

**Chelsea Opera Group**  
**8<sup>th</sup> November, 5.00 pm**  
**Cadogan Hall**

**Helena Dix**, soprano  
**Catherine Carby**, mezzo soprano  
**Christopher Turner**, tenor  
**Julien Van Mellaerts**, baritone

**Gary Matthewman**, conductor  
**Orchestra of Chelsea Opera Group**

---

**Programme**

**Mozart**      **Overture: *Don Giovanni***

In Mozart's re-telling of the Don Juan legend, the hero is ultimately dragged down to Hell by the statue of his murder victim – a terrifying scene evoked in the chilling opening bars of the Overture.

**In quali eccessi, O Numi... Mi tradì quell'alma ingrata**

Donna Elvira, *Don Giovanni*  
(Helena Dix, soprano)

Seduced and abandoned by Don Giovanni, Elvira is intent on revenge, but she cannot subdue her feelings for him as she foresees his terrible downfall.

**Dalla sua pace la mia dipende**

Don Ottavio, *Don Giovanni*  
(Christopher Turner, tenor)

A masked man attempted to rape Donna Anna and then murdered her father; she has just realised that the perpetrator was Don Giovanni. Her fiancé, Don Ottavio, promises to avenge her. His peace of mind depends on hers; he cannot be happy if Donna Anna is unhappy.

**Hai già vinta la causa!... Vedrò mentr'io sospiro**

Count Almaviva, *Le nozze di Figaro*  
(Julien Van Mellaerts, baritone)

The Count is trying to seduce his wife's maid, Susanna, on the night of her wedding to his valet, Figaro. He has just discovered a plot to thwart his plans, and he is furious.

**Parto, parto, ma tu, ben mio**

Sesto, *La clemenza di Tito*  
(Catherine Carby, mezzo soprano)

Sesto (Sextus) loves the scheming Vitellia, who has ordered him to kill his friend, the virtuous Roman emperor Titus. Sextus is at first unwilling, but to placate her he will do whatever she wishes.

**O voto insano, atroce!... Vedrommi intorno l'ombra dolente**

Idomeneo, *Idomeneo*  
(Christopher Turner)

In return for being rescued from a storm at sea, King Idomeneo had vowed to sacrifice to Neptune the first living creature he met on land. Tragically this was his son, Idamante. Regretting his terrible vow, Idomeneo imagines himself haunted by the grieving spirit of his dead son.

**O smania! O Furie!... D'Oreste, d'Aiace ho in seno i tormenti**

Elettra, *Idomeneo*  
(Helena Dix)

Princess Elettra (Electra) had hoped to marry Idomeneo's son Idamante; seeing him betrothed to another, she gives vent to furious rage and suicidal despair.

**Soave sia il vento**

Fiordiligi, Dorabella, Don Alfonso, *Così fan tutte*  
(Helena Dix, Catherine Carby, Julien Van Mellaerts)

The sisters Fiordiligi and Dorabella, along with Don Alfonso, watch their soldier fiancés apparently sail off to war, as part of a plot devised by Alfonso to test the girls' fidelity. They pray for favourable winds and a calm sea.

- - -

**Donizetti Overture: Don Pasquale**

This sparkling Overture sets the mood of Donizetti's comic opera, which deals with an irascible old man's doomed attempt to marry a high-spirited young wife.

**Verdi La donna è mobile**

Duca, *Rigoletto*  
(Christopher Turner)

Women are inconstant as a feather on the breeze; if you trust them, you'll be sorry. Yet we can't live without their love.

**Bellini Casta diva**

Norma, *Norma*  
(Helena Dix)

The Druid High Priestess Norma calls on the chaste Moon Goddess to turn her unclouded face to the worshippers below, cool the ardour of fiery hearts, and spread her peace over the earth.

**Oh! Di qual sei tu vittima**

Norma, Adalgisa, Pollione, *Norma*  
(Helena Dix, Catherine Carby, Christopher Turner)

Norma has discovered that the father of her children, the Roman proconsul Pollione, is now in love with the priestess Adalgisa, who has asked to be released from her vows so that she can be with him. Norma tells Adalgisa that she is the victim of a cruel deception. Adalgisa is horrified; Pollione begs Norma not to reproach him.

**Or dove fuggo io mai?... Ah! Per sempre io ti perdei**

Riccardo, *I Puritani*  
(Julien Van Mellaerts)

Riccardo had been promised Elvira's hand in marriage, but discovers that she is marrying someone else. Distraught, he laments that he has lost the flower of his love for ever; his hopes are at an end.

**Donizetti Il segreto per esser felici (Ballata)**

Maffio Orsini, *Lucrezia Borgia*  
(Catherine Carby)

The secret of happiness, whatever the weather, is to joke and drink and laugh at fools who worry about the future. We needn't care about tomorrow, but should just enjoy today.

**Verdi Bella figlia dell'amore**

Gilda, Maddalena, Duca, Rigoletto, *Rigoletto*  
(Helena Dix, Catherine Carby,  
Christopher Turner, Julien Van Mellaerts)

Gilda believed that the Duke of Mantua loved only her, but she looks on in horror – accompanied by her father, Rigoletto – as the Duke turns his powers of seduction on Maddalena, a potential new conquest.