

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY
THEATRE GUILD

THE CONSERVATORIUM OPERA CLASS

presents

MOZART'S

“The Marriage of Figaro”

ACTS I and II

AT THE HUT
Tuesday, September 11
Thursday, September 13
1945

MOZART (1756-1791)

Of his period, Mozart was, of course, one of the brightest stars in the musical firmament. His was a complete and easy mastery of all forms of music.

Excepting a few works by Gluck, every opera before Mozart, and the operas of every composer contemporary with him, and for a considerable period after him, have disappeared from the repertoire.

Compare this with the long careers of the three other composers, whose influence upon opera was supreme—Gluck, Wagner, and Verdi. Gluck died in his seventy-third year, Wagner in his seventieth, and Verdi in his eighty-eighth. Yet the composer who laid down his pen and went to a pauper's grave at thirty-five, contributed as much as any of these to the evolution of the art of opera.

The best known of Mozart's operas are "The Magic Flute," "Don Giovanni," "Cosi fan Tutte," and "The Marriage of Figaro."

"The Marriage of Figaro," produced at the National Theatre, Vienna, May 1, 1786, with Mozart conducting, is still regarded as a model of what a comic grand opera should be.

(Extracts from Kobbe)

"The Marriage of Figaro" - Act I and II

The plot of the opera turns on the intrigues of Count Almaviva with Susanna, the Countess's lady's maid. Figaro, who is about to be married to Susanna, discovers that she is the object of the Count's affections, and is determined to thwart him and his confederate, Basilio. Cherubino, Almaviva's page, is in love with his mistress, and having received his dismissal from the Count's service, in an interview with Susanna, hides behind a chair, on the sudden entrance of his master. The Count then makes love to Susanna; but not wishing to be found alone with her by Basilio, whom he sees coming into the apartment, goes to hide in the same place as the Page, who adroitly slips round and curls himself up in the seat of the chair, Susanna throwing a dress over him. Basilio tries to draw from Susanna all she knows of Cherubino's love for his mistress, when the Count, in a fit of jealous rage discovers himself, and lifting the dress from the chair, finds Cherubino. The Page, having overheard the Count's conversation with Susanna, obtains his master's forgiveness, but only on condition of his leaving directly on military service. The Count then begs Susanna to meet him at some appointed place: this she promises to do but enters into a plan with her mistress to change clothes. The Countess dressed as Susanna, meets the Count, whilst Susanna, as the Countess, accepts the advances of Figaro. The Count becomes indignant, but on discovery of the plot, he is obliged to ask pardon of the Countess, which is readily granted. There is an underplot, in which Marcellina, Dr. Bartolo's housekeeper, tries to supplant Susanna in the affections of Figaro; but the unexpected discovery that he is her son leads to a generally happy denouement.

Production under the Direction of:
RICHARD WATSON and BARBARA HOWARD

CAST:

The Count Almaviva	-	-	WILLIAM HARRISON
Figaro (his servant)	-	-	GRAHAM BURNS
Dr. Bartolo	-	-	STANLEY DRAPER
Don Basilio (a teacher of music)	-	-	ROBERT LUCAS
Antonio (a gardener)	-	-	RUSSELL MARTIN
The Countess Almaviva	-	-	UNA HALE
Susanna			
Act I	-	-	HAZEL GERADINE
Act II	-	-	PEGGY FEARN
Cherubino	-	-	MARIE BATES
Marcellina (Dr. Bartolo's Housekeeper)	-	-	GLADYS MASTER

One Summer's Day—In the Count's Castle, near Saville.
Act I: Ante-room in the Castle. Act II: The Boudoir of the Countess.

At the Pianoforte:

Act I: ALISON HOLDER
Act II: TOPSIE DOENAU

Settings - - MICHAEL JAMES
Lighting - - BRUCE WALTON
Stage Management - - F. J. WATSON

THE THEATRE GUILD

Patrons:

Professors E. Harold Davies and J. G. Cornell
Dr. Charles Fenner and Mr. Frank Johnston

President:

Professor J. I. M. Stewart

Committee:

Dr. T. D. Campbell	Dr. E. McLaughlin
Mr. Sydney A. Downie	Miss Mignon Michell
Miss Patricia Hackett	Miss Janet Paine
Miss Barbara Howard	Mr. Allan Sierp
Mr. Leo Howard	Miss Gwen Walsh
Mr. Herbert Kollosche	Mr. Bruce Williams
Mr. Roy Leaney	Mrs. Roma Williams

Notices

Communications and enquiries may be addressed to the Hon. Secretary and subscriptions sent to the Hon. Treasurer, care University. Subscriptions may also be paid on the evenings of performances.

Conservatorium Concerts. By special request, two extra concerts will be given in the Bonython Hall. These concerts are free to the public. Commencing at 8 p.m.

Monday, 17th September: Students' Concert.

Monday, 24th September: Chamber Music Concert, arranged by Mr. Ludwig Schwab