

operamission presents

53rd Street Handel

Wednesday, December 14, 2016

An original pastiche:

'Beyond Love and War: Escape from the Isle of Deceit'

The Cast, in order of appearance:

bass CORY CLINES as "Gustavo" (King of Cimbria)

tenor CHRISTOPHER SOKOLOWSKI as "Alessandro" (his son, in love with Rosmene)

countertenor BRENNAN HALL as "Silvio" (advisor to Gustavo)

soprano JENNIFER ROBERTS JENKINS as "Rosmene" (princess of England, betrothed to Claudio)

countertenor JORDAN RUTTER as "Claudio" (orphan prince of Arcadia, believed dead, in love with Rosmene)

mezzo-soprano JESSICA BOWERS as "Dalinda" (Claudio's older sister)

assisted by the operamission HANDEL Band:

Brendan Ratchford, baroque violin; **Ben Matus**, baroque bassoon; **Jennifer Peterson**, harpsichord

ARGUMENT

After a great flood, King Gustavo has taken over the island of Cimbria in the Ganges,
sparking a war with King Riccardo of England.

Gustavo has just lost his son Sveno in battle and holds his enemy's daughter Rosmene captive.

The Arcadian princess Dalinda has lost her parents and brother Claudio in the flood,
and has been taken into Gustavo's custody as well.

Gustavo's surviving son Alessandro has fallen in love with the captive Rosmene,
and Gustavo's advisor Silvio desires power of his own.

Meanwhile, an unknown visitor arrives in Gustavo's court bearing a message from the enemy.

Scene 1

*Gustavo, King of the Cimbrians,
laments the loss of his son Sveno to his English enemy, Riccardo.
Silvio suggests Gustavo seek vengeance through Riccardo's daughter Rosmene,
but Gustavo decides to spare her.*

*Viva sì, che nel mio seno
venir meno
sente l'alma il suo furor.*

*Or ha luoco
un altro foco,
che non ha men grave ardor.*

Let her live, so that in my breast
I will feel less of her fury
in my soul.

Now in its place
another fire burns
with no less serious ardor.

(from *Faramondo*, HWV 39, Act I)

bass **Cory Clines**

Scene 2

*Claudio, fallen prince of Arcadia, is believed to have died in the Cimbrian flood.
He arrives at Gustavo's court disguised as an English ambassador
to negotiate the release of Princess Rosmene.*

*Agitato da fiere tempeste,
se il nocchiero rivede sua stella
tutto lieto e sicuro sen v`a.*

*Più non teme procelle funeste,
se mostrato gli viene da quelle
il camino, che salvo lo f`a.*

Agitated by fierce tempests,
if the sailor keeps his eye on his star
he will always be happy and secure.

No longer will he fear deadly storms,
if he is shown which path to follow
to bring him to safety.

(from *Riccardo Primo*, HWV 23, Act I)

countertenor **Jordan Rutter**

Scene 3

*Having noticed Alessandro's interest in Rosmene,
King Gustavo offers his son the hand of Dalinda in marriage
so he can have Rosmene for himself.*

Alessandro adamantly refuses to take any wife that does not choose him.

*Vil trofeo d'un alma imbelle
è quel ciglio allor che piange;
io non venni in fino al Gange
le donzelle
a debellar.*

*Ho rossor di quegli allori
che non han frà i miei sudori
cominciati a germogliar.*

Vile trophy of a cowardly soul
is that brow which now weeps;
I have not come all the way to the Ganges
to subdue damsels.

I am ashamed of these laurels
that have begun to sprout
from efforts other than my own.

(from *Poro*, HWV 28, Act I)

tenor **Christopher Sokolowski**

Scene 4

*Silvio attempts to coerce Rosmene into loving him.
She refuses, as she loves only Claudio.
Silvio informs her that her beloved Claudio has died.*

*Sei già morto, idolo mio,
per far vivo il mio dolor.*

Already you are dead, my idol,
in order to give my sorrow life.

*Pur dovrò seguirti anch'io
se con te parte il mio cor.*

Yet I must also follow you
if my heart is departing with you.

(from *Silla*, HWV 10, Act III)

soprano **Jennifer Roberts Jenkins**

*Claudio reveals himself to Rosmene,
having been saved by her father, the King of England.*

*Luci belle,
serene stelle,
del mio cor tiranne amate,
voi sol date
vita e spirto all'alma mia.*

*Da voi solo pende il mio fato;
nè agli Elisi ancor beato
senza voi giammai saria.*

Beautiful eyes,
serene stars,
beloved tyrants of my heart,
you alone give
life and spirit to my soul.

For you alone my fate surrenders;
even Elysium's eternal blessing
is nothing without you.

(from Silla, HWV 10, Act III)

countertenor **Jordan Rutter**

Scene 5

A sudden storm brings Claudio memories of his parents' deaths in the flood.

Sinfonia

Numi!

*lasciarmi vivere per darmi mille morti,
è questa la pietà?*

Gods!

you let me live through a thousand deaths,
and this is your mercy?

(from Ariodante, HWV 33, Act III)

countertenor **Jordan Rutter**

*Dalinda discovers her brother still lives
and advises him not to trust Rosmene or the members of Gustavo's court.*

*Neghittosi or voi che fate?
fulminate,
Cieli omai sul capo all'empio!*

*Fate scempio
dell'ingrato, del crudel che m'ha tradita,
impunita,
t'empietà riderà nel veder poi fulminato
qual che scoglio o qual che tempio.*

Neglected one, what will you do now?
Heavens, strike down henceforth
on the head of the villain!

Wreak havoc
on the ingrate, on the cruel traitors,
unpunished,
they will laugh impiously at you
as lightning striking any rock or any temple.

(from Ariodante, HWV 33, Act III)

mezzo-soprano **Jessica Bowers**

Scene 6

Rosmene plans to escape back to England with Claudio by using deceit.

*Nasconde l'usignol' in alti rami il nido
al serpe e al cacciator;
ma il volo spesso è fido
dove lo porta amor;
che il può tradir non sà.*

*Lontano, sì, ma in pene,
quest'alma dal suo bene
più l'arte ingannerà.*

The nightingale hides its nest in high branches
from the serpent and from the hunter,
but the frequent and faithful flight
where it carries love;
it doesn't know that it betrays itself.

Far away, but in pain,
this soul of its love
will deceive more craftily.

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

soprano **Jennifer Roberts Jenkins**

Scene 7

Dalinda convinces Claudio to not hesitate in making their escape back to England, and to leave Rosmene behind.

Alessandro overhears them, and realizes the two are conspiring together. Claudio begins to lose hope and says goodbye to the Ganges.

Verdi prati, selve amene, perderete la beltà.

Green meadows, pleasant woods, you lose your beauty.

*Vaghi fior, correnti rivi, la vaghezza,
la bellezza
presto in voi si cangerà.*

Delicate flowers, flowing rivers, the delicacy,
the beauty
quickly find themselves changing.

*E cangiato il vago oggetto
all'orror del primo aspetto
tutto in voi ritornerà.*

And as the lovely object changes
to the horror of its first appearance,
everything returns in you.

(from Alcina, HWV 34, Act II)

countertenor **Jordan Rutter**

Scene 8

*Gustavo confesses the grace and beauty of Rosmene have given him a change of heart.
He explains that his love for her has abated his desire for vengeance.*

Zweier Augen Majestät

The majesty of two eyes

*die fast alle Welt entzückt
und mit Liebesfesseln drückt,
war mein Leitstern und Magnet.*

which enchants nearly the entire world
and weighs it down with chains of love,
was my guiding light and magnet.

(from *Almira*, HWV 1, Act II)

bass **Cory Clines**

Scene 9

Gustavo graciously presents Rosmene with the difficult choice between her desire to escape with Claudio and Alessandro's virtue.

ALESSANDRO: *Consolami, mio bene,
pria che il dolor m'uccida,*

ROSMENE: *Bramando uscir di pene
tu mi vorreste infida,*

CLAUDIO: *Deh, non cangiar desio,
bell'anima adorata?*

ROSMENE: *idolo del cor mio,
tu mi vorreste ingrata.*

A & C: *Pietà del mio cordoglio,*

ROSMENE: *Infida esser non voglio.*

A & C: *pietà di me ti chieggi,*

ROSMENE: *Ingrata esser non deggio.*

A & C: *almen dimmi ch'io mora,*

TUTTI: *Ah! s'io morissi ancora,
meglio saria per me.*

ALESSANDRO: *Non essermi crudele.*

CLAUDIO: *Risolvi d'esser mia.*

ROSMENE: *Che io non sia fedele?*

Ch'io sconoscente io sia?

A & C: *Al fin chi di noi dui
ritroverò mercè?*

ROSMENE: *Non sò, se poi di lui,
se poi sarò di te.*

ALESSANDRO: *Console me, my beloved,
before sorrow kills me,*

ROSMENE: *Longing to escape pain
you would wish me unfaithful,*

CLAUDIO: *Oh, not to change your desire,
beautiful adored soul?*

ROSMENE: *idol of my heart,
you would wish me ungrateful.*

A and C: *Take pity on my anguish,*

ROSMENE (to Alessandro): *Unfaithful I do not wish to be.*

A and C: *I you take pity on me,*

ROSMENE (to Claudio): *Ungrateful I must not be.*

A and C: *at least tell me that I am dying,*

ALL: *Ah, if only I would die,
all would be better for me.*

ALESSANDRO: *Do not be cruel to me.*

CLAUDIO: *Resolve to be mine.*

ROSMENE (to Alessandro): *That I would not be faithful?*

(to Claudio): *That I would be ungrateful?*

A and C: *Finally, which of the two of us
will find mercy?*

ROSMENE: *I don't know if it will be him,
if it will be you.*

(from *Imeneo*, HWV 41, Act II)

soprano **Jennifer Roberts Jenkins**

countertenor **Jordan Rutter**

tenor **Christopher Sokolowski**

Scene 10

Rosmene chooses to stay in Cimbria as Alessandro's wife.

*Mein Betrüben muß verschwinden,
gib nur zu,
daß ich möge bei dir finden
süße Ruh.*

My griefs must vanish,
if only
you will let me find in you
sweet peace.

(from Almira, HWV 1, Act III)

soprano **Jennifer Roberts Jenkins**

tenor **Christopher Sokolowski**

Scene 11

Silvio and Dalinda have shared a private encounter together in the wood. She tells him that he must follow her back to England if he wants to have her again.

*Se m'ami, oh caro,
se mi sei fido,
lasciami sola a sospirar!*

If you love me, oh dear one,
if you are faithful to me,
leave me alone to sigh!

*Il duol m'è caro,
se dalle piaghe vita Cupido
mi fà sperar.*

The pain is dear to me,
if through Cupid's darts
my life was given hope.

(from Il Pastor Fido, HWV 8, Act III)

mezzo-soprano **Jessica Bowers**

Silvio has fallen in love with Dalinda.

*Tu nel piagarmi il seno,
de' sguardi col sereno
porgi contento.*

*E pur il mio rigore
dà in cambio dell'amore
solo tormento.*

You wound me in the breast,
with the serenity of your glances
you deliver contentment.

Nevertheless my severity
offers only torment in exchange for love.

*(from *Il Pastor Fido*, HWV 8, Act III)*

countertenor **Brennan Hall**

Scena ultima, CORO

*Non trascurate amanti,
gl'istanti del piacer
volan per non tornar.*

Lovers, do not overlook
the instants of pleasure
as they take wing, not to return.

*Se son le belle ingrante,
cangiate di pensier,
folle chi vuol penar.*

If your lovers are ungrateful,
change your thoughts,
he who desires pain is senseless.

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

soprano **Jennifer Roberts Jenkins** ("Rosmene")

mezzo-soprano **Jessica Bowers** ("Dalinda")

countertenor **Jordan Rutter** ("Claudio")

countertenor **Brennan Hall** ("Silvio")

tenor **Christopher Sokolowski** ("Alessandro")

bass **Cory Clines** ("Gustavo")

Thank you for attending
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This evening's program was curated by Jennifer Peterson and Jordan Rutter.

Please contact **operamission** if you are interested in more programs like this,
or would like to offer your support in any form!

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