

RIDER UNIVERSITY
Westminster Opera Theatre
presents



April 16 and 17 | 7:30 p.m.

Composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte

**ARTISTIC &
PRODUCTION STAFF**

Susan S. Ashbaker, *conductor and musical director*

James K. Mitchell, *stage director*

Seth Trumbore, *piano*

Nick Karalexis, *project manager*

Nicole Nilsson, *production stage manager*

Brendan McGeehan & Jay Yachetta,
audio and video engineers

CAST

Fiordiligi

Act 1 – Krista Hastings

Act 2 – Kathryn Corbino

Dorabella

Act 1 – Mala Weissberg

Act 2 – Shannon Lally

Despina

Act 1 – Victoria Vazquez

Act 2 – Mary Fetterman

Ferrando

Act 1 – Jacob Kelemen

Act 2 – David Helmer

Guglielmo

Act 1 – James Harris

Act 2 – Joe Richwine

Don Alfonso

Act 1 & Act 2 – John Arlievsky

INTERNS

Fiordiligi

Act 1 – Elizabeth Boyle

Dorabella

Act 1 – Alicia Barry

Act 2 – Michaela Cary
& Kaitlyn Newman

Despina

Act 1 & 2 – Lillie Judge

Act 1 – Amia Langer

Ferrando

Act 1 – Noah Bram

Act 2 – Greg Nappa

Guglielmo

Act 2 – Craig Peters

VOICE ACTORS

James Harris

Krista Hastings

Director's Statement

Mozart and DaPonte's *Così fan tutte* have long been a contentious piece in the operatic repertoire. The subtitle "the School for Lovers" begs the question: what lesson do we learn at this school? Is the title itself the only answer to be gleaned from this story of faith and betrayal; that "all (women) are like that"? Who is attending this school and to what end? Are Guglielmo and Ferrando there to learn that women can't be trusted? Are Fiordiligi and Dorabella attending to learn their own inconstancy or to learn the truth about their supposedly trusting fiancées? Or is it possible that in allowing the misguided notions of an older generation (Don Alfonso) to play out upon the naivete of the young with hilarious results, Mozart and DaPonte are presenting us with an indictment of the very cynicism that seems to motivate Don Alfonso's puppet-master actions? Or, to speak in meme:

no one:

no one:

absolutely no one:

Don Alfonso: *Così fan tutte*.

Everyone Else: Ok Boomer

-- James Kenon Mitchell

Thank you to Johnathon Pape and Boston Conservatory for the titles for our production.