

# San Jose Mercury News

## Opera: Some bawdy tales

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By Richard Scheinin

Composer Robert Sirota's "The Clever Mistress" will be performed this weekend by the San Jose State University Opera Theater Ensemble. It's part of an operatic double bill, as Sirota's intimate work — scored for four principal singers, chorus and 10 instrumentalists— will be paired with Robert Xavier Rodriguez's one-act (and ribald) "Suor Isabella." Both works were composed in the 1980s and are based on "The Decameron," Boccaccio's medieval masterpiece, famous for its often bawdy and sometimes tragic tales of love. There will be two performances of this imaginative program, pairing respected American composers (Sirota also is president of the Manhattan School of Music in New York) whose works aren't heard often enough. Barbara Day Turner conducts the ambitious university ensemble. 7: 30 p. m. Saturday, 2 p. m. Sunday, San Jose State University Music Building Concert Hall (1 Washington Square, on campus). Tickets: \$ 10 general admission, \$ 5 students; 408.924.4673 or at the door.



Robert Sirota wrote "The Clever Mistress." BRIAN HATTON