

No. 71  
Betty

THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND THE OFFICE OF LECTURES AND CONCERTS

*Present*

THE CORONATION OF POPPEA

by Claudio Monteverdi

T#1-8510

T#2-8511

T#3-8512

Friday, May 20, 1977

Saturday, May 21, 1977

Monday, May 23, 1977

Tuesday, May 24, 1977

Meany Theater, 8:00 PM

THE CORONATION OF POPPEA

Music by Claudio Monteverdi

Libretto by G. F. Busenello

Realization and English version by Raymond Leppard

CAST:

OTTONE, Poppea's former lover.....	Cal Robertson Peter Ashbaugh*
SECOND SOLDIER, Bodyguard of Nero .....	Richard Russell
FIRST SOLDIER, Bodyguard of Nero .....	Curtis Barber Ray Bannon***
NERO, Emperor of Rome.....	Robert Harris Christopher Kerr*
POPPEA, A Courtesan.....	Anna Kolasinka Julie Mirel**
ARNALTA, Poppea's old nurse .....	Patricia Johnson Harriett Taylor*
OTTAVIA, The Empress .....	Constance Koschmann
DRUSILLA, A court lady.....	Sydney Anderson Emily Winstrom*
SENECA, Elder statesman and philosopher .....	Norman Smith
VALLETTO, A page in Ottavia's service.....	Gregg Carder
PALLADE, Goddess of Wisdom .....	Anastasia Mugarian
DAMIGELLA, A maidservant in Ottavia's service.....	Juli Holland Adele Berg*
LIBERTO, Captain of the guard.....	Paul Berkolds
LUCANO, A friend of Nero .....	Robert Julien
AMOR, God of Love .....	Kelly Kerr Megan Creswell*
STUDENTS, CONSULS, TRIBUNES, ATTENDANTS AND SOLDIERS .....	Peter Ashbaugh, Michael Barnes, Curtis Barber, Ray Bannon, Paul Berkolds, Theodore Deacon, Thomas Chambers, John Imhoff, Janice Ironside, Una Stewart, William Tilstra, Steve White, Richard Russell, Tom Smith, Scott Shaw, Megan Creswell, Kelly Kerr

\*Performing May 21 and 23.

\*\*Performing May 23 only.

\*\*\*Performing May 20 and 23.

## *Synopsis*

### ACT I

Scene 1	A street outside Poppea's house
2	Poppea's bedroom
3	Ottavia's apartment in the imperial palace
4	Poppea's bedroom
5	A street
6	An arbor on the palace grounds
7	Seneca's garden

### INTERMISSION

Scene 1	Nero's apartment
2	Ottavia's apartment
3	Poppea's bedroom
4	A street
5	Dockside
6	A street
7	The imperial palace

### ACT I

The courtesan Poppea Sabina, ambitious for power, has discarded her lover, Ottone, for the Emperor Nero. Arnalta, Poppea's nurse, warns her that terrible things may come of her alliance with Nero. Nero's plan to repudiate his wife, the Empress Ottavia, in favor of Poppea, meets violent opposition by the philosopher Seneca, who is Nero's adviser. Poppea manipulates Nero into ordering Seneca's suicide.

### ACT II

The Empress persuades Ottone to kill Poppea, and the rejected lover enlists the aid of Drusilla, confidante of the Empress and herself in love with Ottone. Amor, the God of Love, intervenes and Poppea is saved. Upon hearing of the conspiracy, Nero exiles Drusilla and Ottone. Next he banishes the Empress Ottavia and has Poppea crowned Empress.

(Historical footnote: Not long after Poppea was married to Nero, his persecutions of the Christians began, Roman citizens fomented revolts against him, he killed Poppea and finally committed suicide).

