

Loyola University New Orleans  
School of Music and Theatre Arts  
Presents

**Loyola Opera Theatre Presents:**  
***Dido & Aeneas***

*Music by*

Henry Purcell

*Libretto by*

Nahum Tate, based on Book IV of Virgil's *Aeneid*

*with*

Claire Shackleton, Stage Director

Carol Rausch, Pianist & Music Director

Sofia Riggio, Conductor

*Dedicated to*

David Morelock



Saturday, March 27, 2021  
Dixon Court

# 3 p.m. Cast

Dido, Queen of Carthage	Julia Tuneberg
Aeneas, the Trojan Prince	Jeremiah Tyson
Belinda, Dido's sister and handmaiden	Emily Cotten
2nd Woman, another handmaiden	Riley Vagis
Sorcerer	Claire Putnam
1st Witch	Taylor White
2nd Witch	Rachel Davidson
Spirit	Victoria Logwood
Sailor	Nicholas Smith

## Ensemble

Samuel Ater	Victoria Logwood
Charlotte Butler	Nathaniel Richard
Nora Cullinan	Nicholas Smith
Julia Ernst	Riley Vagis
Lukas Kolb	Taylor White

## Covers

Dido	Victoria Richard
Belinda	Lucinda Ealey, Jayne Edwards
2nd Woman	Taylor Witherspoon
Spirit	Charlotte Butler

# 5 p.m. Cast

Dido, Queen of Carthage	Samantha Resser
Aeneas, the Trojan Prince	Antonio Domino
Belinda, Dido's sister and handmaiden	Elizabeth DeVoto
2nd Woman, another handmaiden	Julia Ernst
Sorcerer	Margaret Branyon-Goodman
1st Witch	Nora Cullinan
2nd Witch	Veronica Samiec
Spirit	Victoria Logwood
Sailor	Nicholas Smith

## Ensemble

Samuel Ater	Victoria Logwood
Charlotte Butler	Nathaniel Richard
Nora Cullinan	Nicholas Smith
Julia Ernst	Riley Vagis
Lukas Kolb	Taylor White

## Covers

Dido	Victoria Richard
Belinda	Lucinda Ealey, Jayne Edwards
2nd Woman	Taylor Witherspoon
Spirit	Charlotte Butler

# Synopsis

## Act 1

### *Dido's court*

Dido's attendant Belinda is trying to cheer her up, but Dido sorrowfully sings "Peace and I are strangers grown." Belinda believes the source of this grief to be the Trojan Aeneas, and suggests that Carthage's troubles could be resolved by a marriage between the two - a love match with political advantages! Dido fears that her love will make her a weak monarch, but Belinda and the Second Woman reassure her that "The hero loves as well." Aeneas enters the court, and is at first received coldly by Dido, but she eventually accepts his proposal of marriage.

## Act 2

### *Scene 1: The cave of the Sorceress*

The Sorceress is plotting the destruction of Carthage and its queen, and summons companions to help with evil plans. The plan is to send her "trusted elf" - a spirit disguised as Mercury - someone to whom Aeneas will surely listen, to tempt him to leave Dido and sail to Italy. This would leave Dido heartbroken, and she would surely die. The chorus join in with terrible laughter, and the Enchantresses decide to conjure up a storm to make Dido and her train leave the grove and return to the palace. When the spell is prepared, the witches vanish.

### *Scene 2: A grove during the middle of a hunt*

The Sorceress' messenger, in form of Mercury, attempts to convince Aeneas to leave Carthage. Dido and Aeneas stop at the grove to take in its beauty. Then Dido hears distant thunder, and Belinda urges all to take shelter as soon as possible. Aeneas is stopped by the Sorceress's elf, who is

disguised as Mercury. This Spirit brings the command of Jove that Aeneas is to wait no longer in beginning his task of creating a new Troy on Latin soil. Aeneas consents to what he believes are the gods' wishes, but is heart-broken that he will have to leave Dido by departing from Carthage.

**---15 Minute Intermission---**

**Act 3**

*The harbor at Carthage*

Preparations are being made for the departure of the Trojan fleet. The Sailor bursts into song with his shipmates. This is followed by the Sorceress and her companions' sudden appearance. The group is pleased at how well their plan has worked, and the Sorceress sings a solo describing her further plans for the destruction of Aeneas "on the ocean". All the characters begin to clear the stage and then disperse.

*The palace*

Dido and Belinda enter, shocked at Aeneas' disappearance. Dido is distraught and Belinda comforts her. Suddenly Aeneas returns, but Dido is full of fear before Aeneas speaks, and his words only serve to confirm her suspicions. She derides his reasons for leaving, and even when Aeneas says he will defy the gods and not leave Carthage, Dido rejects him for having once thought of leaving her. After Dido forces Aeneas to leave, she states that "Death must come when he is gone." The opera and Dido's life both slowly come to a conclusion, as the Queen of Carthage sings her last aria, "When I am laid in Earth", also known as "Dido's Lament." The chorus places flowers on Dido's tomb.

# Dedication

We would like to dedicate this afternoon's performances to David Morelock, who masterfully led Loyola Opera Theatre to new heights until his retirement at the end of the 2008-2009 academic year. He has remained committed to our University program and its students, attending many of our performances, and even staging several scenes concerts. David's last full production was *Dido and Aeneas* in Dixon Court in April 2009. On the day of that performance it rained constantly until about 5pm. Then the rain stopped, the sun came out and we enjoyed a beautiful evening!

## Special Thanks

Frohnmayr Legacy Fund

Albert Dupont & Livestream Team

Dr. Meg Frazier, School of Music & Theatre Arts Director

Kelly Cuppett, Administrative Assistant

Priscilla Dardar, Administrative Assistant

Dylan Trần, Documentary Filmmaker

Andrea Garces and NOLA Sound

Jeff Zielinski and Brianna McMorris, Facilities

Nathan Arthur, Keith Christopher, and

Olivia Winter, New Orleans Opera Scenic Studio

## **Frohnmayer Legacy Fund**

Loyola's long tradition of operatic excellence thrives on the bountiful gifts of our donors. Created by Philip and Ellen Frohnmayer in 2011, the special endowment of the Frohnmayer Legacy Fund goes directly to the support of Loyola Opera into the future. Please consider making a gift today online at:

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## **Loyola Voice Faculty**

Loretta Bybee  
Meg Frazier  
Ellen Frohnmayer  
Irina Kyriakidou  
Dreux Montegut  
Marcus St. Julien  
Claire Shackleton  
Tyler Smith  
Betsy Uschkrat

# Upcoming Events

All events are free and virtual unless otherwise stated.

**Junior Recital: Erica Tobar, horn**

Saturday, Mar. 27, 7:30 p.m.

**Senior Recital: Jacob Peffer, saxophone**

Monday, Apr. 5, 7:30 p.m.

**Masterclass: Dr. Nicholas Susi, piano**

Tuesday, Apr. 6, 12:30 p.m.

**Keys2Inclusion Masterclass**

Thursday, Apr. 8, TBD

**Junior Recital: Peter James, jazz piano**

Thursday, Apr. 8, 7:30 p.m.

**Senior Recital: Cameron Clark, trumpet**

Friday, Apr. 9, 7:30 p.m.

**Dr. Eric Dickson: Mindfulness in Performance and Practice**

Monday, Apr. 12, 2:30 p.m.

**Loyola Opera Theatre:**

***The Impresario***

Saturday, Apr. 24, 3 & 5 p.m.

**Graduate Recital: Samantha Resser, soprano**

Friday, Apr. 30, 7:30 p.m.

**Graduate Recital: Claire Putnam, voice**

Sunday, May 2, 3 p.m.

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