

OLLI May 19, 2022

### **CINCINNATI BALLET**

<https://cballet.org>

Thursday, 5/12 through Sunday, 5/22, Bold Moves, Proctor and Gamble theater, Aronoff Center, tickets. CBC Programs 1 and 2

### **METROPOLITAN OPERA**

[www.metopera.org](http://www.metopera.org)

Saturday, 5/21, 1:00, HD cinema, tickets. Gaetano Donizetti, *Lucia di Lammermoor*

- Complete *Lucia di Lammermoor* (synopsis below)  
<https://youtu.be/AK833cKYqGs>
- Nadine Sierra rehearsal for Mad Scene  
<https://youtu.be/xlITSQ2Y0Ho>
- aria, “Il dolce suono” (“The Sweet Sound”)  
<https://youtu.be/92jiitUEahg>

### **MAY FESTIVAL**

[www.mayfestival.com](http://www.mayfestival.com)

Tuesday, May 24, Christ Church, 12:10, free

- Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel, “Nachtwanderer”  
[https://youtu.be/e\\_KDPudcukw](https://youtu.be/e_KDPudcukw)
- Margaret Bonds, “Minstrel Man”  
<https://youtu.be/BHdeONxyVyl>
- Florence Price, “Songs to the Dark Virgin”  
[https://youtu.be/7XOBPY\\_OVTo](https://youtu.be/7XOBPY_OVTo)
- Alma Mahler, “Fünf Lieder”  
<https://youtu.be/IIrRueqhcsQ>

Friday, 5/20, 7:30, Music Hall, tickets. John Adams, conductor; Lauren Snouffer, soprano, Josefina Maldonado, mezzo; Elliot Madore, baritone; Daniel Brubeck, Brian Cummings, and Nathan Medley, countertenors; May Festival male voices

- Adams, interview  
[https://youtu.be/lhemwMa\\_2GM](https://youtu.be/lhemwMa_2GM)
- Adams, El Niño  
<https://youtu.be/NIPo0s-JXok>
- countertenor David Daniels  
<https://youtu.be/wa1e49KLXNU>

Sunday, 5/22, 2:00, Music Hall, tickets. *Candide*. Katharina Wincor, conductor

- Bernstein, pre-concert address  
<https://youtu.be/S6IRF6sNowo>
- *Candide* (synopsis below)  
<https://youtu.be/uQEQNuY6wawF>

<https://youtu.be/uQEQNuY6waw>

Friday, 5/27, 7:30, Music Hall, tickets. Juanjo Mena, conductor; Santiago Ballerini, tenor; Gustavo Castillo, baritone; May Festival Chorus

- Alberto Ginastera, Suite from *Panambí*  
<https://youtu.be/SjIMlaiLt9E>
- Heitor Villa-Lobos, Choros No. 10, *Rasga a Curaçao* (“Read the Heart”)  
<https://youtu.be/VZjv4I9IUuw>
- Antonio Estavéz, *Cantina Criolla, Florentino el que canto con Friolla* (“Creole Cantata, Florentino, who sang with the Devil”)  
<https://youtu.be/cBSOuXUddJQ>

## *Candide synopsis*

Candide is the illegitimate nephew of a German baron. He grows up in the baron's castle under the tutelage of the scholar Pangloss, who teaches him that this world is "the best of all possible worlds." Candide falls in love with the baron's young daughter, Cunégonde. The baron catches the two kissing and expels Candide from his home. On his own for the first time, Candide is soon conscripted into the army of the Bulgars. He wanders away from camp for a brief walk and is brutally flogged as a deserter. After witnessing a horrific battle, he manages to escape and travels to Holland.

In Holland, a kindly Anabaptist named Jacques takes Candide in. Candide runs into a deformed beggar and discovers that it is Pangloss. Pangloss explains that he has contracted syphilis and that Cunégonde and her family have all been brutally murdered by the Bulgar army. Nonetheless, he maintains his optimistic outlook. Jacques takes Pangloss in as well. The three travel to Lisbon together, but before they arrive their ship runs into a storm and Jacques is drowned. Candide and Pangloss arrive in Lisbon to find it destroyed by an earthquake and under the control of the Inquisition. Pangloss is soon hanged as a heretic, and Candide is flogged for listening with approval to Pangloss's philosophy. After his beating, an old woman dresses Candide's wounds and then, to his astonishment, takes him to Cunégonde. Cunégonde explains that though the Bulgars killed the rest of her family, she was merely raped and then captured by a captain, who sold her to a Jew named Don Isaachar. At present, she is a sex slave jointly owned by Don Isaachar and the Grand Inquisitor of Lisbon. Each of Cunégonde's two owners arrive in turn as she and Candide are talking, and Candide kills them both. Terrified, Candide, the old woman, and Cunégonde flee and board a ship bound for South America. During their journey, the old woman relates her own story. She was born the Pope's daughter but has suffered a litany of misfortunes that include rape, enslavement, and cannibalism.

Candide and Cunégonde plan to marry, but as soon as they arrive in Buenos Aires, the governor, Don Fernando, proposes to Cunégonde. Thinking of her own financial welfare, she accepts. Authorities looking for the murderer of the Grand Inquisitor arrive from Portugal in pursuit of Candide. Along with a newly acquired valet named Cacambo, Candide flees to territory controlled by Jesuits who are revolting against the Spanish government. After demanding an audience with a Jesuit commander, Candide discovers that the commander is Cunégonde's brother, the baron, who also managed to escape from the Bulgars. Candide announces that he plans to marry Cunégonde, but the baron insists that his sister will never marry a commoner. Enraged, Candide runs the baron through with his sword. He and Cacambo escape into the wilderness, where they narrowly avoid being eaten by a native tribe called the Biglugs.

After traveling for days, Candide and Cacambo find themselves in the land of Eldorado, where gold and jewels litter the streets. This utopian country has advanced scientific knowledge, no religious conflict, no court system, and places no value on its plentiful gold and jewels. But Candide longs to return to Cunégonde, and after a month in Eldorado he and Cacambo depart with countless invaluable jewels loaded onto swift pack sheep. When they reach the territory of Surinam, Candide sends Cacambo to Buenos Aires with instructions to use part of the fortune to purchase Cunégonde from Don Fernando and then to meet him in Venice. An unscrupulous merchant named Vanderdendur steals much of Candide's fortune, dampening his optimism somewhat. Frustrated, Candide sails off to France with a specially chosen companion, an unrepentantly pessimistic scholar named Martin. On the way there, he recovers part of his fortune when a Spanish captain sinks Vanderdendur's ship. Candide takes this as proof that there is justice in the world, but Martin staunchly disagrees.

In Paris, Candide and Martin mingle with the social elite. Candide's fortune attracts a number of hangers-on, several of whom succeed in filching jewels from him. Candide and Martin proceed to Venice, where, to Candide's dismay, Cunégonde and Cacambo are nowhere to be found. However, they do encounter other colorful individuals there, including Paquette, the chambermaid-turned-prostitute who gave Pangloss syphilis, and Count Pococurante, a wealthy Venetian who is hopelessly bored with the cultural treasures that surround him. Eventually, Cacambo, now a slave of a deposed Turkish monarch, surfaces. He explains that Cunégonde is in Constantinople, having herself been enslaved along with the old woman. Martin, Cacambo, and Candide depart for Turkey, where Candide purchases Cacambo's freedom.

Candide discovers Pangloss and the baron in a Turkish chain gang. Both have actually survived their apparent deaths and, after suffering various misfortunes, arrived in Turkey. Despite everything, Pangloss remains an optimist. An overjoyed Candide purchases their freedom, and he and his growing retinue go on to find Cunégonde and the old woman. Cunégonde has grown ugly since Candide last saw her, but he purchases her freedom anyway. He also buys the old woman's freedom and purchases a farm outside of Constantinople. He keeps his longstanding promise to marry Cunégonde, but only after being forced to send the baron, who still cannot abide his sister marrying a commoner, back to the chain gang. Candide, Cunégonde, Cacambo, Pangloss, and the old woman settle into a comfortable life on the farm but soon find themselves growing bored and quarrelsome. Finally, Candide encounters a farmer who lives a simple life, works hard, and avoids vice and leisure. Inspired, Candide and his friends take to cultivating a garden in earnest. All their time and energy go into the work, and none is left over for philosophical speculation. At last everyone is fulfilled and happy.

## *Lucia . . . synopsis*

### **ACT I**

An intruder has been spotted near the Ashton family home, and Normanno sends Enrico's men off in search of the stranger. Enrico arrives, troubled. His family's fortunes are in danger, and only the arranged marriage of his sister, Lucia, with Arturo Bucklaw can save them. The chaplain Raimondo, Lucia's tutor, reminds Enrico that the girl is still mourning the death of her mother. But Normanno reveals that Lucia is concealing a great love for Edgardo, leader of the Ashtons' enemies. Enrico is furious and swears vengeance. The men return and explain that they have seen and identified the intruder as Edgardo. Enrico's fury increases.

Just before dawn, Lucia and her companion Alisa are waiting for Edgardo. Lucia relates that, in this very spot, she has seen the ghost of a girl who was stabbed by a jealous lover. Alisa urges her to forget Edgardo, but Lucia insists that her love for Edgardo brings her great joy and may overcome all. Edgardo arrives and explains that he must leave on a political mission. Before he leaves, he wants to make peace with Enrico. Lucia, however, asks Edgardo to keep their love a secret. Edgardo agrees, and they exchange rings and vows of devotion.

### **ACT II**

It is some months later, on the day that Lucia is to marry Arturo. Normanno assures Enrico that he has successfully intercepted all correspondence between the lovers and has in addition procured a forged letter, supposedly from Edgardo, that indicates he is involved with another woman. As the captain goes off to welcome the groom, Lucia enters, continuing to defy her brother. Enrico shows her the forged letter. Lucia is heartbroken, but Enrico insists that she marry Arturo to save the family. He leaves, and Raimondo, convinced no hope remains for Lucia's love, reminds her of her late mother and urges her to do a sister's duty. She finally agrees.

As the wedding guests arrive, Enrico explains to Arturo that Lucia is still in a state of melancholy because of her mother's death. The girl enters and reluctantly signs the marriage contract. Suddenly, Edgardo bursts in, claiming his bride. The entire company is overcome by shock. Arturo and Enrico order Edgardo to leave, but he insists that he and Lucia are engaged. When Raimondo shows him the contract with Lucia's signature, Edgardo curses her and tears his ring from her finger before finally leaving in despair and rage.

### **ACT III**

Enrico visits Edgardo at his dilapidated home and taunts him with the news that Lucia and Arturo have just been married. The two men agree to meet at dawn for a duel.

Back at Lammermoor, Raimondo interrupts the wedding festivities with the news that Lucia has gone mad and killed Arturo. Lucia enters, covered in blood. Moving between tenderness, joy,

and terror, she recalls her meetings with Edgardo and imagines that she is with him on their wedding night. She vows that she will never be happy in heaven without her lover and that she will see him there. When Enrico returns, he is enraged at Lucia's behavior but soon realizes that she has lost her senses. After a confused and violent exchange with her brother, Lucia collapses.

Edgardo laments that he has to live without Lucia and awaits his duel with Enrico, which he hopes will end his own life. Guests coming from Lammermoor tell him that the dying Lucia has called his name. As he is about to rush to her, Raimondo announces that she has died. Determined to join Lucia in heaven, Edgardo stabs himself.

Bob Zierolf

zierolrl@gmail.com