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A Program of Operatic Scenes and Arias

Patricia Prunty
Chapman University

Teresa Brown
Chapman University

Lesley Leighton
Chapman University

Dennis Rupp
Chapman University

Brent McMunn
Chapman University

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CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY
School of Music

No Times
2 Dates
Dovey

presents

A Program of
Operatic Scenes and Arias
Staged by Lin White

Patricia Prunty, *Soprano*
Teresa Brown, *Mezzo-Soprano*
Lesley Leighton, *Soprano*
Dennis Rupp, *Baritone*
Brent McMunn, *Pianist*

March 12, 1996
8:00 P.M. • Salmon Recital Hall

A Program of Operatic Scenes and Arias

Staged by Lin White

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"Quel guardo il cavaliere" from *Don Pasquale* Gaetano Donizetti
Patricia Prunty, Norina (1797-1848)

While reading a silly romance novel, Norina reflects that she too has ways of dazzling and capturing a man.

Letter Scene from *Werther* Jules Massenet
Teresa Brown, Charlotte (1842-1912)
Patricia Prunty, Sophie

Although she has dutifully married her betrothed, Albert, Charlotte cannot stop thinking of Werther, whose love for her frightens and consumes her. She is drawn to the letters he has written her which she knows she should burn. Her sister Sophie arrives full of Christmas joys. Puzzled and worried by her sister's obvious unhappiness, Sophie is surprised that the mention of Werther's name brings Charlotte to tears. Charlotte comforts her and realizes that it is unshed tears which well up and break one's heart. She sends Sophie away and prays fervently to God to give her strength to resist her love for Werther.

"Vissi d'arte" from *Tosca* Giacomo Puccini
Lesley Leighton, Tosca (1858-1924)

Tosca is worn down physically and emotionally by Scarpia's lust for her and the power he has over her lover, Cavaradossi. She asks God what she has done wrong to deserve this fate.

"Caro nome" from *Rigoletto* Giuseppe Verdi
Patricia Prunty, Gilda (1813-1901)

Teresa Brown, mezzo-soprano, has performed numerous times with such companies as Long Beach Opera, Opera a la Carte, Los Angeles Music Center Opera, Long Beach Civic Light Opera and Pasadena Pro Musica. She is presently one of the Three Ladies in Guild Opera's production of *Die Zauberflöte*, and will soon be performing Cherubino in L.A.M.T.C.'s production of *The Marriage of Figaro*. Among her many other roles are Componist from *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Tisbe from *La Cenerentola*, Flora from *La Traviata*, Fidalma from *Il Matrimonio Segreto*, Maura from *Riders to the Sea*, and Lucilla from *La Scala di Seta* with Los Angeles Music Theatre Company.

Lesley Leighton, soprano, has performed as soloist under notable conductors Essa-Pekka Salonen, Pierre Boulez, Paul Salamunovich, Randall Behr, and the late Roger Wagner over the past five years. She recently appeared as the Mother in a production of *Hansel and Gretel* with Santa Barbara Grand Opera, and in the fall of 1994 made her Los Angeles Music Center Opera debut as The Overseer in *Elektra*. She has appeared several times as soloist with the Los Angeles Master Chorale. She has been featured with Los Angeles Philharmonic, and with the Ventura Symphony, Inland Empire Opera and Ventura Master Chorale. Miss Leighton's voice has also been used on several motion picture soundtracks including *WaterWorld*, *First Knight*, *Star Trek: Generations*, and *Dracula*.

Brent McMunn is currently engaged in a broad range of musical activities. While continuing his work as pianist and assistant conductor for the Los Angeles Music Center Opera, he also conducts and directs the Opera Program at California State University, Long Beach. As a collaborator with leading singers and instrumentalists he has appeared in Carnegie Hall, Ambassador Auditorium, and on numerous series throughout the U.S. His concert video with Violinist Gilles Apap was recently aired on French and German television. As a soloist, he has been featured at several American festivals, and has recorded for New World, Orion, and Cambria Records. Always committed to new works, last season he conducted the premier of the opera *The Scarlet Letter* by Martin Herman.

Patricia Prunty, soprano, is on the voice faculty here at Chapman University. She has appeared with the Los Angeles Music Center Opera in *Der Rosenkavalier*, and *Albert Herring*, and has understudied a number of roles, including Marzellina in *Fidelio*, Pat Nixon in *Nixon in China*, and Despina in *Così fan tutte*. She has also appeared in the title role of Mozart's *Zaide* for Euterpe Opera; as Micaela in *Carmen* for Long Beach Opera and that role in *The tragedy of Carmen* for Santa Fe Stages; Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel* for Santa Barbara Grand Opera; and Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* for Opera San Jose. Television appearances include Mother Mary in *The Glory of Easter* at the Crystal Cathedral, a highly acclaimed national commercial for Nissan, and the voice of Carol Lawrence in an episode of *Murder, She wrote*.

Lin White, is a graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York and began her career as an actress on Broadway, in stock, film and television. After moving to the West Coast, she began coaching singers in the dramatic interpretation of their music and, in 1976, she founded the L.A. Music Theatre Company, a producing opera company which gives promising young artists the opportunity to perform major roles in fully-staged and costumed productions. She has directed for such companies as L.A. County's "Summer Nights" festival at the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre, Santa Barbara Grand Opera, West Bay Opera and Pacific Repertory Opera. Some of her credits from her extensive repertoire include Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Così fan tutte*, Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* and *La Cenerentola*, Massenet's *Werther*, Verdi's *La Traviata* and *Rigoletto* and Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors*.

Gilda expresses her love for the young student (the Duke in disguise), who first touched her heart and vows that her desire will always be for him alone, until her last breath.

INTERMISSION

Le Nozze di Figaro
"Porgi amor"

Wolfgang A. Mozart
(1756-1791)

Lesley Leighton, Countess

The countess, alone in her room, laments that the Count no longer loves her.

"Voi che sapete"

Teresa Brown, Cherubino

Cherubino, the young page, sings his newly written love song to the Countess, accompanied on the guitar by Susanna.

"Deh vieni, non tardar"

Patricia Prunty, Susanna

Knowing Figaro is hiding in the garden, Susanna teases him by pretending to wait for her suspected lover, the Count. However, she is soon caught up in the beauty of the evening and her love for Figaro.

Final Scene from *Der Rosenkavalier*

Richard Strauss
(1864-1949)

Teresa Brown, Octavian
Lesley Leighton, Marschallin
Patricia Prunty, Sophie
Dennis Rupp, Faninal

Octavian doesn't know how to tell his beloved Marie Theres' (the Marschallin), that he has fallen in love with Sophie, who misunderstands his actions. The Marschallin realizes that the moment of parting from her young lover, Octavian, has come sooner than she expected. Accompanied by Sophie's father, Faninal, the Marschallin gracefully blesses the young couple's union.