Rusalka

Antonín Dvořák (1841–1904)

*Rusalka: Novalee Richard*

Rusalka, a water-nymph, has fallen in love with a mortal prince who comes to the forest to swim in the lake. In this aria she asks the moon, who sees all, to tell the Prince of her love.

Werther

Jules Massenet (1842–1912)

*Sophie: Linda Forsyth  
Charlotte: Rebecca Sacks*

Sophie arrives at her sister Charlotte’s house. Charlotte’s new husband has been away and she has been alone at home on Christmas Eve, rereading the suicidal letters written to her by Werther, who is in love with her. Sophie, not knowing of the relationship between Charlotte and Werther, happily chatters about life and laughter, but when she mentions his name, Charlotte bursts into tears. Sophie leaves, insisting that she come home for Christmas. Charlotte, left alone, prays for strength to resist her attraction to Werther and for his safety.

The Merry Widow

Franz Lehár (1870–1948)

*Hanna: Katherine Price  
Maxim’s Grisettes*

Emily Hopkins, Katherine F. Curtis, Lindsay Forsyth, Alyse Jamieson, Novalee Richard, Mary Robles, Hannah Rudkin, Rebecca Sacks

Hanna, a rich and beautiful widow, hosts a “Pontvedrian” party in her mansion. She sings the well-known ballad of Vilja, a forest nymph who seduces a mortal. Later, the party moves on to Maxim’s, a local hot-spot, where everyone is entertained by Zo-Zo and the Grisettes!

* * *

PRODUCTION & MUSICAL STAFF
Karen Esquivel, stage direction/costume coordinator
Gustavo Castro, vocal coach
Shannon Mockli, choreographer
Novalee Richard, opera graduate teaching fellow
Lauren Servias’, accompaniment graduate teaching fellow
Consuelo Esquivel & Margaret Gowen, seamstresses

* * *

112th Season, 32nd program
**La Clemenza di Tito**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)

*Vitellia*: Novalee Richard
*Annio*: Emily Hopkins
*Sesto*: Katherine F. Curtis
*Servilia*: Linda Forsyth
*Tito*: Rebecca Sacks

Vitellia, daughter of a previous emperor, seeks revenge against Emperor Tito because he does not return her love and has chosen Berenice, a foreigner, for his Empress. She pressures Sesto, who is totally devoted to Tito and totally obsessed with Vitellia, to assassinate him as a sign of his devotion. Sesto’s friend, Annio, arrives revealing that Tito has sent Berenice away and Vitellia’s ambitions for the throne are revived.

Annio and Sesto’s sister, Servilia, have their own plans for marriage, but Annio learns that the emperor has decided to marry Servilia himself. Annio assures Tito that he has chosen well and is sent to give Servilia the news and bring her to Tito. Annio painfully fulfills his duty, but Servilia reaffirms her love for Annio, and he confesses that his love is still true.

Sesto has unsuccessfully attempted to murder Tito and confessed to the crime. Tito demands to see him, in an effort to discover the cause of his betrayal and find a way to redeem him. Although Sesto is overwhelmed with remorse, he will not implicate Vitellia who is now in line to become Empress. He begs for understanding from Tito as he goes to his death and Tito struggles to stay firm in spite of his love for his friend.

**Orphée et Eurydice**

Christoph Willibald von Gluck (1714–1787)

*Orphée*: Alyse Jamieson
*Eurydice*: Katherine Price

Orphée has braved the fires of Hades to rescue Eurydice and return her to the living, but on the condition that he not look at her or explain himself until they are safely out. Eurydice does not understand his actions and pleads for him to explain, but he refuses, desperate to bring her to safety. Eurydice takes his silence as rejection and decides that she would prefer to return to Hades and remain dead than live without his love.

**The Mikado**

Arthur Sullivan (1842–1900)

*Yum-Yum*: Mary Robles
*Peep-Bo*: Hannah Rudkins
*Pitti-Sing*: Emily Hopkins

This trio of happy-go-lucky school girls, set in the world of Japanese Animé, return for the wedding of Yum-Yum and sing of their carefree attitudes and romantic illusions.

**Giulio Cesare in Egitto**

George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

*Cornelia*: Alyse Jamieson
*Sesto*: Rebecca Sacks

Cornelia, wife to the butchered Pompey, is to be taken into the harem of Tolomeo and Sesto, her young son, has been arrested and must go off to imprisonment. They share a tearful farewell and lament their sad fate.

**Der Rosenkavalier**

Richard Strauss (1864–1949)

*Octavian*: Katherine F. Curtis
*Sophie*: Katherine Price

Sophie, who is to be engaged to Baron Ochs, receives the presentation of the Silver Rose, a promise of the marriage to come. It is presented to her by a young nobleman, Octavian, in his role as the “Knight of the Rose”. He ceremoniously presents the rose to Sophie and the two young people immediately find themselves falling in love.

**The Ballad of Baby Doe**

Douglas Moore (1893–1969)

*Augusta*: Emily Hopkins
*Baby Doe*: Linda Forsyth

The young and beautiful Baby Doe has fallen in love with Horace Tabor, a married man. She writes a letter to her mother in which she realizes that she must not pursue the relationship. Augusta, Horace’s wife, pays Baby Doe a visit, warning her that there will be trouble if she doesn’t leave. Baby Doe at first agrees, but, appalled by Augusta’s harshness and spite towards Horace, she decides to stay with him.