**Schenectady Civic Players** 

 **12 South Church Street, Schenectady, NY 12305**

*THE BILLY GOATS GRUFF ….*

 An Opera for Children

 Saturday, March 8

##  at Schenectady Civic Playhouse

**SCHENECTADY** – Children and families of all ages are invited to **Opera Saratoga’s Opera to Go** production of ***The* *Billy Goats Gruff***  at the Schenectady Civic Playhouse, 12 So. Church Street, Schenectady, on Saturday, March 8, at 2:30 p.m.

***The Billy Goats Gruff,***a short, one-act opera for children of all ages, is free of charge and open to the public. This performance is underwritten by Schenectady Civic Players’ Gwen E. Fraser Memorial Fund to give back to the community and to excite young people on the magic of the arts.

Based on the familiar classic fairy tale *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, Opera Saratoga’s Opera to Go production presents a charming and humorous anti-bullying story told in operatic style. Featured are arias, duets, ensembles and choruses from operas by Mozart, Donizetti, and Rossini. Arrangement is by John Davies who also did the same for last year’s full-house, heart-warming production of *Pinocchio* at the Schenectady CivicPlayhouse.

***The Billy Goats Gruff*** features a talented cast of young professionals chosen from hundreds of singers across the country who audition for Opera Saratoga’s Young Artist Program. They are: soprano Chelsea Friedlander, baritone Nicholas Wiggins(\*), baritone Christopher Brandon Morales, and tenor Christopher Hodson, accompanied on the piano by 2014 Opera to Go musical director Valarie Pool.

A cookies and punch reception follows. Open seating. No advance reservations. Just walk in. Admission is free. 382-2081.

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**(\*) NOTE: *Nicholas Wiggins, performing in this production at the Schenectady Civic Playhouse, is a professional opera singer who hails from Clifton Park, NY. He performs for opera companies throughout the country, but is known locally for having made it as a finalist on the popular TV show "The Sing Off" with the group The Yellow Jackets.***

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