

University of Alberta
Department of Music

Opera

Friday & Saturday
8:00 pm
February 6 & 7, 1987

Convocation Hall
Old Arts Building
University of Alberta

W.A. Mozart
"The Impresario"
Antonio Salleri
"First, the Music"

PROGRAM NOTES

Tonight's program features two musical entertainments, which appeared exactly 201 years ago, on February 7, 1786, when Austrian Emperor Joseph II entertained the visiting Governor General of the Netherlands and his wife, the Archduchess Christine, at the Schoenbrunn Palace in Vienna.

The two commissioned farces were composed by Antonio Salieri (1750-1825), a court favorite with much prestige and official position as the composer and Kapellmeister to the Imperial Majesty, and a somewhat younger musical upstart from the provinces, name of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791), who had recently pleased the Viennese and the Emperor with a very successful German Singspiel - 'The Abduction from the Seraglio'. Salieri's work - 'a divertimento teatrale' was in Italian, Mozart's - a comedy with music - was in German, with spoken text and only 4 musical numbers, and an overture.

Both works deal with theatre life and poke fun at the manners and morals of the people who put on, sponsor, create or otherwise get involved with 'showbusiness'. Considering the princely audience, the tone and the form of the satire is surprisingly earthy and boisterous.

It is recorded in history that the Salieri work was the short term favorite with the audiences (public performances in regular theatres followed), but Mozart's "Der Schauspiel-Direktor" lasted longer. It disappeared after 1830's but later, in various disguises, came back and was translated in French, Swedish, Czech, English, etc.

Our production of both works is in English, because the words, in spite of 'Prima la musica', are essential to the entertainment.

FIRST THE MUSIC, THEN THE WORDS

An Opera in One Act by Antonio Salieri
Words in English by Ruth & Thomas Martin

CAST

(in order of appearance)

The Composer	Dwayne Barr
The Poet	Roland Fix
Eleanora, the Diva	Deborah Coombe
Tonina, the Soubretta	Kathleen Neudorf

Sylvia Shadick-Taylor: Piano

The action takes place in the composer's studio in 1786.

THE IMPRESARIO

An Opera in One Act by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Words in English by Ruth and Thomas Martin

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Mr. Scruples	Steven Humphrey
Mr. Bluff	Richard Chung
Mr. Angel	Darald Bantel
Madame Goldentrill	Twylla Augustson
Miss Silverpeal	Darlene Schubert

Sylvia Shadick-Taylor: Piano

The action takes place in Mr. Scruples office in 1786.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Musical Director	Alfred Strombergs
Production and Stage Director	Alan Ord
Set Design	Morris Ertman
Costume Design and Construction	Betty Kolodziej
Lighting Design	Morris Ertman
Coach	Sylvia Shadick-Taylor
Stage Manager	} Kathleen Corcoran Dorothy Leonard Brenda Randall Deborah Wiebe
Assistant Stage Manager	
Properties	
Stage Crew	
Set Construction	W. P. Wagner High School Ron Massing: Instructor

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

University of Alberta Department of Drama
W. P. Wagner High School