

The Light in the Piazza

score sets the tone for the drama that focuses on Mary and Joseph's life as they travel to Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus, one couple's journey that forever changed the world. Danna references ancient Christmas melodies written hundreds and thousands of years ago. Gregorian chants, recorders and viols give voice to carols such as "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," originally written in Latin during the 12th century.

Starring **Keisha Castle-Hughes** and **Oscar Isaac**, the film will be released through New Line Cinema December 1 with a score CD to follow. For further information, contact Costa Communications, 323-650-3588.

The LA Opera has launched a new podcast series, *Behind the Curtain at LA Opera*. Offering a behind-the-scenes look at its new production of *Manon*, the four episodes feature director/choreographer **Vincent Paterson**, soprano **Anna Netrebko** and tenor **Rolando Villazón**. The podcast is available at www.laopera.com. For additional information, contact Gary W. Murphy at LA Opera, 213-972-7554.

Engelbert Humperdinck's musical retelling of *Hansel and Gretel* has come to life now through December 17 on the LA Opera stage in artist **Douglas Fitch's** new production. Debuting conductor **Alan Gilbert** leads the LA Opera Orchestra in a production complete with 12-foot creatures and special effects. The cast stars mezzo-soprano **Lucy Schauer** as Hansel. Soprano **Maria Kanyova** makes her company debut as Gretel and virtuoso character tenor **Graham Clark** makes his company debut as the delightfully evil Witch. The production features a

newly commissioned English libretto by **Richard Sparks**. All performances of *Hansel and Gretel* are at the **Dorothy Chandler Pavilion**. Tickets are on sale at the Los Angeles Opera Box Office, by phone at 213-972-8001 or online at www.laopera.com.

A new indie film set in the music business, *Lost on the B Side*, boasts an impressive soundtrack including music by 26 indie bands from nine countries. In all, there are 43 songs on the soundtrack (most films have a dozen or so). **Trey Gunn** (formerly with **Robert Fripp** and **King Crimson**) is music supervisor. The film has been accepted to a number of film festivals and is currently seeking distribution. Check it out at www.LostOnTheBSide.com. For complete information, contact writer/director **Lyle Holmes**, 206-364-3693 or 323-627-3306.

Just in time for the holidays, Walt Disney Records unveils *The Nightmare Before Christmas* 2-disc special edition soundtrack in celebration of the 13th anniversary of **Tim Burton's** cult classic animated feature.

Disc One of the soundtrack includes the original score and 10 songs by composer-songwriter **Danny Elfman**. Disc Two contains nine songs: five new versions of original soundtrack songs specially re-recorded by alternative rock superstars **Marilyn Manson**, **Panic! At the Disco**, **Fall Out Boy**, **Fiona Apple** and **She Wants Revenge**, plus four never-before-released demo tracks performed by Elfman. For further information, contact Maria Kleinman at Walt Disney Records, 818-973-4375.

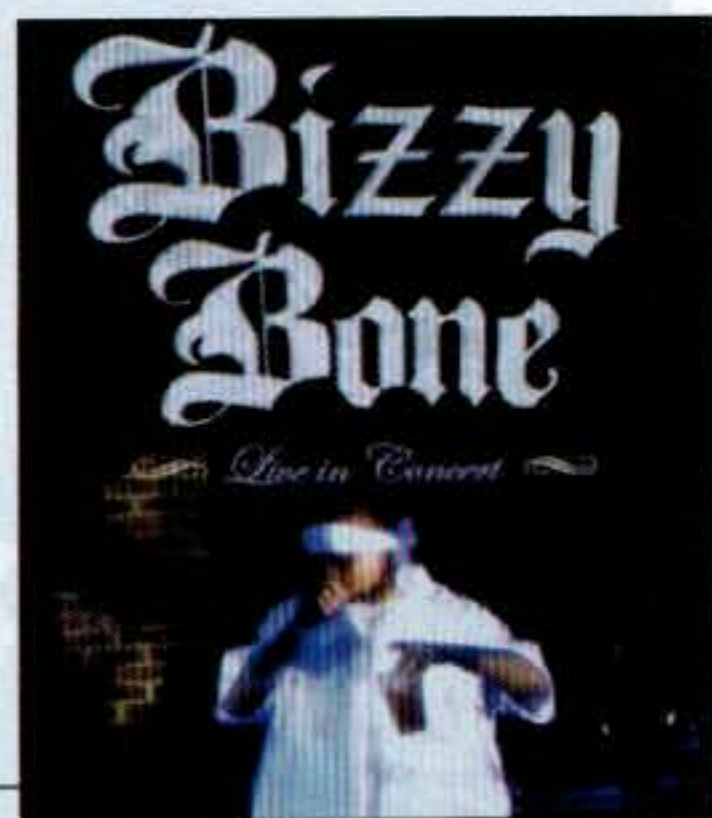
The **Laguna Playhouse** continues in its 86th season with the

West Coast Premiere of *A Marvelous Party: The Noël Coward Celebration*. This play showcases the music of Coward in an evening of song featuring **Mark Anders**, **Carl Danielsen**, **Anna Lauris** and a live band. Performances run through December 17 at The Laguna Playhouse in Laguna Beach. Tickets are available by phone, 949-497-2787 ext. 1 or at www.lagunaplayhouse.com.

Now through December 10 at the **Center Theatre Group/Ahmanson Theatre** in Los Angeles is the award-winning Broadway musical romance *The Light in the Piazza*. With book by **Craig Lucas**, music and lyrics by **Adam Guettel** and direction by **Bartlett Sher**, and based on the novella by **Elizabeth Spencer**, the musical is set in the summer of 1953 and tells the story of a mother and daughter traveling through Italy, the daughter's romance with a handsome, high-spirited Florentine and the mother's efforts to keep the two apart. Tickets are available by calling 213-628-2772 or by visiting www.CenterTheatreGroup.org. For further information, contact Phyllis Moberly at Center Theatre Group, 213-972-7376.

Frank Stallone's new album has been released on **Simba Records** and features songs Stallone wrote and performed for his brother **Sylvester Stallone's** newest film *Rocky Balboa*. The film opens December 22nd. **Paul Loggins' Loggins Promotion** has the first radio single out already, a classic street corner song called "Take You Back," which also opens the film. For additional information, visit

www.frankstallone.com or contact Loggins Promotion, 888-325-2901.



Music Video Distributors has a whole onslaught of interesting new product. In the **Under Review** series comes: *David Bowie Under Review 1976-1979: The Berlin Trilogy*, *Tom Waits Under Review 1971-1982*, *Nirvana - In Utero: Under Review*, and *Green Day Under Review 1995-2000: The Middle Years*. All Under Review titles feature live and studio performances with comment, criticism and insight from rock critics, journalists and the like. For those who would rather make up their own minds, MVD also has a live DVD from mad freestyle rapper **Bizzy Bone**, aka **Byron McCane**. *Bizzy Bone-Live in Concert* features the former **Bone Thugs-N-Harmony** member in two performances spotlighting his trademark, double- and triple-time sung/rapped harmonies. To order, visit www.mvdb2b.com, or phone **Clint Weiler** 800-888-0486 ext. 115. **MVD**

