

# A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

by Benjamin Britten

"Based on the play by William Shakespeare"

## CAST

Oberon, King of Fairies . . . . . Mary Rose Pritchard, *alto*  
Tytania, Queen of Fairies . . . . . Betty Martin, *soprano*  
Puck . . . . . Tony Kastel  
Theseus, Duke of Athens . . . . . Maughan McMurdie, *baritone*  
Hippolyta, Queen of Amazons, betrothed to  
Theseus . . . . . Archi Ammons, *contralto*  
Hermia, in love with Lysander . . . . . Sandra Kooyenga, *soprano*  
Lysander, in love with Hermia . . . . . Lee Mathews, *tenor*  
Helena, in love with Demetrius . . . . . Joan Falskow, *soprano*  
Demetrius, in love with Hermia . . . . . John Duykers, *baritone*  
Bottom, weaver . . . . . Raeder Anderson, *baritone*  
Quince, carpenter . . . . . David Baker, *bass*  
Flute, bellows-mender . . . . . John Wright, *tenor*  
Snug, joiner . . . . . Steven Tachell, *bass*  
Snout, tinker . . . . . Thomas Tavener, *tenor*  
Starveling, tailor . . . . . Richard Krueger, *baritone*

## Solo Fairies:

Cobweb . . . . . Miki Kashiwagi, *soprano*  
Peaseblossom . . . . . Linda Correia, *soprano*  
Mustardseed . . . . . Janice Stimson, *soprano*  
Moth . . . . . Debby Stimson, *soprano*

*Singing Fairies:* Randy Eichenberger, Ross Finke, Dave Jones, Steve Kaine, Steve Malott, Dean McFalls, Calvin Nelson, Russ Paige, Frank Rabinovitch, Jeff Riedinger, Andy Shaw, Brian Waite

*Dancing Fairies:* Sarah Bartholemew, Noelle Clark, Janice Crump, Sarah Ellegood, Robin Forde, Jenny Hillock, Lynn Macko, Susan Mowris, Janice Sigel, Jennifer Thienes

*Changeling Boy:* Stephen Smith

*Train Bearers:* Paul Lowe, Anthony Lowe

*Dancing Pages:* Cindy Bennett, Ginger Gmahling, Mary Meyer, Lorraine Sather, Loreta Solseng

# 5005

## ACT I

### A WOOD NEAR ATHENS

Oberon, king of the Fairies, and his queen, Tytania, quarrel over an Indian boy whom they both wish to have in their retinue. Tytania refuses to give up the changeling. Oberon orders his henchman Puck to procure a flower that has the power to create love for the first object seen by anyone whose eyes have been anointed with its juice. With this stratagem, the king plans to humiliate Tytania by causing her to love some unworthy creature and thus compel her to part with the boy.

Lysander and Hermia, the two lovers, meet in the wood. They plan to flee from Athens to escape the wrath of her father and the Athenian law that will force her to marry Demetrius. Demetrius comes searching for the runaways; he is pursued by Helena whom he repulses and finally abandons. Oberon, witnessing Helena's unhappiness, orders Puck to use some of the magic juice on the eyes of a man in Athenian garments. The king is unaware that there are two such men in the wood.

A company of artisans is planning an interlude as part of the entertainment for Duke Theseus' wedding. "The Most Lamentable Comedy and Most Cruel Death of Pyramus and Thisbe" is chosen, and the part of Pyramus is assigned to Nick Bottom, the weaver; that of Thisbe, to Flute, the bellows-mender. When everyone is satisfied with his part, all agree to meet that evening in the wood to rehearse.

Lysander and Hermia, weary from their wandering, go to sleep and are discovered by Puck who mistakes Lysander for Demetrius, and anoints his eyes. Helena comes in pursuing Demetrius, who escapes her. Lysander is awakened and immediately falls in love with Helena. She runs away, sure that she is being mocked, and is pursued by Lysander. Hermia wakes to find herself alone and runs away looking for Lysander.

Tytania enters and is sung to sleep by her fairy attendants. Oberon enters, anoints her eyes with the love-juice, and departs taking the Indian boy with him.

## INTERMISSION

#5006

### ACT II

#### *THE WOOD*

The artisans meet to rehearse their play. For a joke, Puck puts an ass's head on Bottom, causing his comrades to flee when they see his transformation. Bottom, blissfully unaware of his altered appearance, remains behind and sings a song that awakens Tytania. She is immediately enamored of the bewitched Bottom and summons her fairy attendants to wait upon him. Bottom becomes sleepy and Tytania cradles him in her arms, she dismisses her attendants, and they go to sleep.

Puck reports his success to Oberon who is displeased to find, when Demetrius and Hermia enter, that Puck has used the flower on the wrong Athenian. Puck is sent to find Helena while Oberon uses the magic flower on Demetrius' eyes. Helena enters with Lysander still declaring his passionate love; Demetrius awakens and also declares his love for her. Hermia reappears and is bewildered by Lysander's desertion and evident new devotion to Helena, while Helena thinks all three have conspired to make fun of her. They all quarrel and the men leave to fight a duel. When Hermia chases Helena away, she is convinced that Helena is the cause of Lysander's change of heart. Oberon is furious at Puck's mistakes, and sends him to the wood to make sure that no more harm comes to the lovers. Meanwhile Oberon leaves to get an antidote for Tytania's love potion. Puck charms all the lovers into a sleep, and then leads them into the proper partner's arms. He anoints Lysander's eyes with the love-juice and departs.

## INTERMISSION

#5007

### ACT III

#### *Scene 1: THE WOOD*

Oberon squeezes the antidote into Tytania's eyes, and she awakes forgetting their former quarrel. Puck removes Bottom's ass's head, and the fairies depart for Theseus' palace. The lovers awake and unite with their rightful partners, remembering only confused happenings of the past night. Alone, Bottom also awakens with but vague recollections of his adventures that he believes to have been a dream. He dashes off to tell his comrades. The comrades arrive puzzling over Bottom's disappearance. Bottom rejoins them with the news that their play has been chosen to be presented before the duke. Joyously, they run out to prepare for the performance.

#### *Scene 2: THE PALACE OF THESEUS*

At the wedding celebration of Theseus and Hippolyta, the lovers report their adventures. Theseus gives them leave to marry, and invites them to join with him in the evening's festivities. The rustics perform a bungling enactment of "Pyramus and Thisbe" that is comic rather than tragic, providing an amusing finale to an evening of delight. As the bell tolls midnight, the mortals depart, and Oberon and Tytania enter with their retinue to bless the house.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON FESTIVAL OPERA  
and The Office of Lectures and Concerts

*present*

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Benjamin Britten

*Mike*

Wednesday, May 8, 1968

Friday, May 10, 1968

Jane Addams Auditorium

8:00 p.m.