

# Lyric

LYRIC OPERA OF CHICAGO



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PHOTO: Cory Weaver/ San Francisco Opera

## What You Need to Know About

### ***COSÌ FAN TUTTE*** at Lyric Opera of Chicago

**Not much is fair in love and war, as two courting couples discover in Mozart's sophisticated battle of the sexes.**

**Starring Ana María Martínez, Marianne Crebassa,  
Elena Tsallagova, Andrew Stenson,  
Joshua Hopkins, and Alessandro Corbelli**

**Seven performances February 17 - March 16**

*Subtitled "The School for Lovers," this beloved and bittersweet comedy is a probing look into romantic relationships, for better and worse, revealed through the genius of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and his brilliant librettist, Lorenzo Da Ponte.*

- ***Così fan tutte*** is sophisticated and thought-provoking...and also cheeky and slapstick. It'll make you laugh and, at times, wince, remembering your own youthful amorous follies. It underscores how what lovers say and how they act often contradicts their true feelings.

- **The music will move you to tears** (the farewell trio "[Soave sia il vento](#)") and astonish you with its breathtaking leaps and runs (the formidable aria "[Come scoglio](#)").
- **Mozart was a groundbreaker in comic opera**, composing music to convey the psychological underpinnings of the stories he set, to go far beyond mere amusement.
- **The overture lets you know what you're in for.** It starts out serious and stately -- then gets very animated, with melodies scurrying playfully up and down. The flirty cat-and-mouse music lets you know you're in for a romp. Yet it's more complex and nuanced than it appears.
- **The story:** Two military officers, Guglielmo (**Joshua Hopkins**) and Ferrando (**Andrew Stenson**), gloat that their fiancées -- the sisters Fiordiligi (**Ana María Martínez**) and Dorabella (**Marianne Crebassa**), respectively -- are eternally faithful. A cynical philosopher, Don Alfonso (**Alessandro Corbelli**), challenges their claim, declaring that women are fickle and not to be trusted. He bets the gents that when put to the test, the ladies' affections will stray. Pretending to be summoned to war, Ferrando and Guglielmo return on the QT, disguised as mustachioed Albanians. Lamenting over their lovers' absence, Dorabella and Fiordiligi do their best to remain faithful to their men, but each eventually succumbs to the newcomers' charms, encouraged by their mischievous maid, Despina (**Elena Tsallagova**/debut). Revealing their true identities, Ferrando and Guglielmo confront the sisters about their infidelity. The original couples reunite, though happily or not so much remains to be seen.
- **Così is the third of Mozart's three extraordinary collaborations with Da Ponte**, preceded by *The Marriage of Figaro* (1786) and *Don Giovanni* (1787). All three of these operas use impersonation to explore illusion and reality and the tensions between social and emotional truth.
- **Also, it may be partially autobiographical.** Before Mozart married Constanze, he'd been passionately in love with her sister; was he working through some lingering conflicts of affection?
- **It's one of Mozart's final operas**, premiered in 1790, before *La clemenza di Tito* and his grand finale, *The Magic Flute*, which both premiered in 1791. At the same time he produced a piano concerto, clarinet concerto, and the Requiem (unfinished at the time of his death in December 1791, at the age of 35).
- **Così has been seen at Lyric seven times previously since 1959**, most recently in the 2006/07 season, when the current production was originally seen here.
- **The production being presented at Lyric** is set in Monte Carlo on the eve of World War I. **James Gaffigan** (debut) conducts the "splendid production" (*Chicago Tribune*) originally directed by **John Cox** and designed by **Robert Perdziola**. The revival director is **Bruno Ravella** (directorial debut). Lighting design is by **Chris Maravich**. **Michael Black** is chorus master.
- **Seven performances including two matinees** Saturday, February 17 through Friday, March 16 at the Lyric Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Dr., Chicago.
- **Performances start promptly at 7:30pm and 2pm.** Doors open to the Rice Grand Foyer and Opera Club two hours before curtain.

- **30-minute preview talk about the opera before every performance** -- Come to the theater an hour before the curtain rises for a free pre-opera talk about the composer, the themes within the music and story, and overall production.
- ***Così fan tutte* lasts about 3 hours 30 minutes**, including a 30-minute intermission.
- **Sung in Italian** with projected English translations above the stage.

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The opening-night performance of ***Così fan tutte*** can be heard live locally on **98.7WFMT** and globally on [wfmt.com](http://wfmt.com), beginning at 7:15pm on Saturday, February 17.

For more information and tickets, visit [lyricopera.org/cosi](http://lyricopera.org/cosi) or call 312-827-5600.

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#### About Lyric Opera of Chicago

Lyric Opera of Chicago's mission is to express and promote the life-changing, transformational, revelatory power of great opera. Lyric exists to provide a broad, deep, and relevant cultural service to Chicago and the nation, and to advance the development of the art form.

Founded in 1954, Lyric is dedicated to producing and performing consistently thrilling, entertaining, and thought-provoking opera with a balanced repertoire of core classics, lesser-known masterpieces, and new works; to creating an innovative and wide-ranging program of community engagement and educational activities; and to developing exceptional emerging operatic talent.

Under the leadership of general director Anthony Freud, music director Sir Andrew Davis, and creative consultant Renée Fleming, Lyric strives to become The Great North American Opera Company for the 21st century: a globally significant arts organization embodying the core values of excellence, relevance, and fiscal responsibility.

To learn more about Lyric's season, go to [lyricopera.org](http://lyricopera.org). You can also join the conversation with @LyricOpera on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. #Lyric1718 #LongLivePassion



Lyric Opera presentation of Mozart's ***Così fan tutte*** generously made possible by Lead Sponsor **The Negaunee Foundation** and cosponsors **Randy L. and Melvin R. Berlin, Marion A. Cameron, and Nancy and Sanfred Koltun.**

***Così fan tutte*** is a joint production of Opéra de Monte Carlo and San Francisco Opera.

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