



PRESENTS

COSÌ FAN TUTTE

by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Providence, RI (April 25, 2011): Opera Providence, Rhode Island's premier opera company, is proud to present the fully staged production of *Così fan tutte* (*All Women are Like That*), by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and librettist Lorenzo Da Ponte, on Friday, June 3rd at 8 pm, Saturday June 4th at 8 pm, and Sunday June 5th at 3 pm at the Rhode Island Center for the Performing Arts, 848 Park Avenue, Cranston, Rhode Island.

Così fan tutte is a comic tale with serious undertones about love, fidelity, and deception, in which a scheme to test women's faithfulness starts out as a prank but ends up having bittersweet consequences. The opera will be sung in a new English translation prepared especially for this production by music director Paul Phillips and stage director Kathyrene Jennings.

Originally set in Naples, Italy, during the 18th century, the opera has been updated to take place in a luxury hotel in Naples, Florida, in the present day. In this new production, Don Alfonso, the "old philosopher" who sets the plot in motion, is the hotel's owner, while Despina, originally a maid, is the concierge. Fiordiligi and Dorabella, two wealthy sisters, are on vacation at the hotel with their fiancés, the soldiers Ferrando and Guglielmo, who have just returned from a tour of duty.

As the story opens, Don Alfonso challenges the soldiers' absolute trust in their lovers' faithfulness by proposing a wager, betting that he can demonstrate that the sisters will prove to

be untrue within a day if the young men follow his orders. Ferrando and Guglielmo readily accept, and, per Don Alfonso's instructions, hastily bid farewell to their tearful fiancés, claiming that they have been called back to active duty. Moments later, disguised as emissaries from "Fredonia", they return to pursue the heartbroken sisters. At first, Fiordiligi and Dorabella steadfastly reject the strangers, but, egged on by Despina, whom Don Alfonso enlists as his accomplice, they soon succumb, with each sister falling in love with the other's fiancé. Once Ferrando and Guglielmo realize their wise friend is right, Don Alfonso urges them to forgive the sisters and marry them anyway. The "old philosopher" reveals the deceptions to all, explaining that true happiness lies not in romantic illusions but in accepting women as they really are, since "all women are like that" – *Così fan tutte*.

The superb cast includes Diana McVey (soprano), a native Rhode Islander, as Fiordiligi, Megan Roth (mezzo soprano) as Dorabella, Juliana Tauschinger-Dempsey (soprano), as Despina, Michael Paul Krubitzer (tenor) as Ferrando, Ken Mattice (baritone) as Guglielmo, and Paul Soper (baritone) as Don Alfonso.

Kathryne Jennings, who served as Artistic Director for Opera Providence from 1998-2004, returns as stage director for this production. Paul Phillips, currently the Music Director of the Brown University Orchestra, will conduct a reduced orchestra for this production of *Così fan tutte*. Robb Dimmick and Everett Hoag are the set designer and costume designer respectively.

For tickets, call Opera Providence at 401-331-6060 or the RICPA Theatre box office at 467-7275. For further information, please visit our website at www.operaprovidence.org.

See Bios and Photos on following pages.

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