

AN AFTERNOON AT THE OPERA

Da Capo Quartet: Emily Campbell, Katherine Cox, Julian Martin & Alan Craig
Accompanied by Tom Carr

The Fairy Queen - Purcell

The Fairy Queen was written to accompany performances of A Midsummer Night's Dream. We have mixed some Handel into this section too, forming a narrative of an enchanted sleeper awaking, confused lovers reuniting, and the cynical god of Marriage being reassured that there's still hope for true love!

Come, let us leave the town (Alan, Katherine)

Hush, no more (Alan, and chorus)

As steals the morn upon the night - Handel (Emily, Julian)

Sure the dull god of marriage does not hear (Katherine, Emily, Julian)

See, I obey (Alan)

Turn, turn then thine eyes (Emily, Katherine)

My torch, indeed, will from such brightness shine (Alan)

They shall be as happy as they're fair (Emily, Katherine, Julian, Alan)

Song to the moon - Dvorak (Katherine)

A water sprite who has fallen in love with a mortal prince entrusts a message of love to the moon.

The Pearl Fishers' duet - Bizet (Julian, Alan)

In a pearl-diving village in Ceylon, Nadir and Zurga reaffirm their friendship, which was nearly destroyed when they fell in love with the same woman, a beautiful young priestess.

Così fan tutte - Mozart

Don Alfonso, guardian of Fiordiligi and Dorabella, makes a bet with their fiancés that the girls will not be constant. The men pretend to depart for the war, but return in disguise and attempt to seduce each other's fiancée! At first they have no success, but it doesn't take long for the girls' resolve to weaken...

Ah guarda, sorella (Emily, Katherine)

Fiordiligi and Dorabella admire pictures of their fiancés, Guglielmo and Ferrando, and invite Love to punish them if they should ever be unfaithful.

Soave sia il vento (Alan, Emily, Katherine)

Accompanied by Don Alfonso, Fiordiligi and Dorabella bid a bittersweet farewell to their departing lovers, and ask the waves and winds to be gentle.

Fra gli amplessi (Emily, Julian)

A distressed Fiordiligi takes their dead brother's military uniform and resolves to go to war herself. However, before she gets very far a devastated Ferrando arrives for a final attempt...

INTERVAL

Verdi

Bella figlia dell'amore - Rigoletto (Julian, Katherine, Alan, Emily)

Rigoletto, court jester to the lascivious Duke of Mantua, tries hard to keep his home and work life separate. But when his own innocent daughter Gilda is seduced, then abandoned by the Duke, he is quick to swear vengeance. He brings Gilda to witness the Duke's latest seduction, hoping this will destroy her love for him. But her feelings run far deeper than he knows...

Parigi o cara - La Traviata (Julian, Emily)

Tragically estranged lovers Violetta and Alfredo are finally reunited as Violetta succumbs to the final stages of her illness. Alfredo tells her they will leave Paris together and restore her to health. She echoes his words in a euphoric daze, but it is clear that it is far too late.

The Magic Flute - Mozart

The Queen of the Night has sent Prince Tamino and the bird-catcher Papageno to rescue her daughter Pamina, who she claims has been abducted by Sarastro, the High Priest of the Sun. But when they arrive, they find that he may not be the real villain after all!

Bei Männern welche Liebe fühlen (Julian, Katherine)

Pamina comforts Papageno, who is depressed about not having found a wife yet, and they discuss the ennobling effect of love on all living creatures.

Der Hölle Rache (Emily)

The Queen of the Night orders Pamina to kill Sarastro. Pamina is unwilling, and the Queen flies into a rage telling her that if she refuses; that she will break all the bonds of nature between them.

In diesen heil'gen Hallen (Alan)

Sarastro comforts Pamina, who is fearful for her mother's safety, by reassuring her that there is no place for vengeance in his sacred halls.

Pa-pa-pa (Julian, Emily)

Papageno is almost in despair - when Papagena suddenly appears! They are delighted with each other, and soon start detailing how many children they'd like to have...

Don Giovanni - Mozart

Don Giovanni is the ultimate libertine, but his past may be catching up with him. His seduction of Donna Anna doesn't go to plan, and he kills her father during his escape. Anna is determined to bring him to justice, and she is not the only lady on the warpath...

Ah, chi mi dice mai (Katherine, Julian, Alan)

Donna Elvira, who really loved Don Giovanni, is hunting him down. Torn between shame and furious anger, she vows that if he won't return to her she will carve out his heart.

Madamina, il catalogo è questo (Alan)

Don Giovanni makes his escape, leaving his servant Leporello with instructions to tell Elvira 'everything'. Leporello, who has kept a record of all 2,065 of Don Giovanni's conquests, tries to open her eyes to what he's really like - while having a laugh at her expense.

Proteggia il giusto cielo (Emily, Julian, Katherine)

Donna Anna and her fiancé Don Ottavio meet Donna Elvira as they search for her attacker. The three of them plan to infiltrate Don Giovanni's masked ball, asking Heaven to protect them.

La Cenerentola (Cinderella) - Rossini

Prince Ramiro wants to find a wife who will love him for himself, not his position, so he asks his valet Dandini to impersonate him in order to test the daughters of Don Magnifico, one of whom - he has been assured by his trusted tutor Alidoro - is a worthy young woman...

Zitto zitto, piano piano (Julian, Alan, Emily, Katherine)

Ramiro secretly meets Dandini to get the lowdown on the sisters Clorinda and Tisbe - apparently the only young ladies in the household. When Dandini declares them 'a mixture of insolence, caprice and vanity', Ramiro can hardly believe it - until the girls themselves make an appearance!