

operamission presents  
*53rd Street Handel*

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

An original pastiche:

*Freedom, Friendship, Forgiveness, and Other Handelian Wisdom on Finding Love in a Murky Universe*

starring:

countertenor JORDAN RUTTER as "Arsace" (Prince of Corinth)

mezzo-soprano KIMBERLY SOGIOKA as "Sesto" (formerly Rosmira, Princess of Cyprus)

tenor ADAM KLEIN as "Lelio" (Duke of Rome)

guided and inspired by immortal deities:

soprano NICOLE GUBERMAN as "Cleopatra" (goddess of Love)

soprano JENNIFER ROBERTS JENKINS as "Deidamia" (goddess of Humanity)

bass CORY CLINES as "Zoroastro" (god of Wisdom)

assisted by the operamission HANDEL Band:

Brendan Ratchford, baroque violin; David Bakamjian, baroque 'cello; Jennifer Peterson, harpsichord

## Scene 1

*Arsace, Prince of Corinth, is transfixed by Cleopatra's powers of seduction.*

*V'adoro, pupille,  
saette d'amore,  
le vostre faville  
son grate nel sen.*

I adore you, eyes, darts of love,  
your sparks are welcome into my breast.

*Pietose vi brama  
il mesto mio core,  
ch'ogn'ora vi chiama  
l'amato suo ben.*

Pitifully, the sadness of my heart desires you,  
that every hour it is calling you its beloved.

*(from Giulio Cesare, HWV 17, Act II)*

soprano **Nicole Guberman**

## Scene 2

*Arsace's former lover Rosmira, Princess of Cyprus, is transitioning into Sesto. Lelio and Zoroastro observe as Sesto confronts Arsace about past infidelities.*

*E vuoi, con dure tempere  
di fiero sdegno armato,  
così schernirmi sempre?  
Infido, ingrato!*

A: And you, with harsh temper,  
armed with proud resentment,  
wish to forever taunt me?  
S: Unfaithful, ungrateful man!

*E contro me tant'ira  
hà nel tuo petto il nido?  
in me lo sguardo gira.  
Ingrato, infido!*

A: And has such rage against me  
taken nest in your heart?  
Turn your glance to me.  
S: Ungrateful, unfaithful man!

*Rosmira, oh Dio, non esser si spietata!*

A: Do not be so spiteful!

*(from Partenope, HWV 27, Act II)*

countertenor **Jordan Rutter**  
mezzo-soprano **Kimberly Sogioka**

## Scene 3

*Sesto resolves to challenge Arsace to a duel to avenge his humiliation.*

*L'angue offeso mai riposa  
se il veleno pria non spande  
dentro il sangue all'offensor.*

The offended snake never rests  
before the poison spreads  
into the blood of the offender.

*Così l'alma mia non osa  
di mostrarsi altera e grande,  
se non svelle l'empio cor.*

As my soul does not dare  
to show itself as haughty and great,  
until it has eradicated the wicked heart.

*(from Giulio Cesare, HWV 17, Act II)*

mezzo-soprano **Kimberly Sogioka**

## Scene 4

*Cleopatra, assured of her victory,  
calls on the other gods of love to help her continue to control Arsace.*

*Venere bella,  
per un istante,  
deh, mi concedi  
le grazie tutte  
del Dio d'amor!*

Beautiful Venus, for just a moment  
concede to me all the graces  
of the god of love!

*Tu ben prevedi,  
ch'il mio sembiante  
dee far amante  
d'un regio cor.*

Well have you anticipated  
that my visage  
ought to be the lover of a royal heart.

*(from Giulio Cesare, HWV 17, Act II)*

soprano **Nicole Guberman**

## Scene 5

*Deidamia, goddess of Humanity and in love with the hero Achille,  
foresees losing him in the coming war.*

*Se il timore il ver mi dice  
infelice  
abbandonata,  
sorte ingrata  
io morirò.*

If fear speaks the truth to me  
unhappy, abandoned,  
cruel fate,  
I will die.

*Ma diletta a mia costanza  
la speranza  
a dir mi viene,  
che il mio bene  
io placherò.*

But to my constancy's delight,  
hope comes to tell me  
that I will placate my beloved.

(from *Deidamia*, HWV 42, Act II)

soprano **Jennifer Roberts Jenkins**

## Scene 6

*Lelio, a Roman Duke, would like to aid in the reconciliation of Arsace and Sesto.  
Lelio explains to Arsace that Sesto still loves him,  
despite a grave misunderstanding which has come between them.*

*Del debellar la gloria  
e il bel piacer d'amor  
sono del mio valor  
pregi immortali.*

The glory of the vanquisher  
and the beautiful pleasure of love  
are the immortal rewards  
of my valor.

*Del par con la vittoria  
un corrisposto ardor  
è il sommo del gioir,  
ch'è senza uguali.*

On a par with victory  
a reciprocal ardor  
is the summation of joy, without equal.

*(from Scipione, HWV 20, Act III)*

tenor **Adam Klein**

## Scene 7

*Arsace tries to convince Sesto to return to their former happiness, but is coldly rejected.*

*Furibondo spira il vento  
e sconvolge il cielo e il suol.*

The wind blows furiously  
and disrupts the heavens and the earth.

*Tal adesso l'alma io sento  
agitata dal mio duol.*

Likewise now in my soul  
I feel the agitation of my sadness.

*(from Partenope, HWV 27, Act II)*

countertenor **Jordan Rutter**



## Scene 8

*The wise Zoroastro, having observed both Deidamia's and Arsace's travails,  
warns them of the dangers they will face  
if they do not follow the forces of true love and integrity.*

*Tra i caligini profonde  
erra ogn'or la nostra mente,  
s'ha per guida un cieco Nume.*

*Di rovina sulle sponde  
è in pericolo imminente  
se ragion non le dà il lume.*

Amongst profound mists,  
our minds will always stray  
if guided by a blind God.

On the shores of ruin  
our mind is in imminent danger  
if reason does not give it light.

*(from Orlando, HWV 31, Act II)*

bass **Cory Clines**

## Scene 9

*Deidamia and Arsace, enlightened by Zoroastro,  
resolve to follow the path of heroism and devotion.*

*Nell'armi e nell'amar,  
puoi degno in te mostrar  
l'eroe, l'amante.*

In war and in love,  
you can demonstrate your worth  
as a hero, a lover.

*Premio del tuo valor  
sarà di questo cor  
l'amor costante.*

The reward for your valor  
will be the enduring love of this heart.

(from *Deidamia*, HWV 42, Act III)

soprano **Jennifer Roberts Jenkins**  
countertenor **Jordan Rutter**

## Scene 10

*Arsace requests Sesto's forgiveness for his past actions, but is rejected once more.*

*Ch'io parta? sì, crudele,  
partò, mà senza cor.*

I should leave? yes, cruel one,  
I will leave, but without a heart.

*Che nel mio sen fedele,  
nel luogo ov'era il cor  
è il mio dolor*

For in my faithful breast,  
in the place of my heart  
is my sadness.

(from *Partenope*, HWV 27, Act III)

countertenor **Jordan Rutter**

## Scene 11

*Deidamia shares a message of love and compassion.*

*Consolami se brami,  
ch'io viva in te, mio ben,  
confortami se m'ami,  
pensa che nel tuo sen  
quest'anima verrà.*

*Conservami l'affetto,  
ricordati ch'aspetto,  
chi renderla dovrà.*

Console me if you desire me,  
so that I may live in you, my love,  
comfort me if you love me,  
know that this soul will be in your heart.

Conserve your affections for me,  
remember that I wait for  
the one who will be obliged to return to me.

*(from Deidamia, HWV 42, Act III)*

soprano **Jennifer Roberts Jenkins**

## Scene 12

*All are moved by Deidamia and Zoroastro's messages,  
resulting in the betrothal of Cleopatra and Lelio  
and the reconciliation of Arsace and Sesto.  
They sing in celebration of Love and Friendship.*

*D'Imeneo le belle sede  
splendon fauste in questo dì;*

*il contento al fin sen riede,  
ogni affanno già sparì.*

Hymen's beautiful locales  
glisten happily on this day;

contentment at last returns,  
every anguish has already vanished.

(from *Partenope*, HWV 27, Act III)

Thank you for attending  
**53rd Street Handel**

[operamission.org](http://operamission.org)

