

ORCHESTRA

Camerata Capistrano

Nathanial Bacon, director

Violin 1

Nathanial Bacon
Elyssa Harvey *

Viola

Tristan Corpuz

Bass

Jake Fox

Violin 2

Emily Kurulenko
Natalie Albano (4/25)
Kelly Melnik * (4/26)

Cello

William Masters
Jasmine Anibaba

Percussion

Evan French *

Harpsichord

Ryan Enright

**guest performer*

Production Team

Stage Manager – Nathanial Bacon
Choreographer – Jennifer Rineman
Supertitles – Jennifer Rineman
Supertitles created by Michael Chadwick
Lighting – Tyra Domalaog

*Thanks to: Stephen Blumberg, Director, School of Music;
Glenn Disney, Events Coordinator; Lamar Veasey, Sound Engineer;
and the Sacramento State School of Music Faculty*

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Opera Theatre

presents

DIDO AND AENEAS

Ryan Murray, director

Dr. Ryan Enright, rehearsal pianist

Claudia Kitka, coach

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, 7 P.M.
APRIL 25-26, 2025
CAPISTRANO CONCERT HALL

DIDO AND AENEAS

music by Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

libretto by Nahum Tate (1652-1715)

Act I

Scene 1: Dido's Court in Carthage

Dido, the queen, is troubled and melancholic. Her confidante Belinda and the courtiers encourage her to embrace her feelings for the Trojan hero Aeneas, who has recently arrived in Carthage. Though reluctant at first, Dido ultimately admits her love for him. Aeneas expresses his mutual affection, and their union is celebrated by the court. The chorus makes their first appearance in this scene. They play a very interesting role in this opera in that they initially function as a classic "Greek Chorus" commenting on the action but not getting involved. But as the opera continues the chorus acts as courtiers, witches and sailors become integral parts of the action on stage.

Scene 2: The Cave of the Sorceress

The Sorceress, full of spite and malice, schemes to destroy Dido's happiness. With the help of her witches, she conjures a storm and devises a plan: a spirit disguised as Mercury (messenger of the gods) will order Aeneas to leave Carthage and fulfill his destiny by founding Rome.

Act II

Scene 1: A grove near Carthage

Dido and Aeneas are on a royal hunt. The storm begins as planned, and everyone scatters. Aeneas is approached by the false Mercury, who delivers Jupiter's "command" that he must depart. Aeneas is torn but resolves to leave, believing it to be his duty.

Act III

Scene 1: The Docks

Sailors prepare for the departure. The witches gleefully celebrate their success singing of the demise of Elisa (Dido), having tricked Aeneas into leaving.

Scene 2: Dido's Palace

Aeneas returns to tell Dido he will defy the gods and stay with her, but she refuses him. Betrayed and heartbroken, Dido insists he go. Once alone, she sings her famous lament, "When I am laid in earth," and dies of grief. The opera ends with a mourning chorus.

CAST

Dido – Isabelle Ceballos (4/25); Annabelle Terry (4/26)

Belinda – Zoë Garcia

Second Woman – Brianna Brock (4/25); Ellen D'Elia (4/26)

Aeneas – Salvatore Atti

Sorceress – Sofia Roca Castro

First Witch – Sariah Bryce

Second Witch – Alissa Prince

Spirit, in form of Mercury – Merrissa Brambila

First Sailor – Morgan Shadle

Chorus of Courtiers, Witches and Sailors

Abigail Cole

Allisen Fong

George Jackson

Aaron Montes

Daniel Murray

Aryan Singh

Sydney Speer

Matthew Swanson