UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON OPERA THEATRE

presents

Scenes from

ARIADNE AUF NAXES - 3484
by
Strauss

DON CARLO
by
Verdi

COSI FAN TUTTE - 3485
by
Mozart

University Playhouse 2:30
April 20, 1963
ARIADNE AUF NAXES owes the unique position it holds in operatic history as much to the circumstances of the collaboration between Strauss, Hofmannsthal, and Reinhardt as to the individual genius of any one of them. Shortly after Max Reinhardt had "rescued" the first production of Rosenkavalier, Hofmannsthal proposed to Strauss that they show their gratitude with a new version of Molière's Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme, including a short opera as part of the entertainment. The resulting work was performed in October, 1912. However, owing to the length of the combined play and opera, it met with little success. Ariadne was finally rescued from the embrace of the play and performed with an added prologue at the Vienna Opera on October 4, 1916.

The prologue presents essentially the same justification for the Opera as did Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme. In this case, however, Molière's M. Jourdain is replaced by "the richest man in Vienna," and the time is moved up to the 1750's. As the curtain rises, the Music Teacher is dismayed to learn that his pupil's opera, a serious, idealistic treatment of the classic legend of Ariadne, is to be followed by a troupe of comedians. The antagonism between the opera seria and the commedia dell'arte is thus established. Against a kaleidoscopic background of feverish preparations and minor crises, the Major Domo finally delivers the shattering dictum that the Opera and the Comedy must be performed simultaneously.

The excerpt presented this evening is the opening scene of the Opera itself. Three nymphs are watching over Ariadne, sharing her sorrow and dejection. She awakens and begins her great lament, singing of her former happiness with Theseus, and of her longing for death. The lament is interrupted by the appearance of two comedians, Zerbinetta and Harlekin. Harlekin tries to cheer Ariadne with a serenade, but to no avail. The comedians leave and Ariadne sings of the happiness and peace to be found only in death.
COSI FAN TUTTE

W. A. Mozart

Libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte
English Version by Ruth and Thomas Martin

CAST:
Fiordiligii .................................. Frances Lowe
Dorabella .................................... Peggy MacGown
Don Alfonso .................................. Daniel Greene
Ferrando ..................................... John Waddell
Guglielmo .................................... Robert Wright
Despina ....................................... Joan Logue

The Scene is laid in Eighteenth Century Naples.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC OPERA STAFF

Conductor and Director ....... Stanley Chapple
Stage Director ................. Ralph Rosinbum
Assistant Music and Stage
  Director .... Carl Fuss
Repetiteur  ......................... William Clarke

SCHOOL OF DRAMA PRODUCTION STAFF

Art Director and Technical Supervisor.....John A. Conway
Technical Director.........................Warren Lounsbury
Assistant Art Director....................Alanson Davis
Technical Assistants..David Jones, Kit Carson, John Hall
Costumer .....................................James Crider
Properties ................................. Richard Parks