

# Opera Workshop

2013-14 Season  
585th Concert

Wednesday 2 April 2014  
Dalton Center Recital Hall  
7:30 p.m.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
1756-1791  
dialogue Michael Ehrman

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

CARL RATNER, Director  
Ahmed Anzaldúa, Musical Director and Piano  
Jack Cotaling, Assistant Director  
Alexandria Shiner, Alumna Guest Soprano

## "Mozart's Comic Operas"

Dialogue and Trio from *The Impresario* K.486

Mr. Ernest Scruples, Opera Impresario: Matthew Hazel  
Mr. Bluster, Stage Director: Ian Hardy  
Miss Jones, Secretary: Sarah Ruth Mikulski  
Madame Wilhemina Tiefgugle, Aging Coloratura Soprano:  
Shaina Sanders  
Jussi Pavarussi, Tenor and Composer: Amos Warren III  
Polyhymnia "Polly" Heartmelt, Soubrette Soprano:  
Hannah Earl

*The Impresario (Der Schauspieldirektor)* was composed for a competition against an opera by Antonio Salieri; the premiere took place on Feb. 7, 1786. It tells the story of the struggles of a reluctant impresario with dueling divas. The excerpt we are presenting tonight, originally a trio with additional speaking parts, is certainly the highlight of the score.

Scenes from *The Marriage of Figaro* K.492

Act I Duet  
Marcellina: Alicia Renney  
Susanna: Elizabeth Ahlbrand

Act III Scenes  
Count: Matthew Hazel  
Susanna: Melanie Walker  
Countess: Alexandria Shiner  
The aria of the Countess, "Dove sono" sung in Italian

Act IV Finale

Figaro: Jack Cotaling

Susanna: Clare Regan

Count: Matthew Hazel

Basilio: Amos Warren III

Antonio/Bartolo: Ian Hardy

Cherubino: Sarah Ruth Mikulski

Barbarina: Elizabeth Ahlbrand

Marcellina: Alicia Renney

Countess: Alexandria Shiner

Ladies and Servants of the Castle: Hannah Earl,  
Shaina Sanders, Melanie Walker

*The Marriage of Figaro (Le nozze di Figaro)*, which premiered later the same year, is based on a contemporary, some said revolutionary, play by Beaumarchais. It continues the adventures of the characters introduced in the same author's farce *The Barber of Seville*. The Count, no longer satisfied with his lovely wife of whom he is nonetheless extremely jealous, attempts to seduce her maid, Susanna. Susanna is engaged to the Count's valet Figaro and the events of the opera take place on their wedding day. Marcellina is determined to win Figaro as her own husband and so regards Susanna as her enemy, at least until Act III, when she discovers that Figaro is really her long lost son. Susanna and the Countess set in motion a plan to bring the Count to his senses. Under the Countess's instruction, Susanna sends a letter to the Count inviting him to a clandestine midnight meeting in the garden. Arriving there, the Count tries to seduce "Susanna," who is actually the Countess in disguise. Figaro sees this and is heartbroken. He attempts to involve the "Countess" in a plot for revenge, only to discover that she is really Susanna. When the Count discovers Figaro in a compromising position with the "Countess," fireworks both literal and figurative ensue.

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