

Eastman School of Music

of the
University of Rochester
Walter Hendl, Director

presents

THE EASTMAN OPERA THEATRE'S PRODUCTION

of

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

by
Benjamin Britten

*Libretto adapted from William Shakespeare
by Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears*

LEONARD TREASH, Director
EDWIN McARTHUR, Conductor
THOMAS STRUTHERS, Designer

Eastman Theatre

Friday Evening, January 21, 1972, at 8:15
Saturday Evening, January 22, 1972, at 8:15

CAST
(in order of appearance)

Friday, January 21

Saturday, January 22

Cobweb	Robin Eaton	Robin Eaton
Peaseblossom	Candace Baranowski	Candace Baranowski
Mustardseed	Janet Obermeyer	Janet Obermeyer
Moth	Doreen DeFeis	Doreen DeFeis
Puck	Larry Clark	Larry Clark
Oberon	Letty Snethen	Laura Angus
Tytania	Judith Dickison	Sharon Harrison
Lysander	Booker T. Wilson	Bruce Bell
Hermia	Mary Henderson	Maria Floros
Demetrius	Ralph Griffin	Joseph Bias
Helena	Cecile Saine	Julianne Cross
Quince	James Courtney	James Courtney
Flute	Carl Bickel	David Bezona
Snout	Bruce Bell	Edward Pierce
Starveling	Tonio DePaolo	Tonie DePaolo
Bottom	Alexander Stephens	Alexander Stephens
Snug	Dan Larson	Dan Larson
Theseus	Fredric Griesinger	Fredric Griesinger
Hippolyta	Laura Angus	Letty Snethen

Fairy Chorus: Edwin Austin, Steven Bell, Mark Cohen, Thomas Johnson, William McNeice, Gregory Miller, John Miller, Swan Oey, Gary Pentiere, Jeffrey Regelman, James Singleton, Marc Slavny, Thomas Spittle, Jeffrey VanHall, Henry Warfield, Kevin Weston.

(Members of the Eastman Childrens Chorus, Milford Fargo, Conductor)

THE STORY

Midsummer Night's Dream, Its Sources, Its Construction, and Its Charm

by Leonard Treash

The play from which the opera was taken was considered the best of William Shakespeare's early comedies. It uses for its sources, stories told by Plutarch, Chaucer and Ovid. The exceptional genius of Shakespeare sorted these multiple sources out and wove them into a well constructed comedy, consisting of the imminent wedding of Theseus, Duke of Athens, with Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons, the "loves that ne're ran smooth" of Lysander and Hermia and Demetrius and Helena, and the play within the play of "Pyramus and Thisbe" provided for the royal wedding by six of the rough workers of Athens and all know together by the plot of Oberon and Tytania and their fairy kingdom.

The libretto of the opera fashioned by Britten and Peter Pears, omits the first act of the play, filling in for this omission along the way and at the end with snatches of the exposition found in the deleted first act.

A synopsis of this omitted first act may help an understanding of the libretto of the opera. The Amazons led by Hippolyta have laid siege to Athens, but Duke Theseus has defeated them in battle and has won the consent of Hippolyta to be his wife. As one of his noblemen, Aegus complains that his daughter Hermia refuses to wed the man of his choice, Demetrius. She has, instead, fallen madly in love with Lysander a young man who sings serenades under her window and reads her poetry. He demands the Athenian law upon his daughter, the law which says a daughter must marry the husband of her father's choice or be put to death. Theseus tells Hermia she must obey her father within four days, or must enter a convent, or be put to death. Lysander has a plan. Hermia will meet him in the woods that night and they will proceed to his Aunt's home, whose dwelling is outside the Athenian law, and there they will be married. Helena who was once beloved of Demetrius hears their secret and tells Demetrius hoping to come into his favor. Demetrius follows Lysander and Hermia into the woods and Helena follows Demetrius.

The Plot of the Opera

Act 1 - A Glen in a Wood at night.

The fairies of Tytania's court are holding revels and they are surprised by Puck, sometimes called Robin Goodfellow, who is Oberon's jester and source of much merry mischief. Just as they are getting acquainted, their mistress and his master arrive and quarrel violently over the possession of an Indian boy who is in the court of Tytania but whom Oberon wants for his page. Tytania again refuses to give up the boy and Oberon determines to punish her by casting a spell on her while she is asleep so that, when she wakes, she will fall in love with the first creature she sets eyes upon, be it owl or boar or ox or ass. As the fairies leave the wood, Lysander and Hermia meet and pledge their troth and, after they have set off for his Aunt's, Demetrius runs into the wood hotly pursued by Helena who is determined to make him love her if she must "hog-tie" him to accomplish her desire. Oberon sympathizes with her unrequited love and instructs Puck to drop

THE STORY (Cont'd.)

some of the same juice on the "youth in Athenian garb" so that when he awakes he will love Helena. While Puck is looking for this youth, the "Rustics" enter the wood to cast their play. This episode provides the low comedy and the rough workmen coming into the wood to rehearse a silly play provide the typical Shakesperean clown element. After each has been given a part in the play, they retire to their homes to study their parts and Lysander and Hermia come in and fall asleep. Puck, thinking Lysander is the "Athenian youth" squeezes the juice on his eyes and Helena chances by and wakes him and he falls violently in love with her, much to her chagrin. Tytania now comes back into the glen to sleep and Oberon casts the spell upon her.

Act 2

The Rustics return to the wood to rehearse their play. Bottom finds all kinds of problems in the play but also finds solutions to them; which makes Puck, who is observing them, determine to reduce Bottom's ego and turns him into an Ass. This frightens the other men away and Bottom is left alone in the wood. To drive away his fear, he sings a silly song at the top of his voice. Tytania wakes enchanted with him and his voice and commands fairies to wait upon him and to sing them both to sleep. The four mortal lovers again appear. Hermia wants her Lysander. Lysander wants Helena and will have none of Hermia. Demetrius wants to do battle with Lysander. Helena thinks that it is Hermia who has turned against her and the girls chase each other out while Demetrius and Lysander go off into the wood to fight. Oberon discovers Puck's mistake and cuffs him roundly and bids him throw up a fog to confuse all the four. This he does and the four come back and lie down to sleep not knowing that they are all in close proximity with each other. We now have three pairs of lovers asleep in the wood. Puck squeezes an antidote into Lysander's eyes.

Act 3

Oberon squeezes the juice of Dian's bud into the sleeping Tytania's eyes and as she wakes, she falls in love again with Oberon and into loathing of Bottom. Puck removes the asses head from Bottom's head and the fairies dance out of the wood as Puck announces the morning lark. The mortal lovers wake and find that they love the right people and hurry off to see Duke Theseus and hope that the straightening out of their loves will evoke clemency. The Rustics come hunting Bottom for without him they cannot produce the play. He appears to them and they hurry off to the palace to set their play before the royal wedding party.

The scene changes to the palace where everything rights itself. The four lovers are forgiven, the play of "Pyramus and Thisbe" is produced with great success and every mortal goes off to bed. The fairies take over the palace and after dancing a roundel they go to watch over every sleeper and Puck asks the indulgence of the audience as the curtain descends.

*We in the opera department join with Puck in hoping that you have enjoyed seeing and hearing *Midsummer Night's Dream* as much as we have working with it and in it.*

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN I

Stephanie Vaning
Marcus Lehmann

Kenzo Azuma
David Alber

Marian Egge
Deborah Miller

James Durham
Rebecca Pettigrew

Paul Krausse
Sandra Dackow

VIOLIN II

Dana Edson
Steve Ognavic

Anne Peyton
David Greenwalt

Ronald Satkiewicz
Aaron Appelstein

Rhea Epstein
Deborah Torch

HARPSICHORD AND CELESTE

Cathy Callis

FLUTES (Doubling Piccolos)

Jan Harbaugh
Laurel Mueller

OBOE (Doubling English Horn)

Faye Bailey

CLARINETS

Pamela Poulin
Gregg Morris

BASSOON

Kathleen Reynolds

HORNS

David Angus
Ted Wills

TRUMPET IN D

Allen Vizzutti

TROMBONE

James Pugh

VIOLA

Valerie Garabedian
Judson Griffin

Nancy Uscher
Louise Mathews

Lois Martin
Raymond Helble

CELLO

Richard Weiss
Deborah Dabczynski

John McClellan
Yvonne Caruthers

Kathleen Murphy
Sally Mulholland

BASS

William Eckfield
Theodore Pauls

Nancy Becker
Russell Gill

PERCUSSION

David Mancini
Gordon Stout

TIMPANI

T. Bradley Stouffer

HARPS

Jennifer Sayre
Constance Harding

STAGE BAND (OFF STAGE)

Sopranino Recorder
Glennnda Dove

Horns

Mary Hickson
Linda Radl

Blocks

James Judd

Cymbal

David Nieske

Future Opera Theatre Productions

February 25 & 26, 1972 8:15 in Cutler Union *Christopher Sly* by
Domenick Argento

April 28 & 29, 1972 8:15 in Eastman Theatre *Falstaff* by Guiseppe Verdi

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director	Leonard Treash
Musical Director	Edwin McArthur
Assistant Conductor	John Balme
Scenic Designer	Thomas Struthers
Chorus Master	Milford Fargo
Production Manager	Robert Murray
Eastman Theatre Stage Manager	Merritt Torrey, Sr.
Eastman Theatre Electrician	Merritt Torrey, Jr.
Stage Manager	Wayne Ward
Lighting Cues	Joseph Streisfeld
Props	Fredric Griesinger
	Judith Keithley, Kathryn Medici
Costumes	Julianne Cross, Kathryn Medici
Make-up	Ralph Griffin
Program	Mary Henderson, Julianne Cross
Coaches	John Balme, Katherine Collier, Rebecca Oekerman, Alexander Stephens, Joseph Streisfeld, Wayne Ward
Graduate Assistants	Kathleen Arecchi, Bruce Bell, Julianne Cross, Maria Floros, Fredric Griesinger, Ralph Griffin, Mary Henderson, Edward Pierce
Stage Crew	Arthur Carbon, Gene DiPalma, Frank Higgins, John Parkhurst

OPERA DEPARTMENT PERFORMERS

Laura Angus, mezzo-soprano	Maria Floros, mezzo-soprano
Kathleen Arecchi, soprano	Fredric Griesinger, baritone
Candace Baranowski, soprano	Ralph Griffin, baritone
Bruce Bell, tenor	Sharon Harrison, soprano
David Bezona, tenor	Mary Henderson, mezzo-soprano
Joseph Bias, baritone	Dan Larson, baritone
Carl Bickel, tenor	Janet Obermeyer, soprano
Susan Blum, soprano	Gale Oliver, soprano
James Courtney, bass	Edward Pierce, tenor
Julianne Cross, soprano	Cecile Saine, soprano
Doreen DeFeis, soprano	Letty Snethen, mezzo-soprano
Tonio DePaolo, baritone	Alexander Stephens, bass-baritone
Judith Dickison, soprano	Booker T. Wilson, tenor
Robin Eaton, soprano	

CREDITS

Production Rights by arrangement with Boosey and Hawkes Ltd.	
Costumes	Krause Costume Co., Cleveland, Ohio
Publicity	Robert West, Marcia Shedd
Video and Communications Equipment	Robert Henderson