/Papageno

Johnny Trautwein -- Sarastro's Entourage

Keeba Drake -- Tamino

Krystal -- Chorus

Jasmine Monroe -- Queen's Entourage

Megbeam Workman -- Papageno

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Greg Devanney -- Various

Elizabeth -- Bass

Lauren -- Omnichord

Brenda Harper -- Accordion

Joan Richards -- Gong

Jordan Stull-Barnes -- Guitar

AESTHETIC CREATION

Christine Brockway, Riley Cox
L. Angie Valetutto

Other contributing acting talent includes Dorotea, Ishmael, Ginkgo, Renee Love, Ashley Newton & Sahara.

A full playbill will be available at the show along with delicious treats to enjoy while you experience *The Magic Fruit*.

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