

ROLE OF DIDO IN HENRY PURCELL'S *DIDO AND AENEAS*

by

BEVERLY JOAN McARTHUR

B.Mus., University of Calgary, 1998

A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF
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MASTER OF MUSIC

in

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(School of Music)

We accept this thesis as conforming
to the required standard

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

April 2002

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Department of

Music

The University of British Columbia
Vancouver, Canada

Date

25, April, 2002.

Thesis Abstract

This thesis is comprised of the role of Dido from Henry Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*. Dido is the opera's tragic heroine, the Queen of Carthage who falls in love with Aeneas, a Trojan Prince.

The role of Dido may be played by a Soprano, however it strongly suits the colour of the Mezzo-Soprano voice. Dido also requires a singer with the ability to gain sympathy from the audience while at the same time retaining her stature as ruler and founder of Carthage.

The Sorceress, a character who can be portrayed as Dido's foil, conspires against the lovers. She orchestrates the downfall of Dido and Aeneas and ultimately pushes Dido to the decision to take her own life.

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Appendix Tapes of production of Henry Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, March 8, 2002

THEATRE at UBC

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DIDO AND AENEAS
HENRY PURCELL

GIANNI SCHICCHI
GIACOMO PUCCINI



DIDO AND AENEAS

By Henry Purcell

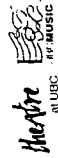
Cast

Thursday March 7th and Saturday March 9th.

- Dido: Sandra Stringer
- Aeneas: Rose-Ellen Nichols
- Belinda: Krzysztof Biernacki
- Sorceress: Jinny Park
- First Witch: Janet Vandertol
- Second Witch: Heidi Meunzel
- Spirit: Jennifer Farrell
- First Sailor: Rose-Ellen Nichols
- Dido's Attendants: Alexandria Beck
- Witches: Craig Johnson
- Sailors: Jeanette Gibault
- Chorus: Cosima Groll
- Witches: Whitney Sloan
- Sailors: Katie Cross
- Chorus: Erinn Evdokimoff
- Witches: Brooke Harris
- Sailors: Megan Morrison
- Chorus: Andrew Jameson
- Witches: Fraser Walters
- Sailors: The University Singers

Friday March 8th and Sunday March 10th.

- Dido: Beverly McArthur
- Aeneas: Rose-Ellen Nichols
- Belinda: Elio Catania
- Sorceress: Cindy Koistinen
- First Witch: Amy La Froy
- Second Witch: Jeanine Fynn
- Spirit: Soula Parasirtis
- First Sailor: Mia Harris
- Dido's Attendants: Mieke Rickert
- Witches: Ian Paul
- Sailors: Jeanette Gibault
- Chorus: Cosima Groll
- Witches: Whitney Sloan
- Sailors: Katie Cross
- Chorus: Erinn Evdokimoff
- Witches: Brooke Harris
- Sailors: Megan Morrison
- Chorus: Andrew Jameson
- Witches: Fraser Walters
- Sailors: The University Singers
- Choral Director: Bruce Pullian



UBC Symphony Orchestra - Dido and Aeneas

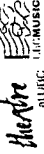
- Violin I: Ruth Huang**
- Violin II: Jason Ho*
- Viola: Beth Schaufele*
- Cello: Anne Davison
- Bass: Michael Yagi
- Conductor: Enzo Figliuzzi
- Principal: Harpsichord
- Concertmaster: Richard Epp
- Guest Artists: Angela Hodgson, Tanya Tomasz, Elaine Griffiths, Katya Sokolovskaya, James Wei

*Principal
**Concertmaster

University Singers

- Soprano: Christy Avril, Caitlin Bradley, Jarline Chuang, Bree Dickey, Brooke Harris, Nancy Hasluk, Paula MacNeil, Marizza Mislang, Dionne Sellinger, Whitney Sloan
- Tenor: Jordan Back, David Baker, Tim Burns, Stephen Bell, Charlie Davidson, Will Howie, Wei-Hsi Hsu, Ryan Picketts, Matthew Stephenson, Fraser Wallcott, Kevin Zakirsky
- Bass: Kevin Chui, John Conlon, David English, Andrew Jameson, Mike Mori, Jonathan Ng, David Poon, Shann Raman, Matt Ramer, Joel Stephenson, Al Smith, Joseph Su
- Alto: Jennifer Chin, Naomi Derksen, Shirin Eskandani, Elspeth Finlay, Gillian Hunter, Jennifer Hutchinson, Christine Magoc, Megan Morrison, Amanda Murdoch, Katy Skinner, Sarah Smith

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GIANNI SCHICCHI

By Giacomo Puccini

Cast

Thursday March 7th and Saturday March 9th.

Gianni Schicchi
Lauretta
Zita
Rinuccio
Gherardino
Bello
Simone
Nella
Gherardo
Marco
La Ciesca
Spinelloccio
Amanlio di Nicolai
Pinellino
Guccio
Understudy for Guccio
Buoso Donati

Justin Welsh
Neema Bickersteth
Jeanine Fynn
Philippe Castagner
Jennifer Farrell
Elio Catana
Pierre Hungr
Rhoslyn Jones (March 7)
Shauna Martin (March 9)
Alex Good
Joel Klein
Sheila Christie
Erinn Evdokimoff
Riley McMitchell
John Conlon
Andrew Jameson
Michael Mori
Riley McMitchell
David English

Friday March 8th and Sunday March 10th.

Gianni Schicchi
Lauretta
Zita
Rinuccio
Gherardino
Bello
Simone
Nella
Gherardo
Marco
La Ciesca
Spinelloccio
Amanlio di Nicolai
Pinellino
Guccio
Understudy for Guccio
Buoso Donati

Gilbert Anderson*
Rhonwen Adams
Katherine Landry
David Doubleday
Jennifer Farrel
John Conlon
Gerrit Theule
Rhoslyn Jones (March 8)
Shauna Martin (March 10)
Joel Jaffe
Stephen Bell
Rosa Nam
Erinn Evdokimoff
Michael Mori
Andrew Jameson
David English
John Hales
Riley McMitchell
David English

*Appears courtesy of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association

UBC Symphony Orchestra - Gianni Schicchi

Bass
Peggy Tong*
Evet Kim**
Jon Miller Chiu
Enzo Figliuzzi
Trevor Yeats

Flute
Greg Kirzenow*
Sandi Chih
Michelle Tsao

Oboe
Marisa Chang*
Justina Kuo

Clarinet
Brenda Kim*
Samuel Davidson

Bassoon
Meghan Dahl
Anne LePage

French Horn
Chris Unger*
Garland Kwan
Micalah Sturgess
Cheryl Lane
Iatna Osokin
Adrienne Wasylik

Trumpet
Chris Mitchell*
Alison Gorniah
Rachel Lowry

Trombone
Andrew Poirier*
Shawn Wright
Peter Waldkirch

Tuba
Matt Thompson

Harp
Lani Krantz

Tympani
Bruce Henczel

Percussion
Chris O'Neil
Kim Ettinger
**Concert Master
*Principal

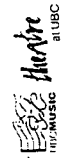
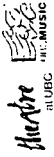
Violin I
Evet Kim**
Adrian Dyck
Ruth Huang
Amy Pei
Amanda Hsueh
Drie Ignas
Gillian Mott
Regina Ho
Kimi Hamaguchi
Jenny Atkinson
Alisa van Dijk
Natalie Jeon
Jason Ho
Michael Yagi

Violin II
Amelia Mori*
Angela Hodgson
Tanya Tomasz
Elaine Griffiths
Katya Sokolovskaya
James Wei
Karen Mende
Jessica Wan
Vincent Wong
Jack Tsai
Simon Chow
Lisa Aird
Eric Zhang

Viola
Beth Schaufele*
Meghan Verdejo*
James Hill
Aaron Butler
Brooke Day
Szabolcs Kabok
Sarah Weingarten

Cello
Kathryn Thompson*
Anne Davison
Sarah Tippett
Tina Hsu
Alexandra Sia
Richard St. Onge
Wesley Atwell
Chris Sanford
Regina Matthew
Kamilla Karoli
Katherine Sepp

Celeste
Richard Epp



Production

For the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

- Jenny Inkster
- Alishia Harris
- Cat George
- Aaron Brown
- Thompson Tran
- Sabrina Pitre
- Donna Falconer
- Zsuzsanna Lukas
- Christopher Wong
- Lucas Wong
- Ken Hollands
- Lydia Hiebert
- Elke Englich
- Nel Voirich
- Janet Bickford
- Lynn Burton
- Valerie Moffat
- Gennie Willoughby Senior
- Jim Fergusson
- Don Griffiths
- Jay Henrickson
- Dani Bryant
- Daryl Lo
- Natalie Gemmell
- Lauren Payne
- Maryam Najafi
- Adam Janusz
- Veronica Stewart
- Mike Wu
- Teiya Kasahara
- Lucas Wong
- Bob Eberle
- Marietta Kozak
- Joan Weilwood
- James A. Glen
- Jennifer Ramsay
- Meghann Shantz
- Sarah Simpson
- Gerry Braiz
- Emma Luna Davis
- Karen Tong
- Gerald Vanderwoude
- Linda Fenton Mailtoy

- Managing Director
- Director of Facilities and Operations
- Assistant Technical Director
- Programming Manager
- Events coordinator
- Events Manager
- Customer Services Manager
- Audio Coordinator
- Systems Coordinator
- Front of House Coordinators
- Concessions Coordinator
- Ticket Office Coordinator
- Financial Officer
- Financial Clerk

- Stage Manager
- Assistant Stage Managers

- Senior Repetiteur
- Repetiteurs

- Technical Director
- Costume Coordinator
- Wig Stylist
- Make-up Artist
- Props Supervisors

- Scenic Artist
- Scenery Construction

- Props Builders

- Lighting Operator
- Stage Crew

- Student Assistant
- Title Operator
- Production Manager
- Business Manager
- Communications
- Poster Design
- Publicity Assistants

- Box Office
- Theatre Secretary
- Administration Assistant
- Web Page

For the UBC Symphony Orchestra

- Conductor
- Teaching Assistant
- Librarian
- Stage Manager

For the University Singers

- Assistant Conductor
- Stephen Smith

Acknowledgements:

The Chan Family, Michael Noon, the Vancouver Opera Association, The Vancouver Playhouse, The Arts Club Theatre, Valerie Moffat, School of Music Office Staff, Phyllis Lavalie and The Friends of UBC Opera, David Spencer Endowment Encouragement Fund, Enchanted Florist, Ian Prall, Thomas Thompson, Norman Young representing The BC Entertainment Hall of Fame, Judith Fowl, UBC Opera Ensemble, Jim Wright General Director of The Vancouver Opera, Randy Smith and Nik von Schulman, Stuart Tarback, Peggy Jameson. A Special Thank You to the Vancouver Opera Guild for their donation to this production.

Plot Synopsis - Dido and Aeneas

The action of the opera takes place in Dido's Palace, the cave of the Sorceress, a Forest and the Harbour of Carthage. The story is the familiar one concerning the tragic relationship of Dido, Queen of Carthage, and Aeneas, son of Anchises, a Trojan prince and Venus, Goddess of Love. In Virgil, it is Mercury, messenger of the Gods, who is sent to shatter their dreams of love and empire-building with the reminder that Aeneas is to fulfill his destiny with the founding of Rome as a new Troy. In the opera, it is a false Mercury who is sent by the Sorceress, seen here not merely as a malevolent operatic prototype but a rival, an outlaw queen, who uses the black arts to achieve the downfall of Dido.



Dido and Aeneas, Purcell's only through composed opera, was written originally for performance by a girls' school in London's Chelsea in 1689. It is unique among Purcell's other principal dramatic works (*The Fairy Queen*, *The Indian Queen*, *King Arthur* and *The Tempest*) in that there is no dialogue,

and because it is the only one not cast in the stylized form of a Masque. It is a miniature masterpiece where the interplay of love, hatred, and despair is given full dramatic opportunity at the same time as being distilled into little more than an hour of music. The two existing manuscript copies of the score both date from the eighteenth century and it is on these that the present version is based. In any vocal - dramatic work of the period, the arrangement of the continuo (the harpsichord, cello and string bass which accompany so much of the opera) is left to the discretion of the performer or editor and it is principally with this aspect, and sometimes with the indication of vocal ornamentation (or lack of it) and the lay-out of the string parts, where the Britten/1961 realization is involved: there is no new harmonization nor reorganization of Purcell's original, in fact no alteration of any kind other than the supplying of some Purcell music from other sources for a missing scene for the witches at the end of Act II. This music does not exist in any available manuscript, but the words for it do appear in the published libretto of 1698.

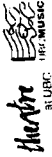
Plot Synopsis - Gianni Schicchi

The action takes place in the house of Buoso Donati in Florence, at the time of the Renaissance. The rich Buoso Donati has died and his relations and their dependents are divided over uncertainly mourning his departure; no one knows to whom he has left his possessions, in particular his house in Florence, his mill, and his sawmills at Signa. The relations despair at the outcome of the will and are most unsympathetic to Rinuccio's ill-timed suggestion that they should ask the wily Gianni Schicchi to help them. Apart from being the father of Rinuccio's beloved Lauretta, Gianni is a somewhat disreputable, though highly successful merchant who has risen from the ranks of the peasantry. It is this last fact which makes him so unpopular with Buoso's snobbish relatives. However, they find that they have no option but to ask for his help. But the tables are turned on them more than once before the end of the opera when, in Schicchi's words, Buoso's money is put to better use.

Gianni Schicchi forms part of Puccini's *Trittico*, three one-act operas of which the other two are *San Angelica* and *Il Tabarro*. Today, the operas are more often than not performed separately, but the first performance of the complete *Trittico* was given by the Metropolitan Opera in 1918.



Giuseppe De Luca, the first Gianni Schicchi, at the Metropolitan Opera, 1918



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March 24, 3:00pm
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Old Auditorium
April 26 and 27, 8:00pm
- UBC Symphony Orchestra
Chan Centre for the Performing Arts
April 4, 12:00pm
April 5, 8:00pm
Free Admission
- University Singers
Chan Centre for the Performing Arts
March 21, 12:00pm
March 22, 8:00pm
- Stravinsky!**
Faculty and student performers
Chan Centre for the Performing Arts
April 7, 8:00pm
- Masterclasses with Edith Wiens**
Recital Hall, School of Music
March 15, 1:00pm-4:00pm
March 17, 3:00pm
- Summer Music Institute Vocal Workshops**
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