

NEWS RELEASE

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Saint Mary Student Vocalist Selected to Spend Summer Performing in Cape Cod Opera Company



Junior Ryan Harris (right) and Dr. William Krusemark work on perfecting yet another song together.

(Leavenworth, Kan.)— University of Saint Mary junior Ryan Harris has received a contract to sing with the College Light Opera Company in Falmouth, Mass. on Cape Cod for the summer. Harris out sang thousands of nationwide candidates to land a coveted spot with the company.

Harris, a tenor originally from Kansas City, Kan., joins the company which will be in residence on Cape Cod from June 13 to August 28. He will perform in nine productions, including the classic Gilbert and Sullivan operettas *"Pirates of Penzance"* and *"Ruddigore"* as well as Irving Berlin's *"Annie Get Your Gun"* and Cole Porter's *"Kiss Me Kate."* Other shows in the season include Herman's *"Mame,"* Gershwin's *"One and Only,"* Victor Herbert's *"Naughty Marietta"* and Sondheim's *"Merrily We Roll Along."*

He was encouraged by Dr. William Krusemark, professor of music and chair of the University of Saint Mary department of fine arts to apply to the company. The extensive process required both a written application and a sample audition CD. The two worked for hours to record the perfect sound for the CD at a UMKC recording studio. Harris recorded four classic arias and opera songs. The whole application process took about two-weeks. He mailed it off in early March.

"All my friends and family are extremely excited," Harris said. "I honestly didn't know much about the company, but Dr. Krusemark really pushed me to apply, he said since it's a light opera it would be perfect for me to do." The Cape Cod Light Opera Company agreed. When Harris returned to campus after spring break, he found an acceptance letter in his mailbox. He said he is guaranteed a spot in at least the chorus of each show, but can audition for other parts when he arrives in Massachusetts.

Harris is a graduate of Bishop Ward high school. He is majoring in liberal studies with emphases in vocal music and Spanish at Saint Mary. He is a frequent soloist in university choral and opera productions, and is a voice student of Dr. Krusemark.

The College Light Opera Company is an independent nonprofit educational theatre founded in 1969. Produced by Robert A. and Ursula R. Haslun, the company seeks to provide Broadway stock musicals to summer audiences on Cape Cod, while providing young talent a chance to begin a career in music theatre. The group consists of 32 singers, a 17 piece orchestra, and 12 technicians. The company is selected annually from applicants in colleges and universities all across the country. Visit www.collegelightopera.com or call 913-682-5151 extension 6460 for more information.

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