



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

THE ROYAL OPERA

Music Director
SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO

Director of Opera
OLIVER MEARS

L'ELISIR D'AMORE

MELODRAMMA GIOCO IN TWO ACTS

Music GAETANO DONIZETTI
Libretto FELICE ROMANI after Eugène Scribe's libretto for
Daniel-François-Esprit Auber's Le Philtre

Conductor SESTO QUATRINI

Director and Costume Designer LAURENT PELLY
Revival Director PAUL HIGGINS
Set Designer CHANTAL THOMAS
Lighting Designer JOËL ADAM

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS
Chorus Director WILLIAM SPAULDING

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
Concert Master SERGEY LEVITIN

Directed for the screen by RHODRI HUW

Co-production with OPÉRA NATIONAL DE PARIS

The Royal Opera House Principals
JULIA AND HANS RAUSING

Season Principal
ALINE FORIEL-DESTAZET

Generous philanthropic support from
PROFESSOR PAUL CARTLEDGE AND JUDITH PORTRAIT OBE

Live screening from the Royal Opera House
THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER 2023

APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

The performance lasts about 2 hours and 45 minutes,
including one interval.

ACT I 75 minutes

INTERVAL 30 minutes

ACT II 60 minutes

LANGUAGE

Sung in Italian with subtitles

GUIDANCE

Suitable for all

CAST

Giannetta SARAH DUFRESNE*
Adina NADINE SIERRA
Nemorino LIPARIT AVETISYAN
Belcore BORIS PINKHASOVICH
Doctor Dulcamara AMBROGIO MAESTRI replaces
BRYN TERFEL

Farm workers and villagers, Doctor Dulcamara's assistants

*Jette Parker Artist

Actors
LUCY BRENCHLEY, BARRY CALLAN, FAUSTO DANESE,
FRANKIE DUNCAN, CHRIS EDGERLEY, SASHA KANE,
DURASSIE KIANGANGU, ANTHONY KURT-GABEL,
DAVY QUISTIN, CLARA ROZZI, DOUGLAS SANTILLO,
CHARLIE VENABLES

PRODUCTION

Music preparation SUSANNA STRANDERS, BEN-SAN LAU
Assistant Director EMMA DOHERTY
Language Coach VALERIA RACCO
Associate Costume Designer DONATE MARCHAND

*Jette Parker Artist

SYNOPSIS

A village at harvest time.

ACT I

Nemorino, a naive village boy, is doing what he has been doing since his childhood: admiring Adina, a beautiful farm owner – but from a safe distance. Nemorino’s devotion never fails to provoke annoyance and hostility in the capricious lady. He is watching her as she sits reading the legend of Tristan and Isolde, and the idea of a potion fuelling undying love arouses such irrepressible hilarity in her that she reads the story to her farm workers.

When Sergeant Belcore arrives in the village on a recruitment drive, he immediately sets about courting Adina. Nemorino, hurt by her apparent interest in the soldier, declares his love yet again. But she is discouraging. In her fickleness she wants a new lover every day, and she recommends the same course of action to him.

Dulcamara, a quack doctor, arrives in town selling an all-purpose tonic. It occurs to Nemorino that the pedlar must stock some of Isolde’s love potion. Dulcamara sells Nemorino a half-consumed bottle of Bordeaux and tells the boy that he will feel the effects of the elixir within 24 hours – by which time the doctor will be long gone.

Nemorino begins to sip the potion. When Adina turns up, he feigns indifference, certain as he is that she will be wracked with love for him within a matter of hours. She is infuriated by his aloofness, and in a fit of pique promises to marry Belcore in six days’ time. Nemorino remains unperturbed; after all, the potion only takes 24 hours to take effect. An unexpected dispatch, however, requires Belcore to decamp the following day. Adina impetuously promises to marry him that evening. Nemorino begs Adina to delay the wedding. Adina, irritated by his manner, invites the entire village to the celebrations. Nemorino collapses on the ground in despair.

INTERVAL

ACT II

The wedding party is in full swing. Dulcamara gets Adina to sing a duet with him about a rich old senator who tries to court a pretty gondolier girl. To Adina’s annoyance, Nemorino is nowhere to be seen at the festivities. Everyone follows the wedding couple out to witness the signing of the contract: only Dulcamara decides to stay behind to sample the buffet.

When Nemorino does turn up, very depressed, Dulcamara prescribes another dose of the elixir. The boy, however, has no more money. He decides to join Belcore’s squadron and runs to buy another bottle with the commission.

The village girls catch wind that Nemorino’s rich uncle has just died, leaving him a fortune. They begin to squabble over the boy’s affections. Nemorino, by now very drunk, believes that he is witnessing the magical effect of the elixir. Adina – who has managed to put off signing the wedding contract with Belcore – discovers herself rattled by Nemorino’s new-found popularity with the opposite sex. When she learns he has enlisted in order to win her, she realizes that she has loved Nemorino all along. Dulcamara cannily tries to sell her a bottle of elixir with which to win him back, but Adina professes full confidence in her own powers of attraction.

Nemorino has observed Adina’s distress on seeing him with the village girls, and now knows that she loves him. Adina returns with his recruitment form, which she has bought back from Belcore, and she finally confesses her feelings for Nemorino. Belcore begins looking for another girlfriend and the villagers fall over themselves to buy Dulcamara’s magical elixir, which the pedlar now claims makes a person not only irresistible, but rich too.

THE ROYAL OPERA

Patron THE FORMER PRINCE OF WALES
Music Director SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO
Director of Opera OLIVER MEARS
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