The University of Washington
Schools of Music and Drama and
The Office of Lectures and Concerts
Present
Tape No. 1-9234
Tape No. 2-9235
Tape No. 3-9236
Tape No. 3-9237

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR

Text by Hermann von Moyenthal
Overture: Andantino moderato

Italian version by
JOSEPH BLATT

Sunday, November 13
Wednesday, November 15
8 PM
Meany Theater
THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR
Synopsis of the Opera

ACT I

Scene One: A court. Mrs. Ford informs her friend, Mrs. Page, that she has received a crude love letter from the unattractive and corpulent, Sir John Falstaff. Outraged, the women decide to teach him a lesson. They leave. Mr. Page and Mr. Ford enter, accompanied by two suitors of Mr. Page’s daughter, Anne—timid Slender and blustering Dr. Cajus. Anne’s true love, Fenton, appears and asks Mr. Page for her hand. The penniless suitor is rudely rejected, but defiantly vows he will wed Anne despite every obstacle.

Scene Two: Mr. Ford’s house. Mrs. Ford awaits Falstaff. She and Mrs. Page have sent an anonymous note to her husband informing him of her rendezvous with Sir John. A large basket is brought in. Later, the frightened Falstaff is stuffed into it and dumped into the Thames River. The women’s plan works out perfectly; the jealous Mr. Ford is embarrassed in front of his neighbors.

ACT II

Scene One: A tavern. Ford, disguised as a "Mr. Brook" visits Falstaff at the Garter Inn. He seeks Sir John’s help to gain the favor of Mrs. Ford and offers him a purse for his assistance. Ford discovers that Falstaff had been at his home the preceding day, and that his wife has invited him to visit her again this very afternoon.

Scene Two: A garden. Anne’s two unwanted suitors, Slender and Cajus, unknown to each other, plan to meet her during her daily walk in the garden. When Fenton arrives, they are forced to hide. The lovers, unsuspectingly watched, reaffirm their affection.

Scene Three: Mrs. Ford’s room. Falstaff has just arrived when Mrs. Page announces the unexpected approach of Mr. Ford. Quickly, the resourceful woman disguise Falstaff as an old woman, a relative of Mrs. Ford’s maid. Mr. Ford has forbidden her presence in his house and in his anger, beats her mercilessly. He confidently searches for Sir John, but is again unsuccessful and ridiculed.

ACT III

Scene One: Mr. Page’s house. The wives have informed their husbands of Falstaff’s letter and his subsequent punishments. Ford has been forgiven his unwarranted jealousy. They decide to play another trick on Sir John. There is to be a masquerade and the wives are to meet him disguised as the legendary hunter, Herne, in Windsor Forest. Mrs. Page, alone with Anne, gives her a red elf’s costume to wear. Cajus will then recognize her and they can elope. After Mrs. Page departs, Mr. Page enters with a green elf’s costume. He has a similar plan, but it is Slender with whom Anne is to run off. Anne decides to give the costumes to Slender and Cajus, and steal away with Fenton.

Scene Two: Windsor Forest. The townspeople, disguised as spooks and spirits of the forest, await Sir John. He appears as Herne, with large antlers on his head. Mrs. Page and Mrs. Ford join him. When the ghosts approach noisily, the women run away, leaving the terrified Falstaff to face his tormentors alone. He tries in vain to hide, and is pinched, stabbed and mocked. Sir John repents, the masqueraders are revealed and the opera ends on a note of laughter and merriment.

TIME and PLACE: Late 16th Century, Windsor, England.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES:
Act I Scene I: A courtyard
II: A room in Mr. Ford’s house
INTERMISSION
Act II Scene I: Outside the Garter Inn
II: The garden of Mr. Page’s house
III: A room in Mr. Ford’s house
INTERMISSION
Act III Scene I: A hallway in Mr. Page’s house
II: Windsor Forest

ACT III
CAST

Sir John Falstaff .............. Paul Berkolds
Mr. Ford ...................... Charles Wayne
Mr. Page ...................... Brian Higham
Fenton ......................... Rick Russell
Slender ....................... Wendell Maunola
Dr. Cajus ..................... Donald Walkup
Mrs. Ford (Alice) ............. Emily Winstrom
Mrs. Page (Meg) .............. Harriett Taylor
Ann PAGE .................... Connie Corrick
A neighbor ................... Keith Horlock
Host ......................... Kevin D. McMurry
Robin ....................... Travis McCauley

Chorus of townspeople: Linda Anderson, Lori August, Andrew Bernard, Elizabeth Brewster, Elisa Dakin, Beth Eaton, Bonnie Fuchs, Max Gerspacher, Keith Horlock, Mary Hull, Jeff Keith, Janet Kretlow, Dale Larsen, Morgan McCurdy, Janet Morietz, Margaret Pickering, Janet Ellen Reed, Maurita Rogers, Brian Russell, Bert Sullam, Brad Watson, David Williams, Brian Wines.

Dancers: (Elves and Spirits) Jennifer Gayda, Ken Gibson, Natalie Golden, Frances Hall, Bernadette Hunter, Jan Jackson, Kevin McMurray, Carolyn Phelps, Trudy Sussman.

Children: (Insects) Tamara Anderson, Amy Augustine, Keenan Bolin, Marya du Mont, Ryan Harris, Alison Herschberg, Sasha Herschberg, James LeBlanc, Travis McCauley, Lisa Neal, Meridith Pierce, Duncan Sailors, Cal Smith, Laura Swimmer, Ezra Waiter, Neill Warfield, Elliot Warfield.

Understudies: Karen Noble (Alice Ford), Yvonne Naum (Meg Page), Julie Carpenter (Ann Page), Theodore Deacon (Dr. Cajus).

Thanks to The Little School, its children and Pat Mowry.

ORCHESTRA

Violin I
Sandra Guy
Barbara Rood
Brigitte Grossrieder
Karl Kamahara
Scott Moline
Christine Olason
Eileen Hsu
Antony Bondi
Jennifer Bogert
Carla Lehman

Violin II
May Zia
Irene Stewart
Wendy A. Lee
Angela Chun
Kee Soon Ann
Katherine McWilliams
Alicia Carlson
Jennifer Chun
Cindy Burgess
Frances Mendina

Viola
Donald Maurice
Martin Kelly
Betty Agent
Jennifer Smith
Michael Watson
Susan Koelle
Thomas West
Rebecca Williams

Cello
Pamela Roberts
Rachel Abbey
Constance Radke
Patrice Young
Anne Switten
Annette Kruzie
Kathleen Beasley
William Jacobsen

Bass
Constance Radonich
Ron Fordice

Flute
Annette Smith
Francis Timlin

Oboe
Benith Richardson
Laurel Uhligg

Clarinet
Julie Oster
Barry Smith

Bassoon
Gary Clauch
Fred Johnston

Horn
Jane Steinmetz
Rodger Graef (Asst.)
Gus Sebring
Diane Eaton (Asst.)
David Cottrell

Trumpet
Thomas Copland
Brian Adler

Trombone
Mark Williams
Jon Lellelid
Timothy Anderson

Timpani
Michael Clark

Percussion
James Kovach
Terry Pollard

Harp
Kathleen Duffy
School of Music Production Staff:

Musical Director and Conductor........Michel Singer
Stage Director..........................Ralph Rosinbum
Chorus Master............................George Schram
Choreographer............................Terry Howard
Stage Manager............................Robert DeSimone
Musical Preparation.......................Robert DeSimone
Assistant Stage Manager................Louise Deal-Pluymen

School of Drama Production Staff:

Set Design.................................Jennifer Lupton
Lighting Design...........................Peter Zink
Costume Co-ordination....................James Crider
Property Master and Scenic Artist........Dee Torrey
Assistant Property Master...............Sarah Harris
Assistant Scene Design....................Robert Hintz
                                 Donna Grout
Master Electrician.......................Roy Hoglund
Assistant Electrician.....................Streator Johnson
Board Operator............................Roy Hoglund
Stage Carpenter.........................Rick Reid
Make-up Design and Supervision........Barbara Murphy
Flyman.......................................Steven Macauley
                            Scott Herzog
Stagehands.................................Dann Schively
                                 Annette Romano
                                 Lora Goncharoff
                                 Amy Jelliffe
                                 Adhania Frost
                                 Jody Bartee


Office of Lectures and Concerts Staff:

Manager.................................Maureen O'Neill
Program Assistants.....................Nora Alexander
                                 May Jordan
Information Specialist................Patrick Orton
Poster Design............................Bill Bartelt
Office Assistants........................Patrick Barth
                                 Lilly Boulton
                                 Erich Sweet

Meany Hall Staff:

Manager.................................Mea Hartman
Stage Technicians.......................John Lincoln
                                 John Poulson
Sound Technician.........................Betty Wangerin

Office Asssistantst
Lilly Boulton
Erich Sweet