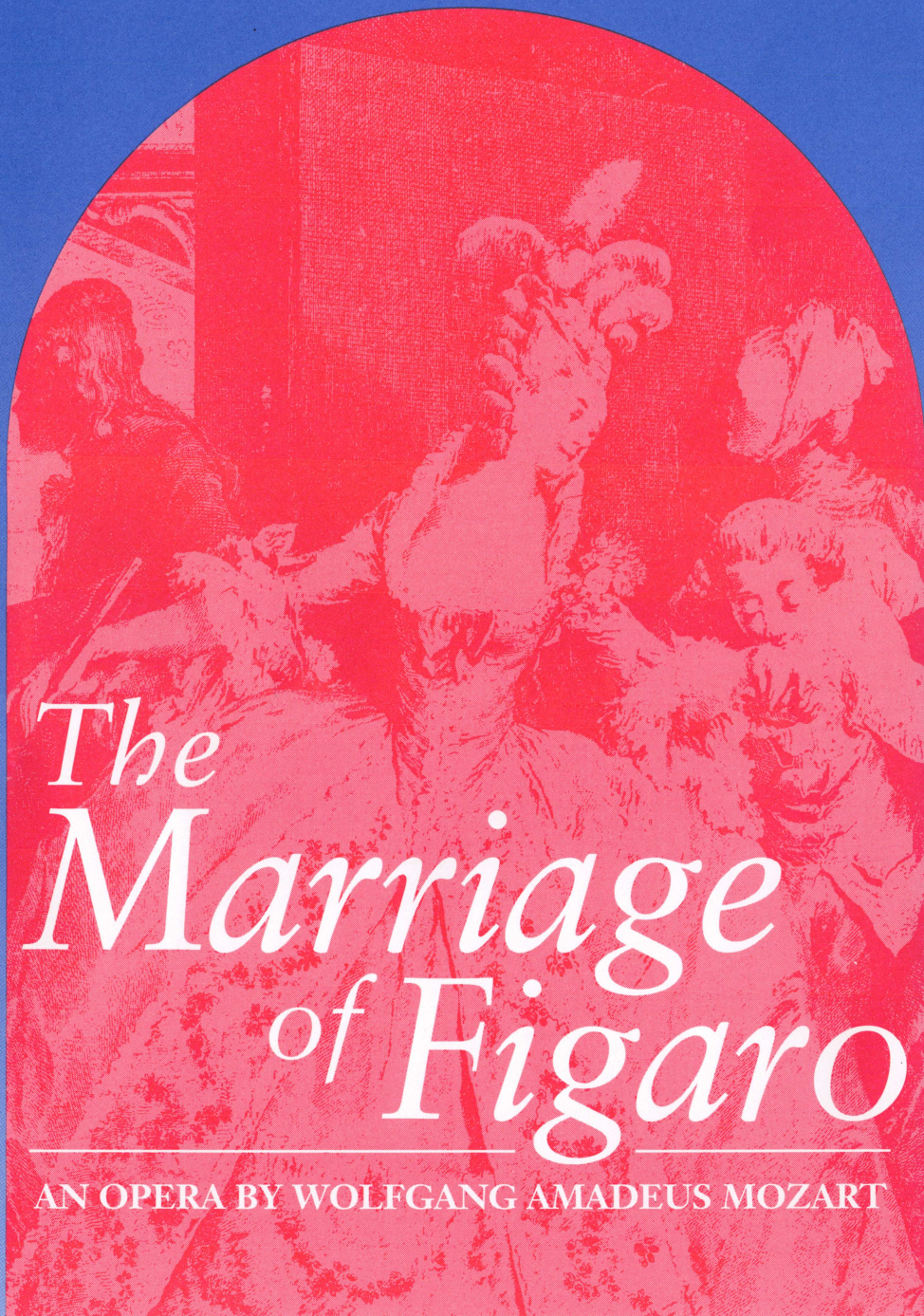


Department of Music

University
of
Alberta



The
Marriage
of Figaro

AN OPERA BY WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

The University of Alberta
Department of Music

presents

The Marriage of Figaro (1786)
An opera in four acts

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte
English version by Ruth and Thomas Martin*

Production and Stage Director
Conductor and Music Director
Set and Costume Design
Musical Coach and Rehearsal Pianist
Rehearsal Pianist
Technical Director
Lighting and Sound
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Properties Mistress
Costume Construction
Headwear
Wigs and Hair
Running Crew

Alan Ord
Norman Nelson
Kathleen Ord
Sylvia Shadick-Taylor
David Snable
Chris Helman
Chris Helman, Chris Brown
Linda Houle
John Giffen
Lisa Fernandes
Kathleen Ord, Sarah Olsen, Shelley Olsen, Opal Collier
Audrey Michelsen
Melody Ripley
Carrie Dimaculangan, Cindy Koistinen

Wednesday, February 5, 1997
Thursday, February 6, 1997
Friday, February 7, 1997
Saturday, February 8, 1997
at 7:30 pm

Convocation Hall, Arts Building

*English version by permission of G. Schirmer Inc.

CAST (in order of appearance)

February 5, 7

February 6, 8

Figaro <i>valet to the Count</i>	Ray Pryma	Kevin Gagnon
Susanna <i>maid to the Countess</i>	Maura Sharkey	Melanie Cherniwchan
Bartolo <i>former Guardian to the Countess</i>	David Snable	
Marcellina <i>the Count's former housekeeper, and former servant of Dr Bartolo</i>	Leela Gilday	Meaghan Schutt
Cherubino <i>the Count's page</i>	Karen Zwartjes	Aliya Ahmad
Count Almaviva	Gil Anderson	Curtis Knecht
Basilio <i>music professor</i>	Tom Macleay	Joseph Chambrinho
Countess Almaviva	Maria Wolfe	Jody Warwaruk
Antonio <i>the Count's gardener, uncle to Susanna</i>	Kelly Mattheis	
Don Curzio <i>a judge</i>	Joseph Chambrinho	Tom Macleay
Barbarina <i>Antonio's daughter</i>	Danica Clark	Linda Houle
Scullerymaid <i>choir soloist</i>	Cindy Koistinen	
Nanny <i>choir soloist</i>	Lisa Fernandes	
Housemaids	Shannon Simpson, Carrie Dimaculangan	
Kitchenmaid	Meaghan Schutt	
Cooks	Joseph Chambrinho	Tom Macleay
Tailor	John Giffen	

There will be an intermission between acts II and III only.

Background and synopsis

The Marriage of Figaro is based on *Le Mariage de Figaro*, the second of three plays about the same principal characters by Pierre-Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais (1732-99). When King Louis XVI read the manuscript to the play he exclaimed: "this is detestable, it will never be played!" The King apparently felt the very foundations of social structure in society were threatened by the play. The portrait of a group of servants mocking their aristocratic master and making him beg for mercy was something that frightened rulers at a time when the French Revolution was brewing. Beaumarchais' play was in print for six years before it was permitted on the Paris stage in 1784. Mozart's musical setting was premiered in Vienna in 1786.

The following is a synopsis of the Beaumarchais play in words of the author himself:

Figaro, steward at the castle of Count Almaviva, has borrowed ten thousand francs from Marcellina, housekeeper of the same castle, and has given her a note promising to repay the money at a certain time or to marry her if he should default. Meanwhile, very much in love with Susanna, Countess Almaviva's young chambermaid, he prepares to marry her; for the Count, himself enamored of young Susanna, has favored this marriage in the hope that a dowry he has promised to give her would enable him to obtain from her in secret her yielding to the *droit du seigneur*, a right that he had renounced for the benefit of his servants when he was married. This domestic intrigue is conducted on behalf of the Count by the rather unscrupulous Basilio, music-master of the castle. But the young and virtuous Susanna believes herself obliged to apprise her mistress and her betrothed of the Count's gallant intentions, and the Countess, Susanna, and Figaro band together to foil the plans of the lord of the manor. A small page, beloved by everyone at the castle but mischievous and overheated, like a precocious lad of thirteen or fourteen, slips saucily away from his master and by his liveliness and perpetual thoughtlessness more than once involuntarily places obstacles in the way of the Count's progress, at the same time getting himself into hot water, which leads to some very effective incidents in the piece... The Count, finally perceiving that he is being made the victim, but unable to imagine how it is being done, resolves upon vengeance by favoring Marcellina's claims. Thus, desperate because he cannot make the young woman his mistress, he tries to marry the old one to Figaro, who is distressed by all this. But at the moment when Almaviva believes himself avenged, when, as first magistrate of Andalusia, he condemns Figaro to marry Marcellina that day or pay then ten thousand francs—which Figaro cannot possibly do—, it is revealed that Marcellina is Figaro's unknown mother. This ruins all of the Count's plans and he cannot flatter himself that he is either fortunate or avenged. During this time, the Countess, who has not given up the hope of winning back her unfaithful spouse by catching him at fault, has arranged with Susanna that the latter pretend to grant the Count a rendezvous at last in the garden, and that the wife appear there in place of the mistress. But an unforeseen incident apprises Figaro of the rendezvous granted by his fiancée. Furious because he believes himself deceived, he hides at the appointed spot, in order to surprise the Count with Susanna. While he is still raging, he is himself pleasantly surprised to discover that the whole affair is only a game between the Countess and her chambermaid for the purpose of fooling the Count; he finally joins in the game good-humoredly; Almaviva, convicted of unfaithfulness by his wife, throws himself at her feet, begs her forgiveness, which she laughingly grants him, and Figaro marries Susanna.

The University of Alberta Symphony Orchestra, 1996-1997
Norman Nelson, conductor

Violin I

Grant Sigurdson, concertmaster
Kim Bertsch
Cynthia Johnston
Mary Kagawa
Gautam Karnik
Matthias Silveira
Sarah Snihurowych

Violin II

John Radosh, principal
Jim Cockell
Ken Heise
Madeleine Lussier
Carol Sperling
Natalie Ozipko

Viola

Miriam Lewis, principal
Moni Mathew
Michelle Moroz
Marnie Ozipko
Meghan Schuler

Cello

Adèle Bossé, principal
Jocelyn Chu
Marc Dowdell
Kerri McGonigle
Krista Mury
Bonnie Pollock
Paul Radosh
Sara Tungland
Olivia Walsh

Bass

Robyn Rutledge, principal
Roberta Jenkins

Flute

Susan Rostoker, principal
Shafi Perry-Higgins

Oboe

Alison Cassis, principal
Vic Houle

Clarinet

Curtis Bain, principal
Suzanne Vuch

Bassoon

Susanne Hayman, principal
Jacqueline Oppenorth

Horn

Paul Flowers, principal
Lya Noon

Trumpet

Andrea Emberly, principal
Katherine Dodds

Timpani

Nicole Arendt

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Mrs Cecile Shaw

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