

**SPRING 2021
OPERA WORKSHOP SCENES PROGRAM
PRESENTS**

UNMASKING OPERA

An evening of opera scenes which look beyond the stage to discover the characters' lives both inside and out and uncover stories creatively through video storyboarding projects

MSU Opera Workshop

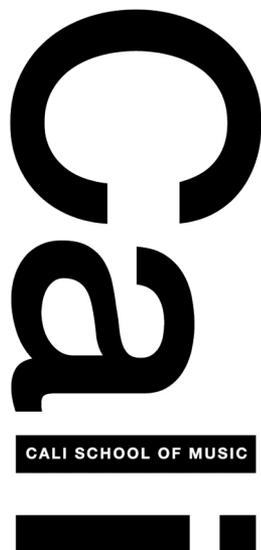
Karen Driscoll, *director*

LeAnn Overton, *music director*

Michael Caldwell, *accompanist*

Sunday, June 6, 2021 at 8PM

Events available virtually on:
www.montclair.edu/music/cali-live



Program

Agrippina

No, no ch'io non apprezzo

George Frideric Handel

(1685-1759)

Poppea: Aleksandra Durin, soprano

Ottone: Devin Barry, countertenor

After being kept apart due to the machinations and lies of the empress Agrippina, Ottone and Poppea are finally able to come together and express their love for one another. *No, I appreciate no one but you, my sweet love. You are my wont, you are all my heart. Yes, you make my delight, my dear one. You are the heart in my breast, and my fervor.*

Fidelio

Now sweetheart at last we're alone

Ludwig van Beethoven

(1770-1827)

Marzelline: Lisa Bremer, soprano

Jaquino: Richard Cardile, tenor

It has long been assumed that Marzelline and Jaquino will get married. However, a new person has arrived at the compound. "Fidelio" has come to seek work from Marzelline's father, the prison warden. Marzelline is struck by Fidelio's kindness and willingness to help out around her prison grounds. Jaquino gets up his courage to ask Marzelline for her hand in marriage, perhaps driven by what he fears is his new competition.

Don Giovanni

Ah fuggi traditor!

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

(1756-1791)

Donna Elvira: Emely Sepúlveda, soprano

Donna Elvira believed Don Giovanni when he promised her love and marriage. But the notorious womanizer has dropped her and moved on to other conquests. Donna Elvira warns his next unsuspecting conquest. *Flee the traitor! Don't let him say anything else! He lies with every word and with every glance. Learn from my torments! Don't believe his heart; let your fear be born from seeing my pain.*

Deh vieni alla finestra

Don Giovanni: Chisom James Maduakor, baritone

Don Giovanni is singing a seductive serenade for the beautiful woman he sees in the window. *Come to the window, my treasure. Come to console my tears.*

If you won't give me relief, then I shall die in front of your eyes. Your mouth is sweeter than honey. You have sugar in the middle of your heart. My joy, don't be cruel with me. Let me at least see you, my beautiful love.

Recit: Via, via.... Aria: Vedrai carino

*Zerlina: Maya Henry, soprano
Masetto: Rashaun Ashley, baritone*

Zerlina is a lovely young maid whose wedding celebration was interrupted by Don Giovanni. Initially charmed by him, now she regrets her dalliance. Her husband Masetto chases Don Giovanni in an attempt to make him pay for this indiscretion but it is Masetto who gets struck down by the rogue. Zerlina knows exactly how to ease her husband's pain. *You'll see, I have a special remedy I would like to give you. It's completely natural. The pharmacist doesn't know how to make it. It is a certain balm that I carry. If you want, I can give it to you. Would you like to know where it is? Feel it beat, touch me here.*

Abduction from the Seraglio

Vivat Bacchus!

*Pedrillo: Nick Scafuto, tenor
Osmin: Taylor Droege, bass*

A Spanish noblewoman's ship has been captured by pirates. She is sold to the Pasha Selim along with her English servant and her fiance's servant Pedrillo. The women are being held within the Pasha Selim's castle. The stakes are high for the women as there is talk of adding them to the Pasha's harem. Osmin is the overseer of the Pasha's property. It occurs to Pedrillo if he gets Osmin drunk, he might be able to sneak past him and free the women.

The Magic Flute

Papageno Papagena Duet

*Papageno: Rashaun Ashley, baritone
Papagena: Christine Tanko, soprano*

Papageno is a bird catcher by trade. The thing he desires more than anything else is a wife who looks like him and with whom he can make a big happy family.

Hansel & Gretel

Engelbert Humperdinck

Sandman's Aria and Evening Prayer

(1854-1921)

Sandman: Lisa Bremer, soprano
Hansel: Inessa Accilien, mezzo-soprano
Gretel: Hannah Ranzan, soprano

Hansel and Gretel have been sent out into the woods to forage for food. As night begins to fall, the children realize they are lost. The benevolent Sandman comes to gently lull them to sleep, promising the angels will keep watch through the night. The two children say their evening prayers.

Il Segreto di Susanna

Ermanno Wolf-Ferrari

O, dolce idillio

(1876-1948)

Gil: Chisom James Maduakor, baritone
Susanna: Emely Sepúlveda, soprano

Gil recalls the first days when he and Susanna started their courtship.

Gil: Oh sweet, romantic charm, tell me, do you remember the first days of our love?

Susanna: I relive all the moments of that idyllic time, in lively ardor.

Both: There in the garden... full of sun...many sighs... few words...

Susanna: I escaped from you...

Gil: I followed you and then on that glorious day, I took the very first furtive kiss.

Susanna: You were quite enterprising! You stole the kiss from me!

Gil: I returned so many, but who's counting?! In this case, I was an honest thief.

Both: What sweet memories. Paradise smiled on us and blessed us.

Cavalleria Rusticana

Pietro Mascagni

Voi lo sapete

(1863-1945)

Santuzza: Weiyu Zhang, mezzo-soprano

Santuzza and Turiddu have sworn their love to each other, but now she knows he has secretly gone back to his former lover, Lola. Santuzza fears he has abandoned her completely. *You know, before Turiddu was a soldier, he swore eternal faith to Lola. When he returned, she had married. He wanted to put out the flame that had burned his heart with a new lover. He said he loved me; I loved him. This woman envied my joy. Burning with jealousy, she forgot her husband. She stole Turiddu from me! I am robbed of honor, of any honor that I had left. Lola and Turiddu love each other. I weep.*

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Benjamin Britten
(1913-1976)

Over hill, over dale

Peaseblossom: Christine Tanko, soprano
Cobweb: Gabrielle Cintron, mezzo-soprano
Moth: Inessa Accilien, mezzo-soprano
Mustardseed: Hannah Ranzan, soprano
Puck: Chisom James Maduakor, speaking

Ill met by moonlight

Tytania: Aleksandra Durin, soprano
Oberon: Devin Barry, countertenor

Tytania's fairies scurry about the woods bringing the natural elements together to serve their queen. Puck's arrival disturbs the fairies' efforts. They recite all the churlish and spiteful things Puck has done. Puck is there to announce the Fairy King Oberon's arrival. Tytania and Oberon engage in a serious quarrel over the fate of a changeling boy. Tytania claims one of her devotees died in childbirth and gave her the boy. Oberon wishes to take the boy and raise him as one of his helpers. Nature reflects their derisiveness.

Susannah
Act 1, Scene 2

Carlisle Floyd
(b.1926)

**Was ya ever at such a nice square dance
Ain't it a pretty night
Sam when did ya come....**

Susannah Polk: Courtney Sanders, soprano
Little Bat McLean: Richard Cardile, tenor
Sam Polk: Nick Scafuto, tenor

Susannah has just come back from a dance hosted by the church with her friend Little Bat who has a big crush on her. Little Bat notices that the traveling preacher seemed to dance a lot with Susannah. Susannah brushes off his comment. It's been the perfect evening. Susannah's brother comes home and she talks him into singing one of their favorite songs.

Act 2, Scene 3

**That's mighty pretty singin' Susannah
I'm a lonely man**

Susannah Polk: Evita Teterovska, soprano
Olin Blitch: Taylor Droegel, bass

Even though Susannah has always gone down to the creek to bathe, one day the elders of the church happen to stumble upon her as they look for a new

place to hold baptisms. Susannah's innocence is challenged by the men and soon echoed by their wives. They call her to the church and together with the preacher, demand she repent her sins. Susannah is crushed by accusations and says she has nothing to repent. The preacher goes to Susannah's house and makes another attempt to save her soul.

Porgy and Bess

My Man's Gone Now

George Gershwin
(1898-1937)

Serena: GaDa Lambert, soprano

Serena's emotions are still raw as she laments the loss of her husband who was killed over a game of craps.

Manon

Ce bruit de l'or

Jules Massenet
(1842-1912)

Manon: Evita Teterovska, soprano

Poussette: Maya Henry, soprano

Javotte: Christine Tanko, soprano

Rosette: Gabrielle Cintron, mezzo-soprano

Dealer: Nick Scafuto, speaking

Manon is on her way to the gaming room, confident that her joyful reunion with Des Grieux will bring good fortune. In a whirl of excitement she exclaims to Poussette, Javotte and Rosette -*The noise of gold, the laughter, and the joyful sparkle! Give to us love and roses. To sing, to love- they are such sweet things. Who knows if we will live tomorrow? Youth passes, beauty is erased. Let us have our desires for our pleasure. Love and fevers are on all the lips! For Manon, again, some gold!*

MSU OPERA WORKSHOP

Karen Driscoll, *director*

MUSICAL PREPARATION

LeAnn Overton, *music director/coach/repetiteur*

Michael Caldwell, *accompanist/coach/repetiteur*

SCENES COACHES

Soyeon Kim

William Hobbs

Mary Pinto

Vica Schwartzman

Grant Wenaus

PRODUCTION TEAM

Direction, concept, and video scenarios: Karen Driscoll

Program notes & subtitles: LeAnn Overton

Audio recording & editing: Rob Davidson, David B. Smith (Rehearsal Live Share -“No, no ch’io apprezzo” and “Ill met by moonlight”)

Video editing: Karen Driscoll, Rashaun Ashley, Hannah Ranzan, Nick Scafuto, Aleksandra Durin, Christos Harakas

Production manager: Karen Driscoll

Publicity design: Heather Kern

Special thanks to Prof. Tony Mazzocchi, *Director*, John J. Cali School of Music, Dr. Lori McCann, *Coordinator*, MSU Vocal Performance Program, Jeffrey Gall, *Director* of MSU Opera, and all of the Applied Voice Teachers at MSU who aided in their students’ preparation to make this such a successful program.