

UNC Opera presents

Monteverdi's

L'incoronazione di

POPPEA

Sat Nov 13th @ 7:30PM



Sun Nov 14th @ 3:00PM

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC & UNC OPERA
PRESENT

CLAUDIO MONTEVERDI'S

L'incoronazione di Poppea

LIBRETTO BY GIOVANNI FRANCESCO BUSENELLO

JAMES AND SUSAN MOESER AUDITORIUM

NOVEMBER 13, 2021 AT 7:30 PM & NOVEMBER 14, 2021 AT 3:00 PM

CAST

Nov. 13

Nov. 14

FORTUNA	IMANI OLUOCH	LILY VANCE
VIRTÙ	SANYA SHAH	LENA KANTZ
AMORE	ABIGALE HAWKINS	ABIGALE HAWKINS
OTTONE	ISABELLE KOSEMPA	ISABELLE KOSEMPA
NERONE	JULIA HOLOMAN	JULIA HOLOMAN
POPPEA	KENNEDY MILLER	KENNEDY MILLER
ARNALTA	LAUREN RAGSDALE	LAUREN RAGSDALE
OTTAVIA	NURIA SHIN	NURIA SHIN
SENECA	MACKENZIE SMITH	CARRINA MACALUSO
VALLETTO	LANEY DOWELL	LANEY DOWELL
PALLADE	CAROLINE MAYS	CAROLINE MAYS
DRUSILLA	LENA KANTZ	SINDHURA KONDAVEETI
DAMIGELLA	JORDAN TAYLOR	JORDAN TAYLOR
VENERE	CAROLINE MAYS	CAROLINE MAYS

ORCHESTRA

ENSEMBLE DIRECTOR/CELLO	BRENT WISSICK
HARPSICHORD	JENNIFER STREETER AND MATTHEW SVEC
LUTE AND BAROQUE GUITAR	SALOME SANDAVAL
THEORBO	HECTOR TORRES
HARP	MATT GILLESPIE
RECORDER	JENNIFER STREETER
VIOLINS	ANDREW CHI AND CHRISTOPHER COOPER
VIOLA	ELIAS GROSS

SYNOPSIS

PROLOGUE

The Goddesses Fortune and Virtue are at war to prove who is the most powerful. Their battle is interrupted by Cupid, who reminds them that, in the end, love is the ultimate victor.

ACT I

Ottone, Poppea's lover, stands at dawn outside the palace of his beloved, venting his amorous passion; but seeing Nerone's guards asleep in the street while Nerone himself is happily inside Poppea's house, Ottone laments his misfortunes. Nerone and Poppea, fondly embracing, bid farewell to one another with tender caresses. Poppea talks with Arnalta, her old confidante, about her ambitions; Arnalta warns her to put small trust in great men, or Fortuna. The empress Ottavia recounts her sorrows. Seneca consoles Ottavia and exhorts her to be steadfast. Ottavia's page, Valletto, makes fun of Seneca. Ottavia leaves to pray in the temple. Seneca speculates on the transitory grandeur of this world. Nerone declares to Seneca that he will follow his own wishes in marrying Poppea. Appealing to moral and political reason, Seneca tries to dissuade him, but Nerone, in a fit of rage, dismisses him. Poppea and Nerone discourse on their happiness. Nerone promises to make her empress. Seneca is slandered by Poppea, and Nerone angrily decrees his death. Ottone accuses Poppea of faithlessness; she disdains him scornfully, telling him that she is Nerone's. Ottone, in despair, rages against Poppea. Rejected by Poppea, Ottone returns to his former love, Drusilla, and swears fidelity to her. Drusilla rejoices in her regained love: and so ends the first act.

20-MINUTE INTERMISSION

ACT II

Mercury announces to Seneca that he will die on that day; undaunted by the horrors of death, the latter gives thanks to Heaven. Seneca receives the death sentence which Nerone has decreed. Steadfast, Seneca prepares to leave this world. Seneca consoles the members of his household who try to dissuade him from death, and orders them to prepare the bath in which he will die. The page Valletto and Damigella, a maid of the empress, amorously jest together. Nerone, having heard of Seneca's death, together with a friend Lucano, sings amorously, delirious with Poppea's love. The empress Ottavia orders Ottone to kill Poppea, under threat of her imperial rage, and to disguise himself as a woman for his own safety. Ottone, deeply grieved, leaves in confusion. Ottone reveals to Drusilla that under Ottavia's order, he must kill Poppea, and asks her for her garments so that he may disguise himself. Drusilla agrees to give not only her clothes, but her help and secrecy as well. Poppea, rejoicing at the death of Seneca, prays to Amore that her fortunes may prosper. She decides to rest in the garden and is lulled by Arnalta's lullaby. Amore hides near Poppea while she is asleep, to prevent her death. Ottone, disguised as Drusilla, enters the garden in order to kill her, but Amore prevents him. Poppea awakens and Ottone (who is thought to be Drusilla) escapes. Amore declares that having saved Poppea he will crown her empress that very day; and so ends the second act.

ACT III

Drusilla rejoices, hoping soon to hear the news of the death of her rival Poppea. Arnalta comes to seize Drusilla, who bemoans her fate. Nerone questions Drusilla about the attempted murder. Though innocent, in order to save Ottone, she confesses to having tried to kill Poppea, and is therefore condemned to death. Ottone, seeing that the innocent Drusilla has been sentenced, reveals himself as guilty of the crime and confesses that he acted under Ottavia's orders; whereupon Nerone spares his life, condemning him and Drusilla to exile. Nerone decrees the repudiation of Ottavia and orders that she be exiled. Nerone swears to Poppea that she will be his bride that very day. Repudiated by Nerone, Ottavia leaves alone, weeping as she abandons her country and her family. Arnalta enjoys her new-found status, and exults in her contentment. Nerone solemnly attends the coronation of Poppea. Amore crowns Poppea as goddess of beauty on earth: and so ends the opera.

PRODUCTION TEAM

STAGE DIRECTOR AND DESIGNER

MARC CALLAHAN

RÉPÉTITEUR

MARIA PAULINA GARCIA

BAROQUE MUSIC COACH

DANIEL SWENBERG

LIGHTING

JESSE MOOREFIELD

PROJECTIONS AND SUPERTITLES

CARSON GARTNER & LI HAN

WARDROBE

BRADY LEGER, SABEEKA MALICK, & IMANI OLUOCH

PROPS MANAGERS

LI HAN & BRADY LEGER

ADDITIONAL REHEARSAL PIANISTS

LI HAN & KRISTEN RHODA

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

CATHERINE ZACHARY

BUSINESS MANAGER

ELSABET FISSEHA

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to Martha Hsu and the Falk family for their support, making the orchestra ensemble possible, as well as the Kohl fund for production support. Special thanks also goes to Ph.D. candidate Michael Carlson for his pre-show lecture and voice professors Jeanne Fischer, Timothy Sparks, Melissa Martin, and LaToya Lain for their continued vocal wisdom and guidance.

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