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*University of Washington Opera Theatre
and the School of Music*

p r e s e n t

COSI FAN TUTTE

by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Tuesday, February 4 • Wednesday, February 5

1958

8:00 P.M. Meany Hall

COSI FAN TUTTE

(Women Are Like That)

BY WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

An Opera in Two Acts *Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte*
English Version by Ruth and Thomas Martin

CAST, in order of appearance

FERRANDO.....Robert McGrath, *tenor*

GUGLIELMO.....Howard Nelson, *baritone*

DON ALFONSO.....August Werner, *bass*

FIORDILIGI.....Joyce Amon, *soprano*

DORABELLA.....Peggy Nessel, *soprano*

DESPINA.....Joanne Davies, *soprano*

PAGES: Emilie Berendsen, Joan Kipper, Joan Stamey, Dena Lampropolus

SOLDIERS; TOWNSPEOPLE: Eleanor Feetham, Shari Brown, Joe LaRocque, Robert Loy, Alan Lund, and John Iverson

CHILDREN: Arlene Glickman, Ann Lyda, Jill Turner, Susan Hartstein

The Story . . .

The scene is laid in 18th Century Naples.

Prologue *A Cafe*

Don Alfonso, a cynical old philosopher, declares to his young friends Ferrando and Guglielmo that no woman can be trusted, including their respective fiancées the sisters Dorabella and Fiordiligi. Enraged at this slur, the young men accept his offer to wager 100 sovereigns that he can prove his point in twenty-four hours if they will agree to follow his instructions unquestioningly.

ACT II

Scene I . . . *A Garden*

While praising their absent lovers, Fiordiligi and Dorabella are surprised in their garden by Alfonso, who reports that Guglielmo and Ferrando have been ordered off to war. There is a touching scene of farewell and the two officers ostensibly sail off, to the cheers of the villagers.

Scene II . . . *A Drawing Room*

After the departure of their lovers, the grief of the ladies is hysterical. And they particularly resent the cynicism of the maid, Despina, who has something to say about the faithfulness of soldiers away from home. To further his scheme, Don Alfonso enlists Despina's aid and introduces her to young and wealthy "Albanians" who are enamored of her mistresses. She does not recognize Ferrando and Guglielmo in their disguise and supports their suit. The men are very pleased with their fiancées when their romantic overtures are repulsed, and Fiordiligi and Dorabella stalk off indignantly.

Scene III . . . *The Garden*

Alone in their garden the two sisters are surprised by the two young men who pretend to take poison in their despair. Fearful for the lives of the men, the sisters send for a doctor. Despina appears in this disguise and revives the "Albanians" by means of a huge magnet. They renew their ardent attack on the young ladies' affections but are again repulsed.

INTERMISSION

ACT II

Scene I . . . *The Drawing Room*

Despina derides their constancy; the sisters, especially Dorabella, weaken and decide a flirtation will do no harm. Dorabella chooses Guglielmo and Fiordiligi, Ferrando.

Reel #4 (1140)

Scene II . . . *The Garden*

In a romantic setting prepared by Don Alfonso and Despina, Guglielmo wins Dorabella's love and gives her a golden locket in return for a picture of Ferrando. Fiordiligi, however, refuses to yield to Ferrando. Don Alfonso attempts to cheer the disconsolate Ferrando and advises the swaggering Guglielmo that it is still too early for rejoicing.

Scene III . . . *The Drawing Room*

Fiordiligi decides to disguise herself as a man and join her betrothed at the front. But when Ferrando threatens to slay himself, she finally gives in. Both Guglielmo and Ferrando are utterly downcast by the evidence of their sweetheart's fickleness. The triumphant Don Alfonso promises them that he will arrange everything.

Scene IV . . . *The Garden*

Despina, disguised as a notary, is conducting a ceremony in which Ferrando is to marry Fiordiligi and her sister, Guglielmo, when the military music to which the two officers marched off to war is heard again, and it is announced that they have returned. In the confusion, Ferrando and Guglielmo leave the room and come back without their disguises, explaining that they had received royal permission to return to the arms of their loved ones. The officers pretend to fly into a rage when they find the marriage contract, the sisters blame Don Alfonso and Despina for leading them astray, their lovers reveal that they were the "Albanians," Guglielmo returns Ferrando's picture to Dorabella and gets his locket back, the sisters are properly chastened, and all ends happily.

Reel #5 (1141)

The School of Music Opera Staff

Conductor and Director.....	Stanley Chapple
Stage Director.....	Ralph Rosinbum
Choreographer.....	Martha Nishitani
Stage Manager.....	Robert Loy

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Courtesy of Glenn Hughes, Executive Director

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