

EASTMAN OPERA THEATRE

LA CALISTO

Opera in 2 acts with a Prologue

Music by Francesco Cavalli

Libretto by Giovanni Faustini

Edited by Raymond Leppard

MADELEINE SNOW, Director

WILSON SOUTHERLAND, Conductor

February 16-17 & 22-23, 2022

Eastman Opera Theatre Scene Shop

7:30 PM (livestream)



UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

Eastman
School of Music

100 YEARS | 1921-2021

SYNOPSIS

Prologue

The goddesses of Nature, Eternity, and Destiny celebrate the humans who have ascended to immortality, including Calisto.

Act I

Giove, god of gods, returns to Earth, accompanied by trusted Mercurio, to fix the natural world that has been ravaged by humans. They see the nymph Calisto, a mortal huntress and follower of the virgin goddess Diana, desperately seeking water in the charred forest.

Giove attempts to seduce Calisto, who resists his advances and proclaims her desire to remain a virgin forever. Giove then decides to transform himself into Diana to pursue Calisto. When Calisto returns to find her goddess, she enthusiastically runs off for a moment alone with her new lover.

The mortal Endimione pines for Diana, who secretly feels the same. Meeting in the newly restored woods, they hint at their feelings, causing Diana's chief warrior-nymph Linfea to chase Endimione away. Calisto finds the real Diana and seeks to rekindle their flame, revealing how she broke her vow of chastity. Diana harshly rejects Calisto.

Left alone, Linfea ponders the complex, confusing nature of love and reveals her insatiable libido. Satirino appears and attempts to seduce Linfea, who is repulsed by these advances.

The woodland god Pane, who has also been rejected by Diana, broken-heartedly wanders the forest. Satirino and sidekick Sylvano attempt to cheer up the dejected god as night falls over the forest.

Act II

As night falls over the forest, Endimione falls asleep under the moon, dreaming of Diana. The goddess approaches the sleeping Endimione and cannot pull herself away. Upon awakening, Endimione and Diana learn of their mutual attraction. Having spied on the star-crossed lovers, Satirino swears to tell Pane of Diana's unchaste love.

Giunone, the wife of Giove, discovers her husband's infidelity. Having come down to Earth, she meets Calisto, who wanders lost and dejected. Giunone immediately understands the situation. When Giove appears again as Diana, the young nymph reconnects with her lover. Giunone, though fuming, feigns ignorance and questions "Diana" and Mercurio.

Endimione also mistakes "Diana" for her beloved and embraces the "virgin goddess." Satirino leads Pane and Sylvano to the scene, where they capture Endimione. Satirino then spies the lustful Linfea and attempts to take her by force, to no avail.

At the command of the outraged Giunone, the furies torment Calisto, turning the innocent nymph into a bear. Meanwhile, Pane continues to torment Endimione but is rescued by the real Diana. She openly admits her love for Endimione at last.

In the end, Calisto's fate is divinely sealed, and she ascends to the eternal firmament, becoming a constellation of stars in the night sky.

~ There will be one 15 minute Intermission ~

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CAST

February 16, 7:30 PM

February 17, 7:30 PM

February 22, 7:30 PM

February 23, 7:30 PM

Emma Unkrich.....	La Natura	Emma Unkrich
McKenzie Garey.....	L'Eternità	McKenzie Garey
Catherine Creed.....	Il Destino	Catherine Creed
Jazmine Saunders.....	Calisto	Elise Noyes
Anna Thompson.....	Diana	Dominie Boutin
Bergen Price.....	Endimione	Veronica Siebert
Rachel Singh.....	Linfea	Hannah Moreno
Cailin Jordan.....	Satirino	Cassie Zinkan
Ori Marcu.....	Pane	Meg Brilleslyper
Jacob Hunter.....	Mercurio	Samuel Robertson
Jason Rober.....	Giove	S Joshua Sheppard
Harrison Caplin.....	Sylvano	Murphy Meyn
Anneliese Wolfanger.....	Giunone	Anna Louise Martin
Lauren Case.....	Echo	Lauren Case

Chorus of Furies, Satyrs, and Heavenly Spirits:

Sydney Cornett, Caroline Duers, Kayla Sconiers, Kayla Stein,
Max Flores, Simon Lea, Jack Merson, Leif Pedersen

*Content Advisory: This production contains theatrical haze, nightclub / rave lighting effects,
and depictions of smoking and alcohol use.*

ORCHESTRA ENSEMBLE

Wilson Southerland, *Conductor*

<i>Violin</i>	<i>Viola</i>	<i>Cello</i>
Jenny Choi	Adrian Jackson	Patrick Baek
Artur Korotin	Sophia Moreira	
<i>Harp</i>	<i>Double Bass</i>	<i>Harp</i>
Wilson Southerland	Carlton Huff	Sunshine Quan
<i>Organ</i>		<i>Guitar</i>
Guhan Peng		Brian Dooley

ARTISTIC TEAM

<i>Scenic Designer</i> Charles Murdock Lucas	<i>Artistic Director</i> Steven Daigle	<i>Costume Designer</i> Nicole LaClair
<i>Lighting Designer & Photography</i> Nic Minetor	<i>Assistant Director</i> James Kenon Mitchell	<i>Wig Designer</i> Renee Proulx
	<i>Stage Director</i> Madeleine Snow	

PRODUCTION STAFF

<i>Scenic Artist</i> Shelbie Colombo	<i>Technical Director</i> Mark Houser	<i>Costume Construction</i> Leah Camilleri
<i>Scenic Construction</i> Jose Maisonet Ramon Rivera	<i>Production Stage Manager</i> Josh Lau	Claudette Hercules Nicole LaClair Danielle Suhr
	<i>Hair & Makeup</i> Nicole LaClair Renee Proulx	

Graduate Opera Assistants, Pianists

Ava Linvog, Cynthia Chun Hsin Liu, Guhan Peng

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

La Calisto was first performed in 1651 in Venice, making it one of the first operas composed in history. Inspired by Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, Giove, king of the gods, transforms himself into the virgin goddess Diana to seduce one of her huntress followers, Calisto. Simultaneously, Diana falls in love with the peasant shepherd Endimione. The opera dives deep into matters of gender and power, sex and consent, revenge and justice, mortality and morality.

Reinterpreted through a queer, feminist lens, this production modernizes the mythology and contemporizes the Baroque opera so that it more deeply resonates in the twenty-first century. A nightclub, rave environment lends itself to this production as a place where sensual desires, illicit secrets, and primal behavior abound.

Sexual empowerment and female pleasure are central parts of this story. This staging recenters female sexuality. Seen through Calisto's eyes, the titular character's sexual awakening is with "Giove as Diana," embodied and sung by Diana herself, allowing Calisto to have an intimate experience with the woman she loves. Furthermore, having Endimione present as feminine affirms Diana's own sexuality. Queer love between women is at the heart of this show. I am proud to be a part of expanding a kind of representation that is rarely seen in opera.

—Madeleine Snow, director

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Friends of Eastman Opera Voice Competition
Kilbourn Hall
Free admission

April 7, 8, 9, 2022 at 7:30 PM | April 10 at 2:00 PM
INTO THE WOODS
Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre


April 30 | May 1, 2022
L'AMANT ANONYME
Annex Room 804

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