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
8:00 P.M.

Saturday, May 14, 1966
ACT II
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.)

CAST (in order of appearance):

OTTONE
Poppea's former lover
Robert Shiesley, Bass baritone

SECOND SOLDIER
Robert Plucker, Tenor

FIRST SOLDIER
Larry Graham, Tenor

POPPEA
Sung Sook Lee, Soprano

NERONE
Emperor of Rome
John Duykers, Baritone

ARNALTA
Eleanor Bertram, Contralto

OTTAVIA
Gertrude McCoy, Soprano

DRUSILLA
Patricia Schlosstein, Soprano

SENeca
Leon Lishner, Bass

VALETTO
Jerry Thorsen, Tenor

PALLADE
Patricia Barta, Mezzo-soprano

DAMIGELLA
Susan Gateley, Soprano

LIBERTO
Rodney Godshall, Bass

LUCANO
Rodney Eichenberger, Tenor

AMOR
Charlotte Garretson, Soprano

LITTORE
Steven Tachell, Bass baritone

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

Intermission

ACT I

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

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 ................................................... A. Johnson
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 Pressey
Don Anderson
Mary Neddermeyer

*Faculty Member

Double Bass
David Kechley

Harpichords
*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

Violoncellos
Julie Lehwald
Sherrill Nos
Laura Tuttle
Jere Flint

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