

Friday Feb 19, 1968

## College Gives Weill's Fresh, Lyric Folk Opera

A most happy marriage of the College Choir and College Players last night at Price auditorium resulted in a 40-minute operatic "honeymoon," Kurt Weill's tuneful, "Down In the Valley."

Forgotten were outside snow and rain as the simple, direct folk opera moved from opening phrases to final chorus and haunting refrain, "Angels In Heaven Know That I Love You."

Kurt Weill composed the Broadway hit, "Three Penny Opera," and its currently popular song, "Mack the Knife." He wrote "Down In the Valley," it is said, for non-professional production, using folk tunes, "Hop Up, My Ladies," "Sourwood Mountain," "The Lonesome Dove" and others, and adding harmonic dissonances to gain dramatic effects.

### Bartrow Sings "Brack"

At Price auditorium, David Bartrow sang "Brack Weaver" who, for the love of "Jennie Parsons," sung by Miss Nancy Noon, killed "Thomas Bouche," sung by Ronald Meyer. For this, "Brack" will hang.

... But not until he returns to see "Jennie" and relive the happy moments of courtship — which is the story.

The opera's simplicity recalled Thornton Wilder's "Our Town." Simple, stylized house and fence, lofty church window and grim, barred prison dressed the stage at various times. Tragedy suggested a dominant theme of black.

Against backdrop, the choir sang its Greek chorus. Imaginative light sequences picked out soloists and central action, as the

love tale moved through flashbacks from prison cell to prison cell.

### Three Directors

Russell C. Gillam, choir director, Frederick Pflieger, solo director, and Dr. Irving Deer, drama director, fused these elements into a satisfying whole, as Mrs. Miriam Claster and Mr. Pflieger added stimulating accompaniment. Ross Wilson directed the important light sequences.

Edward Cox, as narrator, led performers and audience through the brief tale.

Robert Schappel played "Jennie's father," a non-singing role. Others of the cast were Ray Ward, Carl Bartlett, Carol Billhartz, Primrose Reeves, Gene Rexford, Robert Ambrose, and the men and women of the chorus.

Patricia McCoy was ready as the understudy for "Jennie." Dave Bartrow and Joe Keller helped with lighting. Dave Harris, Charles Kormansky and Bob up: Pat Pelleschi, Connie De-

Four students handled make-Schappel constructed the sets. Gregory, Carolyn Nale and Grace Thomas.

Despite the worst of wintry weather, the performance attracted a good-sized audience that sat, when the short drama had ended, waiting for more.



## College Thespians Rehearse Emotions for "Down in the Valley"

In folk tale, "Down in the Valley," will be presented by State College Thespians Thursday evening. Above, Nancy Noon, who plays the role of Jennie, and Dave Bartrow, who plays the role of Brack Weaver the hero, rehearse emotions which fill the story soon to be separated. Jennie and Brack, clapping hands before preacher, Ed Cox, are caught up in the spirit

of a church meeting as they are led in baptism. Here they show their real feeling for each other and their community, bursting with the exuberance of love-of-life. Later, they embrace in great sorrow. Brack must return to jail and will hang in the morning for killing a man. The three-act play will be staged in Price Auditorium, admission free.



## THE COLLEGE CHOIR

### *Soprano*

### *Alto*

Jacqueline Borroscio	Lynda Béchdel
Patricia Breen	Mona Caris
Sandra Covalt	Bonnie Clark
Phillippe de Launay	Barbara Cleaver
Ann Duffield	Laurann Fabel
Arlene Glossner	Leanna Finch
Sarah Hamberger	Meretta Gisewhite
Joy Harrau	Diane Graves
Diane McClain	Marjorie Haves
Patricia McCoy	Diana Herr
Dolores Moore	Carole Kane
Nancy Noon	Linda Lehman
Margaret Romeo	Phyllis Michaels
Dixie Stock	Jane Miller
Carolyn Wynne	Jo Ann Panitzke
Nancy Young	Bonnie Pentz
Rebecca Young	Carol Rudisill
Susan Zeigler	Sallie Thornton

### *Tenor*

Robert Ambrose  
 Carl Bartlett  
 David Bartraw  
 Kenneth Brasington  
 Edward Cox  
 Richard Hewitt  
 Joseph Keller  
 Ronald Meyer  
 Gene Rexford  
 Richard Stoyer  
 William Valmont  
 Thomas Wolfe

Annette Wagner  
 Connie Wagner  
 Martha Willits  
 Judith Zeigler

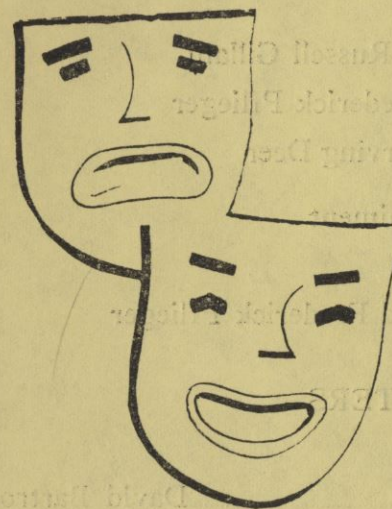
### *Bass*

Robert Hammer  
 Richard Linaberry  
 Leon Miller  
 Paul Ohl  
 Dennis Shuey  
 John Skeeby  
 Alan Yarrison

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Lock Haven Express  
 Radio Station WPBZ  
 Mrs. Kathleen Pflieger

## LOCK HAVEN STATE COLLEGE



## The COLLEGE CHOIR and the COLLEGE PLAYERS

## Present DOWN IN THE VALLEY

Music By

**KURT WEILL**

Libretto by

**ARNOLD SUNDGAARD**  
**PRICE AUDITORIUM**

**February 18, 1960**



# DOWN IN THE VALLEY

Choir Director — Russell Gillam

Solo Director — Frederick Pflieger

Staged by — Irving Deer

Accompaniment

by

Mrs. Miriam Claster and Frederick Pflieger

## CHARACTERS

Brack Weaver ..... David Bartrow

Jennie Parsons ..... Nancy Noon  
Patricia McCoy†

Leader } ..... Edward Cox  
Preacher }

Jennie's Father ..... Robert Schappell

Guard ..... Ray Ward

Peters ..... Carl Bartlett

Two Women ..... Carol Billhartz, Primrose Reeves

Two Men ..... Gene Rexford, Robert Ambrose

The Chorus ..... College Choir\*

Produced by special arrangement with ..... G. Schirmer, Inc.

\*See names on back page

†Understudy

## ABOUT THE OPERA

"Down in the Valley" is only one of Kurt Weill's musical achievements. He is equally famous as the composer of such Broadway hit musicals as "The Three-Penny Opera" which has been playing to packed houses for the last five years, "Knickerbocker Holiday," and "Lost in the Stars."

"Down in the Valley" was written specifically for non-professional production. Unlike most grand opera, it is simple, direct and highly theatrical. The opera is based on five familiar American folk songs: "Down in the Valley," "The Lonesome Dove," "The Little Black Train," "Hop Up, My Ladies," and "Sourwood Mountain." These grow out of a compelling but simple love story. Weill's command of technique allows him to interject interesting harmonic dissonances wherever he wants to gain dramatic effects or heighten romantic sentiments. By such devices, Weill is able to retain the strong, simple appeal of folk music and yet achieve a high degree of musical sophistication.

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Lighting Director ..... Ross Wilson

Lighting Crew ..... Dave Bartrow, Joe Keller

Set Construction ..... Dave Harris

Charles Kormnasky, Bob Schappell

Publicity ..... Sandy Kuebler

Make-up ..... Pat Pelleschi, Connie DeGregory,

Carolyn Nale, Grace Thomas

Ushers ..... Donna Kinzer, Marlene Heiberger,

Rosie Spacek, Sandy Kuebler



*Friday Feb 19, 1960*

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resulted in a 40-minute operatic "honeymoon," Kurt Weill's tuneful, "Down In the Valley."

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College Thespians Rehearse Emotions for "Down in the Valley"

A warm folk tale, "Down in the Valley," will be presented by Lock Haven State College Thespians Thursday evening. Above, stars Nancy Noon, who plays the role of Jennie, and Dave Bartrow, Brack Weaver the hero, rehearse emotions which fill the young lovers soon to be separated. Jennie and Brack, clapping their hands before preacher, Ed Cox, are caught up in the spirit

of a church meeting as they are led in baptism. Here they show their real feeling for each other and their community, bursting with the exuberance of love-of-life. Later, they embrace in great sorrow. Brack must return to jail and will hang in the morning for killing a man. The three-act play will be staged in Price Auditorium, admission free.

*Feb. 17, 1960*

Wednesday, Feb. 17, 1960



Fight to the Death over Love of Jennie

Above is pictured a tense moment in the folk-opera, "Down in the Valley," to be given Feb. 18 at 8.15 p. m. at Price auditorium, Lock Haven State College. "Brack Weaver," the hero, played by Dave Bartrow, and "Thomas Bouche," the villain, played by Ronald Meyer,

fight to the death over the love of the heroine, Jennie, played by Nancy Noon. Members of the College Choir, assisted by the College Players, are rehearsing the scene in preparation for tomorrow night's performance.

(Photo by Ross Wilson)





Photo by Wilson



photo by Wilson



Photo by Wilson





*Photo by Wilson*



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(Photo by Ross Wilson)



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