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Presents

Wichita State University Opera Theater

Alan Held, director

Ann & Dennis Ross Faculty of Distinction in Opera

and

Wichita State University Symphony Orchestra

Mark Laycock, conductor

Ann Walenta Faculty of Distinction Endowed Professorship

in

L’Elisir d’Amore

(The Elixir of Love)

by

Gaetano Donizetti

Libretto by Eugène Scribe

Thursday, November 9, 2017 - Miller Concert Hall - 7:30 PM

Friday, November 11, 2017 - Miller Concert Hall – 7:30 PM

Cast

(In order of appearance)

Gianetta A Peasnt Girl Kathleen Crandall, Wichita, KS (November 9)

Julia Pottinger St. Louis, MO (November 11)

Nemorino A simple peasant in love with Adina Aaren Rivard, Portland, ME

Adina A wealthy and capricious farm keeper Maria José Fabara, Quito, Ecuador

Belcore A Sergeant in the Village Corp Tyler Koepp, Wood River, NE

Doctor Dulcamara A traveling “medicinal entrepreneur” Phillip Lopez, Avon, IL

Chorus

Soprano

Janet Butler, Overland Park, KS

Abbi Faflick, Wichita, KS

Mezzo-Soprano

Monelle Brink, Olathe, KS

Morgan Buie, Gardner. KS

Ashleigh Burro, Wichita, KS

Tenor

Alejandro Izurieta, Quito, Ecuador

Ethan Manlove, Wichita, KS

Bass

Cole Bellamy, Olathe, KS

Le Bu, Shanghai, China

Aaron Fink, Olathe, KS

Thomas Patrick Hughes\*, Indian Land, SC

\*principal role cover

Director’s Note and Synopsis

I am pleased to welcome you to Wichita State University and to the School of Music for this concert opera presentation of L’Elisir d’Amore. I first came to Wichita State as a graduate student over 36 years ago. Much has changed in the “opera world” over these years. The regularity of presenting opera in concert has grown considerably within symphony orchestras and within opera companies themselves. The standards of opera performance have changed. However, at the central core of any opera production must be the art of beautiful singing. Our opera tonight, full of magnificent music for soloists, chorus, and orchestra, allows

the opportunity for our young artists to grow and express. A simple love story is often the most enjoyable to explore and cherish. Donizetti’s 1832 opera has long been an audience favorite and is an outstanding example of Bel Canto music theater. It is my desire, as the newly named Opera Director at Wichita State, to concentrate first on the music. As the adage

goes, “Prima la Musica”. We will present shortened scenes in February to sharpen acting skills. And, in April, we will combine the music and acting in a full production of Mozart’s masterpiece, Le Nozze di Figaro.

I owe an incredible amount of gratitude to our previous opera directors at WSU. Dating back nearly 50 years, WSU has only had two opera directors: George Gibson and Marie King. George, one of my greatest mentors,

taught me the importance of being a singing actor and the importance of “Gesamtkunstwerk” (the elements of art coming together—as it only does in opera). Marie, through an incredible variety of repertoire, gave greatly to this university, the community, and a generation of students, great insights into opera style as well as valued guidance. We are, as a university, forever grateful to these two cherished former faculty members.

L’Elisir d’Amore (based on Eugène Scribe’s libretto for Auber’s Le Philtre) tells the story of Nemorino who is pining for Adina, a beautiful and wealthy land owner. Adina is being courted by the conceited Sergeant Belcore. Nemorino, lacking in confidence and hope, buys from the traveling quack, Dr. Dulcamara, a love potion (in reality, cheap wine). With a new found “confidence”, Nemorino, thinking that the potion will not take effect for 24 hours, shows indifference to Adina which annoys the young maiden. Her feelings for Nemorino begin to be revealed.

Belcore returns and proposes to Adina. Trying to teach Nemorino a lesson, Adina agrees—but the wedding must wait six days. Nemorino, believing in the power of the “potion”, laughs. Adina learns that Belcore must leave for military service the next day and moves up the wedding which throws Nemorino into great despair. Adina invites everyone to their wedding.

In Act 2, we see the joyful pre-wedding party. Dulcamara sings a duet with Adina as entertainment for the guests. The notary arrives to officiate. Adina is disappointed that Nemorino has not appeared as she only agreed to the wedding to “punish” him. Nemorino, who has seen the notary, is downhearted as he fears that he has lost Adina forever. Coming upon Dulcamara, he begs for a fast acting “Elixir”. Dulcamara, who will not give away his product for free, leaves. Belcore arrives, distressed that Adina has now decided to postpone the signing of the wedding contract. He sees Nemorino and asks why he is upset. Nemorino expresses his need for money. Belcore invites Nemornio to join the military where he’ll receive money immediately. Nemorino signs the military contract

(desiring only to receive the money and buy more “potion”). After the men have left, Giannetta gosspis with the other women. She tells them that Nemorino’s uncle has just died and has left Nemorino a huge fortune. Nemorino re-enters, obviously under the influence of the new “elixir” from Dr. Dulcamara. The women all advance on Nemorino, anxious to “share in his wealth”. Nemorino believes their attention is due to the “Elixir”. Adina is shocked at what she is seeing. She asks Dulcamara for an explanation who explains that Nemorino spent his last

dime on the “elixir” and joined the military to gain more. Dulcamara even offers to sell Adina “elixir” in order to win back Nemorino’s love. Adina trusts her own skills and beauty. Nemorino returns alone and reflects on the tear he saw in Adina’s eye (Una furtiva lagrima). He is convinced that Adina loves him. Adina enters and asks why he has joined the military. Nemorino expresses that he desired a better life. Adina tells him that she purchased back his military contract. Nemorino, agitated, tells Adina that if he is not loved, he should just go ahead and join the military. Adina is moved by Nemorino’s devotion and declares her love for Nemorino. Belcore returns to see Adina and Nemorino together. He accepts Adina’s expression of love for Nemorino as he realizes there are plenty of other women to be pursued. Adina and Nemorino finally hear about Nemorino’s new inheritance from his uncle’s death. Dulcamara returns and proclaims the great success of his “elixir” and states that Nemornio is now not only loved but also very rich. Everyone rushes to buy their own bottles of “Elixir” and proclaim that Dr. Dulcamara is a great physican.

WSU Symphony Orchestra

Flute

\*Jessica Morrow, Rowlett, TX

Mily Montanez, Lewisville, TX

Oboe

\*Alyssa Carlson, Falun, KS

Martiya Schmidt, Derby, KS

Clarinet

\*David Deiter, Northampton, PA

Lisa Johnson, Hoxie, KS

Bassoon

\*Patrick Orr, Kingman, KS

#Zachary Hague

Horn

Samanda Engel, Derby, KS

Michaela Enso, Derby, KS

Trumpet

\*Emily Mudra Wichita

Sam Natvig Augusta

Trombone

\*Lucas Hulett Charlotte, NC

Michael Dawson Lee’s Summit, MO

Chris Jones Indianapolis, IN

Harp

#Dean Roush

Harpsichord

^Bridget Hille

Percussion

\*Justin Hall New Orleans, LA

Diana SummersLaCygne

Violin I

+Brandon Lay Wichita

Anni DongXinxiang, Henan, China

Callista Owens North Kansas City, MO

Addison Wegerle Wichita

Violin II

\*Cristian Martinez Matamoros, Mexico

Tamara Cox Spring Hill

Deja McPherson Wichita

Leah Rosales Wichita

Ashley Yancey Fort Smith, AR

Viola

\*Pedro Oviedo Villa Haynes, Paraguay

Ricardo Cavalcante Paulista, Brazil

Sandra Dang Wichita

Tyra Grace Salina

Daniel Ibarra Wichita

Cassidy Lee Tonkawa, OK

Danh Luu Wichita

Joseph Schmitt Wichita

Gabrielle Villar Wichita

Cello

\*Gabriela Garzón Avendaño Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico

Christian Acker Wichita

Isabella Bond Wichita

Jordan Clark Wildwood, MO

Daijana WallaceJunction City

Bass

\*Kiana Jackson Olathe

Lori Pangburn Wichita

Mary Tucker Cypress, TX

+Concertmaster

\*Principal

#Faculty Artist

^Accompanist Guild

SPECIAL THANKS

Wichita State University School of Music, Aleks Sternfeld-Dunn, Director

Michael Hanawalt, Associate Director

Timothy Shade, Graduate Coordinator

Dr. Pina Mozzani, Language Coaching

David Neville, Lighting Supervisor

Amber Stephens, Lighting Designer

Bridget Hille, Music Preparation and Incredible Patience

Sable Strout, Surtitles and Production Assistant to Mr. Held

Event Systems, Projector Rental

WSU Performance Facilities, David Muehl, Audio Producer

College of Fine Arts, Dr. Rodney Miller, Dean

Ray Clithero, Director of Fine Arts Facilities

Wichita State School of Performing Arts, Linda Starkey, Director

Shelly Hickman, WSU Fine Arts Box Office Manager

Vicki Quade, WSU Performance Facilities Business Services Manager

and

The entire Wichita State University School of Music Faculty

Bands

Lucas Hulett, assistant director

Timothy Shade, director

Brass /Woodwinds/ Percussion

Andréa Banke, oboe

Phillip Black, tuba/euphonium

Matt Blauer, trombone

Rachelle Goter, clarinet

James Pisano, saxophone/jazz

Zachary Hague, bassoon

David Hunsicker, trumpet

Carmen Lemoine, flute

Steve Oare, Area Director of Wind/Brass/Percussion

Gerald Scholl, percussion

Jeb Wallace, horn

Jazz

William Flynn, guitar/jazz, Area Director of Jazz Studies

John Goering, jazz piano

Steve Hatfield, jazz drum kit

Keyboards

Julie Bees, piano

Lynn Davis, organ

Ai Guo, piano class

Justine Sasanfar, piano pedagogy

Andrew Trechak, Area Director of Keyboards

Music Education

Elaine Bernstorf

Steve Oare

Pam Pryor

Jeanne Vance Shoemaker

Tom Wine, Area Director of Music Education

Musicology/Composition

David MacDonald, musicology/composition/

technology

Walter Mays, musicology/composition

Dean Roush, musicology/composition

Kelly St. Pierre, musicology

Strings

Catherine Consiglio, viola

Mark Foley, bass, Coordinator of Contemporary Media

Tracy Hoover, viola da gamba

Mark Laycock, Area Director of Strings/Orchestra

Faith O’Neal, harp

Leonid Shukaev, cello

Betül Soykan, violin

Voice, Choral and Opera

Cristina Castaldi

Michael Hanawalt, Director of Choral Activities

Alan Held, Area Director of Opera

Renee Macdonald

Pina Mozzani, Area Director of Voice

Lindsey Ramey

Sam Ramey

Michael Sylvester

Michelle Sylvester

Tom Wine

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