

# OPERA THEATRE OF ROCHESTER

PRESENTS

## *Così fan Tutte*

(THEY'RE ALL LIKE THAT!)

MUSIC BY  
WOLFGANG AMADEVS MOZART

LIBRETTO BY  
LORENZO da PONTE

ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY  
RUTH AND THOMAS MARTIN  
USED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH G. SCHIRMER, INC.

Conducted By  
David Fetler

Staged By  
Donald Simpson

Settings and Lighting By  
William Briggs

**NAZARETH COLLEGE ARTS CENTER**

**NOVEMBER 26, 1968**

**8:15 P.M.**

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CAST  
(In Order of Appearance)

Ferrando . . . . .	Roman Osadchuk
Gugliemo . . . . .	William Read
Don Alfonso . . . . .	Robert Heins
Fiordiligi . . . . .	Rochelle Abkowitz
Dorabella . . . . .	Ruth Bent
Despina . . . . .	Thea Lochner

Soldiers, Servants, Townspeople:

John Bell\*, Marcy Casilio, Kenneth Follette,  
Valerie Fucile, Virginia Guarino\*, Kay Lauricella\*,  
Molly Nikodem, Victor Primak\*, Ruth Schwartz, Steve  
Skura\*, Marie Sobocinski, Mildred Swedberg, Thomas  
VanHall, Gloria Ward\*

Understudy for Fiordiligi . . . . .	Barbara Morris Read
Understudy for Despina . . . . .	Shirley Gassner
Understudy for Ferrando . . . . .	Kenneth Follette

\* Students of Hochstein School

The Action takes place in 18th century Naples

ACT I

- Scene 1 - A tavern, early evening
- Scene 2 - The garden of Fiordiligi's and Dorabella's villa, the next afternoon
- Scene 3 - The breakfast, early morning
- Scene 4 - The garden, mid-afternoon

Intermission 15 minutes

ACT II

- Scene 1 - The sister's sitting room
- Scene 2 - The garden
- Scene 3 - The sitting room
- Scene 4 - The banquet hall

The plot of this sparkling opera is as follows:

Don Alfonso offers to his friends, Ferrando and Guglielmo a wager that their fiancées, Fiordiligi and Dorabella, are as inconstant as other women. Ferrando and Guglielmo indignantly repudiate the suggestion and accept the wager. According to the terms of the wager, Don Alfonso thereupon informs the two ladies that their lovers have been ordered to leave immediately for the war front. A touching farewell scene ensues. The lovers vow eternal fidelity. Ferrando and Guglielmo pretend to depart.

Hardly have the gentlemen taken their leave, than the maid, Despina, who is a party to the intrigue, announces two newly arrived "foreign" gentlemen from Albania. The "foreigners" are, of course, Ferrando and Guglielmo in disguise. The supposed foreigners immediately begin to make extravagant love to Fiordiligi and Dorabella, who repulse them with a great show of virtue. The "Albanians" pretend to commit suicide. Despina, now disguised as a doctor, brings the "suicides" back to life by means of mesmerism.

In the face of such proof of the "Albanians" devotion, the ladies begin to relent toward them. The "Albanians" impetuously insist upon immediate marriage. Again Despina appears, disguised this time as a notary, bearing marriage contracts. A banquet is made ready. Now comes Don Alfonso with news that Ferrando and Guglielmo have returned. The "Albanians" disappear.

Ferrando and Guglielmo enter and seize the marriage contract. Despina throws off her disguise. The scheme of the wager is revealed and Don Alfonso is the winner. Don Alfonso reconciles the lovers, remarking, "It is of no use to be angry with women for flirting. Così fan tutte - - - they are all like that!"

## WHO'S FEATURED TONIGHT

- ROCHELLE ABKOWITZ - who sings Fiordiligi is a graduate of Brooklyn College and also studied at Carnegie Tech. Winner of the Metropolitan auditions in Pittsburgh, she sang with the Pittsburgh Symphony in "The Bartered Bride" and has sung opera with the Syracuse Symphony and the Henry Street Opera Company. Mrs. Abkowitz made her debut with Opera Theatre of Rochester in "Beggar's Opera." She has since sung in "Il Tabarro," Nedda in "I Pagliacci" and Genevieve in "Suor Angelica."
- RUTH BENT - tonight's Dorabella received her Bachelor and Master's Degrees from Oberlin College. Before making her home in Rochester, Mrs. Bent appeared as soloist at Radio City Music Hall. She sang in the Broadway productions of "The King and I" and in "Can-Can." Mrs. Bent made her debut with Opera Theatre in "Suor Angelica." Her last appearance was as Mimi in "La Boheme" in June's "Opera Showcase," and as Grilletta in "The Apothecary."
- ROBERT HEINS - who is heard as Don Alfonso is a graduate of Boston's New England Conservatory of Music. He has sung with the Boston Civic Opera Company and has concertized widely in lieder and oratorio. Joining Opera Theatre, he appeared as Michele in "Il Tabarro," Tonio in "I Pagliacci," Simone in "Gianni Schicchi" and as Germont in "La Traviata" in last June's "Opera Showcase."
- THEA LOCHNER - is a true Rochesterian who has sung briefly once before with Opera Theatre. Tonight marks her actual debut in the role of Despina.
- ROMAN OSADCHUK - tonight's Ferrando is from the Metropolitan Opera Studio. He graduated from the noted Curtis Music Institute of Philadelphia and has been a pupil of operatic star Martial Singher. Mr. Osadchuk has sung the roles of Rodolfo in "La Boheme," the Duke in "Rigoletto," Don Ottavio in "Don Giovanni," and Luigi in "Il Tabarro." Tonight is his first appearance with Opera Theatre.
- WILLIAM READ - who sings the role of Guglielmo has just returned from a summer's engagement at Chautauqua where he sang the lead in "Gianni Schicchi." Mr. Read has appeared with Opera Theatre as Talpa in "Il Tabarro," and as Sempronio, the title role in "The Apothecary." He is a graduate of the Eastman School of the University of Rochester.
- EVELYN HIRSCHLAND - pupil of Orazio Frugoni, and graduate of the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester is premier pianist and accompanist for Opera Theatre. Mrs. Hirschland has written the two piano arrangements used in the performance this evening.

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