Vassar College Choir presents

Dido and Aeneas by Henry Purcell

Libretto by Nahum Tate

Christine Howlett, conductor
Drew Minter, stage director
Faculty and Student Orchestra

Saturday, 7 November 2015
8:00pm
Martel Recital Hall
Skinner Hall of Music
Please silence all cell phones or other personal electronic devices and refrain from texting. Use of these instruments will disturb other audience members and cause interference with in-house recording and webcasting.

Program

Jauchzet dem Herren, SWV 36
Heinrich Schütz
(1585-1672)

Corinne Cotta ’16, soprano, Sarah Johnson ’16, alto,
Jonggeol Kim ’16, tenor, Logan Pitts ’17, bass

Lobet den Herrn, alle Heiden, BWV 230
Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Short interval

Dido and Aeneas
Henry Purcell
(1659-1695)

Frans and Julie Muller started out in totally different professions. Frans was an interior architect, Julie taught English and American literature. By their forties, their mutual love of early music and theatre had led them into byways: Frans studying historical theatres and their scenery and effects, Julie doing her PhD thesis on the linguistic aspects of Purcell’s opera, Dioclesian (1690). As both their specializations cover little-known aspects of English baroque opera, they found themselves writing articles for early music magazines and lecturing from Seattle to Singapore, especially after retirement. As they achieved more leisure time, they did more practical work in their chosen field as well: Frans has produced a number of historically informed animations of scenes from the Purcell operas (see www.fransandjuliemuller.nl) and Julie coaches singers on the correct pronunciation of Early Modern English. The Mullers live in Amsterdam, their children and grandchildren live spread out across three continents. Frans and Julie hope to celebrate their sixtieth anniversary in June.

Frans and Julie Muller

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Paul O’Connor of the Drama Department for his willingness to loan props for this performance, to our wonderful orchestra made up of faculty, members of the Hudson Valley Philharmonic, and students, to Frans and Julie Muller for offering a private lecture for the performers and the public, pre-concert talk, and finally, a huge thank you to Drew Minter for his stage direction and never-ending enthusiasm.

Photography and videography is not permitted in Martel Recital Hall without prior approval by the Concerts Administrator.

ORCHESTRA

Violin 1: Linda Quan (faculty)
Jaylin Remensperger ’17
Hayley Rothman ’16

Violin 2: Marka Young (faculty)
Kylie Prutisto-Chang ’16
Catherine Bellezza ’18

Viola: Elizabeth Handman
Isabel Morrison ’19

Cello: Susan Seligman

Bass: Henry Carroll ’16

Harpischord: James Fitzwilliam
**THE ACTION**

**OVERTURE**

*Act 1*, in which Dido fears her amorous feelings for Aeneas. Persuaded by her confidante, Belinda, and the rest of her court, Dido accepts Aeneas as her love and a Triumphing Dance ends the act.

> “Shake the cloud from off your Brow”  
> Belinda

> “Ah! Belinda, I am pressed with torment”  
> Dido

> “When monarchs unite”  
> Chorus

> “Fear no danger to ensue”  
> Belinda and Second Woman, Chorus

> “Cupid only throws the dart”  
> Chorus

> “Pursue thy conquest, Love”  
> Belinda

> “To the hills and the vales”  
> Chorus

Triumphing Dance

**Act 2, Scene 1**, in which the Sorceress and her train of witches plot the downfall of Dido in a Cave.

> “Wayward sisters”  
> Sorceress

> “Harm’s our delight”  
> Chorus

> “Ho, ho, ho”  
> Chorus

> “But ere we this perform”  
> First and Second Witches

> “In our deep vaulted cell”  
> Chorus

Echo Dance of Furies
Act 2, Scene 2, in which Dido and her train picnic upon a mountain. The Second Woman tells the story of Actaeon’s fateful meeting with the goddess Diana, and the courtiers act it out. Aeneas enters from his successful hunt, and the court is forced to disband by the arrival of a storm. Aeneas is detained by the Sorceress’s Spirit, in the form of Mercury, who commands Aeneas to continue his mission to Italy, and Aeneas sings a sad ballad.

“Thanks to these lonesome vales”  
Belinda, Chorus

“Oft she visits this lone mountain”  
Second Woman

“Haste, haste to town”  
Belinda, Chorus

“Stay, Prince, and hear great Jove’s command”  
Spirit, Aeneas

Act 3, Scene 1, in which Sailors prepare to leave Carthage for the sea. The Sorceress and her witches approve the scene.

“Come away, fellow sailors”  
Sailor, Chorus

The Sailors’ Dance

“See, the flags and streamers curling”  
Sorceress and Witches

“Our next motion must be to storm her lover”  
Sorceress

“Destruction’s our delight”  
Chorus

The Witches’ Dance

Act 3, Scene 2, in which Dido, wounded at Aeneas’s decision to leave Carthage, dies of a broken heart.

“Your counsel all is urg’d in vain”  
Dido, Belinda, Aeneas

“Great minds against themselves conspire”  
Chorus

“When I am laid in earth”  
Dido

“With drooping wings ye Cupids come”  
Chorus