Performances Friday, July 26 and Monday, July 29 at 7:30 p.m.

Chautauqua Opera dedicates this performance to the Chautauqua Opera Guild. The generosity of Guild members comes to us in so many ways – the Adopt-An-Artist program, master classes, Operalogues, Young Artist scholarship awards and their incredible enthusiasm. The entire company thanks you for your love and support.

**Falstaff**

Music by **Giuseppe Verdi** • Libretto by **Arrigo Boito**

English Translation by **Andrew Porter**

**CREATIVE AND PRODUCTION**

**Conductor**
James Meena

**Conceived/Directed by**
Jay Lesenger

**Chorus Master**
Carol Rausch

**Set Designer**
Ron Kadri

**Lighting/Video Designer**
Michael Baumgarten

**Costume Designer**
B. G. FitzGerald

**Wig/Makeup Designer**
Georgianna Eberhard

**Coach/Accompanists**
Emily Jarrell Urbanek
Dorothy Randall

**Diction Coach/Supertitles**
Allison Voth

**Technical Director**
Erin Waters Ryan

**Properties Master/Scenic Artist**
Tricia L. Thelen

**Production Stage Manager**
Teri Jo Fuson

**Assistant Stage Director**
Alison Moritz

**Assistant Stage Managers**
Melissa Futch
Susan Stephenson

**Concertmaster**
Vahn Armstrong

Andrew Porter (English Translation), born August 26, 1928, in Cape Town, South Africa, is a British music critic, scholar, organist, and opera director. His writings for The New Yorker (1972–1992) won respect from leading figures in the musical world. The composer and critic Virgil Thomson stated, “Nobody reviewing in America has anything like Porter’s command of [opera].” In more recent years he has written for The Observer and The Times Literary Supplement. He has translated 37 operas, of which his English translations of Der Ring des Nibelungen and The Magic Flute have been widely performed. He authored the librettos for John Eaton’s The Tempest and Bright Sheng’s The Song of Majnun.

Special Thanks to Suzanne Shull and Special Studies Guitar Classes for the use of their guitar.

**CAST**

**At the garter inn**

Sir John Falstaff, Knight of the Garter
Kevin Glavin

Bardolph, a follower of Falstaff
Aaron Short+

Pistol, a follower of Falstaff
Jonathan Harris+

Innkeeper
Adam Barta+

Innkeeper’s Wife
Emily Spencer+

Robin, Falstaff’s Page
Beck Benson

**In the neighborhood**

Ford, a wealthy townsman
Michael Chioldi

Alice Ford, his wife
Amy Burton**

Nanetta, their daughter
Mandy Brown+

Fenton, beloved of Nanetta
Jon Jurgens+

Dame Quickly, Nanetta’s Godmother
Jennifer Roderer**

Meg Page, a neighbor
Ellen PutneyMoore+

Dr. Caius, suitor for Nanetta
Ethan DePuy+

**Townspeople of Windsor**

Chautauqua Opera Young Artists

**Fairies and Goblins**


**Ford’s Servants**

Max McKee, Shawn Sprankle, Frank Witgen

**After The Merry Wives of Windsor by William Shakespeare**

Premiere Performance Teatro alla Scala, Milan, February 9, 1893

Chautauqua Opera Performances 1987, 1995 and 2001
SYNOPSIS:
THE TALE OF THE MERRY WIVES

Place: Windsor, England, and the neighborhood
Time: The Reign of Queen Elizabeth I

Act I
Scene 1 — The Garter Inn, early morning
Scene 2 — Outside Ford’s house, later that morning

Act II
Scene 1 — The Garter Inn, that afternoon
Scene 2 — Ford’s House, just from two until three

Act III
Scene 1 — Outside the Garter Inn, sundown
Scene 2 — Windsor Forest, midnight

Sir John Falstaff is a knight who has fallen on hard times. He is being fleeced by his avaricious retainers, Bardolph and Pistol; he has been accused of robbing Dr. Caius while the physician was drunk; and worst of all, he is in danger of losing his beloved paunch for lack of funds to supply it with food and drink.

He sees his salvation in the fortunes of two wives from Windsor—Alice Ford and Meg Page. Believing that they, separately, have shown more than a passing interest in him, he writes to each of them declaring his love, with the intention of gaining control of their money and of cuckolding their husbands.

Mistress Ford and Mistress Page each receive Falstaff’s request for an assignation. The women are outraged by his audacity. With the help of the Widow Quickly and Alice’s daughter Nanetta, they resolve to teach him a lesson he will never forget.

Against her wishes, Nanetta has been promised in marriage to the wealthy Dr. Caius by her father. Nanetta is truly in love with Fenton, a young gentleman with whom she whispers quotes (in Italian!) from Boccaccio’s Decameron: “A mouth, once kissed, never loses its freshness; Rather, like the moon it renews itself.” The Merry Wives determine to prevent a wedding with Caius from ever taking place.

The jealous Ford, having learned of Falstaff’s plans from the ousted Bardolph and Pistol, disguises himself as a certain “Master Brook” to confirm his wife’s infidelity.

Audacious knights and foolish husbands meet their match at midnight in Windsor Forest under the haunted Herne’s Oak...

— Jay Lesenger, Stage Director
CHAUTAUQUA OPERA ORCHESTRA

Violins I
Vahn Armstrong
   Concertmaster
David Hult
   Assistant
Concertmaster
Erica Robinson
Lenelle Morse
Olga D. Kaler
Amanda Armstrong

Violins II
Simon Lapointe, Principal
Mary Whitaker, Assistant
Margaret Cooper
Lara Sipols

Violas
Jennifer Stahl, Principal
Connie Lorber, Assistant
Eva Stern

Cello
Jeffrey Szabo, Principal
Daryl Goldberg, Assistant
Marie Shmorhun

Basses
Owen Lee, Principal
Peter Haas, Assistant

Flutes
Kathryn Levy
Travis Jones (Piccolo)

Oboes
Joan Wright
Jason Weintraub
(English Horn)

Clarinet
Jerome Simas
Daniel Spitzer

Bassoon
Jeffrey Robinson
Stephen Smith

Horns
Donna Dolson
William Bernatis
Charles Waddell
Bruce Hennis

Trumpets
Peter Lindblom
Leslie Linn

Timpani
Brian Kushmaul

Percussion
Thomas Blanchard

Harp
Beth Robinson

CREDITS
Andrew Porter’s English translation is used by arrangement with the translator.
Orchestral reduction by James Meena.
Orchestral materials provided by Opera Carolina.
Scenery constructed by Virginia Scenic, a division of Virginia Opera.
Lighting provided by Advanced Production Group.
Costumes for Falstaff provided by Malabar Ltd.
and the Chautauqua Opera costume shop.
Wigs provided by Philip Plowman.

Peter Grimes, Part II, Scene 6 (from left: David Kravitz, Elizabeth Baldwin, Beck Benson, Kevin Ray)  Photo: Roger Coda
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