Performance Saturday, July 6 at 8:15 p.m.

Chautauqua Opera dedicates this great British opera to the memory of Flora Mackenzie (1930–2013), wife of Reverend Ross Mackenzie, former Director of Religion at Chautauqua. Her generosity of spirit and her humor graced the Hall of Missions for more than ten years.

Opera in Two Parts and a Prologue
Derived from the poem “The Borough” of George Crabbe
Premiere Performance Sadler’s Wells, London, June 7, 1945
U.S. Premier Performance Berkshire Festival, Tanglewood, June 30, 1946
Chautauqua Opera Premiere July 6, 2013 at 8:15 p.m.

CAST

Peter Grimes, a fisherman
Kevin Ray**

Ellen Orford, a widow, schoolmistress of The Borough
Elizabeth Baldwin*

Captain Balstrode, a retired merchant skipper
David Kravitz**

Mr. Swallow, lawyer, coroner and mayor of The Borough
Philip Cokorinos

Mrs. (Nabob) Sedley, a rentier widow of an East India Company’s factor
Cindy Sadler**

John, Grimes’s new apprentice
Beck Benson**

Auntie, landlady of “The Boar”
Rachelle Pike+

Auntie’s “Nieces,” main attractions of the “The Boar”
Cree Carrico+, Kristin Schwecke+

Bob Boles, fisherman and converted Methodist
Jon Jurgens+

Reverend Horace Adams, the rector
Brett Sprague+

Ned Keene, apothecary and quack
Ted Federle+

Jim Hobson, a carter and town constable
Jonathan Harris+

Town Burgesses
Todd Barnhill+, Adam Barta+, Ivan Conrad+, Michael Hewitt+, John Riesen+

Townspoplle and Fisherfolk
Chautauqua Opera Young Artists and Amanda Bottoms, Amanda Conte, Casey Gray, Arthur Lewis++

Village Children

and Dr. Crabbe
Michael Berg**

* Former Chautauqua Opera Young Artist
** Chautauqua Opera Debut
+ Chautauqua Opera Young Artist
++ Voice Majors — SUNY Fredonia School of Music

CREATIVE AND PRODUCTION

Conductor Steven Osgood
Conceived/Directed by Jay Lesenger
Chorus Master Carol Rausch
Set Designer Ron Kadri
Lighting/Video Designer Michael Baumgarten
Costume Designer B. G. Fitzgerald
Wig/Makeup Designer Georgianna Eberhard
Coach/ Accompanists Jameson Livsey, Miriam Charney, Allison Voth

Diction Coach/Supertitles
Technical Director Erin Waters Ryan
Properties Master/Scenic Artist Tricia L. Thelen
Production Stage Manager Teri Jo Fuson
Assistant Stage Director Alison Moritz
Assistant Stage Managers Kerry Concannon, Susan Stephenson

Concertmaster Vahn Armstrong

Special Thanks
Jared Jacobsen, Organist, Department of Religion
Keith Schmitt and the Amphitheater Crew

CREDITS

Peter Grimes is performed by arrangement with Boosey & Hawkes, Inc., Publisher and Copyright Owner

Scenery Constructed By Local #266 I.A.T.S.E.
Costumes Provided by Malabar Ltd., Toronto and the Chautauqua Opera Costume Shop
Wigs provided by Philip Plowman
Lighting provided by Advanced Production Group
Wig/Makeup Assistant Designer Philip Plowman
Wig/Makeup Assistant Sydney Robinson
SYNOPSIS

Place: The Borough, a small fishing village in Suffolk on the East Coast of England
Time: Towards 1830

The fisherman Peter Grimes keeps himself apart. The Borough is suspicious of his reclusiveness and his daring success as a fisherman. His only friends are the widowed schoolteacher, Ellen Orford, and the retired Captain Balstrode.

A few weeks before, while out fishing, Grimes and his young apprentice were stranded for three days at sea by a storm. The young boy perished from exposure. The Borough is leery of Grime’s story and an inquest is convened.

Part I
Prologue - A Room in the Moot Hall, early Spring

The inquest is presided over by the Lawyer Swallow, Mayor and Coroner of the Borough. Since there is no evidence of foul play, Grimes is acquitted, but the cynical community remains suspicious. Grimes is advised not to use a young apprentice in the future, though he protests he cannot manage his boat by himself. As the room empties, Peter fears that his name has not been cleared and that the case will go on in people’s minds. Ellen tries to comfort him.

Interlude I – Dawn

Scene 1
The Borough Beach and Street, a few days later

The Borough wakes up to a new day. Auntie and her “nieces” open her establishment, “The Boar,” for the day. Boles, a converted Methodist, rails against the ways of sin. Captain Balstrode spots an approaching storm. The Rector of the parish church greets his flock.

When Peter approaches the beach, most of the villagers refuse to help him haul his boat ashore. Only Balstrode and Keene offer assistance. Keene has found another workhouse boy to be Grimes’ new apprentice, but Hobson, the carter, refuses to pick him up. Only when Ellen offers to look after the boy on the trip back does he agree to deliver the boy to Grimes.

Mrs. Sedley, wealthiest woman in town, amateur sleuth and inveterate gossip, accosts the apothecary (and quack doctor) Ned Keene for a resupply of her laudanum, ostensibly for her heart condition. She reluctantly agrees to meet him at “The Boar” that night to get her pills. As the chant sings in church, Ellen admonishes Peter for not giving the young boy a day of rest. They argue. Peter strikes her and takes the boy away. This is observed by Auntie, Keene and Boles. As the congregation comes from church, the three let the neighbors know that “Grimes is at his exercise.” As tempers rise, Ellen tries to calm the angry crowd. They march off to investigate, leaving Ellen behind with Auntie and her girls who now all have the scorn of the town in common.

INTERMISSION

Interlude II – Storm

Scene 2
Inside “The Boar”, the same night

At the height of the storm, Mrs. Sedley enters “The Boar,” much to the dismay of Auntie and her clientele. In his cups, Boles chases after her “nieces.” Ned Keene arrives with the news that the cliff near Grimes’s hut has washed away. Grimes bursts in, distracted by the power of nature. Boles vilifies Grimes and an uproar ensues. Hobson returns with Ellen and John, the new apprentice. Grimes takes the boy and rushes out into the storm.

Interlude III – Sunday Morning

Scene 3
The Borough Beach and Street, some few weeks later

As the community gathers for Sunday services, Ellen embroiders a new jersey for John. She discovers a bruise on his back and tries to comfort him, despite Grime’s rough ways. Peter has spotted a large shoal of fish and comes to fetch the boy to his boat. While the choir sings in church, Ellen admonishes Peter for not giving the young boy a day of rest. They argue. Peter strikes her and takes the boy away. This is observed by Auntie, Keene and Boles. As the congregation comes from church, the three let the neighbors know that “Grimes is at his exercise.” As tempers rise, Ellen tries to calm the angry crowd. They march off to investigate, leaving Ellen behind with Auntie and her girls who now all have the scorn of the town in common.
Part II

Interlude IV – Passacaglia

Scene 4
Peter Grimes’ Hut – shortly after Scene 3

Peter’s mood continues. His vision of a better life with Ellen is disturbed by memories of those three days at sea when his former apprentice died. He gathers his fishing tackle and rushes John towards the back door where the cliff has washed away. Distracted by the approach of the men of the village, Grimes leaves the young boy alone for a moment at the cliff door with disastrous results. When the men of the village arrive, the hut is empty.

Interlude V – Moonlight

Scene 5
The Borough Beach and Street, a few nights later

A subscription dance is taking place at the Moot Hall with much traffic, mostly male, between the dance and “The Boar.” Mrs. Sedley confronts Keene with her suspicions about Grimes. No one has seen him or his apprentice in several days. Though she is sure there has been foul play again, Keene dismisses her. She hides as Ellen finds Captain Balstrode. Grimes’s boat is on the beach, but with no sign of him or the boy. Ellen has found the jersey with the anchor that she embroidered for John washed up on shore and is terrified at what that suggests. They leave to search for Peter.

Mrs. Sedley calls Swallow from “The Boar” and shows him Peter’s boat. The Mayor calls on Hobson to gather a posse to find Grimes. By now the villagers have been alerted. Enraged, they call out for Grimes, vowing to find him and punish him.

Interlude VI – Fog

Scene 6
The Borough Beach and Street, some hours later, before dawn

Peter returns to the deserted shore, haunted by his pursuers and driven mad by tragedy. Balstrode proposes a final way out for the desperate fisherman.

The Borough wakes up to a new day.

CHAUTAUQUA OPERA ORCHESTRA

Violins I
Vahn Armstrong
  Concertmaster
David Hult
  Assistant Concertmaster
Erica Robinson
Matus Zelmanovich
Cheryl Bintz
Lenelle Morse
Marian Tanau
Ming Gao
Amanda Armstrong
Lin-ti Wang

Violins II
Diane Bruce, Principal
Cynthia Berginc, Assistant
Barbara Berg
Margaret Cooper
Lara Sipols
Karen Lord-Powell
Heidi Brown
Karen Glavin

Violas
Thomas Dumm, Principal
Eva Stern, Assistant
Connie Lorber
Caryn Wiegand Neidhold
Cynthia Frank
Jessie Goebel

Cellos
Jolyon Pegis, Principal
Batia Lieberman, Assistant
Jeffrey Szabo
Wendy Brennan
Gena Taylor

Basses
Patricia Dougherty
Bernard Lieberman
David Rosi
Caitlyn Kamminga

Flutes/Piccolos
Richard Sherman
Kathryn Levy

Oboes
Thomas Moore
Jason Weintraub
(English Horn)

Clarinets
Eli Eban
Georg Klaas

Bassoons
Jeffrey Robinson
Stephen Smith
William Scribner
(Contrabasson)

Horns
Bernhard Scully
Donna Dolson
William Bernatis
Mark Robbins

Trumpets
Charles Berginc
Peter Lindblom
Leslie Linn

Trombones
John Marcellus
Vern Kagarice
Eric Lindblom

Tuba
Frederick Boyd

Timpani
Brian Kushmaul

Percussion
Thomas Blanchard
Ronald Barnett

Celesta
Claudia Hoca

Harp
Beth Robinson

Organ
Jared Jacobsen

Stage Band
Clarinet 1
Eli Eban
Clarinet 2
Georg Klaas
Violin
Amanda Armstrong
Double Bass
Caitlyn Kamminga

Percussion
Thomas Blanchard
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