

No. 83
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UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FESTIVAL OPERA

and the Office of Lectures and Concerts

present

DON PASQUALE

by Donizetti

English Version by Edward J. Dent

act I - 5446
act II - 5447
act III - 5448

Wednesday, August 20, 1969
and Friday, August 22, 1969

Jane Addams Auditorium
8:00 P.M.

"If, in dealing with the ridiculous individual, you laugh all around him, tumble him, roll him about, deal him a smack and drop a tear on him.....it is the spirit of Humor that is moving you."

George Meredith

The Story.....

Don Pasquale, a rich old bachelor, disinherits his nephew Ernesto, for refusing to marry a lady he chooses for him, and he resolves to take a wife himself instead. The nephew loves Norina, a young widow, to whom he is betrothed. Rather than plunge her into poverty, he is determined to renounce her and seek his fortune in exile. Dr. Malatesta, a friend of Ernesto, contrives a plan to effect a reconciliation. To Don Pasquale he introduces Norina as his sister returned from the convent. The old bachelor falls desperately in love and solicits an immediate marriage, which is celebrated by a fictitious notary. Ernesto, arriving to take leave of his uncle, is astonished at seeing Norina, but the Doctor explains how matters stand. The counterfeit knot is no sooner tied than Norina flings aside her reserve.

She denounces her husband's style of living, orders new servants and furniture, and insists upon a wife's prerogative to govern a household. Overwhelmed with surprise and consternation, Don Pasquale in vain offers remonstrance. The new bride boxes his ears, orders him to bed, and rushes out of the house. As she leaves, she purposely drops a letter telling of a meeting with her lover. Don Pasquale, accompanied by Malatesta, hurries to the place of rendezvous in time to see Ernesto escaping. He insists upon knowing the name of the man. An altercation ensues. The Doctor acts as mediator. He proposes that Ernesto should marry Norina and reside with his uncle. Norina objects. Don Pasquale will have it so. Arrived at this point, Malatesta explains the state of affairs, and the old bachelor, too happy in securing his freedom, bids farewell to matrimonial speculation and consents to the union of the lovers.

