

WESTMONT MUSIC PRESENTS

L'ELISIR D'AMORE

(THE ELIXIR OF LOVE)

by Gaetano Donizetti



WESTMONT COLLEGE OPERA PRODUCTION
SPRING 2021

SYNOPSIS

ACT I

The Ringmaster, and uncle to circus performer Nemorino falls fatally ill leaving his fortune unbeknownst to his nephew as the opera opens. The circus troupe gathers in celebration in the Big Top as the lovesick Nemorino rapturously gazes at troupe's leading lady Adina. She is reading to the troupe of the magic love potion that made Tristan and Isolde fall in love. Adina emphasizes that, thankfully, there are now no more elixirs to bring the merry hearts of women into slavish dependency on love, like in the story of Tristan.

Nemorino sees no joke in the legend and wishes for a magical potion for his own hopeless situation with Adina. The dashing Sergeant Belcore arrives with his soldiers. He tries to win over Adina, who is amused but not impressed. The villagers tease Nemorino about his rival, but Nemorino renews his pursuit as soon as Belcore leaves. Adina respects the worthy Nemorino, but finds him a little dull. She tells him his interest in her is hopeless and he should go visit his sick uncle.

Dulcamara, a quack doctor, enters the empty village square with his wonderful collection of medicines. He distributes his cures to all imaginable ailments to the amazement and delight of the circus community. To Nemorino, Dulcamara is heaven-sent, and he immediately requests a love potion. The doctor loses no time in producing a bottle of wine, which he tells Nemorino is an elixir of love that will work within 24 hours. Nemorino gives Dulcamara his last coin and, as soon as the doctor leaves, drinks the entire bottle. The wine takes effect immediately and Nemorino begins to dance and sing, momentarily forgetting his problems with Adina.

Adina is astonished to see her love-sick Nemorino so happy. Believing that the love potion will do its magic in time, Nemorino pays no attention to Adina. This piques her so much that when Belcore returns and presses her for an immediate marriage because the troops are moving on, she consents to wed him in six days. Nemorino laughs loudly at this, which so enrages Adina that she sets the wedding for that very evening. At this, Nemorino sobers, fearing that the marriage will take place before the potion begins to work. He begs her for a delay, but Adina and the others only laugh at him and begin preparing for the wedding.

ACT II

The scene opens on hurried preparations for the wedding feast. The notary arrives and the wedding party leaves to sign the marriage contract. Nemorino laments to Dulcamara that the elixir did not work. Dulcamara obligingly produces another bottle of elixir, but Nemorino has no money with which to buy it. Belcore arrives and Nemorino desperately confides his misery to him. Ever on the lookout for new recruits, the sergeant suggests that Nemorino enlist, and tempts him with promises of immediate pay and renown. Nemorino signs the papers, takes his advance and quickly buys the second bottle of elixir.

The other circus performers have heard about the death of Nemorino's uncle, who has left all his money to Nemorino. The girls begin to flirt with Nemorino who, unaware of his uncle's death, thinks the love potion is beginning to work. When Adina sees him surrounded by pretty girls and finds out he has enlisted in the army, she sadly realizes she cares more for Nemorino than she had realized. Nemorino is moved with compassion at the sight of her tears.

Adina buys back Nemorino's enlistment papers from Sergeant Belcore and declares her love for Nemorino. Belcore bears the loss of Adina with the bravery of a soldier. Nemorino and Adina are told about the uncle's death and Nemorino's good fortune. Dr. Dulcamara credits his elixir of love for everything and as the curtain falls, he is relieving the villagers of their money in return for bottles of his wonderful elixir of love.



PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Director	Christina Jensen
Musical Director	Dr. Michael Shasberger
Vocal Director	Sara Rockabrand
Stage Manager/Follow Spot Operator	Faith German
Properties	Olivia Knapp
Costume Manager	Olivia Knapp
Lighting Assistant	Olivia Knapp
Rehearsal Pianist	Emma Wu
Orchestration	Daniel James

CAST

Adina	Jessica Lingua
Nemorino	Sibongakonkhe Msibi
Belcore	Justin Sharp
Dr. Dulcamara	Sean Ryan
Giannetta	Hailey Hoang
Ringmaster, uncle of Nemorino	John Butler

Chorus of Soldiers & Circus Members

Nathan Carlin (also cover for Belcore and Courier)

Sofia Christensen

Jared Clarke

Morgan Clarke

Katie Knapp (also cover for Giannetta)

Caleb Lambert

Joanna Martin

Simeon Michelson (also cover for Ringmaster)

Keegan Perez (also Notary)

Lillian Robinson

Zion Shih

Isaac Siebelink

Joy Sturges

Katie Ticas

ORCHESTRA

Violin

Junia Work, concertmaster
Elizabeth Callahan
Daniel Macy
Hannah Thompson

Flute

Andrea Di Maggio

French Horn

Carly Field

Viola

Christina Dubell

Oboe

Kirsten Potts
Chandler Baker

Harp

Julianne Jimenez

Cello

Brianna Gilman

Clarinet

Samila Aquino Holt
Karla Muñoz
Jordan Ogawa

Timpani & Percussion

Jazmin Gonzalez

Piano

Emma Wu

Bass

Ben Gillmer

Bassoon

Tasha Loh

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Digital Production Crew: Verité Studios

Timothy Eaton - Director
Erik Rodkey - Editor
John Butler - Audio Engineer
Chloe Eaton - Production Coordinator
Mike Braniger - Sound Recordist
Boris De La Torre - Set PA

Camera Operators:

John Butler
Erik Rodkey
Justin Usami

Center Stage Theatre

Teri Ball - Executive Director of Center Stage Theatre
Antonio Cruz Ventura - Technical Director
Kaede Kogo - COVID Compliance Officer and Assistant Technical Director

Music Department Staff

Keith Erickson
Mandy Kellogg

Westmont Orchestra Crew

Simon Janzen
Eliana Choi
Jared Clarke
Carly Fields
Jazmin Gonzalez
Joe Lorentsen
Daniel Macy
Zab Potter
Soren Warren

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Office of the Provost

VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO

Tim Morin for use of Dr. Dulcamara's cart
Jason Tavarez for helping to generate creative and safe logistical solutions

Christina Jensen

Christina Jensen (Westmont College '09) has directed throughout Southern California and North Carolina. She has been a guest director for the University of California, Riverside, the Resident Stage Director of Redlands Opera Theatre, and the Stage Director/Playwright for FCC Players. She earned her M.F.A. in Dramaturgy from the American Repertory Theater/MXAT Institute for Advanced Theatre Training at Harvard University. She has studied under world-renowned directors and worked with professional and student actors. She has participated in several world premieres, as well as new productions of classic literature.

The Elixir of Love will be her first professional collaboration with Westmont College, even though it is her second collaboration with Dr. Michael Shasberger. The first show she directed was under his guidance and musical direction. In the spring of her senior year, she staged an all-student production of *The Secret Garden*. The success of that show sparked her career.

Her credits include *Die Fledermaus*, *Don Giovanni*, *Snow Maiden*, *The Gipsy Princess*, *Roméo et Juliet*, *Eugene Onegin*, *Carmen*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Faust*, *HMS Pinafore*, *Apologies to Gilbert and Sullivan*, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *Così Fan Tutte*, *Aleko*, *Pygmalion*, *The Tempest*, and *As You Like It*. In all of her productions, Christina is committed to staying true to original plots and elevating facets embedded in the stories. In this manner, she brings a new voice to the production history and upholds her dramaturgical roots.

Dr. Michael Shasberger

Dr. Michael Shasberger is the Adams Chair of Music and Worship at Westmont College. He conducts the Westmont Orchestra and Opera, assists the campus pastor in coordinating the campus Chapel program, and serves as Chair of the Music Department. He is active as a singer and conductor, with considerable experience as a performer and conductor in opera, oratorio and musical theater, including conducting recent productions at Westmont such as *The Magic Flute*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Die Fledermaus*, *La Cambiale di Matrimonio*, *Dido & Aeneas*, and others.

Sara Rockabrand

Sara Rockabrand (Vocal Coach) earned degrees in Vocal Performance and Music Education at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ. After a 50 year career of performing and college teaching, primarily in Indiana and Illinois, she and her husband Bob retired to Santa Barbara in 2010. She has been teaching voice at Westmont since 2011 and loves working with the students in the Music Department.

Faith German

Faith German is a first-year who is planning on majoring in English and minoring in Theatre.

Olivia Knapp

Olivia Knapp is a first year student who has not yet distilled her interests into a major. This is her first time as a properties manager and costume assistant, following experience building props for productions of *Singin' in the Rain* and *Mythadventures: Five Greek Classics*. She is grateful to Dr. Michael Shasberger and Christina Jensen for providing this opportunity to explore the world of property management and construction and costuming. She is also very thankful for the encouragement and guidance from Faith German, and the excitement from the cast that makes costuming so exciting and rewarding. She is immensely grateful to her mom, grandma, and nana for teaching her how to sew, and for the endless encouragement and support her family has provided.

Emma Wu

Emma Wu is a first year student at Westmont. Currently, she's pursuing a double major in business economics and piano performance. In her free time, Emma enjoys reading, playing the violin, and surfing on YouTube. If you want to hear her play the piano, swing by the Prayer Chapel in the wee hours of the morning, and maybe you'll catch her!

Jessica Lingua

Jessica Lingua is a senior and a double major in Biology and Vocal Performance. She has performed leading roles in a total of 5 Westmont operas. Next fall, she plans to pursue a career in microbiology. She is thrilled to perform despite the challenges of COVID-19 and is deeply grateful for the support of her family, friends, houseplants, and coffee.

Sibongakonkhe Msibi

Sibongakonkhe Msibi is a tenor from the kingdom of Eswatini. He made his debut as Rinuccio on Gianni Schicchi in the Spring 2020. He will now be playing the role of Nemorino in the Elixir of Love Opera production this Spring all under the baton of Dr. Michael Shasberger.

Justin Sharp

Justin is a physics major/theatre minor whose hobbies include creating, presenting, and experiencing stories on the stage, screen, and page. He is excited to be playing a more nuanced and potentially sympathetic character in Belcore, juxtaposing his being a gracious if aggressive flirt to his previous role as Tobias Mill of the marriage contract, a man who just really wanted to sell his daughter. The mustache is back though, so that's exciting.

Sean Ryan

Sean Ryan is a first-year baritone from San Diego, CA. Since COVID-19 caused the cancellation of his role as Harold Hill in the Music Man, he was thrilled to be able to play Dulcamara, who is essentially the same character in a different show. He has appeared in other shows, musical and otherwise, such as the Wizard of Oz, High School Musical, and Arsenic and Old Lace. He would like to thank his voice teacher for the valuable training, his parents for their continuous support, and his Creator for his wonderful blessings.

Hailey Hoang

Hailey Hoang is a senior vocal performance major from Wailuku, Maui, and is super excited to bring Giannetta and Elixir of Love to life. This is her second opera, after playing Gheradina in Westmont's production of Gianni Schicchi last March. She's incredibly grateful for the experience of working with such fantastic people this year, but currently has no idea where her life is going after this.

John Butler

John Butler is a graduate of Westmont class of 2020. He didn't get a graduation ceremony but counts himself blessed to have been involved in the 2021 opera production. He plays the role of the ringmaster whose career ends suddenly in the beginning of the show. After he dies, he resurrects to operate D camera with Verite Studios for the rest of the production. Previous roles at Westmont include Falke (Die Fledermaus), Papageno (Die Zauberflöte), Slook (La Cambiale di Matrimonio), and Gianni Schicchi (Gianni Schicchi). He plans to pursue music performance, audio production, and film production.

Nathan Carlin

I am a 1st year Westmont student on the path to have a career in composing and singing Opera. My passion for music grew very strong when I was first introduced to it back in middle school. Ever since then, I have seen life in a whole different way. Every moment I have I just want to grow my knowledge on what it takes to be an opera singer. I want to be able to say I was able to perform on big stages when I am finished with my studies. I am so happy that I was given the opportunity to perform my very 1st opera and I can not wait until I can do more!

Sofia Christensen

Hi, I'm Sofia Christensen! I'm originally from Aptos California, and am currently a freshman at Westmont as an undecided major. I love writing and producing songs, doing yoga, being in nature, creating art, as well as singing, dancing, and acting, which we get to do a lot of in this production. This was my first time ever doing an opera, and the experience has been unlike any other... so intense and hard, while also filled with an abundance of magic moments and awesomeness. Many thanks to Dr. Shasberger, Miss Christina, Faith, Olivia, Emma, and the entire cast and orchestra for making this show possible, as well as the numerous people behind the scenes making everything run smoothly. We appreciate you greatly! We hope you like the show!

Jared Clarke

Jared Clarke is a 2nd semester Senior and this is his final performance at Westmont College as an actor. When he is not performing in operas he is a Composer and Musician. Check out his compositions at the Westmont Composer's Concert and if you want to hear his more contemporary music look him up on Spotify under the name "Lancelot". His hobbies include composing, watching cartoons, playing video games, and reading comic books!

Morgan Clarke

Morgan Clarke is a first-year undergraduate student at Westmont College. In her youth, her mother encouraged her to express herself through art. From the age of 10, she has been actively training the dance, singing, and theatre. In 2015 she made her official theatre debut with The John Cabot University production of 'The Bluest Eye' by Toni Morrison in Rome, Italy. For the past four months, she has been training in opera in preparation for her debut opera production of Westmont College's, 'The Elixir Of Love' by Gaetano Donizetti.

Katie Knapp

Katie Knapp is a first year student, pursuing a Religious Studies and Sociology double major. This is her debut opera performance following a handful of small roles in musicals including Singin' in the Rain and Rogers and Hammerstein's Cinderella. She is incredibly grateful for the work of Dr. Shasberger and Christina Jensen to create this opera-tunity to improve her vocal performance skills and to prepare herself to run off and join the circus when it next comes to town. She is also very thankful for the support and encouragement of her parents throughout all of her endeavors.

Caleb Lambert

Caleb Lambert is a freshman psychology major. Warning! Stage lights should not be pointed in his general direction. The lethal combination of his pale, reflective skin and unnecessary long body will likely blind any nearby observer. This is his first ever production and he looks forward to his very important role of enraged roustabout.

Joanna Martin

Joanna Martin is a third year Psychology major. Prior to joining the College Choir and taking voice lessons at Westmont, she sang with the Chamber Singers and Concert Choir at Santa Barbara City College, where she was selected to be in the Applied Voice program. Jo also spent four years in the Musical Theatre conservatory at Orange County School of the Arts in Santa Ana and has been a professional "singing princess" at holiday events and birthday parties throughout Santa Barbara County. Outside of her classes, Jo is a Capax Dei leader, an Orientation Committee member, and an Outreach Coordinator. In her free time, she enjoys writing her own music, being in nature, and spending time with friends. Getting to participate in such a lively opera with such a talented cast as a Lucille Ball-inspired clown has definitely been a highlight of her first year at Westmont.

Simeon Michelson

Simeon Michelson (Chorus) is in his first year at Westmont College and is thrilled to find himself starring in his own opera (or at least it sure seems that way to him; try to keep it secret that he's not the only one in the show). Simeon has been entertaining himself (and occasionally an audience or two) through theater for the past seven years. His dramatic escapades have included, most notably, the roles of Oberon in A Midsummer Night's Dream, Laurie in Little Women, and a trip to the ESU Regional Shakespeare Finals. Also, over quarantine he directed and produced a production of Prince Caspian. Much to the chagrin of his family and friends who are oft beleaguered by his infernal caterwauling, Simeon has managed to avoid any formal voice training throughout his seven years of theatre. One of his goals for college was to learn how to sing—and since he goes big or goes home, he thought the only appropriate way to start would be with the opera. In the remarkably few moments in which he is not dreaming up his newest character, Simeon can most likely be found running, catching grapes in his mouth, slaving away over his college textbooks, reminiscing about the good old days when he could read for 'fun,' playing games or pranks with his friends, laughing hysterically while pretending to read his college textbooks, or proclaiming Soli Deo Gloria.

Keegan Perez

Keegan Perez (Chorus) is grateful the opera is not in Italian. A Westmont Freshie, Keegan plans to double major in English and Music, as he wants to avoid financial success. This is his first opera, although he is constantly singing and consistently dramatic. Keegan can be found on social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Stalkernet.

Lillian Robinson

Lillian Robinson is an English major from San Diego, California. This is her debut performance. In her free time you can typically spot her wandering around welded to a book or sketching plant specimens that pique her interest. She enjoys Rogers and Hammerstein musicals, birds, and overdosing on black coffee. She is very excited to be talking in the third person and hopes to have many opportunities to do so again in future bios.

Zion Shih

Music at Westmont College has changed Zion Shih's life. She is grateful for the beautiful community and cornucopia of opportunities she has through Westmont's Music Department and is delighted to present *L'Elisir D'Amore* alongside the rest of the cast and crew. Gratitude abounds to Zion's family, friends, and teachers whose encouragement and support brought her here today.

Isaac Siebelink

Isaac Siebelink (chorus, *Dulcamara* cover) is thrilled to be making his vocal debut with the Westmont Opera after contributing to the opera orchestra for two years. He is a third year double majoring in Computer Science and Music. When he is not running around making music or studying, Isaac enjoys running or biking local trails, writing long-form fiction, and creating computer programs for fun.

Joy Sturges

Joy Sturges is a Freshman attending Westmont College, and is loving her experience here!! She plays the role of a Lion Tamer in the chorus, but has also been studying as the cover of the female opera lead Adina, which has been a wonderful opportunity!! Along with these roles, She has had the pleasure of taking part in her high school theatre productions as Glinda the Good Witch, the Narrator in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* as well Aunt Arvida in *Guys and Dolls*. She has been part of theatre productions for 5 years, and has also taken the stage as a dancer for 15 years. Joy is currently double major with plans to study in Music Vocal Performance as well Sociology and Anthropology. When not at opera practice or studying, you can find Joy singing and dancing wherever she goes, enjoying God's beautiful creations, and spending time with wonderful friends. She thanks her cast and crew for their hard work and for their love, grace, and kindness over these last few months as they have grown together in their faith and love of performance. Joy is also so very grateful to be part of such an amazing program, and hopes you enjoy the show!!

Katie Ticas

Katie Ticas is a soprano singer from Valencia, California. This is her first time performing in an opera and she is so thankful to her family for supporting her!

Junia Work

Junia Work is a senior at Westmont College majoring in Violin Performance. She is from Santa Barbara, and has participated in many local ensembles, including Santa Barbara Strings Youth Orchestra and the Santa Barbara Strings Honors Quartet. She has enjoyed playing in the orchestra and chamber music groups at Westmont, as well as participating in the pit orchestras of Westmont's *Magic Flute* and *The Elixir of Love* opera productions. She has studied with local teachers Mary Beth Woodruff and Kaori Atkins, and is currently taking lessons from Westmont faculty member Dr. Han Soo Kim.

Elizabeth Callahan

Elizabeth Callahan is a violinist in the opera orchestra. Elizabeth is pursuing a music education degree at Westmont College. She is very excited to participate in this fantastic program!

Daniel Macy

Daniel Macy is a first year student at Westmont, and very excited for his opera debut in the Elixir of Love. A violinist since the age of eight, Daniel will be joining the rest of the superb opera orchestra, in making the vibrant world of Donizetti come alive for audience and cast alike. Additionally, Daniel will be featured in the role of "Grumpy Old Man," (a serious departure from his typical role of grumpy young man). When asked about this shocking change in style, Daniel highlighted the importance of versatility as an artist, saying that he looked forward to expanding his dramatic horizons. Daniel would like to recognize the generous support of Dr. Rockabrand in supplying the cane upon which his character now leans.

Hannah Thompson

Hannah Thompson is a senior at Westmont, double-majoring in Music and English. She has played violin since age six (or maybe five), when she started on an instrument made out of a cake box and ruler, with a dowel for a bow. In her sophomore year of high school, she got up the nerve to audition for the SLO Youth Symphony's Concert Orchestra. She got in, and made some really good friends. Those friends were all going to college to be music majors, so she thought she might as well do that too. At Westmont she has studied with Dr. Han Soo Kim, and played in the Westmont Orchestra.

Christina Dubell

Christina Dubell is a double major in Engineering Physics and Music Performance. She is in her senior year at Westmont and is excited to be playing viola in this opera, rather than her usual instrument, violin.

Brianna Gilman

Brianna is a senior Behavioral Neuroscience major who has been playing cello for 12 years. This is her first time playing in an opera, though she has experience playing for musicals and plays in junior high and high school.

Ben Gillmer

Ben Gillmer was born in Arlington, Virginia, the firstborn of his family. He began playing string bass in fifth grade, and has played ever since. Ben likes movies and appreciates recommendations, if you have any.

Andrea Di Maggio

Andrea Di Maggio, flutist, is the Flute Faculty for Westmont College and a founding member of the faculty chamber group, Sonos Winds. She has college degrees from San Jose State University and the University of California, Santa Barbara, and has been teaching flute and recruiting Westmont students for many years now! She is delighted to play in the Opera Orchestra and work with students and colleagues on this amazing project in this unprecedented time!

Kirsten Potts

Kirsten Potts is a freshman at Westmont College studying physics and music. She has played oboe for six years, french horn for six months, and piano for eleven years. She had the privilege of performing in the orchestra for Where's Charley, Cinderella, and Bye, Bye, Birdie at Deer Valley High School. She would like to thank Westmont for the opportunity to perform in her first opera.

Chandler Baker

Howdy, I'm Chandler Baker. I am a freshman double majoring in Physics and Mathematics. I have been playing the clarinet for 8 years but decided to try something different and learned the oboe for this performance. Unfortunately, I was quarantined before the final cut so you won't see me in the orchestra. Regardless thank you to everyone who made this possible, it was a blast.

Karla Muñoz

Karla Muñoz is a freshman clarinetist in the Westmont Orchestra. She has been playing since 4th grade, and in high school, she also participated in the marching band. But this opera production was the first time she played in the pit, keeping up with other live performers. She was excited to be a part of the opera, and she will enjoy doing other performances such as these in the future.

Jordan Ogawa

Jordan Ogawa is a first-year biology major and clarinetist at Westmont College. She has been playing the clarinet since 4th grade, participating in her elementary and middle school bands. In her freshman year of high school, she played for the San Jose Youth Symphony. Jordan is very excited to be participating in Westmont's Opera production and hopes to continue in future years.

Tasha Loh

Natasha Loh, better known on campus as Tasha, is the bassoonist for Westmont's 2021 Spring Opera Program. She is also the principal bassoonist in the Westmont Orchestra despite being in her first year of college. She has studied Bassoon and enjoyed playing the instrument since the summer between her fifth and sixth grade years and has performed with various orchestras and ensembles including Hawaii Baptist Academy's Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Hawaii Youth Symphony's Concert Orchestra as well as Youth Orchestra II. Performing in the opera was an exciting and new opportunity for her to expand her musical capabilities as well as to display herself in a more professional environment. She, however, probably should work on being more professional as one can tell from her girly outfit as well as the bandaid on her right knee from crashing into a vanity in front of her castmates :D

Julianne Jimenez

Julianne Jimenez is a senior Music Performance Major with Harp as her principal instrument. She grew up in Los Angeles, CA where she first started playing the harp at 9 years old. Since then, Julianne has played with many different orchestra and ensembles, including Santa Barbara Youth Orchestra, UCSB's orchestra and the Spokane Symphony Orchestra. Julianne plans to continue her harp studies once she graduates at Westmont.

Jazmin Gonzalez

Jazmin Gonzalez is a first year at Westmont College. She is pursuing a B.S. major in Psychology with the pre-med track. She also hopes to attain minors in Art and Spanish and plans to continue with medical school to become a psychiatrist. She has been a part of a band or group of musicians through school for eight years and has experience in trumpet and percussion. She plans to continue with percussion for the Orchestra while also making time for bettering her trumpet, singing, and art design skills. Just like for this opera, she hopes she will be able to look back and say "I have accomplished the impossible".

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Apologetics are not only reserved for religious study. They also take an active role in the dramatic arts. It is often the role of the stage director to make an apology, a logical defense, for certain dramatic choices the original author made decades, even centuries, ago. This is particularly true in historic performance material like Donizetti's Elixir of Love.

I found myself having to make great apologies for Adina's snobby, snotty character. In the original text, Adina is a very wealthy landowner and is not shy about holding her social status over the other characters. Even with her social peer, Nemorino, she adopts a sneering, almost cruel attitude. I was driven to explain Adina as I chose a concept. I wanted to create a world in which a strict social structure made sense. Setting the opera in the hierarchy of circus life rendered both an emotional and a physical justification for Adina's character. Our circus was highly structured with the Ringmaster at the top, followed by high-flying acts (Adina), followed by the strongman (Belcore), followed by the magician (Dulcamara) and the fortune teller (Giannetta), followed by equestrian acts, dare-devils, and roustabouts (chorus ladies and men), with the clowns (led by Nemorino) bringing up the rear. Everyone knew their place based upon which circus act they represented. Therefore, it made sense for Adina, the mistress of the tight-rope, to figuratively look down upon the others. After all, she was only a step away from being in charge of the whole kit 'n caboodle. She also literally sneered down upon her fellow circus acts as she stood on her rope, high above them. Being often physically the tallest person under the big top gave a physical undercurrent of her "holier-than-thou" attitude.

However, she doesn't stay the circus' greatest smarty pants. She dramatically changes in Act II. She falls in love with the clown she previously scorned. But, this in itself does not cause the greatest dramatic shift in Adina. What revolutionizes her attitude and subsequent character is that she learns the subtext of effective leadership: self-sacrificial love. Nemorino emulates this truth in his quest for Adina's requited love. Nemorino willingly enlists in the army to earn the money he needs to pay for a final dram of Dulcamara's famous "love elixir." He sacrifices himself in a last ditch attempt to win Adina's affection. This radical, passionate act exemplifies Nemorino's character and everything that Adina lacks: self-sacrifice and true love. When she learns of his action, she at once repents of her previous cruelty and prepares herself to tell him her true feelings. With this shift in her own reaction to Nemorino, she realizes that like true love, compelling leadership starts with a servant's heart. She casts aside her hereto iron-fisted, power-grabbing, dictatorial way of "leading" the other circus performers and vows to redeem her relationships with everyone.

Her transformation is rewarded as Nemorino offers her the one thing she's always wanted, the opportunity to be Ringmaster. He gives up his inherited right to take over the circus from his Ringmaster uncle who died and gives the characteristic jacket and top hat to Adina. But, when she takes her final stance up on the Ringmaster's podium, she no longer focuses on the audience, but gazes lovingly down at Nemorino. She then continues her Scrooge-like redemption by sharing the wealth of her new-found position with the chorus, showering them with the gold they are due. The opera ends joyfully for Adina has changed for good. From now on, even though her head will remain the highest in the circus, when she descends from her podium, she will be emotionally grounded. She'll lead her colleagues in love. And she will do so without the benefit of Dulcamara's potent potion.



THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL MUSIC SUPPORTERS

Anonymous (3)
Mr. and Mrs. Craig and Pamela Adrain
Dr. and Mrs. Jim and Eleanor Allder
Ms. Kathleen Allie
Dr. and Mrs. Stan and Suzanne Anderson
Mrs. Jean Archer
Mr. and Ms. Richard and Vickie Ascolese
Mr. and Dr. Mark and Sharon Basham
Mr. and Mrs. Dave and Barb Biehl
Dr. Mary Blackwood Collier
Mr. and Ms. Hank Bowis and Maureen Doherty Bowis
Rev. and Ms. Kati and Peter Buehler
Chris Bunn
Mr. and Dr. Shane and Kristi Cantrell
Mr. and Mrs. Grayson and Catherine Carter
Dr. and Mrs. Francis and Mariel Chan
Dr. and Ms. Alister and Margaret Chapman
Dr. and Mrs. Stu and Cathy Cleek
Mr. and Mrs. Philip and Gina Cody
Mr. and Mrs. William and Nancy Bell Coe
Mr. and Mrs. Doug and Annette Coe
Mr. David Cooper
Mr. and Mrs. Matt and Carrie Corrigan
Mrs. Val Crane
Mr. and Mrs. Barry and Sally Cunningham
Mr. Don Davies
Dr. and Mrs. Paul and Dianne Delaney
Mr. and Mrs. David and Judy Denenholz
Mr. and Ms. Brett Dewey and Esther Calderon
Mr. and Ms. David and Diane Dodds-Reichert
Ms. Cristina Dudley
Ms. Laura Dunn
Mrs. Monica Eiler
Dr. Dave Eldred
Mrs. Bette Eldred
Mr. and Mrs. Ray and Sue Ellison
Dr. and Mrs. Bob and Chris Emmons
Mr. and Mrs. John and Helen Engstrom
Mr. and Mrs. Don and Tamara Erickson
Mr. and Mrs. Brooks and Kate Firestone
Ms. Lora Fisher
Ms. Margaret Friedman
Ms. Joanie Fritz
Mr. and Mrs. John and Wandalee Fullerton
Mr. Edward Gastaldo
Col. (Ret) and Mrs. John and Cheryl Gay
Mr. Daniel Gee
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony and Rhonda Gee
Mrs. and Mr. Mary Jo and David Gensemer
Mrs. Marilyn Gilbert
Dr. and Mrs. Kirk and Pamela Gilbert
Mr. and Mrs. James and Jeannie Gong
Mr. and Mrs. Gary and Jo Harris
Mrs. Marilyn Hayes
Mr. and Mrs. Nathan and Heidi Henes-Van Bergen
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Henke and Maria Henke Elswick
Mr. and Mrs. Carey and Nancy Hewitt
Dr. and Mrs. Kurt and Lynn Hildebrandt
Mr. and Mrs. Joe and Rosemary Hinz
Mr. Gerhart Hoffmeister
Mr. and Mrs. George and Tara Holbrook
Mr. and Ms. Michael and Christine Holland
Ms. Christina Hollister
Mr. and Mrs. Lou and Diane Horvath
Rev. Carol Houston
Mr. and Mrs. Gary and Elizabeth Hubbard
Ms. Emilee Hurlbert
Mr. and Mrs. Menno and Alice Isaac
Ms. Mary L Jannotta
Mr. and Ms. Paul and Pam Jepson
Mr. and Mrs. Valente and Jean Jimenez
Mr. Valente Jimenez
Ms. Elizabeth Jimenez-Scaggs
Mr. and Mrs. Tim and Karen Jobe
Mr. and Mrs. Duane and Judi Johnson
Mr. Zaiah Jones
Drs. Michio and Kari Kajitani
Mr. and Mrs. Edward and Martha Kaufman
Mr. and Mrs. Tobin and Darlena Kellogg
Dr. John Kennedy
Mr. and Mrs. Steve and Sara Kent
Mr. and Mrs. Kent and Susan Kim
Drs. David and Anne Kirkby
Mr. and Mrs. Lee and Diane Kirkpatrick
Mr. Bill Korchinski
Mr. and Mrs. Doug and Sue Kraemer
Mr. and Mrs. Donald and Sharon Lafler
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff and Wendy Lahr
Mr. and Mrs. Jon and Pam Laurie
Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Tracy Lingua
Dr. Bob Logan
Mr. and Mrs. Eric and Frances Loke

THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL MUSIC SUPPORTERS

Mr. and Mrs. Steve and Molly Long
Mr. and Mrs. Ben and Carol Luce
Dr. and Mrs. Gary and Marilyn Lucht
Mr. and Mrs. Calvin and Phyllis Marble
Mr. and Mrs. Paul and Sheri Marcantonio
Mr. and Mrs. John and Jean Martinis
Mrs. and Vivian and Lanny Mayberry
Mr. David McClure
Mrs. Amanda McIntyre
Mr. and Mrs. David and Patty Medina
Dr. Patricia Merrill
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory and Joyce Millikan
Mr. and Mrs. David and Juanita Mitchell
Mrs. and Mr. Patricia and Walter Moore
Drs. Assad and Kathy Mora
Mr. and Mrs. Forrest and Priscilla Mori
Dr. Paul Mori
Mr. and Mrs. Steve and Donna Musson
Mr. and Mrs. Tom and Vivian Nelson
Ms. Sharilyn Newquist
Mr. and Ms. Eric Oltmann and Susan Van Abel
Dr. and Mrs. Scott and Roxanne Packham
Ms. Audra Pearce
Dr. and Mrs. Dewayne and Faith Perry
Mr. and Mrs. Bob and Rose Pershe
Mr. LeeRoy Peterson
Mr. and Mrs. Erle and Caroline Pettus
Mrs. and Mr. Sarah and Kevin Pfister
Dr. and Mrs. Timothy and R'deen Phillips
Dr. Ed Potts
Mr. William Poulis
Ms. Rosemary Rafter
Ms. Mary Reeve
Mr. and Mrs. John and Debra Richards
Mr. and Mrs. Stefan and Christine Riesenfeld
Mr. and Mrs. James and Vicki Riley
Mr. and Mrs. Ian and Joyce Ritchie
Dr. and Mrs. Robert and Sara Rockabrand
Mrs. Eleanor Schmeling
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce and Barbara Scollin
Marjorie Shasberger
Ms. Rebecca Shasberger
Dr. and Mrs. Michael and Elizabeth Shasberger
Mr. Daniel Simon
Mr. and Mrs. Vitaliy and Toni Skovorodko
Ms. Taisa Skovorodko
Mr. and Dr. Scott and Sarah Skripsky
Mr. and Mrs. Ben and Maryann Spradley
Mr. and Mrs. Mid and Carol Squier
Mr. and Mrs. Randy and Elizabeth Starbuck
Dr. Bruce Stockin
Ms. D.J. Stout
Ms. and Mr. Stephanie Strausz and Ken Levy
Dr. and Mrs. Scott Stroming and Delisa West-Stroming
Ms. Paula Stussy
Ms. Beverly Sutherland
Rebecca Szerwo
Mr. and Mrs. Volker and Kristi Teller
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen and Melissa Thomas
Mrs. and Mr. Susan B and Ronald Thompson
Mrs. Jan Thornton-Cheveres
Mr. and Mrs. Don and Libby Toussaint
Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Diana Trautwein
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy and Lisa Tsuei
Drs. Gayle and Ruth Tucker
Mr. and Mrs. Glen and Debbie Tuscan
Mrs. Alice Van de Water
Ms. Cathee Vaughn
Ms. Carol Voorhis
Mr. and Mrs. Dan and Kathi Walker
Ms. Susette Warynick
Mr. Charles Weis
Mr. and Mrs. John and Eloise Westra
Ms. Victoria Williamson
Mr. and Dr. Tim and Jane Wilson
Dr. and Mrs. Paul and Doris Wilt
Mrs. Helene Winter
Mr. and Mrs. Ray and Zohreh Wong
Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Marsha Wooster
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce and Carolyn Wuest
Dr. and Mrs. Michael and Carolyn Yoder
Mr. and Mrs. Oliver and Diane Ziliotto
Sierra Presbyterian Church
Truro Anglican Church

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

