DIDO & AENEAS

OPERA BY HENRY PURCELL

MUS 32VM and MUS 96C collaboration project

Thursday, June 5th, 2025 – 7:00 pm

Conrad Prebys Music Center Experimental Theatre

DIDO & AENEAS PLOT

Dido, Queen of Carthage, recently fled her homeland after the murder of her husband. Having earned her people's respect for her loyalty and leadership, she now faces a profound internal struggle when Aeneas, a Trojan prince, arrives on her shores seeking refuge for his displaced people. While Aeneas offers the prospect of love and a strengthened alliance, Dido is torn between preserving her late husband's memory and embracing a new future. Her hesitation deepens as she weighs the personal and political consequences of her decision.

Encouraged by her sister Belinda and reassured by Aeneas' promise to defy destiny, Dido reluctantly accepts him as her lover. But their union is disrupted when a scheming Sorceress plots to separate them. She sends an elf disguised as Mercury to command Aeneas to continue his journey to Latium. The next day, as Dido and Aeneas celebrate a hunting outing, a sudden storm separates them, allowing the disguised elf to deliver the order. Aeneas, torn between duty and love, prepares to leave, but is filled with regret.

In her palace, Dido confronts the pain of betrayal. Aeneas returns, offering to stay, but Dido, deeply hurt, rejects his change of heart and demands that he leave. As Aeneas departs, Dido succumbs to despair, taking her own life. Her tragic choice reflects her internal struggle, leaving a haunting legacy as Aeneas sails away, burdened by the consequences of their fateful love.

PERFORMERS:

Dido: Amelia Mardesich
Aeneas: Noel Garcia
Belinda: Samantha Cooke
Sorceress: Carly Villongco
Witch 1: Charisse Chua
Witch 2: Kayla Doan
Second Woman: Zoey Graziano
First Sailor: Yuhan Leng
Spirit: Jose Siono Gutierrez

Supporting actor & Dido cover:
Emma Price
Carjanae Evans
Supporting actor & Aeneas cover:
Adam Bissett
Kit Chan
Supporting actor & Belinda cover:
Annika Bastin
Sarah Richards
Supporting actor & Witch 2 cover:

CHOIR SOPRANOS:
Chu, Nicollette
Franco, Sophia
Mo, Tianxin
Nguyen, Jade
Pagdilao, Samantha
Templeton, Addison
Underhill, Kathleen
Wellington, Kenzie
Xiaomei, Li
Yao, Yi

CHOIR ALTOS:
Canoglu, Peri
Cenal, Casey
Mackenna Daum
Laura Flores
Guerra, Madisongrace
Guo, Amy
Herrera-Meza, Daniela
Hu, Joanna
Hu, Chris
Ji, Yiwen
Lozano, Maai
Li, Xiaomei
Mitchell, Danielle
Moon, Michaela
Niednagel, Anika
Nikuzwe, Camilla
Pless, Sophia
Purcell, Madison
Selitsch, Dillan
Su, Rachel

CHOIR TENORS:
Harris, Kal
Smith, John
Zhou, Shuokun
Tran, Brandon
Yang, Jiatao
Zhu, Alex

CHOIR BASSES:
Cheng, Ash
Kim, Taerin
Rodriguez, Israel
Wang, Kevin
Washington, Benjamin
Zhao, Hongyang
Zhu, Yinda

STRING QUARTET:
Violin 1: Isaac Padilla
Violin 2: Alexandra Huryn
Viola: Beth Holub
Cello: Eric Moore

CREATIVE TEAM, AND PRODUCTION:
Production Advisor: Susan Narucki
Artistic and Stage Director: Miguel Zazueta
Assistant Director and Choir Conductor: Mariana Flores Bucio
Music Director: Dr. Kyle Adam Blair
Production Supervisor: Victoria Petrovich
Projection Designer: Abigail Miranda
Costume Designer: Anabel Olguín
Light Designer: Jessica Flores

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