

Opera Course: Exploring the Classical Era: Mozart and Beethoven

Four Mozart operas and Beethoven's only opera *Fidelio*

Instructor: Erika Reitshamer

All classes take place on Tuesdays from 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

October 3 – October 31, 2023



October 3, 2023
1:30 pm

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

The Marriage of Figaro

This is Mozart's first mature foray into opera buffa (comic opera). It is also his first collaboration with the librettist **Lorenzo da Ponte**. The story deals with 18th century social struggles between lower class servants and their aristocratic masters, and the intrigues in their relationships complicated by sex, rivalries, jealousies and revenge. Cast: Erwin Schrott, Miah Persson, Gerard Finley, Dorothea Röschmann, Rinat Shaham.



October 10, 2023
1:30 pm

Don Giovanni

Many have considered Mozart's Don Giovanni "the opera of all operas." Don Giovanni (Don Juan) is the portrait of a man you love to hate. He is sometimes either scandalous or endearing. There is a cold heart behind his masquerade of obsessive sexuality and amorous adventures. Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte. Cast: Peter Mattei, Gilles Cachemaille, Mirelle Delunch, Alexandra Dehorties, Nathan Berg, Gudjon Oskarsson, Lisa Larsson.



October 17, 2023
1:30 pm

Così fan tutte (All women act like that)

Così is the perfect ensemble opera. A cynical old philosopher, Don Alfonso, is chatting with two young men who are boasting about their girlfriends. Alfonso makes a bet with them that young women can't be faithful to their fiancés for 24 hours. Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte. Cast: Erin Wall, Elīna Garanča, Stéphane Degout, Shawn Mathey, Barbara Bonney, Ruggero Raimondi.



October 24, 2023
1:30 pm

The Magic Flute

This opera is a wonderful fairy tale story, complete with dragons, demons, a handsome prince and a lovely maiden in need of rescue. It is also a political satire, with social commentary. It is the work of a dying composer whose profoundly lyrical and witty music is unique. Cast: Will Hartmann, Dorothea Röschmann, Simon Keenlyside, Diana Damrau, Franz-Josef Selig.



October 31, 2023
1:30 pm

Ludwig van Beethoven

Fidelio

The opera moves from Singspiel with spoken dialogue to melodrama. It was first called: "Leonore or the Triumph of Marital Love." The plot is a conventional rescue scenario. Fidelio's real name is Leonore, her husband is unjustly imprisoned by a political enemy. She disguises herself as a young man, gets a job as assistant jailer and frees her husband. Cast: Gundula Janowitz, Lucia Popp, Hans Sotin, Manfred Jungwirth, René Kollo.

This course is offered either via Zoom or in-person!

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Questions: Contact the COA at 508-651-7858 or email

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