

‘The Forest of Dreams’

A showcase of opera scenes by students of the Introduction to Opera Performance course at Morley College

Music direction/piano: Panaretos Kyriatzidis

Stage direction: William Kerley

P R O G R A M M E

The Little Mermaid - Anne Boyd

The opera's opening chorus evokes the atmosphere of the deep ocean where the Little Mermaid and her family reside. On her fifteenth birthday, the Little Mermaid's sisters and grandmother gather to celebrate her coming of age - which also means she is allowed to swim to the surface.

Little Mermaid: Kristiana Krasevska

1st sister: Caitlin Carey

2nd sister: Megan Artemova-Thomas

3rd sister: Anna Gunn O'connor

4th sister: Stephanie Leonard Wong

Grandmother/5th sister: Miho Sugita

Florencia en el Amazonas - Daniel Catán

A ship sailing towards Manaós has crashed in the middle of the Amazon. On board, writer Rosalba finds herself relating her sorrows to a mysterious woman after losing all her drafts and notes for the biography of her biggest inspiration: Florencia Grimaldi, a famous diva and opera singer who disappeared from public view a long time ago. The mysterious woman and Rosalba are talking about old loves, fears, passions and dreams... until Rosalba realises that Florencia is the person she had been talking to all this time and inviting her to love and pursue her dreams (NB: All this happens shortly before, unbeknownst to them both, Florencia will be transformed into a butterfly in order to be reunited with her long lost lover in the forest).

Florencia: Marian Rodriguez
Rosalba: Natalia Razuri Sosa

The Silver Fox - Libby Larsen

In a remote part of Louisiana, Titine sings of a magical silver fox. Her guardian La Fourche wants her to wed the wealthy Squire, but Titine resists and runs away into the forest. There, the mysterious Tante Marie reveals that Titine is the silver fox and so has the power to choose her own destiny. After reconciling with La Fourche and their community, Titine returns to live in the forest as the silver fox.

Titine: Caitlin Carey
La Fourche: Alex Steer
Tante Marie: Miho Sugita
Carie Mae: Kristiana Krasevska
Squire: Sebastian Stride
T-boy: Azham Wasi

Violin: Anthony Huggett

Dido and Aeneas – Henry Purcell

The bitter, twisted and powerful sorceress has it in for the beautiful and loved up Queen Dido. She summons up the underworld, calling on her sista witches and army of evil elves and goblins, to help her to hatch a despicable plan, to bring Dido down!

Sorceress: Anita Vasan
1st witch: Marian Rodriguez
2nd witch: Natalia Razuri Sosa

Pinocchio – Jonathan Dove

Pinocchio is a unique and magical work that asks the question...what does it mean to be really human? His loving father, Geppetto who makes Pinocchio out of a log, tries to support him to become responsible but Pinocchio has little interest in this! On his adventure to avoiding housework, he ignores the wisdom of his cricket guardian and a wily Cat and Fox try to steal his future. Back on dry land, Pinocchio works hard to restore his father's health, and is rewarded with a soul.

Pinocchio: Stephanie Leonard Wong
Geppetto: Alex Steer
Cricket: Anu Akinseye
Blue Fairy: Marian Rodriguez

Assassin 1 - Fox: Anita Vasan
Assassin 2 - Cat: Azham Wasi
Farmer: Sebastian Stride
Snail: Rosy Elen Robinson
Villagers: Natalia Razuri Sosa, Megan Artemova-Thomas, Kristiana Krasevska

BREAK

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Bottom, who has been 'translated' into having the head of a Donkey, has been left alone in the woods. There Titania, the Queen of the fairies, spies him and falls instantly in love with his shape. (She has fallen in love with Bottom because her husband, Oberon had bewitched her with the juice of a magic flower earlier in the opera). Titania, with the help of her fairies, makes Bottom comfortable in her flowery bed and lulls him to sleep as Oberon, Puck and the fairies look on with amusement.

Oberon is angry with Puck for his mischievous mistake of giving the magic flower juice to the wrong lover and makes his feelings known but they realise there's some fun to be had in watching the scene unfolding before them.

An angry and confused Helena enters pursued by a love-sick Lysander, proclaiming his undying love. To add insult to injury Demetrius, the man she really loves but who has spurned her, is now also pursuing her like a love-sick puppy, causing her to think that there is a game being played upon her. Hermia enters upset with Lysander for leaving her alone in the wood and finding that his affections have changed proceeds to berate Helena for turning Lysander's head. Scrapping ensues among the four lovers.

When all four lovers are truly lost in the wood, Puck comes to enchant them to sleep and fixes his mistake.

Bottom: Anthony Huggett
Titania: Anna Gunn O'connor
Peaseblossom: Stephanie Leonard Wong
Cobweb: Natalia Razuri Sosa
Mustardseed: Anu Akinseye
Moth: Megan Artemova-Thomas
Oberon: Miho Sugita
Puck: Caitlin Carey
Helena: Kristiana Krasevska
Hermia: Rosy Elen Robinson
Lysander: Azham Wasi
Demetrius: Sebastian Stride

The Last Sorcerer - Pauline Viardot

We present two numbers from this fantasy opera, translated from the original French by members of the ITOP class. In the first, three elves are tormenting Krakamiche, an old and once-powerful sorcerer who has intruded on their forest. In the second, the elves celebrate their victory over Krakamiche, who has been banished by their Queen.

Elves: Megan Artemova-Thomas, Caitlin Carey, Stephanie Leonard Wong
Krakamiche: Anthony Huggett

The Cunning Little Vixen - Leoš Janáček (1923)

Having escaped from the Gamekeeper's house (where she grew up), the Vixen meets a Fox and they fall in love, spending the night together before getting married, celebrating with all of the other woodland creatures.

Vixen: Anna Gunn O'connor
Fox: Megan Artemova-Thomas
Owl: Rosy Elen Robinson
Jay: Anu Akinseye
Woodpecker: Anita Vasan

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