

FRI MAY 20, 1994 Z99 1994 5-20

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*University of Washington Opera presents
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's*

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO

Wednesday, May 18 at 8:00pm

Friday, May 20 at 8:00pm

Sunday, May 22 at 3:00pm

UW Masony Theater

Sung in English



Mozart

A presentation of the University of Washington Schools of Music and Drama

honor. He has sent an anonymous note to the Count revealing a tryst that the Countess will have that evening in the garden. Next Susanna will entice the Count to meet her in the garden as well. Cherubino will then be dressed as Susanna, meet with the Count, and be caught by the Countess resulting in a humiliation that will bring about a full reconciliation between the two couples.

Cherubino enters and sings the Countess a love-song he had just composed. Susanna proceeds to dress him as a woman, giving him lessons in femininity. When Susanna is out of the room the Count demands entrance forcing the frightened page to hide in the closet. The Count enters to interrogate the Countess about Figaro's letter when a noise is heard in the closet. The Countess tries to pretend that it is only Susanna and bars her husband's way into the closet. The Count leaves with the Countess to fetch tools to open the closet, locking the main door behind him. Susanna makes Cherubino open the door and he escapes by leaping out the window. Susanna then takes his place in the closet.

The Count and Countess return. She confesses that it is Cherubino within, driving the Count to fury. To everyone's surprise it is Susanna who emerges from the closet and the Count is forced to apologize. Figaro enters, hoping to start the wedding celebrations. The Count pushes Figaro to explain his letter when Antonio, the gardener enters complaining that a man jumped from the Countess's window into his flower beds. Figaro says it was himself but cannot identify the paper that was dropped in the fall. With the help of the Countess and Susanna, Figaro replies that it is Cherubino's military commission left with him because it needed sealing.

Marcellina arrives, with Bartolo and Basilio, to demand that Figaro pay his loan or marry her. Figaro, Susanna, and the Countess protest her claim and the act ends in elegant chaos.

INTERMISSION

DAT 12,423/CASS 12,425 A+B
Act III, A large hall in the castle

It is midday and the Count is puzzling over the events of the morning. Susanna enters and, to the Count's delight, confusedly seems to give in to his wishes to meet him in the garden later that evening. When she leaves, he ponders how he might frustrate Figaro's wedding plans and expresses rage that a servant can enjoy what he, a nobleman, can no longer demand.

Barbarina leads Cherubino on, telling him she will hide the boy among the peasant girls rather than lose him to the military. The Countess then appears, apprehensive about Susanna's assignation in the garden with her husband. She recalls happier times when the Count truly loved her and vows to recapture those days.

Figaro's trial commences. Don Curzio, a lawyer, demands that Figaro pay Marcellina or marry her. Figaro replies that he is a nobleman and

cannot marry without parental consent. Asked for proof, Figaro reveals a birthmark on his arm. To Marcellina's horror and delight she identifies him as her long-lost son and that Bartolo is his father. Susanna enters with money to pay off Marcellina only to find angrily her betrothed in the arms of her rival. Matters are soon explained and the Count leaves defeated. A double wedding is announced and all exit happily.

The Countess and Susanna then proceed to write to the Count about where to meet her in the garden. A group of peasant girls enters to present flowers to the Countess. Amongst them is the disguised Cherubino who is eventually exposed by Antonio and the Count. The Count is about to punish him when Barbarina, revealing a past affectionate moment, begs to be allowed to marry Cherubino. A march is heard and all assemble for the dual wedding. Susanna, while kneeling, gives the Count the assignation note, sealed by a pin.

Act III, The castle garden

Barbarina, having been instructed by the Count to return Susanna's sealing pin, laments having lost that pin in the dark. Figaro appears with Marcellina and learns of what he thinks is Susanna's betrayal.

Susanna and the Countess arrive, disguised as each other, to begin the evening's masquerade. Susanna sings of her joyful anticipation of the arrival of her lover while Figaro listens in. Cherubino saunters by and mistakes the Countess for Susanna. In making love to her, he is caught by the Count. The Count aims a blow at the page only to strike Figaro who has crept forward for a better look. Now the Count begins his own love-making only to be chased off by the jealous Figaro. Figaro makes an entreaty to who he thinks is the Countess. To his surprise and delight he finds it is Susanna and teases her unmercifully. They hear the approach of the Count who has lost the disguised Countess. Figaro makes mad, passionate love to his "Countess" and the Count, thinking himself betrayed, sounds the alarm. All enter to hear the Count denounce his wife. All beg for forgiveness, but the Count is implacable. At last the real Countess arrives and the masquerade is unveiled. Humbled, the Count openly asks for his wife's forgiveness. This the Countess graciously grants, and after a blissful moment of reconciliation, all ecstatically look forward to the revels to come.

SPECIAL THANKS TO
Tacoma Opera
Dr. Hans Wolf
Malabar Limited
Intiman Theater Company
Seattle Opera

THE UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY

Peter Eros, *music director*

Laurent Philippe, *assistant conductor (May 22)*

Timothy Schwarz, *assistant conductor*

VIOLIN I

Kevin Kui He
Dan Perry
Xiao-Po Fei
Wonsoon Chung
Keh-Shu Shen
Kyung Sun Chee
Leah Wolfe
Neil Bacon

CELLO

Cheryl Bushnell
Chris Ruthensteiner
Karen Thompson
Joseph Kim
Loren Dempster
Stacy Philpott

CLARINET

Jodi Orton
Kathryn Labiak

BASSOON
Jason Schilling
Jennifer Smith

BASS

Patrick Marckx
Olav Hekala

HORN

Tony Miller
Ryan Stewart

VIOLIN II

Jeff Yang
Phil Nation
Thane Lewis
Coral Overman
Kjell Sleipness
Anja Kluge
John Powelson

FLUTE

Cynthia Martin
Ashley Carter

TRUMPET

Colby Hubler
Matt Armstrong

OBOE

Taina Karr
Susan Worden

TIMPANI

Gunnar Folsom

VIOLA

Felicia McFall
Jeanne Drumm
Carrie Jo Adams
Stefan Smulovitz

HARPSICHORD

Kevin Johnson

CHORUS

Bonnie Thoreson, *chorus master*

Rebecca Birdsong
Brianna Breen
Aaron Cabral
David Collins
Shannon Fulgham
Kandra Jones
Jesse Kineman

Brent Kroon
Matthias Lutz
Chris Mabe
Emily Neighbor
Halina Newberry
Clifton Ng

Melek Ortabassi
Phillip Parham
Veronica Parnitski
Ryan Pennington
George Popovich
Jennifer Tullis
Steven Vannoy

PRODUCTION STAFF

ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR..... Timothy Schwarz
VOCAL COACH..... Lisa Bergman
REPETITEUR..... Kevin Johnson
COSTUME COORDINATOR..... Elizabeth Lentz
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ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER..... Suzanne Mulder
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ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS..... Sara Jaecks, Katy Cook
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR..... Laura Downing
DIRECTOR'S ASSISTANT..... Garth Golding
COSTUME SHOP MANAGER..... Josie Gardner
PRODUCTION OFFICE..... Anne Stewart
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PROP MASTER..... Alex Danilchik
FACULTY AND STAFF..... Sarah Nash-Gates, Charles Leslie,
Bill Forrester
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Vicki Ostrom (Stitcher)
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ASSISTANT MASTER ELECTRICIAN..... Ethan Kozaki
ELECTRICS..... Amy Kues, Doreen Gaffney