

THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
OPERA THEATRE

presents

The Telephone - 3199.

by

Gian-Carlo Menotti

and

The Apothecary - R#1 - 3200
R#2 - 3201

by

Joseph Haydn

Tuesday, April 10, 1962

8 p.m.

Friday, April 13, 1962

Meany Hall

The Telephone

The Place: Lucy's Apartment

The Time: Now

The Characters:

Lucy.....Joyce Weeks Morrison, *soprano*

Ben.....John DeMerchant, *baritone*

Ben has called upon Lucy with the intention of asking her to marry him. He has difficulty phrasing the question and before he can tell her what is on his mind, the telephone interrupts them. He fights a losing battle with the telephone while Lucy, unaware of Ben's increasing frustration, blithely receives her calls as a matter of course and even proceeds to call her friends as the situation demands.

In desperation Ben decides there is only one thing to do and leaves without divulging the purpose of his visit. Shortly after his hurried departure, Lucy receives another telephone call. This time it is Ben; he has discovered the only way to claim her attention. Lucy accepts his proposal over the telephone and all ends happily.

Intermission

The Apothecary

The Place: An Apothecary Shop

The Time: The Eighteenth Century

The Cast:

Sempronio, an Apothecary.....John DeMerchant, *baritone*

Mengone, his young assistant.....Vernon Corliss, *tenor*

Grilletta, Sempronio's ward.....Annette Bowman, *soprano*

Volpino, a fop.....Donna Fennell, *mezzo-soprano*

Chorus of Apprentices and Turkish Slaves.....David Urquart,
Vervil Johnson, Daniel Greene, John Reay

Mengone, a poor apprentice, is in love with Grilletta, the beautiful ward of Sempronio. Sempronio and his friend Volpino are also desirous of capturing the affections of the attractive Grilletta. Although Grilletta favors Mengone, she is fearful of Sempronio's disapproval and the lovers must meet secretly under the very nose of the watchful Sempronio.

Knowing of Sempronio's greed for gold and his passion for anything foreign, Volpino informs Sempronio of an important position as apothecary to the court of an imaginary Pasha of Turkestan which can be his on the condition that Volpino be allowed to marry Grilletta. Attracted by the offer of wealth and position, Sempronio agrees but secretly plans to keep Grilletta.

Suspecting an intrigue between Mengone and Grilletta and wishing to circumvent the plans of Volpino, Sempronio decides to ask Grilletta to marry him. She, hoping to goad the hesitant Mengone into action, tentatively agrees.

Sempronio sends Mengone to bring the notary. Volpino overhears the order and disguises himself as a notary hoping to draw up a marriage contract in his own favor. Mengone plans similar action and they both arrive in disguise. With Sempronio dictating, they both draw up separate contracts favoring themselves. Much to the delight of Grilletta, the hoax is finally discovered by Sempronio who drives the young men from the shop and locks Grilletta in her room.

Later, after the anger of Sempronio has subsided, the two young lovers meet and prompted by Grilletta, Mengone decides to act courageously. His decision is interrupted by the excited entrance of Sempronio who has just received a letter announcing the arrival of the Pasha of Turkestan.

The Pasha ceremoniously enters with his retinue of slaves and demands that Sempronio give Grilletta to Volpino. When Sempronio refuses, the slaves proceed to destroy the shop. Recognizing the Pasha as Volpino in disguise, Mengone offers to save the shop if Sempronio will consent to the marriage of Mengone and Grilletta. In desperation Sempronio finally agrees, Volpino is unmasked, the shop is saved, and the two lovers are at last united.

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