

Don Giovanni

(In Italian)

Opera in two acts by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte

Conductor
Erich Leinsdorf

Stage director
Herbert Graf

Chorus Master
William Tyroler

Incidental Dances by
Willam Christensen

Cast

Don Giovanni, a licentious young nobleman	Ezio Pinza
Don Pedro, the Commendatore	Lorenzo Alvary
Donna Anna, his daughter	Elisabeth Rethberg
Don Ottavio, her fiancé	Alessio de Paolis
Leporello, servant of Don Giovanni	Alexander Kipnis
Donna Elvira	Elsa Zebranska
Masetto, a peasant	George Cehanovsky
Zerlina, his betrothed	Margit Bokor

**San Francisco Opera debut*

PLACE AND TIME: Seventeenth Century; Seville

Monday, October 21, 1940, 8:00 PM

Act I, Scene 1 -- Courtyard of Palace of the Commandant
Scene 2 -- Street in Suburban Seville
Scene 3 -- In Don Giovanni's Palace
Scene 4 -- A Countryside
Scene 5 -- Ballroom in Don Giovanni's Palace
Act II, Scene 1 -- Same as Act I, Scene 2
Scene 2 -- A Dark Hallway
Scene 3 -- A Cemetery
Scene 4 -- Room in Donna Anna's Palace
Scene 5 -- In Don Giovanni's Palace

Notes

NB: Arthur Bloomfield's publication, 50 Years of the San Francisco Opera, notes that the 10/21/1940 Don Giovanni performance was supposed to star Tito Schipa as Don Ottavio, but bad weather delayed his arrival from Panama; Alessio de

Paolis went on instead. De Paolis did not sing the Act I aria "Dalla sua pace" and might have omitted the second act aria "Il mio Tesoro" as well.

Alfred Frankenstein's contemporary SF Chronicle review (10/22/1940) of the performance confirms this cast change as well as the skipped aria in Act I and likely in Act II - though Frankenstein admits he did not stay for the second act.

Corps de Ballet