

La Traviata

Music by **Giuseppe Verdi** • Libretto by **Francesco Maria Piave**

Performance Saturday, July 9 at 8:15 p.m.

Premiere Performance La Fenice, Venice, 1853
Recent Chautauqua Opera Performances 1994, 2001, 2008

Chautauqua Opera dedicates this performance to Jay Lesenger, General/Artistic Director 1994–2015. Jay led this company for almost one quarter of its 88 years, and solidified its international reputation as a professional company of the highest standards. He had a profound influence on the careers of hundreds of America's finest singers through Chautauqua Opera's Young Artist Program, which grew immeasurably during his tenure. The dedicated music, administrative and production staff that returns to Chautauqua Opera year after year is a testament to Jay's leadership, and the culture of operatic family he instilled at this company's core.

– Steven Osgood

CAST

Violetta Valery

Caitlin Lynch+

Alfredo Germont

Dominic Armstrong+

Giorgio Germont, *Alfredo's father*

Todd Thomas**

Gaston, *Viscount of Letorières*

Dennis Shuman*

Baron Douphol, *Violetta's patron*

Heath Martin*

Flora Bervoix, *Violetta's friend*

Rachael Braunstein*

Marquis D'Obigny, *Flora's patron*

Brian James Myer*

Doctor Grenvil

Hans Tashjian*

Annina, *Lady's maid to Violetta*

Abigail Rethwisch*

Giuseppe, *a gardener*

Lorenzo Miguel Garcia*

Head Butler

Frank Rosamond*

Commissioner

Jake Skipworth*

Patrons and Ladies of the Demimonde

Chautauqua Opera Young Artists

Livery

Reagan Ellis

Loren Reash-Henz

+ Chautauqua Opera Debut
* 2016 Chautauqua Opera Young Artist
** Former Chautauqua Opera Young Artist

CREATIVE AND PRODUCTION

Conductor

Steven Osgood

Stage Director/Choreographer

Keturah Stickann

Assistant Director

Cara Consilvio

Chorus Master

Carol Rausch

Set Designer

Ron Kadri

Lighting/Video Designer

Michael Baumgarten

Costumer

B. G. FitzGerald

Wig/Makeup Designer

Martha Ruskai

Coach/Accompanists

Dorothy Randall

Diction Coach/ Supertitles

Emily Jarrell Urbanek

Technical Director

Allison Voth

Properties Master/Scenic Artist

John P. Woodey

Stage Manager

Kate Brittingham

Assistant Stage Managers

Catherine Costanzo

Anna Reetz

Cressa Amundsen

Patricia Garvey

Vahn Armstrong

Concertmaster

CREDITS

Orchestral materials furnished by David Carp

Scenery constructed by Local #266 I.A.T.S.E

Lighting provided by Advanced Production Group

Costumes supplied by Malabar, Ltd., Toronto

Wigs provided by Martha Ruskai



Keturah Stickann



Caitlin Lynch



Dominic Armstrong



Todd Thomas

SYNOPSIS

Act I – Violetta's Paris salon, Fall, 1850

In the midst of a party to celebrate her recovery from illness, the Viscount Gaston introduces Violetta to his friend, Alfredo Germont, who has long adored her from afar. Alfredo offers a toast and is joined by Violetta and her guests. As the party moves to a nearby room for dancing, Violetta falls ill and remains behind. Alfredo expresses his concern for her fragile health and declares his love. At first she rejects him, but there is something about Alfredo that touches her heart. Before leaving, she gives Alfredo a camellia, telling him to return to her when it has wilted. After Alfredo and the guests depart, Violetta wonders if Alfredo could actually be her true love. However, she concludes that she needs total freedom to live her life.

-Intermission-

Act II, Scene I – Violetta's country house outside Paris, three months later

Violetta has abandoned her former life and now lives with Alfredo, who exuberantly declares that being with Violetta is like living in heaven. Violetta's maid, Annina, arrives from Paris and, when questioned by Alfredo, tells him that she went there to sell Violetta's possessions to support their lifestyle. Alfredo is shocked and leaves for Paris immediately to settle matters himself. Violetta returns and receives an invitation from her friend, Flora, to a party in Paris that evening. At the same time, Alfredo's father, Giorgio Germont, enters and demands that she break off her relationship with his son for the sake of his family's honor. She responds that she cannot end the relationship because she'll die without Alfredo, but eventually gives in to Germont's insistence in order to save his relationship with his family. Germont leaves with a new found respect for Violetta's grace and selflessness. Violetta gives a note to Annina to send to her former lover, the Baron Douphol, asking to accompany

him to Flora's party, and, as she is writing a farewell letter to Alfredo, he enters. Barely controlling her grief she tells him of her unconditional love before departing. On the road, Violetta hands the letter to a messenger to bring to Alfredo. As soon as Alfredo reads the letter, his father returns and attempts to comfort him. Alfredo is unmoved, and suspecting the Baron Douphol is behind Violetta's abandonment, rushes off to confront her.

Act II, Scene II – Party at Flora's house in Paris, later that evening

As Gaston and his friends arrive to put on a skit for the party-goers, Flora finds out that Violetta and Alfredo have separated. Alfredo arrives alone and begins to gamble. Violetta arrives shortly after, with the Baron, who joins Alfredo at the gambling table. Violetta gets Alfredo alone, and begs him to depart before the Baron challenges him to a duel. Alfredo first demands that she admit that she loves the Baron, and to save him she makes the false admission. Alfredo is furious and publicly humiliates Violetta. Germont enters and, knowing the real significance of the scene, denounces his son's behavior.

-Intermission-

Act III – Violetta's Paris apartment, three weeks later

Doctor Grenvil tells Annina that Violetta will not live long since her illness has worsened. Violetta reads a letter from Alfredo's father telling her that the Baron was only wounded in his duel with Alfredo, that he has informed Alfredo of her sacrifices, and that he is sending his son to ask for forgiveness. The lovers are soon reunited and dream of a life together in Paris. A regretful Germont enters with the doctor. With a last moment of joyful ecstasy, Violetta collapses and dies in the arms of Alfredo.

CHAUTAUQUA OPERA ORCHESTRA

Violin I

Vahn Armstrong, *Concertmaster*
David Hult, *Assistant concertmaster*
Erica Robinson
Cheryl Bintz
Lenelle Morse
Marian Tanau
Olga Kaler
Ming Gao
Anton Shelepov
Adrienne Finet

Violin II

Diane Bruce, *Principal*
Simon Lapointe, *Assistant*
Barbara Berg
Marcia Steel
Cynthia Berginc
Lara Sipols
Karen Lord-Powell
Jonathan Richards

Viola

Christopher Fischer, *Principal*
Cynthia Frank, *Assistant*
Jennifer Stahl
Eva Stern
Connie Lorber
Karl Pedersen

Cello

Lars Kirvan, *Principal*
Jeffrey Szabo, *Assistant*
Marie Shmorhun
Daryl Goldberg
Gena Taylor
Peter Anderegg

Bass

Patricia Dougherty, *Principal*
David Rossi, *Assistant*
Peter Haas
Caitlyn Kamminga

Flute

Richard Sherman, *Principal*
Kathy Levy (Piccolo)

Oboe

Jan Eberle, *Principal*
Jason Weintraub

Clarinet

Eli Eban, *Principal*
William Amsel

Bassoon

Jeffrey Robinson, *Principal*
Stephen Smith

Horn

Donna Dolson, *Principal*
William Bernatis
Charles Waddell
Mark Robbins

Trumpet

Chuck Berginc, *Principal*
Peter Lindblom

Trombone

John Marcellus, *Principal*
Christopher Wolf
Eric Lindblom

Tuba

Frederick Boyd, *Principal*

Timpani

Brian Kushmaul, *Principal*

Percussion

Thomas Blanchard, *Principal*
Ronald Barnett

Harp

Beth Robinson, *Principal*

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