

# Opera lecture, performance set

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Music Critic

The Contemporary Music Festival continues on Wednesday with two major events, both taking place in All Faiths in the evening.

At 8, Alun Hoddinott, around whose visit the Festival is organized, will deliver a lecture on *The State of Opera at the End of the Twentieth Century*.

This lecture will be followed by a performance of Professor Hoddinott's one act opera, *The Magician*.

The first full-length opera composed by Alun Hoddinott was *The Beach at Falesa* to a libretto by Glyn Jones based on a short story by R. L. Stevenson. This work was composed between 1970 and 1974 and was the first full-length opera to have been commissioned by the Welsh National Opera Company.

Prof. Hoddinott next turned to the medium of television when he was commissioned by the British HTV network to compose a one act opera.

Although this opera is not based on the novel, it was reading of Thomas Mann's *Mario and the Magician* that suggested the theme to the composer.

The plot concerns a jealous husband (the Magician), a cheating wife, a rival lover, a thwarted plot to kill the Magician and the combined deaths of the Magician and the lover.

The themes of the opera explore the nature of illusion and reality and the search for a lasting love.

There are only three characters and the title role was written for, and performed by, the great Welsh baritone, Sir Geraint Evans.

In Wednesday's performance the cast will consist of William Myers, Susan Graber and Brent Weber. The stage direction is by Tomas Hernandez and the musical direction by Jerry Langenkamp.

The stage set was designed by students including Mark Rosen and Robert Bahan, in KSU's Pre-Design Professions department in the Environmental Design Studios of Eleftherios Pavlides and Jim Jones.

Both the lecture and the performance of *The Magician* are open to the public and admittance is free.

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