

## Boston's Guerilla Opera Will Stage Rudolf Rojhan's *Heart of a Dog* at Scheidt School of Music February 26

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Under the direction of Copeland Woodruff, opera stage director at the University of Memphis, Guerilla Opera, the chamber opera ensemble in residence at the Boston Conservatory, will bring its production of *Heart of a Dog* to Harris Concert Hall on February 26. Performances are at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. Admission is free. Seating is limited and guest are encouraged to come early. For more information call (901) 678-1651.



The opera is loosely based on the 1925 novel by Mikhail Bulgakov, satirizing the Communist Party's ideological archetypal ideal of a Soviet citizen. In the book, a scientist transplants the pituitary gland and testicles of a man into a dog, thereby transforming the canine into a satirical man/bad houseguest. Guerilla Opera's interpretation departs from the source material, turning the dog-man into a promiscuous dog-soprano. This contemporary production with minimal orchestration is a long way from the abundance of 19th century opera - intentionally.

*The Boston Globe* described the music (saxophone, viola, cello, and percussion) as "a cross between Alban Berg's 'Wozzeck' and extremely progressive jazz." In Boston last fall, the audience stood during the 40-minute show, jostled around by one of the opera's characters in a small space, changing perspectives and places with the four performers and four musicians. "The ensemble has a reputation for tackling complex contemporary stories to brilliant effect, and it is a great example of how to make art in these economic times," Woodruff notes. "It is important to expose students to opportunities that are different than the stereotypical career path of an opera singer or any musician."

Copeland Woodruff is a three-time winner of the National Opera Association Best Opera Production Competition, most recently for his 2010 adaptation of the American premier of Peter Gilbert and Karola Obermüller's opera,  $3 \times 3 = \infty$  (*dreimaldrei gleich unendlich*), an arresting exploration of victim and violator in the Holocaust, for the

Juventas Opera Project in Boston.

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