

Le Nozze di Figaro
(The Marriage of Figaro)

1982

Wednesday, October 6, 1982 1:00 PM

Thursday, October 14, 1982 1:00 PM

Friday, October 22, 1982 1:00 PM

Monday, October 25, 1982 1:00 PM

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Publications Collection

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NEW PRODUCTION

OPERA IN FOUR ACTS BY WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

TEST BY LORENZO DA PONTE ENGLISH TEXT BY ANDREW PORTER

AFTER THE COMEDY BY PIERRE AUGUSTIN CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS

LE NOZZE DI FIGARO

IN ENGLISH

CAST

CONDUCTOR

RICHARD BRADSHAW

STAGE DIRECTOR

ROBIN THOMPSON

SET & COSTUME DESIGN

ZACK BROWN

LIGHTING DESIGNER

JOAN SULLIVAN

CHORUS DIRECTOR

RICHARD BRADSHAW

MUSICAL PREPARATION

MARK HAFFNER

MARTIN SMITH

PROMPTER

JONATHAN KHUNER

HARPSICHORD CONTINUO

RICHARD BRADSHAW

ASSISTANT STAGE DIRECTOR

PAULA WILLIAMS

STAGE MANAGER

GRETCHEN MUELLER

FIGARO

SUSANNA

DR. BARTOLO

MARCELLINA

CHERUBINO

COUNT ALMAVIVA

DON BASILIO

COUNTESS ALMAVIVA

ANTONIO

DON CURZIO

BARBARINA

PEASANT GIRL

JOHN DAVIES

EVELYN DE LA ROSA

CARL GLAUM

LUANA DEVOL

SUSAN QUITTMAYER

THOMAS WOODMAN

JEFFREY THOMAS

REBECCA COOK

GREGORY STAPP

ROBERT TATE

KATHRYN GAMBERONI

SHELLEY SEITZ

THE USE OF CAMERAS AND ANY KIND OF RECORDING EQUIPMENT IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN.

THE PERFORMANCE WILL LAST APPROXIMATELY THREE HOURS.

S Y N O P S I S

TIME AND PLACE: 18TH CENTURY; THE CHATEAU OF
COUNT ALMAVIVA OUTSIDE SEVILLE

ACT I A ROOM IN THE CHATEAU

INTERMISSION

ACT II THE COUNTESS' APARTMENT

INTERMISSION

ACT III A COURTYARD IN THE CHATEAU

NO INTERMISSION

ACT IV THE GARDEN OF THE CHATEAU

A C T I

THE APARTMENT ASSIGNED TO FIGARO AND SUSANNA. FIGARO IS ABOUT TO BE MARRIED TO SUSANNA, AND THE COUNT HAS ASSIGNED THEM QUARTERS CONVENIENTLY NEAR HIS OWN APARTMENT. WHEN SUSANNA SUGGESTS THE REASON FOR THIS, FIGARO IS AT FIRST CONCERNED: THEN HE REMARKS LIGHTLY THAT HE KNOWS HOW TO HANDLE HIS MASTER. THERE ARE OTHER COMPLICATIONS TO FIGARO'S MARRIAGE. HE HAS BORROWED MONEY FROM MARCELLINA AND SIGNED A CONTRACT PROMISING TO MARRY HER IF HE FAILS TO REPAY HER. DR. BARTOLO AND MARCELLINA ARRIVE DISCUSSING THIS CONTRACT AND THE BEST WAY OF IMPLEMENTING IT. SUSANNA, SUSPICIOUS OF MARCELLINA, MAKES HER FEELINGS KNOWN TO HER RIVAL. THEY EXCHANGE BITTER WORDS, AFTER WHICH MARCELLINA LEAVES IN A HUFF. CHERUBINO ENTERS LAMENTING THE FACT THAT THE COUNT IS ABOUT TO SEND HIM AWAY FOR EMBRACING BARBARINA. THE PAGE, HOWEVER, IS SECRETLY IN LOVE WITH THE COUNTESS. HE EAGERLY SINGS A LOVE SONG HE HAS JUST WRITTEN FOR ONE OF THE COUNTESSSES' RIBBONS NOW IN SUSANNA'S POSSESSION. WHEN THE COUNT ABRUPTLY APPEARS CHERUBINO HIDES BEHIND A CHAIR. DON BASILIO'S ARRIVAL SENDS THE COUNT BEHIND A CHAIR TOO. EVENTUALLY BOTH ARE DISCOVERED AND THE COUNT ANGRILY ORDERS CHERUBINO TO ENLIST IN HIS REGIMENT. FIGARO MOCKINGLY GIVES CHERUBINO ADVICE ON HOW TO BEHAVE AS A SOLDIER.

A C T I I

THE APARTMENT OF THE COUNTESS. THE COUNTESS LAMENTS THAT THE COUNT NO LONGER LOVES HER AND IS UNFAITHFUL. SUSANNA AND FIGARO CONTRIVE A PLAN TO REVIVE THE COUNT'S INTEREST IN HIS WIFE BY AROUSING JEALOUSY. THE COUNT WILL BE MADE TO DISCOVER A LETTER SEEMINGLY SENT TO THE COUNTESS; AT THE SAME TIME A RENDEZVOUS WILL BE ARRANGED IN WHICH SUSANNA WILL APPEAR DISGUISED AS THE COUNTESS. THEY ALSO PLAN TO MAKE THE COUNT LOOK RIDICULOUS BY HAVING HIM MEET SUSANNA AT A TRYST, WITH CHERUBINO DRESSED AS SUSANNA. CHERUBINO ENTERS THE APARTMENT THINKING ABOUT THE MEANING OF LOVE. HE IS DRESSED IN SUSANNA'S CLOTHES. AS THE COUNT APPEARS CHERUBINO IS HASTILY LOCKED IN A CLOSET. THE COUNT GOES SEARCHING FOR A CROWBAR WITH WHICH TO FORCE THE DOOR. WHILE HE IS GONE, CHERUBINO ESCAPES OUT THE WINDOW AND SUSANNA TAKES HIS PLACE. WHEN THE COUNT FINDS SUSANNA HE IS EFFUSIVE IN HIS APOLOGIES UNTIL THE GARDENER COMES TO TELL HIM THAT SOMEBODY HAS JUST JUMPED OUT THE WINDOW AND TRAMPLED THE FLOWER BED. THE GARDENER HAS ALSO FOUND A PIECE OF PAPER DROPPED BY THE CULPRIT -- CHERUBINO'S COMMISSION IN THE COUNT'S REGIMENT. FIGARO ASSUAGES THE COUNT'S SUSPICIONS BY INSISTING THAT HE HAD CHERUBINO'S COMMISSION IN HIS OWN POCKET, AND THAT HE IS THE MAN WHO JUMPED OUT THE WINDOW. MARCELLINA NOW ARRIVES TO DEMAND THAT FIGARO GO THROUGH WITH HIS BARGAIN TO MARRY HER.

A C T I I I

A HALL. THE COUNT, SEEKING A RENDEZVOUS WITH SUSANNA, THREATENS THAT HE WILL INSIST ON MARCELLINA AND FIGARO MARRYING IF SHE DECLINES. SUSANNA MAKES A PRETENSE OF YIELDING AND THE TWO ARRANGE A MEETING. BUT, NOTWITHSTANDING HIS AGREEMENT WITH SUSANNA, THE COUNT IS BENT ON PUNISHING FIGARO BY FORCING HIM TO HONOR HIS AGREEMENT WITH MARCELLINA. NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN BETWEEN MARCELLINA AND HER LAWYER, AND FIGARO AND THE COUNT, DURING WHICH THE ASTONISHING DISCOVERY IS MADE THAT FIGARO

IS ACTUALLY MARCELLINA'S LONG-LOST SON. THE OBSTACLE TO FIGARO'S MARRIAGE TO SUSANNA HAS THUS BEEN REMOVED. MEANWHILE, THE COUNTESS, ALONE, RECALLS THE TIME WHEN THE COUNT WAS IN LOVE WITH HER. WHEN SUSANNA ARRIVES, THE COUNTESS DICTATES A LETTER ARRANGING A RENDEZ-VOUS BETWEEN THE COUNT AND SUSANNA. THE COUNTESS DECIDES TO TAKE CHERUBINO'S PLACE IN THE AFFAIR -- IN OTHER WORDS, TO DISGUISE HERSELF AS SUSANNA. THE MARRIAGE FORMALITIES OF FIGARO AND SUSANNA ARE NOW TAKEN CARE OF. GUESTS ENTER TO THE STRAINS OF A MARCH. AFTERWARD, THEY DANCE A FANDANGO. THE COUNT, RECEIVING THE LETTER FROM SUSANNA, HAPPILY INVITES EVERYONE TO ATTEND A GALA CELEBRATION TO BE HELD LATER IN THE EVENING.

N O I N T E R M I S S I O N

A C T I V

THE GARDEN. SUSANNA AND THE COUNTESS APPEAR, EACH IN THE OTHER'S CLOTHING. FIGARO, WHO NOW BELIEVES (MISTAKENLY) THAT HIS BRIDE IS ABOUT TO YIELD TO THE COUNT, LURKS IN HIDING AND LISTENS TO SUSANNA SING AN INVITATION TO HER ABSENT LOVER. CHERUBINO IS ALSO IN THE GARDEN, SINCE HE HAS AN APPOINTMENT WITH BARBARINA. SEEING THE COUNTESS AND BELIEVING HER TO BE SUSANNA, HE ATTEMPTS TO STEAL A KISS. HE IS SENT PACKING BY THE COUNT, WHO NOW MAKES LOVE TO HIS WIFE UNDER THE APPREHENSION THAT SHE IS SUSANNA. TRYING TO AWAKEN THE JEALOUSY OF THE COUNT BY FLIRTING WITH THE COUNTESS, FIGARO LEARNS THAT THE COUNTESS IS REALLY HIS OWN WIFE IN DISGUISE. THE CONFUSION IS FINALLY RESOLVED, THE COUNT OBTAINS HIS WIFE'S FORGIVENESS AND THE ENTIRE GROUP ENTERS THE CHATEAU TO GET ON WITH THE CELEBRATION OF FIGARO'S MARRIAGE.