



MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC
UNDERGRADUATE OPERA THEATRE

Dido & Aeneas

Music by Henry Purcell

Libretto by Nahum Tate

Chun-Wei Kang, Music Director

A. Scott Parry, Director/Designer

TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2023 | 7:30 PM

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023 | 7:30 PM

GORDON K. AND HARRIET GREENFIELD HALL

WELCOME

Welcome to this evening's performance of *Dido & Aeneas*. We are thrilled to present members of MSM's Undergraduate Opera Theatre performing this important work. I am grateful to Chun-Wei Kang, music director, and A. Scott Parry, stage director, for preparing this production with our students – for many it's their very first opera production! *Dido & Aeneas* remains one of the most-performed operas in colleges and universities not only because of its flexible casting opportunities, but for its beautiful music and timeless story. I hope you enjoy the performance.

–Carleen Graham, Dean of Vocal Arts



**Council on
the Arts**

Manhattan School of Music's public programs are made possible in part by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

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Music by Henry Purcell

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Chun-Wei Kang, Music Director

A. Scott Parry, Director/Designer

Cynthia Gray, Production Stage Manager

Chanel Byas, Production Manager

Rachael Shane, Production Manager

Mariel Sanchez, Associate Production Manager

Christina Teichroew, Wardrobe Advisor

Emelia Petersen, Wardrobe Assistant

Jared Marshall, Dresser

The performance is approximately one hour long. There will be no intermission.

Performed in English

This performance is made possible by arrangement with
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THE CAST

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

*Dido, widowed
Queen of Carthage*

Elena Bimbiloska

Sophia Cristina Gorostiza

*Aeneas, Trojan hero
and demigod*

Richard Sanchez
(u/s Johannes Linneballe)

Richard Sanchez

*Belinda, Dido's sister
and confidant*

Madeleine Keane

Sofia Farrell

*Second Woman,
Dido's handmaiden*

Shuying Li

Jalynn Stewart

*Sorceress,
an ancient daemon*

Samantha Hilario

Cayenne Teeter

First Witch, her familiar

Yaoqing Wang
(u/s May Coppler)

Yaoqing Wang

*Second Witch,
her other familiar*

Nicole Eliev
(u/s Ying Wang)

Nicole Eliev

*Sailor, Aeneas's
second-in-command*

Mark Aleksandr Filatov
(u/s Johannes Linneballe)

Mark Aleksandr Filatov

*Spirit (Mercury),
the Sorceress's "trusty elf"*

Jiwon Kang
(u/s Jacquelyn Van Patten)

Jiwon Kang

Courtiers and Witches

May Coppler

Xinran Du

Vincenzo Fiorito

Sheng Qiao Hao

Roylan Marquez

Boosung Park

Jacquelyn Van Patten

Ying Wang

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When as an undergraduate vocal performance major I was initially introduced to *Dido & Aeneas*, considered by many to be the first “true” English opera, I was both daunted and thrilled by the extremely visceral nature of it. It is intrinsically kinetic in its highly rhythmic orientation, and well it might be as it was thought to have been initially composed for and performed at renowned dancing master Josias Priest’s school for gentlewomen. (Further research, however, suggests that this “first” production was likely a remount which included additional dances interspersed). In addition to this kinesthetic aspect, I was taken by Purcell’s brilliance for expressive word-painting which caused colorful images to swirl in my imagination.

Considering how to produce *Dido*, as I have a number of times over the last 30 years, I find inspiration in the works of mid-century American artist Mark Rothko and his unique color field “multiform” paintings. These visuals heavily influence our representation here of a “universalized” non-period suggestion of the denizens of Carthage. Correspondingly, our movement orientation is influenced not only by a sense of highly stylized Baroque gesture, but also by core concepts found in Dalcroze eurhythmics. The performers therefore have been tasked to tangibly represent much of the score’s musical underpinnings and to provide a visual link between their characters’ emotional and physical states.

The descent of Dido into her seemingly inevitable tragedy is as affecting today as it was in London almost 350 years ago, an enduring witness not only to Virgil’s immortal myth, but even more so to the truly stunning collaboration of the poet Tate with the towering musico-dramatic genius of Purcell. I’m quite certain that in another 350 years, this piece will continue to live on as a testament to the fragile, conflicted, yet enduring nature of the human struggle.

–A. Scott Parry

SYNOPSIS

Time: Immediately following the Trojan Wars

Place: Carthage, on the southern coast of the Mediterranean

Act One. *The Palace*

After the destruction of Troy, the murder of his wife, and the death of his father at sea, the Trojan prince and demigod Aeneas, at the command of his grandfather Zeus, has set sail to Italy to found a new empire, the future Rome, only to be blown off course by storms and to land on the coast of Tunisia at Carthage, a kingdom founded and ruled by the widowed Queen Dido (also known as “Elissa”). When Aeneas arrives at court with his crew, interrupting a mourning ceremony for Dido’s late husband, he captures the heart of the Queen, inspiring hope in the denizens of Carthage that their land could become the new Trojan Empire. Initially Dido resists the hero’s attentions because of the vow of fidelity she previously swore, but she is eventually persuaded by her sister and handmaiden to relent to her true desires.

Act Two, Scene 1. *The Cave*

While the newfound lovers are at the hunt, an ancient Sorceress and her minions conspire to rend the nascent union of the happy pair by conjuring up a storm to interrupt their prenuptial festivities. They hatch a plan to disguise one of their number as Mercury, the messenger of the gods, who will remind Aeneas of his destiny to restore the ruined Trojan Empire in Italy, forcing his immediate departure.

Act Two, Scene 2. *The Grove*

Members of Dido’s entourage perform a masque retelling the woeful myth of the goddess Diana and the hunter Actaeon: while bathing in her favorite spring, the goddess of chastity was intruded upon by the amorous Actaeon, and, surprised, turned him into a stag, which Actaeon’s own hounds hunted down and killed. Suddenly, the witches’ conjured storm arrives, sending Dido and her court in search of shelter. Aeneas is intercepted by the false Mercury and admonished to fulfill his destiny. Feeling himself compelled by the gods, the anguished Aeneas decides he will answer fate’s call.

Act Three. *The Ships*

The witches look on as Aeneas's crew readies their ships for departure. The Sorceress and her cohorts celebrate their success and decide to conjure yet another storm to besiege Aeneas on his journey to Italy. Aeneas visits the heartbroken Dido and her counselors, attempting in vain to defend his decision. Dido harangues and mocks him. He swears to ignore the gods' command and remain instead with her, but she sends him unswervingly away. Having now given up her new vow for Aeneas, Dido concludes she cannot survive with dignity or hope of future happiness intact. She pleads only for forgiveness and remembrance of her fate as she dies.

CAST

Elena Bimbiloska

Dido

BM antic. '24

Struga, North Macedonia

Student of Catherine Malfitano

May Coppler

Ensemble, u/s First Witch

BM antic. '24

Fostoria, Ohio

Student of Catherine Malfitano

Xinran Du

Ensemble

BM antic. '24

Beijing, China

Student of Joan Patenaude-Yarnell

Nicole Eliev

Second Witch

BM antic. '23

Miami, Florida

Student of Mignon Dunn

Sofia Farrell

Belinda

BM antic. '23

Harleysville, Pennsylvania

Student of Joan Patenaude-Yarnell

Upcoming: *Don Giovanni* (Zerlina),
La Musica Lirica

Mark Aleksandr Filatov

Sailor

BM antic. '23

Brooklyn, New York

Student of Chris Nomura

Vincenzo Fiorito

Ensemble

BM antic. '24

Queens, Ozone Park

Student of Dimitri Pittas

Sophia Cristina Gorostiza

Dido

BM antic. '24

Miami, Florida

Student of Ashley Putnam

Upcoming: *Suor Angelica* (Suor Dolcina),
Saluzzo Opera Academy

Sheng Qiao Hao

Ensemble

BM antic. '24

Heilongjiang, China

Student of Chris Nomura

Samantha Hilario

Sorceress

BM antic. '24

Ashtburn, Virginia

Student of Catherine Malfitano

Jiwon Kang

Spirit (Mercury)

BM antic. '24

Seoul, South Korea

Student of Mignon Dunn

Madeleine Keane

Belinda

BM antic. '23

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Student of Cynthia Hoffmann

Upcoming: Vocalist,
American Legion Band

Shuying Li

Second Woman

BM antic. '23

Shanghai, China

Student of Mary Dunleavy

Upcoming: *Don Giovanni* (Donna Anna),
Prague Estates Theater

Johannes Linnebalte

u/s Aeneas and Sailor

MM antic. '24

Copenhagen, Denmark

Student of Dimitri Pittas

Roylan Marquez

Ensemble

BM antic. '25

Miami, Florida

Student of Chris Nomura

Upcoming: Classic Lyric Arts, Italy,
Summer 2023**Boosung Park**

Ensemble

BM antic. '24

Busan, South Korea

Student of Mary Dunleavy

Richard Sanchez

Aeneas

BM antic. '23

New York, New York

Student of Cynthia Hoffmann

Upcoming: "Songs of the Great War and
the Lost Generation," MSM Senior
Recital, April 2023**Jalynn Stewart**

Second Woman

BM antic. '24

Brooklyn, New York

Student of Mary Dunleavy

Cayenne Teeter

Sorceress

BM antic. '24

Hartland, Michigan

Student of Ashley Putnam

Upcoming: *La Traviata* (Flora), Brevard
Music Center, North Carolina,
Summer 2023**Jacquelyn Van Patten**

Ensemble, u/s Spirit (Mercury)

BM antic. '24

Cranston, Rhode Island

Student of Catherine Malfitano

Yaoqing Wang*First Witch*

BM antic. '24

Wuhan, China

Student of Ashley Putnam

Ying Wang

Ensemble, u/s Second Witch

BM antic. '24

Shenzhen, China

Student of Harolyn Blackwell

ORCHESTRA**VIOLIN 1****Bangjun Xia***Astoria, New York*

Student of Lucie Robert

VIOLIN 2**Benjamin Hudak***San Francisco, California*

Student of Isaac Malkin

VIOLA**En-Hui Hseih***Kaohsiung City, Taiwan*

Student of Isaac Malkin

CELLO**Yu-Sheng Tu***Kaohsiung City, Taiwan*

Student of Phillippe Muller

HARPSICHORD**Chun-Wei Kang***Taitung City, Taiwan*

CREATIVE TEAM

A. Scott Parry, Director/ Designer

With over 125 productions encompassing an expansive range of repertoire from *Così fan tutte* to *West Side Story*, A. Scott Parry's direction has been hailed by *Opera News* as "marvelous," "lively," "imaginative," and "spot-on." He has worked with such companies as New York City Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, and Dallas Opera to name only a very few. He designed and directed the world premières of Monteverdi's *I lavori d'amore persi* for the Bloomington Early Music Festival, and Chesky's absurdist opera *The Pig, the Farmer, and the Artist* for the NY Fringe Festival at La Mama off-Broadway. Mr. Parry spent a decade on the directing staff of New York City Opera at Lincoln Center; served on the faculty of Indiana University in Bloomington; and was a recurring visiting professor at the New England Conservatory, Peabody Conservatory, and Amherst College, in addition to spending 10 years as Producing Artistic Director of the Ohio State Opera & Lyric Theatre in Columbus. He currently serves on the faculties of MSM and NYU and is the Stage Director/Acting Coach for Dolora Zajick's Institute for Young Dramatic Voices and the American Wagner Project.

www.ascottparry.com

Chun-Wei Kang, Music Director

Chun-Wei Kang has performed in concerts both as soloist and ensemble performer throughout the United States, Canada, and East Asia. She has appeared on PBS Sunday Arts in a showcase for rising young opera singers. She has won several awards and scholarships, including the Gwendolyn Koldofsky Memorial Award for "a musician who demonstrated outstanding professionalism in collaborative piano." Ms. Kang has served as staff pianist/coach in the National Music Competition in Taiwan, the Canadian Provincial Festival, the Centro Studi Italiani Opera Festival, the Summer Opera Program in Tel Aviv, and the International Vocal Arts Institute (New York, Virginia, Puerto Rico, and Montreal). At MSM, Chun-Wei Kang was Music Director for the Junior Opera Theatre directed by Catherine Malfitano from 2019 to 2022. She also served as Music Director for the Opera Role Preparation Workshop directed by Mignon Dunn from 2010 to 2017, and as Assistant Music Director for *The Tailor of Gloucester*. In addition, she was instrumental in starting two summer music

programs in Taiwan and Singapore and was both artistic director and faculty member from 2016 to 2019. Ms. Kang has worked with internationally acclaimed masters such as Anne Epperson, Nico Castel, Marilyn Horne, Warren Jones, Joan Dornemann, and Paul Nadler.

Cynthia Gray, Production Stage Manager

Cynthia Gray is an award-winning actor and writer. Ze has appeared in several films, TV shows, theatre productions, commercials, and more. Hir writing has been published in *Burnt Pine Magazine*, *The Wire Dream Magazine*, and the *Strand Zine* and hir scripts have been produced into films and plays that have been shown in festivals worldwide. This is hir first production as a stage manager.

UPCOMING OPERA THEATRE EVENTS

MSM GRADUATE OPERA THEATRE

Broadway Babies

Carolyn Marlow, Director

Shane Schag, Music Director

APR 21, 2023 | FRI

7:30 PM

Miller Recital Hall

MSM GRADUATE OPERA THEATRE

The Cunning Little Vixen

MUSIC & LIBRETTO BY LEOŠ JANÁČEK

Kirk Severtson, Guest Conductor

Dennis Whitehead Darling, Director

APR 27, 28, & 29, 2023 | THURS – SAT

7:30 PM

APR 30 | SUN

2 PM

Neidorff-Karpati Hall

MSM UNDERGRADUATE OPERA THEATRE

L'incoronazione di Poppea

MUSIC BY CLAUDIO MONTEVERDI

LIBRETTO BY GIOVANNI FRANCESCO BUSENELLO

Jackson McKinnon, Conductor

Chloe Treat, Director

MAY 4 & 5 | THURS & FRI

7:30 PM

The Riverside Theatre

For more information, visit [MSMNYC.EDU/PERFORMANCES](https://msmnyc.edu/performances)

OPERA AT MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Manhattan School of Music opera productions have been praised as a significant contribution to operatic life in New York City, and numerous performances have been released as commercial recordings. Opera is a significant feature of the vocal performance experience at MSM. All voice students participate in ensembles, and opera experience is available through a rich variety of opera-related programs and courses.

Graduate students develop their artistry under the guidance of eminent artist-teachers, while gaining exposure before New York City audiences through the many performance opportunities MSM offers. Productions each year include two full operas with orchestra on the Neidorff-Karpati stage; a new fall opera scenes series; a new fall chamber opera-level production; a fall Opera Workshop to hone audition and professional skills; a new spring Opera in Concert collaboration with the MSM Symphony Orchestra; a workshop of a new work or a workshop performance of a one-act opera; and a Musical Theatre Lab.

Juniors and seniors participate in a fall opera scenes program that explores a wide variety of styles and languages while developing important artistic and collaborative skills. In the spring, they audition to appear in a fully staged production with chamber orchestra, or in a one-act opera or cabaret-style performance with piano.

MSM PERFORMANCE AND PRODUCTION OPERATIONS

Madeline Lucas Tolliver, Dean of Performance and Production Operations

Instrumental Ensembles

JT Kane, Dean of Instrumental Studies and Orchestral Performance

Matthew Ward, Manager of Percussion Operations and the Contemporary Performance Program

Hunter Lorelli, Large Ensembles Manager

Edward Gavitt, Small Ensembles Manager

Julia Bravo, Instrumental Ensembles Associate

Hannah Marks, Instrumental Ensembles Associate

Opera and Musical Theatre

Christina Teichroew, Managing Director

Kathryn Miller, Assistant Managing Director

Josi Petersen Brown, Ensembles Manager

Performance Library

Manly Romero, Performance Librarian

Piano Technical Services

Israel Schossey, Director

Richard Short, Assistant Director

Victor Madorsky, Performance Tuner/Technician

Hide Onishi, Chief Concert Technician

Production

Derrick Byars, Director of Production

Matthew Stewart, Associate Director of Production

Chanel Byas, Production Manager, Opera and Musical Theatre

Lorena Peralta, Associate Production Manager, Opera and Musical Theatre

Mariel Sanchez, Associate Production Manager, Opera and Musical Theatre

Lamont Concepcion, Associate Production Manager

Andres Diaz Jr., Production Supervisor
Pamela Pangaro, Production Coordinator
Tyler Donahue, Production Coordinator
Dash Lea, Production Coordinator
Eric Miller, Production Coordinator
Patrick St. John, Production Coordinator
Cassandra Deveau, Costume and Wardrobe Supervisor
Adanne Spencer–Johnson, Associate Costume and Wardrobe Supervisor
Stefano Brancato, Props Supervisor
Rachael Shane, Props Coordinator
Matt Leabo, Associate Props Coordinator
Baker Overstreet, Associate Props Coordinator
Justin Perkins, Associate Props Coordinator
Joshua Groth, Production Management Assistant
Jacob Poulos, Production Management Assistant

Scheduling and Patron Services

Ramon Tenefrancia, Manager of Scheduling and Patron Services
Clayton Matthews, Scheduling and Patron Services Associate
Gileann Tan, Scheduling and Patron Services Associate
Veronica Mak, Head House Manager

The Orto Center for Distance Learning and Recording Arts

Chris Shade, Director
David Marsh, Distance Learning Program Manager
Grace Leckey, Recording Services Manager
Mohit Diskalkar, Network Systems Engineer
Dan Rorke, Chief Recording Engineer
Kevin Bourassa, Recording Engineer
Johnathan Smith, Recording Engineer
Mie Hirschfield, Recording Engineer
Graceon Challenger, Chief Maintenance Technician

ABOUT MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Founded as a community music school by Janet Daniels Schenck in 1918, today MSM is recognized for its more than 1,000 superbly talented undergraduate and graduate students who come from more than 50 countries and nearly all 50 states; its innovative curricula and world-renowned artist-teacher faculty that includes musicians from the New York Philharmonic, the Met Orchestra, and the top ranks of the jazz and Broadway communities; and a distinguished community of accomplished, award-winning alumni working at the highest levels of the musical, educational, cultural, and professional worlds.

The School is dedicated to the personal, artistic, and intellectual development of aspiring musicians, from its Precollege students through those pursuing doctoral studies. Offering classical, jazz, and musical theatre training, MSM grants a range of undergraduate and graduate degrees. True to MSM's origins as a music school for children, the Precollege Division is a highly competitive and professionally oriented Saturday music program, dedicated to the musical and personal growth of talented young musicians ages 5 to 18. The School also serves some 2,000 New York City schoolchildren through its Arts-in-Education Program, and another 2,000 students through its critically acclaimed Distance Learning Program.

Your gift helps a young artist reach for the stars!

To enable Manhattan School of Music to continue educating and inspiring generations of talented students and audiences alike, please consider making a charitable contribution today.

Contact the Advancement Office at 917-493-4434 or visit giving.msmnyc.edu

Land Acknowledgment

We want to acknowledge that we gather as Manhattan School of Music on the traditional land of the Lenape and Wappinger past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. This calls us to commit to continuing to learn how to be better stewards of the land we inhabit as well.



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