



UCSB Opera Theatre presents

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Riders to the Sea

Opera in One Act

Dr. Steven Kronauer, Stage Director

Kristin Williams, Assistant Stage Director

Chiacheng Naomi Sen, Piano • Bryce Bullock, Stage Manager

In *Riders to the Sea*, Ralph Vaughan Williams tells the story of the old woman Maurya (Stephanie Turner), who has lost all her men to the sea. Here the composer wrote some of his most remarkable music: grim, spare, often dissonant, and almost entirely unrelieved in its forbidding quality. The cast is small: Maurya, her daughters Cathleen (Rebecca Monroe) and Nora (Kristin Williams), her son Bartley (Nick Hengl and Andrew McIntyre) who appears but briefly and returns at the end as a corpse brought in by three women, only one of whom is given a sung role. An offstage chorus of women's voices also assists. As through unrelenting tragedy Maurya grows in strength and humanity, so Vaughan Williams' music evolves in intensity and emotion, mirroring the wrenching sorrow of the text. Vaughan Williams' music expresses a deep regard for and fascination with folk tunes, the variations upon which can convey the listener from the down-to-earth to the ethereal.

Thursday, January 31 • Friday, February 1, 2008, 8 p.m.

Saturday, February 2, 2 p.m.

Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall

Admission: \$15/General • \$7/Students - Tickets at the door

For further information, please visit: <http://www.music.ucsb.edu>, or call (805)893-7001