



Mozart

Così fan tutte

Pacific Opera Victoria

April 2010

Activity Guide

Dear Educator,

Pacific Opera Victoria is proud to present *Così fan tutte*: a story complete with pining lovers, silly schemes and outrageous disguises. It is an honest look at the pain and joy of growing up. Youthful certainty discovers the complexity of real life as the young people learn about love and their own hearts.

Mozart's sense of the ridiculous and the profound, his genius for melody and ensemble writing, and his sensual music will make this opera a treat for your students! We know you'll enjoy the Victoria Symphony under the direction of Maestro Timothy Vernon.

Check out our website at www.pov.bc.ca/cosi.html for inside information about *Così fan tutte*. Please suggest that your students take advantage of our website. The more your students know about the production, the more they will enjoy it!

A special welcome to our **Club Opera** members! I know this will be a rich experience for you and your students.

See you at the opera!

Andrew Snyder

Education and Outreach Coordinator

Così fan tutte- My Thoughts

Pacific Opera Victoria

April 13, 2010

Conducted by Timothy Vernon

**This activity can be done by simply attending the opera!*



Reviewed by: _____

The Artists

Description of Character

Description of Voice

The Artists		Description of Character	Description of Voice
Charlotte Corwin Fiordiligi			
Lauren Segal Dorabella			
Antonio Figueroa Ferrando			
Stephen Hegedus Guglielmo			
Michèle Bogdanowicz Despina			
Doug MacNaughton Don Alfonso			

The Scenes	Drama Star Rating	Music Star Rating	Design Star Rating
Opening Scene My Thoughts:	1-2-3-4-5	1-2-3-4-5	1-2-3-4-5
The boys go off to war My Thoughts:	1-2-3-4-5	1-2-3-4-5	1-2-3-4-5
The boys return in disguise My Thoughts:	1-2-3-4-5	1-2-3-4-5	1-2-3-4-5
Act I Finale My Thoughts:	1-2-3-4-5	1-2-3-4-5	1-2-3-4-5
Act II Finale My Thoughts:	1-2-3-4-5	1-2-3-4-5	1-2-3-4-5

The set was designed by Elli Bunton who also was a designer for the opening and closing ceremonies for the Vancouver 2010 Olympics!

Re-draw her set design below! What did you most enjoy about the set?

My compliment to the director, François Racine, would be.....

My favourite part of Così fan tutte was....

My favourite part of the opera was...

Say who?

Don Alfonso, Despina, Dorabella, Fiordiligi, Guglielmo and Ferrando...

Good luck with these names! They can certainly be intimidating to English speakers, but they don't have to be!

Here is a pronunciation guide! Read the broken down names below as an English speaker and be amazed at how you have suddenly been transformed into a native Italian! To sound even more authentic, make sure you put emphasis on the capital letters found in each name.

Così fan tutte: coh-ZEE fahn TOO-teh

Dorabella: dora-BEL-ah

Don Alfonso: don al-FON-so

Fiordiligi: fee-yor-dee-LEE-gee

Despina: des-PEE-nah

Guglielmo: gul-YEL-mo

Ferrando: fer-RAN-doh

Try writing these common Italian words into everyday English as was done above! Not sure if you were successful? Ask a partner to read it out for you! The first one is done for you.

Pizza: PEE-tsah

Latte: _____

Espresso: _____

Panini: _____

Gelato: _____

Pepperoni: _____

Spaghetti: _____

Cello: _____

Diva: _____

Finale: _____

Gondola: _____

Mafia: _____

Fiasco: _____

Personality and *Così fan tutte*





Opera characters have personality! Which of our four young lovers is the closest to your personality?

Study the following personality traits and identify which column you identify with the most and place a 1 at the bottom of that column. Continue to rank the columns with a 2, 3 and 4 (four being the LEAST like you). Take your time to figure out which group of characteristics is MOST like you!

Column #1	Column #2	Column #3	Column #4
Respect Authority Prepare for all possibilities Punctuality Manage Money carefully Plan Ahead One thing at a time Dependable Belonging Being useful Sharing jokes	Nurtures people Good listener Promote harmony Imaginative and creative Establishes relationships Earnest Expresses enthusiasm Interaction Co-operation Romantic	Clever wit and humour Intelligence Competence Asks Questions Problem Solver Analyzes Situations Logical Individual Accuracy Thinking confidently	Entertaining people Variety Fun Getting immediate results Competition Risk taking Looking on the bright side Living in the moment Being spontaneous Making deals

Ranking: _____

Even though we only have the libretto to go by, below you'll discover which of the four young lovers in *Così fan tutte* matches your personality the closest!

Character's Name	Character's Personality	If your highest ranking is
Fiordiligi	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Values Loyalty -Sense of duty --Steady -Conscientious -Strong sense of right and wrong 	Column #1 ...your personality is closest to Fiordiligi's
Dorabella	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Variety -Being spontaneous -Lives in the moment "Seize the day" -Learns by doing and experiencing 	Column # 4 ...your personality is closest to Dorabella's
Ferrando	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Believes in love -Being romantic -Sincerity -Forgiving -Sharing special times with loved ones 	Column #2 ...your personality is closest to Ferrando's
Guglielmo	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Expresses the logical point of view -Intelligent and clever -Confident -Opinionated 	Column #3 ...your personality is closest to Guglielmo's

Matchmaker: If you had to play matchmaker, who would you put together based on personality?

Aria Serious? Listening to the arias in Così Fan Tutte!

Aria- a·ri·a

1. A solo vocal piece with instrumental accompaniment, as in an opera.
2. An air; a melody.

Aria literally means “air” in Italian.

This is a piece of music composed for one singer (soloist), usually with instrumental accompaniment. Arias allow the singers to explore their feelings and thoughts. Arias are often challenging and are an essential part of an opera. Often, the opera singers you are watching successfully auditioned with a number of arias for Pacific Opera Victoria!

In *Così fan tutte*, the arias are often sung to other people. Each of the characters sings an aria in both Act I and Act II. Their second aria either shows a change in character or is a natural extension of their first.



Don Alfonso: Aria I: His first aria, characterized by rests, is meant to sound breathless. Essentially he is telling the two women that their boyfriends have been called to serve in war and it is meant to sound agitated and short as he delivers the bad news.



At the end of the opera, once the ladies have fallen for the other ‘Albanian’ men, he has a very quick and short aria. Each syllable of this phrase has its own chord, separated by rests which emphasizes his point. He is essentially saying, “See? All woman are like that! I told you”.





Despina: Aria I: Mozart often showed lower status by giving these characters meter of 6/8 time which works perfectly for this witty servant girl. Her message? Men are deceitful and woman should pay them back!



Aria II: In Despina's second aria in 6/8 time, Despina explains certain tricks that any woman can use to make men fall in love.



Dorabella: Aria I: Dorabella, forever dramatic, is very upset when she learns that the love of her life needs to go off to war! In her first aria, Dorabella shows her dramatic grief. All of the disconnected phrases showing her breathlessness, creates this over-the-top aria "Smanie implacabili".



Aria II: She has now taken up 6/8 time meter (like Despina), showing the audience that she was the first to fall for the handsome Albanian men. She sings "E amore un ladroncello" which translates as "Love is a little thief".



Fiordiligi: Aria I: Fiordiligi shows everyone that she is a rock. She explains that she will remain loyal and true. This aria is actually poking fun at opera seria of the day with the wide leaps and triplet passages.



Aria II: Fiordiligi sings an apology aria to her fiancé in "Per pietà, ben mio perdono" which translates to, "Have pity, my love, forgive". The melody descends showing her guilt and shame. It has only been 24 hours and she has fallen in love with a new man.





Guglielmo: Aria I: Tries to charm the two ladies in the aria, “Non siate ritrosi” which is “Do not be shy”. This leads into a laughing trio when the ladies reject them because the two men believe they have won the bet with Don Alfonso!

Aria II: He sees Dorabella easily succumb to his advances. Ferrando is clearly upset and Guglielmo addresses the audience explaining how woman treat men badly in “Donne mie, la fate a tanti” which means “Dear Ladies, you deceive so many”.



Ferrando: Aria I: Ferrando is very pleased in “Un ‘aura amorosa” or “A breath of love” that the girls have resisted the initial advances of the Albanians.

Aria II: The aria “Tradito, schernit” which translates as “Betrayed, scorned” is Ferrando’s second aria. The first part he sings in a minor key where he expresses his hurt and abandonment. In the second part of the aria, he sings in the parallel major key where he confesses his everlasting love for his original love Dorabella.

io sen - to che an-co - ra quest' al - ma l'a - do - ra,
 io sen - to che an-co - ra quest' al - ma l'a - do - ra,

1. Which aria are you most excited to hear? Why?
2. If you had a choice, which character’s arias would you most like to sing? Why?
3. What elements of the arias make them so challenging?

THINK ABOUT IT!

Recall: Recollect facts, figures and concepts of *Così fan tutte*.

Split your students into six groups. Give each group a large piece of paper and a marker. Assign each group to write in big, bold letters, one of the following titles: **Characters/Voice, Setting/Time Period, Set and Costume Design, Opera Atmosphere, Costumes** and **Plot**. Have the students recall every detail that they can brainstorm for two minutes on their given topic. After two minutes, the students switch clockwise to the next sheet of paper. They must be careful to only add to each list. Hang the sheets up and use them to spring board a discussion about their opera experience. Encourage the students to remember facts.

Women are like that! Is this opera sexist? This opera is translated into English as, *Thus Do all Women* or *Women are like that* or *The School for Lovers*. It seemed to not offend the Viennese culture in 1790, but it was rarely performed in the 19th and early of the 20th century because it was considered to be frivolous and amoral.

Free Think: Students will enjoy starting the class with a discussion of the production of *Così fan tutte*. What did they like? Did anything surprise them? What would they like to see or hear again? What would they have done differently? Facilitate the conversation and allow freedom for the conversation to head where it needs to.

Opera Buffa: Why is this opera considered a comedy? What makes this opera intentionally absurd?

Soul Mates: At the beginning of the opera, Fiordiligi and Guglielmo were together along with Dorabella and Ferrando. After the disguises, Fiordiligi and Ferrando were together and Guglielmo pursued Dorabella. At the end of the opera, who do you think should end up together? Should the opera end with the original couples or the new couples? Give reasons to support your point of view.

Journal: How do you think the woman truly felt about the prank pulled by their men? How did the two ladies feel at the end of the opera? What effect did the switching have on the men? Did the joke prove anything or just create a lot of hurt and mistrust?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Così fan tutte Word Find

Find the following words in the word find below!

ALFONSO, BARITONE, BASS
 DESPINA DORABELLA FERRANDO FIORDILIGI GUGLIELMO
 KARYN LIBRETTO MEZZO MOZART ORCHESTRA POV SOPRANO TENOR

A	Z	J	U	X	R	C	H	E	D	F	M	B	M	D	E	I	R	K	Q	
J	L	P	W	R	U	K	O	N	U	A	K	T	I	E	L	J	O	O	L	
J	A	L	J	F	J	R	D	O	G	P	Z	L	X	U	D	K	N	O	P	
X	G	L	E	L	E	F	X	T	G	O	S	D	I	V	S	H	E	S	S	
T	O	M	A	B	F	E	K	I	F	U	E	P	B	B	W	V	T	C	O	
N	R	N	E	K	A	R	U	R	Y	A	G	G	V	A	R	D	X	D	P	
K	C	R	A	Q	M	R	M	A	L	T	F	H	P	O	S	E	Q	D	R	
E	H	R	V	A	F	A	O	B	X	K	W	E	F	T	P	S	T	D	A	
L	E	N	M	W	O	N	S	D	Y	S	E	I	R	E	O	P	Z	T	N	
U	S	Z	W	N	F	D	I	A	L	F	O	N	S	O	S	I	I	Z	O	
J	T	G	D	R	Y	O	M	J	Z	R	S	J	M	H	Y	N	K	K	O	
U	R	Z	U	K	B	R	Y	O	D	M	C	U	I	U	T	A	M	G	M	
O	A	T	N	G	R	J	A	I	S	Q	N	U	I	V	Y	N	E	F	M	
X	Q	I	S	I	L	P	L	K	L	Z	T	X	Z	R	B	I	Y	M	D	
A	V	K	Y	P	M	I	L	Q	I	N	U	D	B	A	Z	R	T	T	K	
M	T	R	E	N	G	P	E	I	H	M	X	G	O	L	D	H	E	M	R	
L	K	D	B	Q	D	Q	Z	L	F	F	H	D	R	W	S	V	E	I	P	
Y	M	U	Q	P	R	Q	B	E	M	F	N	X	T	R	A	Z	O	M	D	
X	A	P	V	B	C	I	W	T	F	O	M	Q	V	A	Z	S	T	V	V	
H	S	D	F	H	W	W	D	E	V	W	F	U	R	O	D	I	W	S	N	

Send your completed word find to:

Andrew Snyder
 Education and Outreach Coordinator
 1815 Blanshard Street, Suite 500, Victoria, BC, V8T 5A4

The first 10 received will get a special opera surprise!

Teacher's Comments

Your comments and suggestions are greatly appreciated. Please take a few minutes to fill out this questionnaire and return it to the address below. Thank you for your comments and suggestions.

Name: _____ School: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax: _____ Grade(s) you teach: _____

Email: _____ Subjects: _____

Have you attended other arts events with your students in the past year? Yes No

If yes, what were they? _____

Were you able to use the Teacher's Study Guide and Activity Guide in your classroom activities before attending the opera? Yes No

If not, please elaborate: _____

If so, which sections of the Study Guide and Activity Guide did you find most useful?

How appropriate was the information provided in the Guides? _____

What would you add/delete?

Did you spend classroom time discussing the performance after your students attended the opera?
 Yes No

Do you have any comments about the performance itself?

Would you like to receive information on our future Student Dress Rehearsals? Yes No

How would you like to receive information? Fax Email Letters Other

Please return this form to:

Pacific Opera, 1815 Blanshard Street, Suite 500, Victoria, BC V8T 5A4 Fax: 250.382.4944

Or scan and email to asnyder@pov.bc.ca