

The University of Washington Festival Opera
and
The Office of Lectures and Concerts

present

The Coronation of Poppea

Music by Claudio Monteverdi

Libretto by G. F. Busenello

Realisation by Raymond Leppard

English Version by Raymond Leppard

Performed for the first time in the United States

ACT I

4390

4391

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ACT II

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Wednesday, May 11, 1966

ACT I

Jane Addams Junior High School Auditorium

Saturday, May 14, 1966

ACT II

8:00 P.M.

The Coronation of Poppea

CAST (in order of appearance):

OTTONE Robert Shiesley, Bass baritone
Poppea's former lover

SECOND SOLDIER Robert Plucker, Tenor

FIRST SOLDIER Larry Graham, Tenor

POPPEA Sung Sook Lee, Soprano

NERONE John Duykers, Baritone
Emperor of Rome

ARNALTA Eleanor Bertram, Contralto
Poppea's old nurse

OTTAVIA Gertrude McCoy, Soprano
The Empress

DRUSILLA Patricia Schlosstein, Soprano
A court lady

SENECA Leon Lishner, Bass
Elder statesman and philosopher

VALETTO Jerry Thorsen, Tenor
A page in Ottavia's service

PALLADE Patricia Barta, Mezzo-soprano
Goddess of Wisdom

DAMIGELLA Susan Gateley, Soprano
A maidservant in Ottavia's service

LIBERTO Rodney Godshall, Bass
Captain of the guard

LUCANO Rodney Eichenberger, Tenor
A friend of Nerone

AMOR Charlotte Garretson, Soprano
God of Love

LITTORE Steven Tachell, Bass baritone

STUDENTS, CONSULS, TRIBUNES, AND SOLDIERS: Patricia Barta, Margaret Jenkins, Karen Olsen, Joyce Whaley, Edward Alden, Peter Batchellor, Dale Galvin, Rodney Godshall, Larry Graham, Eric Gustafson, Patrick O'Keefe, Robert Plucker, David Pratt, Steven Tachell, Emil Trautman, Jerry Wright.

SYNOPSIS:

Rome, 64 A.D.

ACT I

The courtesan Poppea Sabina, ambitious for power, has cast off her lover, Ottone, for the Emperor Nero. Arnalta, Poppea's nurse, warns her that terrible things may come of her alliance with Nero. Nero's plan to repudiate his wife, the Empress Ottavia, in favor of Poppea, meets violent opposition by the philosopher Seneca, who is Nero's adviser. Nero orders Seneca's suicide.

ACT II

The Empress persuades Ottone to kill Poppea, and the rejected lover enlists the aid of Drusilla, confidante of the Empress and herself in love with Ottone, to help. But the god of love, Amor, stays Ottone's hand, and Poppea is saved. Upon hearing of the conspiracy, Nero exiles Drusilla and Ottone. Next he banishes the Empress Ottavia. Nero and Poppea are united and he has her crowned Empress.

Raymond Leppard said of the opera, "The plot is perhaps the least moral in all opera; wrong triumphs in the name of love, and we are not expected to mind."

(Historical footnote: not long after Poppea was married to Nero, his persecutions of the Christians began, Roman citizens fomented revolts against him, he killed Poppea and finally committed suicide.)

ACT I

Scene I Poppea's House
Scene II The Imperial Palace
Scene III Poppea's House
Scene IV The Garden of Seneca

INTERMISSION

ACT II

Scene I The Imperial Palace
Scene II Poppea's Bedroom
Scene III The Imperial Palace
Scene IV A Street
Scene V The Imperial Palace

THE FESTIVAL OPERA PRODUCTION STAFF

Conductor and Director.....Stanley Chapple
Stage Director.....Thomas Hill
Choreographer.....Ruthanna Boris
Art Director and Technical Supervisor.....John A. Conway
Technical Director.....Joseph J. E. Poc
Costumer.....James R. Crider
Assistant Stage Director.....Stephen Smith
Rehearsal Accompanists.....Jay Welch, Frederick Ockwell
Lighting.....Philip Schermer
Scenery Construction.....Wes Ackley
Painting.....Marian Fertik
Set Dresser.....S. Todd Muffatti
Properties.....William Greenwood
Furniture.....Richard Slabaugh
Electrician.....Patricia A. Johnson
Stage Manager.....Mikkel Chew

ORCHESTRA

Violins

*Richard Ferrin
Dorothy Davenport
Ellen Dawson
Margaret Pressley
Don Anderson
Mary Neddermeyer

Violas

*Clifford Cunha
Karen Hughes
David Evans
Constance Whelan
Kathy Dawson
Carol Richmond

Violoncellos

Julie Lehwalder
Sherrill Noe
Laura Tuttle
Jere Flint

Double Bass

David Kechley

Harp

*Stanley Chapple
Frederick Ockwell

Harp

*Lynne Palmer

Flue Organ

Michael Young

Reed Organ

Terry Anderson

Guitar

Claudia Gorbman

Lute and Chitarrone

Richard Burleson

Viola da Gamba

Toshinari Ohashi

*Faculty Member

By arrangement with G. Schirmer, Inc., sole U.S. agent for Faber Music, Ltd., London