

Gian Carlo Menotti was born on 7 July 1911, in Cadegliano, Italy. At the age of 7, under the guidance of his mother, he began to compose songs, and four years later he wrote the words and music of his first opera, *The Death of Pierrot*. In 1923, he began his formal musical training at the Verdi Conservatory in Milan. Following the death of his father, his mother took him to the United States, where he was enrolled at Philadelphia's Curtis Institute of Music. There he completed his musical studies, working in composition under Rosario Scalerò. By far Menotti's best-known work is the Christmas classic *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, composed for NBC-TV in 1951. In 1984 Menotti was awarded the Kennedy Center Honor for lifetime achievement in the arts. He was chosen the 1991 "Musician of the Year" by Musical America.



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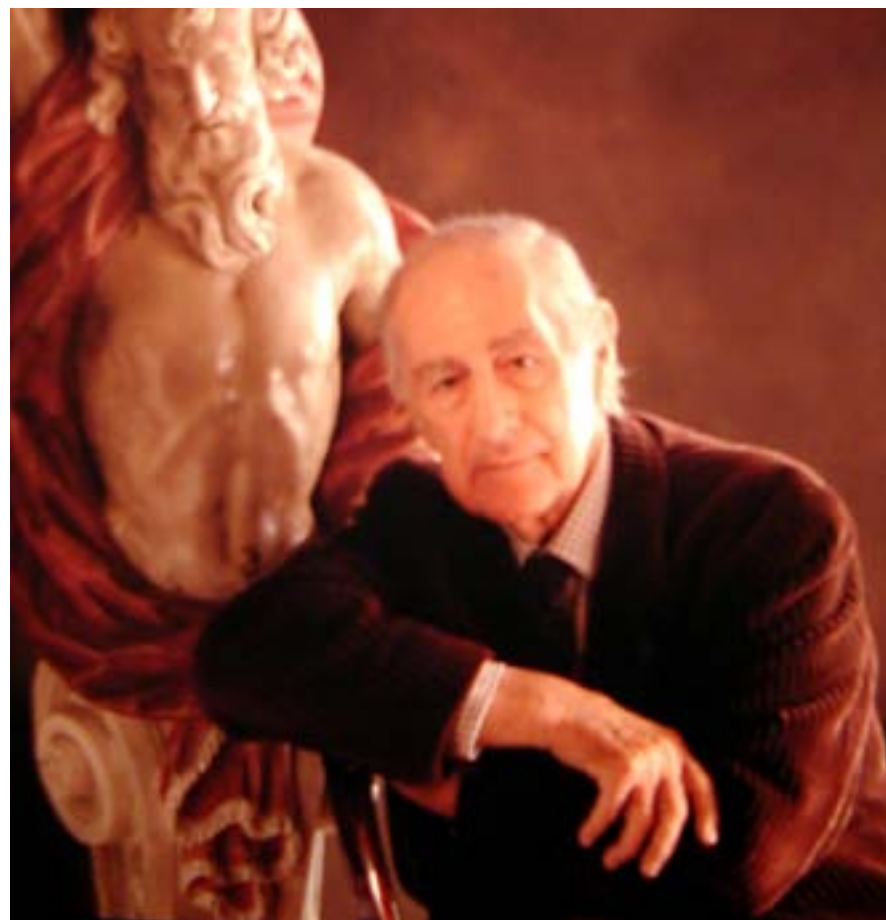
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Gian Carlo Menotti

CHILDREN'S OPERAS



Amahl & the Night Visitors A one-act opera

Libretto by Gian Carlo Menotti available in English, Chinese, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, or Spanish.

Duration: 45 minutes

World Premiere: NBC-TV, December 24, 1951

Orchestration & Cast: Boy S, S, T, Bar, 2B; SATB chorus; dancers
1211/1100/perc/hp.pf/str

Synopsis: The story of a crippled shepherd boy Amahl, who offers his beloved crutch as a present to the Christ child, is healed, and joins the Three Kings on their way to Bethlehem.

The Boy Who Grew Too Fast A one-act opera

Libretto in by Gian Carlo Menotti available in English, Dutch, or German.

Duration: 40 minutes

World Premiere: September 1982, Opera Delaware

Orchestration & Cast: S, girl S, boy S, T, T, Mz, Tr, B, non-singing role, children
1+pic.111/1110/timp.perc/pf.syn/str

Synopsis: A nine-year-old boy who has just moved to town is mocked by his classmates because of his immense size and his name, Poponel Skosvodomnit. Miss Hope, his new teacher, tells the boy of Dr. Shrink, who has invented a shrinking machine. The mother takes the boy to the doctor, who says he will be able to help Poponel reach a normal size but at a price — the boy must conform to everyone else's actions. When Mad Dog, a terrorist, comes to the school and demands a hostage, only Poponel volunteers. His act makes him grow until he overwhelms the terrorist.



A Bride From Pluto A one-act opera

Libretto by Gian Carlo Menotti available in English.

Duration: 38 minutes

World Premiere: April 1982, Kennedy Center, Washington DC

Orchestration & Cast: Bar, Mz, B, 2S

1(pic)011/1100/timp.perc/pf.syn/2vn.va.vc.db

Synopsis: Billy, the spoiled son of a tailor, wants to have much more than his parents can afford. When his father kicks him out of the house, he sees a strange object in the backyard, a spaceship from Pluto. It contains the Queen of Pluto, who has been searching the galaxy for a husband and has selected Billy. She says he can have anything he wants, but, in exchange, the Queen will replace his heart and soul with an electronic gadget that renders him immortal.

Chip and His Dog An opera in two scenes

Libretto by Gian Carlo Menotti available in English, French, or Italian.

Duration: 30 minutes

World Premiere: May 1979, Canadian Children's Opera Chorus, Guelph Spring Festival, Guelph, Canada

Orchestration & Cast: Boy S, mime, 2A, 2S, A, 2 non-singing roles; treble chorus
fl.bn/pf/vn.va.vc.db

Synopsis: Set in a mythical kingdom, a clever dog and his devoted young master teach a bored and petulant princess that happiness cannot be bought, and "...a heart must be won by patience and love."

Help, Help, the Globolinks! A one-act opera

Libretto by Gian Carlo Menotti available in English, Dutch, French, or German.

Duration: 1 hour 10 minutes

World Premiere: December 1968, State Opera of Hamburg, Germany

Orchestration & Cast: S, S, high Bar, Bar, T, Mz, Bar, B; 12 children, globolinks
2121/2221/timp.perc/pf/str; tp
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Synopsis: A busload of children becomes stranded when the vehicle breaks down. It is soon surrounded by unearthly globolinks, who are repulsed by musical sounds. A child goes off to get help, and the children are saved by the intervention of good music.

The Singing Child A one-act opera

Libretto by Gian Carlo Menotti available in English.

Duration: 45 minutes

World Premiere: May 1993, Spoleto Festival, Charleston, SC, USA

Orchestration & Cast: 2 boy S, S, Bar, Mz, T
1111/1100/perc/pf/str

Synopsis: A child of career-oriented, culture-vulture parents is left alone too often with a babysitter he does not like. Desperate for a companion to play with, 8-year-old Jeremy imagines a secret friend that appears as a singing child who chants, but never utters words. The two children learn to communicate this way, to the distraction of the parents who cannot see or hear this visitor. Eventually the parents realize their responsibility and the needs of their child; familial happiness returns and Jeremy speaks once again. A cautionary tale about children's separation anxieties and emotional abandonment.