

Friday Feb 19, 1960

College Gives Weill's Fresh, Lyric Folk Opera

A most happy marriage of the love tale moved through flashbacks from prison cell to prison cell.

Three Directors

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

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 Penn State College Thespians Thursday evening. Above, Nancy Noon, who plays the role of Jennie, and Dave Bartrow, the hero, rehearse emotions which fill the characters 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 Borrocoso
Patricia Breen
Sandra Covalt
Phillippe de Launay
Ann Duffield
Arlene Glossner
Sarah Hamberger
Joy Harrau
Diane McClain
Patricia McCoy
Dolores Moore
Nancy Noon
Margaret Romeo
Dixie Stock
Carolyn Wynne
Nancy Young
Rebecca Young
Susan Zeigler

Lynda Bechdel
Mona Caris
Bonnie Clark
Barbara Cleaver
Laurann Fabel
Leanna Finch
Meretta Gisewhite
Diane Graves
Marjorie Haves
Diana Herr
Carole Kane
Linda Lehman
Phyllis Michaels
Jane Miller
Jo Ann Panitzke
Bonnie Pentz
Carol Rudisill
Sallie Thornton
Annette Wagner
Connie Wagner
Martha Willits
Judith Zeigler

Tenor

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

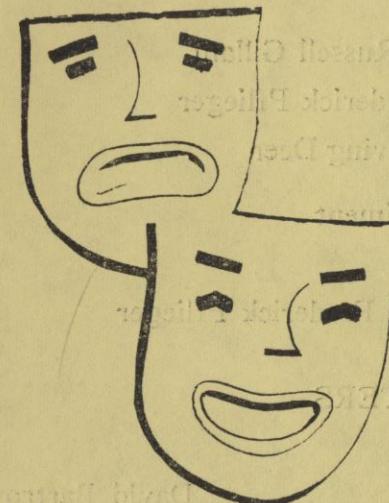
Bass

Robert Hammer
Richard Linaberry
Leon Miller
Paul Ohl
Dennis Shuey
John Skeby
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
Leader }	Patricia McCoy†
Preacher }	Edward Cox
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

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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

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.



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 Bartraw, 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)

Feb. 17, 1960

Wednesday, Feb. 17, 1960



Photo by Wilson



Photo by Wilson



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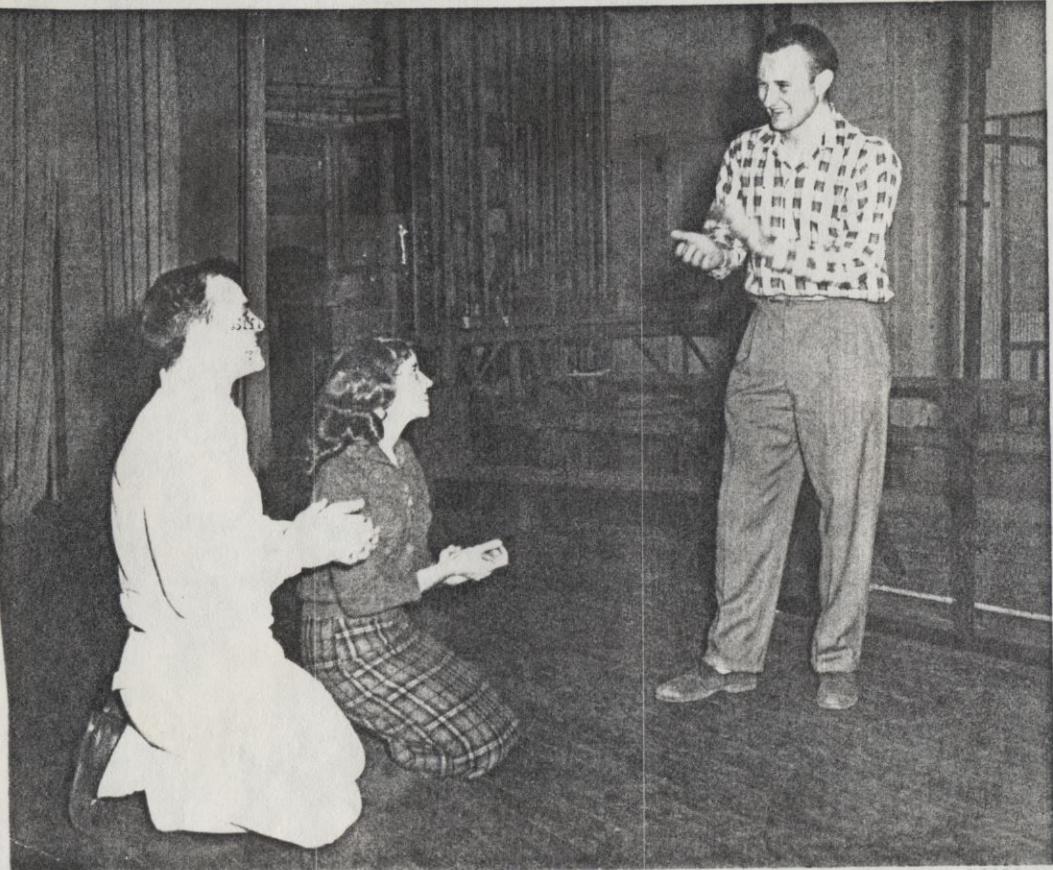


Photo by Wilson