

Winter 3-6-2009

# Marshall University Music Department Presents the MU Opera Theatre and the Cabell Midland Choir Boosters, The Tender Land, an American opera by Aaron Copland

Linda Dobbs

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MARSHALL UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT of  
MUSIC

# The Tender Land

Music by Aaron Copland  
Libretto by Horace Everett

Linda Dobbs, *stage director, scenic design*  
Mark Smith, *musical director*  
Michael Campbell, *pianist*  
Marlo Shaver Wentz, *choreography*

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**MU OPERA THEATRE**  
and the  
**Cabell Midland Choir Boosters**  
present

## The Tender Land

an American opera by Aaron Copland



**Cabell Midland High School**  
**Friday, March 6, 2009**  
**Saturday, March 7, 2009**  
**8:00 p.m.**

### Cast

Beth ..... Jennifer Billups  
Ma Moss.....Aurelia Ward (Friday)  
Rachel Bartram (Saturday)  
Mr. Splinters..... Michael Sidoti  
Laurie Moss..... Leeah Weber  
Grandpa Moss .....Matthew Sparks  
Top ..... Blake Racer  
Martin..... Adam Stephenson  
Mr. Jenks .....Michael Rose  
Mrs. Splinters ..... Kelsey Anderson  
Mrs. Jenks ..... Burcu Korkmaz

Friends and Neighbors: Justin Wiget, Arnold  
Rispress, Katie Pettit, Leah Gore, Shelby Blankenship,  
Kayla Henson, Morgan McMicken and Amanda Wood

Hoedown Dancers (Elite Performance Academy): Alex  
Rahal, Alex Smith, Lexi Smith, Rachelle Thompson, and  
Natasja van Dijk, Desirée Hall, and Jennifer Billups and  
Michael Rose (MU Opera)

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This program is presented by the College of Fine Arts through the Department of Music, with the support of student activity funds. For more information about this or other music events, please call (304) 696-3117, or view our website at [www.marshall.edu/cofa/music](http://www.marshall.edu/cofa/music).

## **Production**

Scenic Mural, Program Cover: David Castleberry  
Farmhouse (2000): James Morris-Smith

Lighting: Jane Modlin

Set Construction

Wendell Dobbs, Fred Workman, Linda Dobbs,  
Rachel Bartram and Michael Rose

Properties: Rachel Bartram and Linda Dobbs

Tickets: Delta Omicron

## **Acknowledgements**

Dr. Jeffrey Pappas, Marshall University Department of Music

Cabell Midland High School, David Tackett, Principal

Cabell Midland High School Music Department  
Ed Harkless, Leslie Riedel  
Ron Caviani and Rhonda Smalley

Marlo Shaver Wentz, Elite Performance Academy

Michael Campbell

Jane Modlin, Paul Blazer High School

Earline Allen, Department of Art, Marshall University

By arrangement with Boosey and Hawkes

## **ACT I**

The afternoon of Laurie's graduation party. The long awaited graduation dress has arrived. Laurie returns from school questioning her future when two itinerant workers arrive at her grandfather's farm looking for jobs. Her grandpa agrees to hire the two and Laurie invites them to her party.

## **ACT II**

The graduation party. Neighbors gather to celebrate with food, drink, songs and dancing. Laurie and Martin are immediately attracted to one another. Their innocent kiss shocks Grandpa whose reaction abruptly ends the party.

## **ACT III**

Laurie and Martin later meet to plan a future together.

*There will be a 10 minute intermission following Act I.*