

DON GIOVANNI

MUSIC BY WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

LIBRETTO BY LORENZO DA PONTE

BROADCAST DATE: AUGUST 5, 2024

Conductor Harry Bicket

Director Stephen Barlow

Cast

Don Giovanni Ryan Speedo Green

Donna Anna Rachel Fitzgerald*

Donna Elvira Rachael Wilson*~

Don Ottavio David Portillo

Leporello Nicholas Newton+

Zerlina Liv Redpath+

Masetto William Guanbo Su*

Il Commendatore Soloman Howard

The Santa Fe Opera Orchestra and Chorus

Music Director Harry Bicket; **Chorus Master** Susanne Sheston

*Santa Fe Opera debut, ~ American debut, +Former Santa Fe Opera Apprentice, =Current Santa Fe Opera Apprentice Singer

SYNOPSIS

ACT I

Setting: Victorian London

Leporello, a valet, is frustrated with his life as a servant and dreams of one day being a nobleman. Suddenly his master Don Giovanni rushes out of the house, wearing a mask. He is followed by Donna Anna, and then by her father, the Commendatore. The men duel, Giovanni murders the Commendatore, and flees the scene.

Anna is overcome with grief and runs to the arms of her fiancé, Don Ottavio, who tries to comfort his beloved. Together they swear to avenge her father's death.

The next morning, Giovanni and Leporello overhear a woman's woeful sorrows. Unsurprisingly, Giovanni attempts to seduce her, but soon realizes she is Donna Elvira, whom he has already seduced and abandoned in the past. Giovanni manages to flee the scene, leaving Leporello to explain she is neither the first, nor the last, of the nobleman's many...conquests. In fact, Leporello carries a journal of each woman his master has seduced.

Later they come upon a bright and jovial working-class wedding. Giovanni flirts with Zerlina, the bride, and invites the entire party to his villa. While Leporello distracts Masetto, the groom, Giovanni and Zerlina are left alone... until Donna Elvira interrupts and whisks the bride away from the lustful Giovanni.

Anna and Ottavio arrive, asking Giovanni to help them find the man who killed Anna's father. Elvira interrupts yet again, immediately denouncing Giovanni in anger. He claims she is a madwoman, but as Giovanni speaks, Anna recognizes his voice...it is the voice of her father's murderer. Giovanni flees at once.

Setting: Anna's Boudoir.

Anna replays the scene to her fiancé Ottavio, and once again they both swear once again to seek vengeance.

Setting: Giovanni's Villa

The wedding guests have gathered at Giovanni's home, where we find Zerlina attempting to calm the envious Masetto from his jealous rage. Giovanni leads them both back to the party, where three masked figures... Anna, Elvira, and Ottavio... make their entrances. The dancing begins.

Giovanni leads Zerlina into an adjoining room. Soon her screams are heard and the guests rush to her aid. Giovanni seizes his valet Leporello and tries to blame him, but no one is deceived. Anna, Elvira, and Ottavio unmask and immediately denounce Giovanni as the Commendatore's murderer. Somehow, once again, the nobleman manages to escape.

ACT II

Setting: The Lobby of a Hotel

ACT II opens with Elvira contemplating her betrayal and her surprisingly enduring love for Giovanni. Leporello tries to quit, but his master offers money and he grudgingly accepts. The nobleman, in his latest plot, convinces Leporello to exchange clothing with him so that he may seduce Elvira's maid. While Leporello mouths the words, Giovanni sings a melting serenade to the maid.

Masetto arrives with his band of peasants, on the hunt for Giovanni. Once again, the nobleman outsmarts them, and as they leave, he attacks Masetto. Zerlina, hearing Masetto's groans, rushes to his side.

Leporello is still disguised as Giovanni. Anna, Octavio, and Masetto arrive and, assuming he is the real Giovanni, immediately call for his death. Leporello reveals his true identity, and takes off his master's clothes.

Ottavio, infuriated, swears yet again to avenge Giovanni's victims. He asks the others to care for Anna. In another painful moment, Elvira contemplates her continued love for Giovanni.

Ottavio, still optimistic about marrying Anna, attempts to remind her of his desire to marry, but Anna reproaches him for speaking of it so soon after her father's death. She demands revenge before marriage.

Setting: A funeral parlor.

Leporello and Giovanni hide in a funeral chapel with a single casket. They hear a solemn voice coming from the single casket... the voice of the dead Commendatore. In typical Giovanni fashion, he orders his valet to invite the spirit to dinner.

Setting: Giovanni's Villa

Giovanni seats himself for supper. The love stricken Elvira enters, demanding he mend his seductive ways. With a scoff he sends her away, and soon hears her panicked shriek in the corridor. The dead Commendatore has come to dine.

The ghost demands Giovanni repent for his sins, but the nobleman refuses. The spirit of the Commendatore exacts his revenge. Giovanni is condemned for eternity.

Elvira, Anna, Ottavio, Zerlina, and Masetto contemplate the moral: those who live an evil life will die an evil death.