

Boyer College of Music and Dance

Graduate Opera Workshop

Aria Presentation

Christopher Turbessi, Music Director

Brandon McShaffrey, Stage Director

December 11, 2023 6:00pm

Mitten Hall, Room 300

Program

“O souverain, ô juge, ô père” from *Le Cid* Jules Massenet (1842-1912)

Rodrigue: Weizhong Ding

When warriors press their way onto Spanish territory, Rodrigue leads the Spanish army to battle. When the Spanish army is near defeat, Rodrigue prays to God and accepts his fate. A vision of Saint John appears promising him a victorious battle.

“Mab, la reine des mensonges” from *Roméo et Juliette* Charles Gounod (1818-1893)

Mercutio: John Drake

Romeo and Mercutio have come to Lord Capulet's party in disguise. When Mercutio suggests that they should use the opportunity to create trouble with their enemy, Romeo disagrees, saying that the only reason he came was because of one of his dreams. Mercutio speaks then of Queen Mab, the queen of all dreams.

“O Du, mein holder Abendstern” from *Tannhäuser* Richard Wagner (1813-1883)

Wolfram: Timothy Hurtt

When Elisabeth sacrifices her life to save her beloved Tannhäuser's life, Wolfram asks the evening star to guide his beloved Elisabeth safely to Heaven.

“Dearest Mama” from *The Ballad of Baby Doe* Douglas Moore (1893-1969)

Elizabeth Doe: Kaleigh Hunter

Elizabeth writes a letter to her mother, saying that her marriage to Harvey Doe, the miner, is over. She continues by telling her that she has found her soulmate in Horace Tabor and they both love each other equally. However, Tabor is married and, torn between her love and what is right, she feels that she must leave.

“Dalla sua pace” from *Don Giovanni* W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)

Don Ottavio: Joshua Myers

After Donna Anna asks the handsome Don Ottavio, her fiancé, to take revenge on Don Giovanni for killing her father, she leaves, at which point Don Ottavio expresses his love and worry for her.

II. Ritrovamenti from *Euridice*

Nika Leoni

Euridice: Felicity Davis

Euridice sees Orfeo in the underworld. She is happy to see him and encourages him to obey the conditions of her return. Euridice prompts him to sing and lead their way walking straight out of the underworld without looking back at her. Orfeo tries to turn around and console her, but she stops him, giving him a passionate warning of what would happen if he looked back at her.

“Albert the good” from *Albert Herring*

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Albert Herring: Connor Husa

At the party at which he is named King of May as a testament to his virtuous behavior, Albert unbeknownst discovers the joys of alcohol. After the party, he revels in the joyous food and drinks of which he partook. His thoughts shift to Nancy, who was with him at the celebration. He wonders why she paid so much attention to him at the party. He doesn't think that she could be interested in him because he is shy, and no girl could really like him.

“Elle a fui, la tourterelle!” from *Les contes d’Hoffman*

Jacques Offenbach (1819-1880)

Antonia: Kaitlyn Gaughan

Antonia, a singer who has a mysterious illness and has been forbidden to sing, sings of her sorrow over a lost lover. She wishes that he would return to her.

“Una donna a quindici anni” from *Così fan tutte*

W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)

Despina: Sarah Petko

After encouraging the sisters to have the Albanians back to their house, Despina sings this aria, saying that a girl of fifteen should know how to flirt successfully. She should be able to lead on anyone and lie when needed.

“Ah! Je ris de me voir” from *Faust*

Charles Gounod (1818-1893)

Marguerite: Katrina Dignum

After Marguerite refuses Faust's arm out of modesty, he falls for her even more and sends the malevolent Méphistophélès to seduce her on his behalf. Méphistophélès leaves a decorated box of jewelry and a mirror on Marguerite's doorstep. Marguerite tries on the jewels delivered by Méphistophélès as a gift from Faust and is captivated by how they enhance her beauty.

“Il lacerato spirito” from *Simon Boccanegra*

Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

Jacopo Fiesco: Sihan Jin

Fiesco sings sorrowfully that his daughter Maria has died after being locked away in the palace by Simon Boccanegra. He rages against the absent Simon Boccanegra and then accuses the Virgin Mary of not protecting his daughter. After realizing that he has committed blasphemy, he prays to her, hoping that she will forgive him.

"Dies Bildnis ist bezaubernd schön" from *Die Zauberflöte* W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)
Tamino: Nickolas James

Tamino, a prince, is pursued by a serpent, and asks the gods to save him. He faints, and three ladies appear and kill the serpent. Tamino wakes up and is surprised to find himself still alive and the serpent dead. Papageno enters, taking credit for the serpent's slaying. The three ladies reappear and padlock Papageno's mouth closed. They then give Tamino a portrait of Pamina, daughter of the Queen of the Night, with whom he instantly falls in love.

"Frere, voyez....Du gai soleil" from *Werther* Jules Massenet (1842-1912)
Sophie: Lucianna Astorga

Charlotte's younger sister Sophie observes Werther's troubled spirit, and not truly understanding his frustrated and depressed state, encourages him to see the happiness that life and the beauty of nature has to offer.

"Hai già vinta la causa!" from *Le nozze di Figaro* W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)
Count Almaviva: Daniel Laverriere

After Susanna falsely promises the Count, who wants her, a rendezvous in the gardens later that night, he is overjoyed. Then, he overhears Susanna and her fiancé, Figaro, conspiring about "the case". The count becomes suspicious about this potential vengeful plot and the confidence of Susanna and Figaro. The Count vows revenge against the couple and plans to force Figaro into marrying Marcellina.

"Werther... qui m'aurait dit la place" from *Werther* Jules Massenet (1842-1912)
Charlotte: Andreia Lucaciu

Charlotte, alone on Christmas Eve, spends time rereading letters from her past love Werther. She reflects on how she had the strength to refuse his love for Albert, whom she promised her dying mother she would marry.