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

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

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

Concertmaster
Anna Reetz

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

† Chautauqua Opera Debut
* 2016 Chautauqua Opera Young Artist
** Former Chautauqua Opera Young Artist
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 admit that she loves the Baron, and to save him she needs total freedom to live her life. 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 Principal
Barbara Berg
Marcia Steel
Cynthia Berginc
Lara Sipols
Karen Lord-Powell
Jonathan Richards

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

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

Bass
Patricia Dougherty, Principal
David Rossi, Assistant Principal
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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