

THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
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present

# ORMINDO

Opera in Two Acts by

**FRANCESCO CAVALLI**

in a new version realized by Raymond Leppard

Libretto by *Giovanni Faustino*

English version by *Geoffrey Dunn*

Wednesday, August 14, 1968  
Friday, August 16, 1968

Jane Addams Auditorium  
8:00 p.m.

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FRANCESCO CAVALLI  
in a new version by Raymond Leppard

Libretto by Giovanni Faustino  
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## CHARACTERS in order of their appearance:

ORMINDO } Knights in love with Erisbe. Theodore Turner, tenor  
AMIDA } Clyde Walker, baritone  
NERILLO, Amida's page . . . . . Marky Buxton, mezzo-soprano  
SICLE, Princess of Susio . . . . . Joan Falskow, soprano  
ERICE } Sicle's Attendants . . . . . John Wright, tenor  
MELIDE } Bonnie Graves, mezzo-soprano  
ERISBE, Queen of Fez . . . . . Florence Mesler, soprano  
MIRINDA, Erisbe's nurse . . . . . Shirley Harned, mezzo-soprano  
ARIADENO, King of Fez . . . . . Maughan McMurdie, bass-baritone  
OSMANO, Captain of the Guard . . . . . Wilbur Davis, baritone  
KING'S ATTENDANT . . . . . Norman Reese

## ACT I

A street in Fez — 22:40  
The palace garden — 26:30  
A street in Fez — 10:37  
The harbor — 7:23

## INTERMISSION

## ACT II

A cave — 18:27  
The harbor — 3:00  
The palace garden — 29:00

## The Festival Opera Production Staff

STANLEY CHAPPLE, *Director*

Conductor . . . . . Stanley Chapple  
Stage Director . . . . . Roy Lazarus  
Repetiteur . . . . . William Clarke  
Art Director and Technical Supervisor . . . . . John Ashby Conway  
Costumer . . . . . Susan Revzan  
Technical Director . . . . . John Vestal  
Scene Construction . . . . . Paul Thompson  
John Bradford  
Painting . . . . . Alanson Davis  
Lighting . . . . . Cathy Breen  
Properties . . . . . Jeff Thompson  
Stage Managers . . . . . Robert St. Onge  
Mikkel Chew  
Assistant Stage Manager . . . . . Kathy Elliott

## Orchestra

### *Violin*

Harrison Ryker  
Cindy Cole  
Sharon Woodworth  
Eric Meng  
Deede Cook  
John Cabbage  
Karen Cabbage  
Roxallanne Medley  
Barbara Hanna  
Carol Dallinger

### *Viola*

\*Donald McInnes  
\*Clifford Cunha  
*Violoncello*  
Michael Matesky  
Laurie Kechley  
*Double Bass*  
Stafford Miller  
David Kechley

\*Faculty members

### *Flue Organ*

William Clarke  
*Harpichord II*  
William Clarke  
*Harpichord III*  
Dae Baird

### *Cello continuo*

Mildred Edmundson  
*Concert Coordinator*  
Richard Radford

## ACT I

The opera *ORMINDO* takes place in the city of Fez in North Africa in the realm of King Ariadeno and his young Queen Erisbe.

Ormind and Amida, two warriors in the service of the King, discover they are both in love with his Queen. Averting bloodshed, they agree to ask Erisbe to choose between them. She confounds them by accepting both their favors, assuring them that her marriage to the elderly and impotent Ariadeno leaves her more than enough love for two more.

Amida's suit, however, suffers a setback when three mysterious strangers confront him to reveal, by fantastic palm-reading, that he is the faithless lover of the Princess Sicle. She has pursued him from distant Susio accompanied by her old nurse Erice and her maid Melide and it is these three, in fact, disguised as sorcerers, who appear before him.

Erisbe is dismayed to learn of Amida's perfidy and reluctant thus to lose one of her admirers. She pins her hopes on the valiant Ormind and impulsively flees with him when he is summoned abroad.

## ACT II

The old nurse, Erice, meanwhile, consoles Amida with a promise of magic assistance and, in a cave on the outskirts of the city, arranges a seance in which the repentant Amida is at last restored to Sicle. Throughout the action, Nerillo (Amida's page) and Mirinda (maid to the Queen) address their satiric comments to the audience.

Ill winds beset the ship in which Ormind and Erisbe have taken flight and they are captured. The enraged Ariadeno commands his Captain of the Guard, Osmano, to see to it that they die by poison for their treachery. In a tender duet the lovers drink from the cup Osmano offers them and pledge to meet again in Elysium . . . . "this selfsame night, by the power of loving, in our inmost hearts there shall dawn day . . ."

*ORMINDO* is one of some thirty operas composed by Francesco Cavalli, a celebrated pupil of Monteverdi. It was first performed in 1644 in the San Cassiano Theatre in Venice and, true to its genre, it is an exotic piece in which the conventional love triangle expands to a shimmering pentagon. The version produced here at the University of Washington tonight is based on the "new realization" written by Raymond Leppard for the World premiere at Glyndebourne last summer.

As is often the case in a restoration of music—or art—from another age, one wants to be faithful more to the spirit than to the letter of the original. An art lover may stand in awe before a Rembrandt whose color and texture have been sullied by centuries of varnish; a music lover may listen respectfully to a hallowed score for which parts have been lost and only a skeletal "orchestration" exists.

Quite simply, we applaud Mr. Leppard, who has embellished and arranged in order to realize "in vivo" the beauty and wit of a three centuries' old style and at the same time has infused the whole with a contemporary comment.

R. L.

The University of Washington Opera Workshop was founded in 1948; the Opera Theatre, in 1952; and the Festival Opera, in 1960. The following are the productions of the Festival Opera:

1960

Falstaff  
The Marriage of Figaro  
La Bohème

1961

Carmen  
The Magic Flute  
Cosi fan Tutte  
{ Amahl and The Night Visitors  
(Menotti)  
{ L'Historie du Soldat (Stravinsky)

1962

The Rape of Lucretia (Britten)  
Boris Godunov  
Don Giovanni  
The Apothecary (Haydn)

1963

The Golden Lion (Kechley)  
Boris Godunov  
The Marriage of Figaro  
Amahl and The Night Visitors

1964

Der Freischütz  
{ Riders to the Sea (Vaughan  
Williams)  
{ The Medium (Menotti)  
Don Pasquale

1965

Simon Boccanegra  
The Beggar's Opera (Britten)  
The Abduction from the Seraglio

1966

The Consul (Menotti)  
The Coronation of Poppea  
Cosi fan Tutte

1967

The Wife of Martin Guerre  
(Bergsma)  
{ The Boor (Argento)  
{ Dido and Aeneas  
Eugene Onegin  
{ Gianni Schicchi  
{ The Old Maid and the Thief  
(Menotti)

1968

The Golden Lion  
A Midsummer Night's Dream  
(Britten)  
Ormindo (Cavalli)