



UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA HUNTSVILLE MUSIC AND THEATRE PRESENT

DIDO AND AENEAS

An opera by Henry Purcell

Directed by Karen Young and David Harwell
Conducted by Erin Colwitz

ROBERTS RECITAL HALL
University of Alabama Huntsville Campus

December 11th and 12th, 2009
7:30 p.m.

December 13th, 2009
3:00 p.m.



DIDO AND AENEAS: SYNOPSIS



ACT ONE

Scene: Dido's Court

The opera opens as Dido, the Queen of Carthage, enters with her court and attendants. Belinda, Dido's sister and confidant, tries to cheer Dido. Dido remains full of sorrow, saying "Peace and I are strangers grown." Belinda believes the source of this grief to be Dido's conflicted feelings about the Trojan Prince, Aeneas. Belinda suggests that Carthage's troubles could be resolved if Dido would just embrace her affections. The court then joins in trying to raise Dido's spirits. Aeneas enters the court at this point, and is received coldly by Dido. But, overcome by his charms and love, Dido relents and accepts Aeneas' proposal of marriage.

ACT TWO

Scene 1: The Cave of the Sorcerer

The Sorcerer is plotting the destruction of Carthage and its queen. He calls his two most powerful witches to help mold his evil scheme. He plans to send his "trusted elf," disguised as Mercury (someone to whom Aeneas will surely listen), to tell Aeneas that he must leave Dido, and return to Troy. The Sorcerer knows that the news of Aeneas' departure will destroy Dido. The chorus of witches appears and joins in with terrible laughter. The two evil enchantresses decide to conjure a storm. When the spell is cast, all the witches vanish in an insipid whispering whirlwind.

Scene 2: A Grove During the Middle of a Hunt

Dido and Aeneas are accompanied by their train. They rest at a lovely grove to enjoy its beauty. The attendants have prepared a picnic for all. Dido and Aeneas are lovingly communing within the activity. When Dido hears a distant thunder, all frolicking and fun cease. Belinda tells the servants to prepare for a return to shelter as soon as possible. As everyone hurriedly leaves the grove, Aeneas is detained by the Sorcerer's elf, "Mercury." Mercury imparts the command of Jove: Aeneas is to wait no longer in beginning his task of creating a new Troy on Latin soil. Aeneas consents to the wishes of what he believes are the gods. But, he is heart-broken at the thought of leaving his beloved Dido. Nevertheless, Aeneas honorably obeys the gods and prepares for his departure from Carthage.

ACT THREE

Scene 1: The Harbor at Carthage

Preparations are underway for the departure of Aeneas' Trojan fleet. The Sorcerer and his crone companions suddenly appear. The evil group is tremendously joyful with how well their plan has worked. The encouraged Sorcerer describes his further plots and plans for the ultimate destruction of Aeneas on the ocean!

Scene 2: The Palace

Dido and Belinda enter. They are shocked at Aeneas' disappearance. Dido is distraught but Belinda comforts her once again. Suddenly Aeneas returns. Dido is suspicious and full of fear before Aeneas speaks. His words only serve to confirm her fears and suspicions. She derides his reasons for leaving, even as Aeneas states that he will defy the gods and not leave Carthage. Still, Dido rejects him for having once even thought of leaving her. After Dido sends Aeneas away, she sadly relays that "Death must come when he is gone." In utter despair and sadness, Dido takes her own life. Her court comes upon the tragic scene and begin to lament the tragic death of their queen, "Cupids, come, and scatter roses on her tomb; soft and gentle as her heart. Keep here your watch, and never, never, never part."

CAST

Dido

Marilyn West (soprano)

Aeneas

Joshua Jones (tenor)

Belinda

Cheryl Rose (soprano)

Sorcerer

Curtis Lindsay (baritone)

First Witch

Emily Shaffer (soprano)

Second Witch

Elizabeth Whorton (soprano)

Second Woman & Chorus

Rachel Speakman (alto)

Attendant & Chorus

Sara Kreipe (soprano)

Spirit & Chorus

Kristen Trumball (soprano)

First sailor & Chorus

Ryan Pest (tenor)

CHORUS

Andrew Berryman

Tenor

Ben Corlandi

Bass

Bess Jernigan

Alto

MaryAnne Knupp

Alto

Noeleen Laughlin

Soprano

Nikki Shedd

Alto

Sidney Simmons

Tenor

Sheldon Taffe

Bass

Daniel Walker

Tenor

LeAnna Whitaker

Soprano



Viola da Gamba



Theorbo/Lute



Harpichord

CREW

Directors

Karen Young and David Harwell

Chorus Master

Erin Colwitz

Set and Lighting Design

David Harwell

Baroque Style Coach

Suzanne Purtee

Stage Manager and Publicity

Kate Corlandi

Costume Design* and Construction

*Nia Hunter, Ann Swanson, and Jo Myers

Program Design, Ticket Design

Andrew Berryman

Multi Media - Projection

Matt Schuster and Sound Source

Poster Design

Susan Altman

Tech Crew

Stephen Claybrooks, Mark Eccleston,
Dave Ragsdale, Glenn Humphrey,
Sydney Simmons

Hair and Makeup

Nikki Shedd

ORCHESTRA

Conductor

Erin Colwitz

Violin I

Noriko Mitchell

Violin II

Veronika Johnson

Viola

Chris Lanier

Viola da Gamba

Kevin Lay

Theorbo/Lute

Francis Perry

Harpsichord

Suzanne Purtee



Violin



Viola



Singer



Karen Young (Director) Karen received her M.M. degree in Vocal Performance from Birmingham-Southern College. Karen's operatic/musical theatre credits include Nedda (*Pagliacci*), Magda Sorel (*The Consul*), Suor Angelica (*Suor Angelica*), Desdemona (*Otello*), Suzuki (*Madama Butterfly*), Maddalena (*Rigoletto*), Mrs. Nolan (*The Medium*), Aldonza (*The Man of La Mancha*), Mary Magdalene (*Jesus Christ Superstar*), and the premier role of Elsie Hickam in *Rocket Boys, the Musical*. Karen is active at her alma mater, UAHuntsville, where she teaches studio voice, Intro to Music Literature and is the new and first Director of Opera!



Erin Colwitz (Conductor, Chorus Master) Erin Colwitz, a native of Green Bay, Wisconsin, received her Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. She later completed the Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Southern California in choral music. Dr. Colwitz studied conducting with William Dehning, David Wilson, Magen Solomon, and Claire McCoy. In Minnesota, Dr. Colwitz was a full-time vocal and general music teacher at Centennial Middle School. As a professional singer, Dr. Colwitz was contracted to sing with the Dale Warland Singers in 1999. She can be heard on three of their albums, one of which was nominated for a Grammy: Dominick Argento's *Walden Pond* (2003) on Gothic Records. Dr. Colwitz is currently the Director of Choral Activities at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. She conducts the Chamber Choir and Concert Choir, teaches conducting, choral education methods and diction classes, as well as private voice. Dr. Colwitz serves frequently as guest conductor, contest adjudicator and choral clinician throughout Alabama. She is thrilled to be in her first year as music director of the Huntsville Master Chorale. Dr. Colwitz lives in Jones Valley with her husband, Dr. William Dehning, an accomplished conductor, Emeritus Professor, and published author, and their very silly golden retriever, Sam.



David Harwell (Director, Designer, Staging) David is the assistant professor of theatre at UAHuntsville. He received his BFA in theatre at the University of Montevallo and his MFA in Scene Design from the University of Illinois in Champaign/Urbana in 1991. After many years of professional theatre in NYC and abroad, he is happy to be back in Huntsville, his hometown. He started UAH Theatre in 2005 and serves as its director and is proud to collaborate with Karen, Erin and Dave and all the members of UAH Opera.



Kate Corlandi (Stage Manager) Kate is a graduate student at UAH. This is her second show working as S.M. for a UAH production her first one being *I Pagliacci*.



Marilyn West (Dido) Marilyn is a Vocal Performance major at UAHuntsville, where she studies voice with Karen Young. She enjoys singing in the UAHuntsville Concert Choir and Chamber Choir under the direction of Dr. Erin Colwitz. Marilyn serves as the soprano section leader, and is active in the school's chapter of the American Choral Director's Association. This is her third UAHuntsville production. In the summer of 2009, she was in the chorus of UAHuntsville's *Pagliacci*, as well as Tuptim in the Huntsville Community Chorus version of *The King and I*. Last December, she was a chorus member and dancer for UAHuntsville's first opera, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*.



Joshua Jones (Aeneas) Joshua is excited about the role of Aeneas, his first title role. Joshua performed in *Les Miserables*, *FAME: The Musical*, *Murder in the Magnolias*, *I Pagliacci*, and *The King & I*. Joshua was a member of the UAH Concert, Men's, and Chamber Choirs from 2004–2006 directed by Dr. Michael Conran. He returned in 2009 under the direction of Dr. Erin Colwitz singing in both the UAH Concert and Chamber Choirs. Joshua has a Bachelors in Accounting and graduates this December with his MBA in Finance. Thanks to the UAH Music Department for their continued efforts to spread the love and knowledge of music everywhere. Thanks to his family and friends for their continued love and support of his musical efforts.



Cheryl Rose (Belinda) Cheryl is in her fourth year at UAHuntsville where she is studying Mechanical Engineering and music. She is very excited to be participating in her fourth UAHuntsville production after participating in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Pagliacci*. She would like to thank Karen Young for giving her this wonderful opportunity and would like to thank her family and friends for all their love and support.



Curtis Lindsay (Sorcerer, Student Conductor) Curtis Lindsay is a junior Music major at UAHuntsville. He studies piano with Dr. Sarkis Baltanian and voice with Ms. Karen Young. He is bass section leader in the Concert and Chamber Choirs, accompanies the Men's Choir, plays clarinet in the Wind Ensemble. He is pianist in the Jazz Ensemble. He is active as a performer and accompanist in the community. His compositions and arrangements have been performed by UAHuntsville ensembles and featured in the school's New Music Festival. He plans to pursue graduate studies in composition and conducting. This is his first major opera role.



Emily Shaffer (First Witch) Emily is a Music major at UAH. She studies voice with Karen Young. She plays flute in the Wind Ensemble and sings in the Concert Choir. She is very excited to be in her first opera at UAH, and would like to thank Karen for the opportunity to be a part of this production and for all the coaching on how to be menacing and scary. Thanks to her friends for their encouragement and her family for their support and forgiveness for all the times she accidentally set off her car alarm while trying to sneak into the house from a late rehearsal, causing the puppy to bark and just generally wreaking havoc on their sleep cycles.



Elizabeth Whorton (Second Witch) Elizabeth is in her second year here at UAHuntsville studying Choral Music Education. She has been involved in many musical productions including: *Once on this Island*, *Into the Woods*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Godspell*, *Children of Eden*, and recently last year's production of *Amahl and the Night Visitors* here at UAHuntsville. She is also an active member of the UAHuntsville Concert and Chamber Choir. She is very excited to have her very first role in *Dido and Aeneas* and would like to thank her family and friends for their support, and would like to thank Karen Young and Dr. Erin Colwitz for this opportunity.



Ryan Pest (First Sailor, Chorus) Ryan Pest just finished his BA in Music with an emphasis in Voice while also receiving a minor in Theatre. His recent productions include: *Little Shop of Horrors* (Seymour: UAH), *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (King Kasper: UAH), *A Funny Thing...Forum* (Pseudolus: UAH). Ryan also sings with the UAHuntsville Concert, Chamber, and Mens Choirs and is an active section leader in the program. Ryan has studied voice with Karen Young and would like to thank her, David, and Dr. Colwitz for an amazing undergrad experience.



Sara Kreipe (Attendant, Chorus) Sara is a senior at UAH and is studying Voice and Theatre. She is very excited to be a part of UAH's second opera. Last fall she was seen as a "Dancer/ Shepherdess" in UAH's production of *Amahl & the Night Visitors*. Sara's other UAH productions include Philia in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors*. Sara is also an active member of the UAH Concert & Chamber Choirs under Dr. Erin Colwitz and studies voice with Karen Young.



Kristin Trumbull (Spirit and Chorus) Kristin Trumbull is a student at UAH, where she is majoring in Music. She has been active in school, community, and church choirs since she was a small child and has studied voice for the last three years. She has performed in several musicals, the most recent of which was *Footloose*. *Dido and Aeneas* is her first opera.



Rachel Speakman (Second Woman, Chorus) Rachel is a third year Nursing major and Music minor. She has been involved in other UAHuntsville productions such as *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, and *Pagliacci*. She is also involved in the Chamber and Concert Choirs at UAHuntsville. She is appreciative of all the people who worked so hard to make this production happen. And she would like to thank her husband, Kasey, for being so supportive.



Andrew Russell Berryman (Chorus, Program Designer) Andrew's last musical performance was as a soloist with the *Huntsville Spiritual Chorale* in February 2003 as a part of Black History Month at NASA. Before then, Andrew sang with the UAHuntsville Choir and Village Singers. Andrew has performed in concert choirs throughout North Alabama. He also toured Mexico with UAH. He sang with the North Carolina and Birmingham Symphonies in a performance of Mozart's *Requiem* by The University of North Alabama's Collegiate Singers. He also performed in several stage plays, and musicals, including; *Cabaret*, *(Max) 1776*, *(Livingston) A Chorus Line*, *Sister Mary Explains it All for You*, *(Gary Sullivan) The Still Alarm*, *(Bellboy) Baby*, *The Unexpected Guest*, *(Michael Starkwedder)* and a host of other productions and musical reviews. He has enjoyed getting back into performing with this opera. Thanks Karen!



Ben Corlandi (Chorus) Ben is a former UAHuntsville student who has most recently performed as Silvio in UAHuntsville's production of *Pagliacci*, and as *The Kralahome* in Huntsville Community Chorus' production of *The King and I*.



Bess Jernigan (Chorus) Bess Jernigan is in her third year at UAHuntsville, where she is studying to receive her degree in Music Education. Bess is a member of the Concert Choir and Chamber Choir, and she serves as the Assistant Conductor, under the direction of Dr. Erin Colwitz. Along with this, she studies in the voice studio of Karen Young and the piano studio of Dr. Sarkis Baltaian. Currently, Bess is the Assistant Director and Accompanist of Huntsville Community Children's Chorus.



Maryanne Knupp (Chorus) Maryanne is in her third year at UAHuntsville as a Nursing major. She is a member of the UAHuntsville Concert Choir and Chamber Choir. She is excited to take part in an opera for the first time.



Noeleen Laughlin (Chorus) Noeleen is UAH Alumni of Spring 2006. She graduated with a double major in History and Music and works as a consultant for Booz Allen Hamilton. She has enjoyed singing and performing with a group again.



Sidney Simmons (Chorus) Sidney Simmons is a Mechanical Engineering major with aspirations of going to Broadway! He is currently a part of the UAHuntsville Concert Choir that will be heading to Italy this upcoming summer. This is his first performance on the stage as a chorus member with the music and theatre department and his very first opera. He's quite excited about all that's happening right now at UAH.



Sheldon Taffe (Chorus) Sheldon Taffe is a senior majoring in Vocal Performance. He has returned to his first love after enjoying a career in career Consulting and Engineering Recruiting. This will be his first opera performance and he is forever grateful that his dad insisted on playing Handel's *Messiah* on countless trips to and from school along the windy country roads of England. That experience laid the foundation of his love of classical music and he is ecstatic that music waited this long for him to return to it.



LeAnna Whitaker (Chorus) LeAnna Whitaker is in her third year at UAHuntsville where she is majoring in Choral Music Education. She is in the UAHuntsville Concert and Chamber choirs, both under the direction of Dr. Erin Colwitz. She is a voice student of Karen Young and is thrilled to have the opportunity to participate in her second production at UAHuntsville!



Nikki Shedd (Chorus) Nikki is in her third year at UAHuntsville studying Elementary Education and music. She is excited about participating in her second UAHuntsville production after participating in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* last year.



Daniel Walker (Chorus) Daniel is a freshman at UAH. He is majoring in Russian. Daniel is also an honors student at UAH. He was in the musical *Seussical* this past summer at the Princess Theatre in Decatur and has been in numerous other productions including; *Grease*, *High School Musical*, and *Pocahontas*.

