

## A Note from the Dramaturg

Mozart was surrounded by music his whole life. His father was a professional musician who played the violin and instructed both Mozart and his older sister on the violin and clavichord, an instrument much like a piano. Mozart began playing the clavichord when he was only four years old. His sister, Nannerl, was taking lessons from their father, and Mozart wanted to play, too. He was just like any younger brother in that way! However, he was not like others in terms of his considerable musical ability and talent. Nannerl recalled that even as a boy of four, he could learn a new piece of music in less than an hour and play it perfectly. Young Mozart also wrote his own music, which his father would note down.

Mozart and his sister began playing concerts for audiences, first in Vienna and then all over Europe, when Mozart was just six years old. If he were a boy today, he would have started his tour of Europe playing for royalty when he was only a first grader! Mozart traveled continuously with his father and sister for more than three years from 1763–66. They practiced daily and performed sometimes twice in one day for spectators eager to see the children who were so musically gifted. They traveled from Salzburg north through Germany, making several stops, on to Belgium, Paris, the north of France, then over to London. On their return trip, they visited The Netherlands, Paris once more, then on to the south of France, Switzerland, and back home to Salzburg. As he grew older, Mozart also toured other parts of Europe, becoming known both for his artistry in playing music and his gift for composing. Today, Mozart's music is familiar to millions around the world. His strong, enduring influence on the world of music grew from the boyhood experiences that we are exploring in our *Symphony of Clouds*.

*Shelley Orr, Dramaturg*

## A Note from the Director

"I cannot be sure that this child will not turn my head if I go on hearing him often! He makes me realize that it is difficult to guard against madness on seeing prodigies!" wrote one of the brothers Grimm (of fairy-tale fame) after hearing the infant Mozart improvise on the clavichord. These sentiments, I believe, hold today. The more one listens to the music of Mozart, the more wonder is to be found.

What began for me as a simple story telling about the early life of Mozart has become, with a lot of help from the several talented teams collaborating on the evolution of this show, an affirmation on the mystery and power of art to connect and shift sensibilities of the world. *Symphony of Clouds* has been a journey of joy, for when problems arise it is a simple matter of closing eyes and listening to the music to revisit the rapture of feeling and invention that is spurring our work.

Mozart's life—or what we know of it through letters and historical documents—was tempestuous and short. Our play touches imaginatively on some key moments of joy and rigor, and the possible obstacles he might have faced in his desire for artistic freedom. Historically he is credited as the first independent composer in Western music.

Despite his short time on earth, Mozart's music, like the infinitely and perpetually forming cloudscape surrounding the earth, taps into the range of human feeling. This short play is structured around some well-known musical quotations and a mapping of images and scenes of his early life embedded in a metaphor of changing cloudscape. We hope that new audiences will connect to the variety and vitality of his astonishing creative force.

Presented by San Diego State University  
School of Theatre, Television, and Film

# *Symphony of Clouds*

## Musical Adventures of the Boy Mozart

*Written and Directed by  
Margaret Lartham*

February 18, 23 and 25 at 10 am  
February 18, 19, 24, 25 and 26 at 7:30 pm  
February 20 and 27 at 2 pm

Spring 2011

# *Symphony of Clouds*

## Musical Adventures of the Boy Mozart

Written and Directed by Margaret Larlham

**Scenic Design**..... Cara Tougas      **Costume Design**.....Jonathan Southwell\*  
**Lighting Design** ..... Eben Alguire      **Sound Design**.....Megan Ames  
**Technical Director** ..... Charles Hicks\*\*      **Dramaturg**.....Shelley Orr  
**Stage Manager** ..... Ryan Heath      **Projections**.....Dominic Abbenante  
**Assistant Director and Kappelmeister** .....Thomas Hodges  
**Choreography**.....Margaret Larlham

### CAST

(in order of appearance)

**Constanza** ..... Emily Gordon  
**Mozart** ..... Jon Wat  
**Leopold** ..... David Armstrong  
**Nannerl** ..... Victoria Rees  
**Anna Maria** ..... Sunny Smith  
**Cloud Ensemble** ..... Bronte D'Acquisto, Deisha Fisher, Ryota Kaneko,  
Claudia Marin, Kay McNellen, Walfred Rodas

### Musicians

Sammie Davis, Ryota Kaneko, Michelle Tymich

### Setting

18th-century Salzburg and 18th-century Europe

\*In partial completion of Master of Fine Arts, Design

\*\*Master of Fine Arts, Design and Technical Production

### Acknowledgements and Special Thanks

Karen Follingstad, Peter Larlham,  
Matthew Rowe, Tim Powell



## PRODUCTION STAFF

### CREATIVE/MANAGEMENT

**Assistant Director** ..... Thomas Hodges  
**Assistant Stage Manager** ..... Megan Ames

### SCENIC

**Properties Master** ..... Jennifer Imbler  
**Automation Operator** ..... Sean O'Hara  
**Charge Artist** ..... Jennifer Imbler  
**Scenic Artists** ..... Virginia Provencher, Cara Tougas, Christopher Ward  
**Set Construction** ..... Eben Alguire, Charles Hicks, Justin Kidwell, THEA 442A, THEA 240  
**Stage Crew** ..... Jessica Christman, Marina Inserra, Richard Muir

### COSTUME

**Assistant Costume Designer** ..... Caroline Rousset-Johnson  
**Draper** ..... Sonia Lerner  
**Hair Assistant** ..... Bailey Neill  
**1st hand/Stitcher** ..... Alana Anthony, Tahmineh Moyer  
**Dyer/Crafts Artisan** ..... Lauren Hailey  
**Wardrobe Supervisor** ..... Tahmineh Moyer  
**Costume Crew** ..... Jordan Marrone, Melissa Rodriguez, Robert Roelofs  
**Costume Maintenance** ..... Bradley Sattler

### LIGHTING and SOUND

**Assistant Lighting Designer** ..... Elizabeth Swaffield  
**Master Electrician** ..... Justin Van Hostel  
**Assistant Master Electrician** ..... Max Howell  
**Electricians** ..... THEA 240  
**Light Board Operator** ..... Hannah Ledyard  
**Sound Board Operator** ..... Angela Evers  
**Live Mix** ..... Charles Hicks

### PUBLIC RELATIONS

**House Manager** ..... Nicole Ries  
**Assistant House Manager** ..... Paola Kubelis  
**Box Office Managers** ..... Jarret Addleman, Kevin Koppman-Gue  
**Box Office Staff** ..... Jessica Abbott, Gracie Lee Brown, Katie Grove, Eboni Price  
**Marketing and Publicity Assistant/Group Sales** ..... Amanda Sullivan, Devon Zerebko, THEA 345  
**Concessions** ..... Skull and Dagger