

Opera Experience Live!

Faces of Love: Honor, Death, and Betrayal

Friday, December 1, 2023, and Saturday, December 2, 2023, 7:00 pm

Edward M. Pickman Hall

A scenes program featuring works through the centuries, from Cavalli to Verdi.

NOW FOR VENGEANCE from *EGISTO*

Francesco Cavalli (1602-1676)

Egisto inspired by classical mythology tells the story of gods and humans as they love and betray each other. To spite Apollo, Venus summons her son, Amor, to separate the lovers Clori and Egisto. Amor descends into the underworld to gather what he needs, but is captured by the vengeful shades of Dido, Fedra, Hero, and Semele, all of whom were driven to their deaths by love and hold him responsible. Luckily for Amor, an unexpected savior, Apollo, appears, who's heard about Amor's capture and has come to gloat; but, on reflection, he decides in return for his freedom, Amor must promise to restore order to the romantic chaos on Zakynthos. Despite his allegiance to Venus, Amor agrees.

Semele: Anna Jean Simmons* Jeehye Kang^

Fedra: Ruixuan Li* Abbey Diana Engelmann^

Hero: Marion Amelia Palmiero* Jingling Mo^

Dido: Sariah Seare Young

Amor: Emma West* Sarah Potter^

Apollo: Ziqian Luo

SCHERZANO SUL TUO VOLTO* from *RINALDO* (Friday night only)

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Goffredo, father of Almirena, promises Rinaldo that he can marry this daughter if he is victorious in battle. In this scene we see an intimate moment in the garden where Rinaldo and Almirena are celebrating their love.

Rinaldo: Daniel Haakenson

Almirena: Sophia Mintsiveris

IO T'ABBRACCIO^ from *RODELINDA* (Saturday night only)

G. F. Handel

Rodelinda and Bertarido meet in secret and are discovered in an embrace by Grimoaldo who fails to recognize her husband. Grimoaldo is outraged, believing that Rodelinda has taken a lover. To save her honor, Bertarido reveals his identity, but Grimoaldo vows to kill him anyway, whoever he may be. The spouses bid each other a last farewell.

Bertarido: Daniel Haakenson

Rodelina: Lena Kantz

*Friday cast

^Saturday cast

THE CLOSET SCENE from *LE NOZZE DI FIGARO*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (176-1791)

(Act II) Cherubino, smitten by the Countess, has just been dressed up as a woman by the Countess and her maid Susanna to trick the count. Just as Cherubino declares his love for the countess, the Count knocks and Cherubino hides in the closet. Susanna, having left earlier, returns to find the Countess telling the Count that Susanna is in the closet and that she cannot come out because she is trying on her wedding dress. The Count asks Susanna to respond, but the Countess commands her to be silent. The count furious and suspicious, decides to lock all the doors so the intruder cannot leave until he returns with tools to unlock the closet. Upon the exit of the Count and Countess, Susanna and Cherubino try to figure out a way for him to escape before the Count returns!

Countess: Abbey Diana Engelmann* Shuke Liu^

Cherubino: Ziqian Luo* Marion Amelia Palmiero^

Susanna: Lena Kantz* Jeehye Kang^

Count: Connor Lee

SULL'ARIA from *LE NOZZE DI FIGARO* (Friday night only)

W. A. Mozart

(Act III) The Countess dictates a letter, singing the famous Sull'aria "letter duet." It's a trap from Susanna, asking the Count to meet her under the pine trees.

Countess: Jinglin Mo

Susanna: Ruixuan Li

SCHELM, HALT FEST! from *DER FREISCHUTZ*

Carl Maria von Weber (1786-1826)

Max wants to marry Agathe. In order to marry her and succeed her father as head forester, he has to prove his marksmanship and score in a shooting trial before Ottokar, the sovereign prince. Just as Max, shoots the magic bullet, a picture of Agathe's ancestor hanging on the wall falls to the floor, slightly wounding her head. Ännchen, Agathe's cousin, refastens the hook endeavors to cheer Agathe with jests as they prepare for the wedding.

Ännchen: Christiana Goslin Bueno* Emma West^

Agathe: Julia Kim* Shuke Liu^

VANNE A REGNAR BEN MIO from *IL RE PASTORE*

W. A. Mozart

Alessandro, king of Macedonia, having just conquered the city of Sidon, wants it to be ruled by Aminta, the young legitimate heir who became a shepherd after he was removed from the throne by usurpers. Aminta wants to remain a shepherd as he is in love with a simple, young shepherdess, Elisa. Aminta tells Elisa that he is the rightful heir to the throne and that his father was driven out by Stratone when he was a baby. As Aminta now prepares to leave and rule, he promises to return to Elisa after claiming his throne.

Elisa: Sarah Potter* Lucia Panizza^

Aminta: Anna Jean Simmons

*Friday cast

^Saturday cast

GUT, SÖHNCHEN, GUT! from *FIDELIO*

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Leonore, disguised as a male prison guard, seeks to rescue her husband, Florestan from death in a political prison. As the boy Fidelio, she earns the favor of Rocco, the prison warden and the affections of his daughter, Marzeline. Rocco tells Fidelio that as soon as the governor has left for Seville, Marzeline, his daughter, and Fidelio can be married. As Rocco is aging, Fidelio demands to help in the dungeons, but Rocco says that there is one cell where he can never take Fidelio, which houses a man who has been wasting away for two years. Marzeline begs her father to keep Fidelio away from such a terrible sight, but Fidelio claims courage sufficient to cope with it. Rocco and Fidelio sing of courage (Gut, Söhnchen, gut, and Marzeline joins in their acclamations.

Leonore (as Fidelio): Kelsey Moisan

Rocco: Zhihao Chen

Marzeline: Emmalyne Park

GIOVANNA, HO DEI RIMORSI... from *RIGOLETTO*

Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

(Act I) Gilda is stricken by remorse, for she failed to tell her father about the young man who has followed her to church. When Giovanna suggests that he might be a great gentleman, Gilda replies that she would prefer that he be poor; she confesses that in her fantasies she tells him that she loves him. The Duke emerges from hiding declaring his love for her. Gilda, frightened, asks him to leave, but his flowery words of love have captured her. She admits that she loves him and asks his name. The Duke tells Gilda that he is a poor student named Gualtier Maldé. Giovanna comes in to say that she has heard footsteps outside. Fearing that Gilda's father, Rigoletto has returned, Gilda urges the Duke to leave. They swear undying love before Giovanna leads him out.

Gilda: Yitian Luo

Giovanna: Marion Amelia Palmiero* Ziqian Luo^

Duke: Xuan Zhang

THE SINGING LESSON from *LA FILLE DU RÉGIMENT*

Gaetano Donizetti (1797-1848)

Marie, an orphan adopted on the battlefield by a squadron for French soldiers, has been spending a few months at the country estate of the Marquise. Marie enters the parlor for her singing lesson. She is surly and frustrated by the Marquise's constant demand that she "act like a lady." The desperate Marquise has called Sulpice, the sergeant of the regiment who Marie considers a father, to the castle in the hope that he can convince Marie to behave. When Marie sees Sulpice, however, she can't resist saucily peppering the elegant French love song she is supposed to be singing with melodies from the regiment's theme. Horrified by the girl's behavior, the Marquise gives up.

Marie: Christiana Goslin Bueno* Sophia Minstiveris^

Marquise: Sariah Seare Young

Sulpice: Weiyi Peng

*Friday cast

^Saturday cast

PRONTO IO SON from DON PASQUALE

Donizetti

Ernesto is disinherited by his uncle, Don Pasquale, when he refuses to marry a wealthy woman, as he is in love with the poor Norina. Don Pasquale decides to marry in old age to produce his own heir, but Dr. Malatesta, who is pretending to search for a suitable bride for him, is actually planning to teach Don Pasquale how foolish he is. To help Ernesto and Norina achieve the blessings from the old uncle, Malatesta has a plan to present Norina in disguise as the future bride of Don Pasquale. He describes how she will take the role of Malatesta's sister, Sofronia, a well-disciplined young girl fresh out of a convent. Norina is eager to play the role to win her Ernesto!

Norina: Yitian Luo* Lucia Panizza^

Malatesta: Connor Lee

ACT 1 FINALE from MARIA STUARDA

Donizetti

Queen Elisabetta is secretly in love with Roberto, the Earl of Leicester. Elisabetta suspects that he is in love with her political prisoner, Maria Stuarda, Queen of Scotland who she has accused of treason, debauchery, and for murdering her husband, Lord Darnley. Roberto pleads for Elisabetta to accept Maria's request to meet in hopes of reconciliation. Elisabetta reluctantly agrees to meet her rival. Elisabetta arrives with Lord Cecil who leads the rally for Maria's execution. Maria takes Roberto's advice and kneels before Elisabetta, in submission, asking for forgiveness. Elisabetta responds with mixed feelings: on one hand rejecting Cecil's urging for Maria's head and on the other hand raging with anger at Roberto for coming to her rival's defense. After receiving an earful of insults from Elisabetta, Maria accuses her of being an illegitimate child and therefore an imposter to the throne. This final insult outrages Elisabetta who tells Maria to prepare for execution.

Elisabetta: Kelsey Moisan

Leicester: Xuan Zhang

Maria: Julia Kim

Cecil: Zhihao Chen

Talbot: Weiyi Peng

Anna: Emmalyne Park

Guards: Riuji Sato and Xiuyuan Li

*Friday cast

^Saturday cast

Stage Manager: Riuji Sato

Stage Crew and Assistants: Cate Gallagher, Kylie Yang, Feier Liu, Xiuyuan Li, Flora Li, L. Ji, Yiran Zhang, Devyn Kerr