

An Embarrassing Position and Trial By Jury

2017–2018 Season Friday 10 November 2017
135th Concert Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8:00 p.m.
138th Concert Saturday 11 November 2017
Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8:00 p.m.

AN EMBARRASSING POSITION

Dan Shore (b. 1975)

TRIAL BY JURY

W.S. Gilbert (1836–1911) and Arthur Sullivan (1842–1900)

DAVID E. LITTLE, Music Director and Conductor

D. TERRY WILLIAMS, Stage Director

JUAN SEBASTIAN AVENDAÑO, Piano

There will be a 15 minute intermission between the two operas.

AN EMBARRASSING POSITION

Friday Cast (in order of vocal appearance)

Willis Parkham: Isaac James
Ms. Dara: Sarabeth Brown
Eva Delvigné: Brianna Rigozzi
June Jinkins: Hayley Girard
Miss Paige: Alexandra Galla

Saturday Cast (in order of vocal appearance)

Willis Parkham: Mick Jutila
Ms. Dara: Holli Slamka
Eva Delvigné: Brianna Van Houten
June Jinkins: Hayley Girard
Miss Paige: Dana Sullivan

intermission

TRIAL BY JURY

Cast (in order of vocal appearance)

Usher: Jared Montgomery

Foreman of the Jury: Jordan Thomas

The Defendant: Travis Williams

The Learned Judge: Mathieu Hastings

Counsel for the Plaintiff: Keiwon X. Lambert

The Plaintiff: Cara Gross

Public

Soprano: Margaret Mooney, Ellie McPherson, Olivia Hyzy

Alto: Catherine Baeza, Hannah Strayhorn, Camille Booth

Tenor: William Bailey, Austin Miller

Bass: Leonard Walker, Matthew Randle

Gentlemen of the Jury

Tenor: Joey Gottschall, Josh Vreeland, Brandon Woodcox

Bass: Alex Dykema, Alex Repyak, Alex Smith

Bridesmaids

Soprano: Daniela Peña, Clara Stine, Elizabeth Eighmy

Alto: Maria Molter, Katherine Short, Emily Meeuwes

DESIGNERS and TECHNICAL STAFF

Set and Properties Design: Kenneth Church

Costume and Wig Design: Elaine Kauffman

Stage Manager: Anna Brockway

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Kalamazoo Civic Theatre, Ellie Neuerburg, Deborah O’Keefe, University Theatre, Dannielle Sturgeon, Kevin West

Building emergencies will be indicated by flashing lights and spoken announcement within the seating area. If the notification is for fire, please exit the building immediately. The tornado safe area in Dalton Center is along the lockers in the brick hallway to your left as you exit to the lobby behind you. In any emergency, walk—do not run—to the nearest exit. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during the performance. Because of legal issues, any video or audio recording of this performance is forbidden without prior consent from the School of Music. Thank you for your cooperation.

AN EMBARRASSING POSITION

by Dan Shore

Late at night, after a longer poker game, Willis Parkham is chastised by his maid, Ms. Dara. She cautions him to abandon his wild, bachelor ways for the decorum of a married life if he truly wishes to live up to his potential ambitions.

The doorbell rings, revealing a surprise visit from the young Eva Delvigné, whom Parkham secretly loves. Her father has sent her a telegram telling her he will not be able to return home that evening, and Eva has decided to place herself under Parkham's protection for the night.

Before he can explain to her the impropriety of her being alone in a single man's home, there is another surprise visitor at the door. Parkham hastily stashed Eva in another room, and in walks June Jenkins, the gossip columnist for the New Orleans Times-Democrat! June, informed that there may have been a political dimension to the poker game, tries to tempt Parkham into giving her an exclusive interview, complete with a cover photo. When June discovers the presence of Eva, Parkham finds himself in quite an embarrassing position. Desperate, he tells June that the woman in question is not actually Miss Eva Delvigné. After whispering a further explanation to her, June runs off, promising to return soon.

Parkham asks Ms. Dara to fetch Father Linden, adding that the situation is urgent. Parkham timidly attempts to comfort Eva and reveal his plan to restore her honor, but he finds it difficult to speak his mind clearly. June reenters with Miss Paige, an apprentice photographer, who clumsily begins setting up her equipment and arranging Parkham and Eva. When Ms. Dara returns with Father Linden, Parkham quickly proposes marriage and Eva joyfully accepts. As the young couple poses for what will now be a wedding photo, we start to wonder if perhaps the presence of the young ladies isn't such a coincidence after all...

TRIAL BY JURY

by W.S. Gilbert & Arthur Sullivan

The scene is the Court of the Exchequer, where a jury and the public assemble to hear a case of breach of promise of marriage. The usher introduces the proceedings by exhorting the jury to listen to the broken-hearted Plaintiff's case but telling them that they "needn't mind" what the "ruffianly defendant" has to say. He adds, however, that "From bias free of every kind, this trial must be tried!"

The Defendant (Edwin) arrives, and the jurymen greet him with hostility, even though, as he points out, they have as of yet, no idea of the merits of his case. He tells them, with surprising candor, that he jilted the Plaintiff because she became a "bore intense" to him, and he then quickly married another woman. The jurymen recall their own wayward youth, but they are now respectable gentlemen and no longer have any sympathy for the Defendant.

The judge enters and describes how he rose to his position – by courting a rich attorney's "elderly, ugly daughter." The jury and public are delighted with the judge, and ignore that he has just admitted to the same wrong of which the Defendant is accused.

The jury is then sworn in, and the Plaintiff (Angelina) is summoned. She is preceded into the courtroom by her bridesmaids. Then Angelina herself arrives in full wedding dress and instantly captures the heart of both Judge and jury.

The Counsel for the Plaintiff makes a moving speech detailing Edwin's betrayal. Angelina feigns distress, first to the Foreman of the Jury, and then to the Judge. Edwin counters, explaining that he has had a change of heart and truly loves Angelina, so much so that he offers to marry her.

The Judge at first finds "a reasonable proposition," but the Counsel argues that from the days of James II, it has been "a rather serious crime to marry two wives at a time," (he labels the crime in question "burglary" rather than "bigamy"). Perplexed, everyone in court ponders the "nice dilemma" in a parody of Italian opera ensembles.

Angelina desperately embraces Edwin, demonstrating the depth of her love, and bemoans her loss – all in evidence of the large amount of damages that the jury should force Edwin to pay. Edwin, in turn, says he is a smoker, a drunkard and bully and that Angelina could not have endured him even for a day; thus the damages should be small.

The Judge suggests making Edwin tipsy to see if he would really "thrash and kick" Angelina, but everyone else (except Edwin) objects to this experiment. Impatient at the lack of progress, the Judge resolves the case by offering to marry Angelina himself. This is found quite satisfactory, and the opera is concluded with "joy unbounded."