

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW OPERA CD FROM PENTATONE CLASSICS:



THE CANTERVILLE GHOST **BY GORDON GETTY**

PentaTone Classics has just released Gordon Getty's one-act opera, *The Canterville Ghost* (PTC 5186 541).

The Canterville Ghost, with a libretto by the composer, is based on the 1887 short story of the same name by Oscar Wilde. In Wilde's story, an American family moves into an English castle inhabited by a centuries-old ghost who ultimately winds up terrorized by the very family he is trying to haunt.

Mr. Getty states: "The dos and don'ts of romantic comedy are pretty much eternal. In *The Canterville Ghost* Wilde has given us, in short story form, one such romantic comedy of unique beauty and genius, though with heartbreak and redemption along the way. We laugh and cry, and are enriched. I added music, and some words, with the same intention.

"All of its characters who actually sing are meant as endearing. The Otises and Sir Simon are sent up, but we must want to hug them all. Virginia sees most deeply, gets the ideas and makes things happen. Sir Simon would still be lugging his chains but for her. The girl in a romantic comedy must make the audience want to protect her, all the more so for her spunk and moxie.

"Stage and page have different needs. For my opera, Sir Simon's murder of his wife, three centuries before, and his breezy justification of it to Virginia, would grate against the wholesome and family-friendly theme. The libretto, like the 1944 movie with Charles Laughton, changes this detail. The bloodstain is also relocated

from the floor to the armor, so that the audience can see it. Also Canterville and Cheshire are given more continuous roles, Washington Otis is left out, and Mrs. Umney is seen but not heard. These changes reflect no critique of Wilde.”

Please Note: *The Canterville Ghost* received its world premiere in 2015 at the Leipzig Opera (Germany). The Center for Contemporary Opera will present the American Premiere (a co-production with Los Angeles Opera) as part of a double bill with Getty’s opera *Usher House* on October 19 and 21, 2017, at the Sylvia and Danny Kaye Playhouse at Hunter College in New York City. These two operas are informally known as Getty’s “Scare Pair.”

GORDON GETTY (1933)
THE CANTERVILLE GHOST

Libretto by the composer after the short story by Oscar Wilde
PentaTone Classics (PTC 5186 541)

Oper Leipzig
Gewandhausorchester
Matthias Foremny, conductor

Cast:

Virginia – Alexandra Hutton, soprano
Mrs. Otis – Jean Broekhuizen, mezzo-soprano
Hiram Otis – Jonathan Michie, baritone
Cecil Cheshire – Timothy Oliver, tenor
Canterville – Anooshah Golesorkhi, baritone
Ghost (Sir Simon) – Matthew Treviño, bass
First Boy / First Twin – Denise Wernly, mezzo soprano
Second Boy / Second Twin – Rachel Marie Hauge, mezzo soprano

Total playing time: 62.08

About Gordon Getty

The music of American composer Gordon Getty has been performed in venues such as New York’s Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, London’s Royal Festival Hall, Vienna’s Brahmsaal, and Moscow’s Tchaikovsky Hall and Bolshoi Theatre, as well as at the Aspen, Spoleto, and Bad Kissingen Festivals.

The most recent of his three operas, *The Canterville Ghost* (after a tale by Oscar Wilde), was first performed in 2015 by the Leipzig Opera. In 2014, his opera *Usher House* (after Edgar Allan Poe’s *The Fall of the House of Usher*) was premiered by the Welsh National Opera; it was also produced in 2015 by San Francisco Opera. These two one-act operas will be performed together by Los Angeles Opera in June 2018, as well as at the Center for Contemporary Opera in New York. His first opera, *Plump Jack*, involving the adventures of Shakespeare’s Sir John Falstaff, was premiered by the San Francisco Symphony and has been revived by the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic, and London Philharmonia, among other ensembles. In 2011, the Munich Radio Orchestra performed *Plump Jack* in a new concert version.

Joan and the Bells, a cantata portraying the trial and execution of Joan of Arc, has been widely performed, notably at Windsor Castle with Mikhail Pletnev conducting. Getty's ballet *Ancestor Suite* was given its premiere staging by the Bolshoi Ballet and Russian National Orchestra at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow.

Gordon Getty has enjoyed a fruitful relationship with the Pentatone label. In addition to his three operas and *Joan and the Bells*, Pentatone has released an album devoted to six of his orchestral pieces, with Sir Neville Marriner conducting the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields; two albums of his choral works, *Young America* and *The Little Match Girl*; an album of his solo-piano works played by Conrad Tao; and *The White Election*, a much-performed song cycle on poems by Emily Dickinson.

Getty was the subject of the 2016 documentary film *There Will Be Music*, by director Peter Rosen. His music is published by Rork Music. For further information, visit www.gordongetty.com.

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For additional information, pronunciation guides, interview access, CDs and photos, please contact Nancy Shear Arts Services, National Press Representative, at 212/496-9418 or sheararts@nancyshear.com.