

and Ramiro is only certain of the fact that Arminda still does not love him.

## Act 2

### *A hall in the home of the Podestà*

Ramiro discovers Arminda and complains that she was his love but now refuses him. She refuses to listen, he departs, but promises revenge. Serpetta and Nardo meet but no matter how hard he tries, she spurns his advances.

### *A garden at the home of the Podestà.*

Belfiore enters in some distress, muttering that he has had no peace since he found Sandrina. Arminda confronts him and leaves. Sandrina encounters Belfiore, and asks why he stabbed and deserted her. Belfiore is surprised by this outburst and once again sure that he has found his love. The Podestà interrupts them, and after mistakenly taking the Podestà's hand instead of Sandrina's, Belfiore retreats in embarrassment. Ramiro arrives from Milan with the news that Count Belfiore is wanted for the murder of Marchioness Violante Onesti. Don Anchise summons Belfiore for questioning and the Count, thoroughly baffled, implicates himself. Sandrina says she is Violante and the proceedings break up in confusion. The Count approaches Sandrina but she again denies him. Serpetta arrives moments later to tell the Podestà, Nardo and Ramiro that Sandrina is gone (actually abducted and left in the forest). Everyone leaves to search for her.

### *A deserted, forested area*

Abandoned in the forest, Sandrina is nearly frightened out of her wits. Small search parties composed of the Count and Nardo, Arminda, Serpetta, and the Podestà soon arrive. In the darkness the Podestà mistakes

Arminda for Sandrina and she him for the Count, while the Count thinks Serpetta is Sandrina and she takes him for the Podestà. Nardo manages to find Sandrina by following her voice, and Ramiro then appears. As the embarrassed and mismatched pairs separate, Belfiore and Sandrina find each other and lose their senses. They see themselves as the Greek gods Medusa and Alcides, and the astonished onlookers as forest nymphs. Oblivious of their surroundings, the two begin to dance.

## Act 3

### *The edge of the forest*

Still believing they are gods from classical Greece, Sandrina and Belfiore pursue Nardo until he distracts them by pointing at the sky. They are entranced, and Nardo is able to make his escape.

### *A garden at the home of the Podestà.*

Arminda and Ramiro enter with a harried Don Anchise. Arminda begs her uncle for permission to marry the Count, and Ramiro demands that the Podestà order Arminda to marry him. Don Anchise becomes confused and leaves. Ramiro furiously swears he will never love another and that he'll die in misery, far from Arminda.

No longer delusional, the Count and Sandrina awaken in the garden. Belfiore makes a final appeal, to which Sandrina admits she is Violante but claims that she loves him no more. The Count is saddened but agrees to leave her. They begin to part, but falter in a matter of minutes and fall into each other's arms. Arminda returns to Ramiro, and Serpetta gives way to Nardo's suit. Left alone, the Podestà accepts his fate philosophically. Perhaps, he says, he will find another Sandrina.

## Opera at Western

presents

# The Secret MOZART Gardener

(La Finta Giardiniera)



Paul Davenport Theatre  
Talbot College  
Western University  
November 21 - 24, 2019

Western  Music  
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# The Secret Gardener (La Finta Giardiniera)

Music by W.A. MOZART  
Libretto by GIUSEPPE PETROSELLINI

## CAST

	Nov. 21/23	Nov. 22/24
Marchioness Violante Onesti (Sandrina) <i>disguised as a gardener</i>	Skylar Cameron	Kaitlin Stenbeck
Serpetta <i>the Podestà's servant</i>	Hannah Pinhorn	Olivia Maldonado
Cavalier Ramiro	Hillary Tufford	Michal Aloni
Don Anchise, <i>the Podestà (Mayor)</i>	Matthew Bermudez	Matthew Bermudez
Roberto (Nardo) <i>Violante's servant/ disguised as a gardener</i>	Jordan DeSouza	Jorge Trabanco
Arminda <i>niece of Don Anchise</i>	Katherine Trussler	Natalie Nelson
Contino Belfiore	Robert Hutson	James Smith
Understudy of Don Anchise	Cameron Mazzei	

## ORCHESTRA

<i>Violin 1</i>	<i>Viola</i>	<i>Flutes</i>
Frangel Lopez Cesena	Jeffrey Komar	Natalina Scarsellone
Kirit Mascarenhas	Molly Burnett	
Jillian Yang	Paige Bursey	<i>Oboes</i>
Paul Baek		Zihao Bob Wie
	<i>Cello</i>	Gabriel Munteanu
<i>Violin 2</i>	Isaac Lee	
Dorothy Lin	Heather White	<i>Horns</i>
Eun Jee Gloria Kim	Matt Kwan	Lindsey Cook
Melissa Mogrovejo		Josh Dunham
Jeanny Jung	<i>Bass</i>	
	Andrew Kosty	<i>Harpichord</i>
	Michael Ippolito	Connor O'Kane

## OPERA COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to a wonderful season of opera at Western. We open with *La Finta Giardiniera* by Mozart, composed while he was still a teenager. This is a truly wonderful opera that should be performed more frequently. Our winter offering will be a new and interesting take on the Gilbert and Sullivan classic, *The Mikado*. Finally March will see a terrific gala of opera and musical theatre favourites. Thank you for joining us this year! All of us really appreciate your support and presence!

- Theodore Baerg

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Director – Professor T. Baerg	Surtitles – By the Cast, created/coordinated by Jorge Trabanco
Music Director – Simone Luti	Theatre Manager – Louis D'Alton
Costume Coordinator – Julie McGill	Video and Audio Recording – Michael Godwin, Wade Haan, Adam Pypstra, ITRC
Lighting Design – Bryan Hart	Publicity – Rachel Condie
Set Arrangement – Theatre Staff & Professor T. Baerg	Development – Karmen Ferraro
Repetiteurs – Brian Cho, Michelle Kitsis, Connor O'Kane, Heidi Wall	Stage Crew – Stylian Michailidis, Raymond Salgado-Tran, Yanxue Hu, Ting Zhang
Stage Manager – Andrea Nolan	
Assistant Stage Managers – Leah Macdonald, Mabel Wonnacott	

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Don Wright Faculty of Music would like to thank the **Jackman Foundation**, courtesy of **Reverend Edward Jackman**, for the continued generous and loyal support of the opera program, as well as **Ilona Janoschek** for her leadership gift to opera this year. Thank you to **London Opera Guild** for their support of our opera students through scholarships.

## PLOT SYNOPSIS

### Prior to our story beginning

The Count Belfiore and the Marchioness Violante Onesti were lovers, but Belfiore stabbed Violante in a fit of rage and left her for dead. The story begins with the revived Violante and her servant Roberto disguised as "Sandrina" and "Nardo," and quietly working in the mansion of the town Podestà.

### Act 1

*A garden at the home of the Podestà.*  
The Podestà, Cavalier Ramiro and Serpetta enter as Sandrina and Nardo work in the garden. Together they praise the lovely day, but their happiness is feigned. Sandrina is wretched because Don Anchise, the Podestà, is in love with her. Nardo is frustrated by Serpetta, who teases him but refuses to respond to his affections. Ramiro is bitter after being spurned by Arminda, Serpetta is angry at Sandrina because she has amorous intentions for the Podestà. When they are left alone, the Podestà professes love to Sandrina. Sandrina refuses his advances as politely as possible and, when Serpetta rudely interrupts, makes her escape.

### *A hall in the home of the Podestà*

Arminda's betrothed, Count Belfiore, arrives and is swept off his feet by her beauty. Arminda is quick to let him know that she is someone to be reckoned with, but the Count is not deterred. The Podestà responds with a mixture of awe and skepticism, not caring who this buffoon of a Count is as long as he marries his niece.

### *A garden at the home of the Podestà.*

In the garden, Arminda sees Sandrina and mentions her engagement to Belfiore. Stunned, Sandrina faints. Arminda calls for help and the Count arrives, Arminda leaves him to watch over Sandrina and rushes off to fetch smelling salts. Belfiore is shocked to find that the gardener is none other than Violante whom he thought had died. Arminda returns and is surprised to come face to face with Ramiro. Sandrina awakens and finds herself looking at Belfiore. The Podestà enters and demands an explanation, but no one knows quite what to say. Sandrina wavers but decides not to reveal herself as Violante, while Arminda suspects that she's being deceived. The Podestà blames everything on Serpetta, who in turn blames Sandrina,