

1962

Eighty-fourth Season

1963

UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Charles A. Sink, President

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Second Program

Eighty-fourth Annual Choral Union Series

Complete Series 3362

GOLDOVSKY GRAND OPERA THEATER
(NEW ENGLAND OPERA THEATER, INC.)

BORIS GOLDOVSKY, *Artistic Director*

Presents

La Traviata

FRIDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 19, 1962, AT 8:30
HILL AUDITORIUM, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

Opera in four acts

Music by GIUSEPPE VERDI

Text by FRANCESCO MARIA PIAVE

English Version by JOSEPH MACHLIS

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| Produced and staged by | BORIS GOLDOVSKY |
| Conducted by | BORIS GOLDOVSKY |
| Associate Conductor | EDWARD ALLEY |
| Assistant Conductor | ANTHONY ADDISON |
| Settings and lighting by | ARISTIDES GAZETAS |
| Costumes by | LEO VAN WITSEN |

Cast of Characters in order of appearance:

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| <i>Violetta Valéry</i> , a courtesan | FRANCESCA ROBERTO |
| <i>Anina</i> , Violetta's maid | ANNE MARIE BELIER |
| <i>Baron Douphol</i> , Violetta's rich protector | RICHARD RIZK |
| Violetta's friends: | |
| <i>Flora Bervoix</i> | NAOMI BLAKE |
| <i>Marquis d'Obigny</i> | LUCIEN OLIVIER |
| <i>Doctor Grenville</i> | GEORGE WATSON |
| <i>Gastone de Letorieres</i> | ALAN KEENE |
| <i>Alfredo Germont</i> , in love with Violetta | ERIC DAVIS |
| <i>Giorgio Germont</i> , Alfredo's father | SHERRILL MILNES |
| <i>Giuseppe</i> , Alfredo's servant | ROBERT RAND |
| Guests, dancers, masqueraders, and servants: Members of the Goldovsky Grand Opera Theater. | |

(over)

- ACT I. Late evening in June. Ball in Violetta's Paris mansion.
ACT II. September morning. Living room of Violetta's villa near Paris.
ACT III. Evening, same day. Masquerade party in Flora's gambling establishment in Paris.
ACT IV. New Years Day at dawn. Bedroom of Violetta's home in Paris.

There will be an eight-minute intermission between Acts I and II and Acts III and IV; and a fifteen-minute intermission between Acts II and III.

SYNOPSIS

The action takes place in and near Paris in the 1850's.

ACT I—In her salon, Violetta and her lover, the Baron Douphol, greet arriving guests. One of her friends introduces a new admirer, Alfredo Germont, who has loved Violetta from afar. As the guests leave the room for a turn of waltzing, Violetta suffers a fainting spell. Alfredo, worried about her delicate health, stays behind to offer aid and confesses his secret love for her. Violetta protests that her past life makes her unworthy of his serious emotion, but he becomes more and more ardent. The guests return to say good night to their hostess. Left alone, Violetta is bemused by Alfredo's declaration of love and by her own unexpected reaction. Alfredo returns unexpectedly, and the lovers are united in an ardent embrace.

ACT II—Violetta and Alfredo have been living happily together in a simple country home. Alfredo is elated because Violetta has given up her former life and has taught him the meaning of true love. Soon, however, Anina confides to Alfredo that Violetta has been forced to sell her jewels for funds so that they can continue their idyllic life together in the country. Alfredo, aghast, leaves immediately for Paris to obtain funds. Alfredo's father arrives. He severely criticizes Violetta and tries to persuade her to break off her liaison with Alfredo. He explains to her that marrying Alfredo would not only harm Alfredo's family, but eventually would destroy his career and his future. Heartbroken, she writes a note of farewell to the man she truly loves. Before Violetta can leave, however, Alfredo returns. She hastily explains that she is rushing to Paris to obtain his father's blessing to their marriage. After she has gone, a messenger brings Violetta's letter of farewell. Alfredo is heartbroken because he believes she loves him no longer and that she has decided to return to her former lover, the Baron Douphol. Sick at heart, he rushes away in despair.

ACT III—At the party, Alfredo is successfully gambling. Violetta, who has arrived with Baron Douphol, is snubbed by Alfredo, who continues his card game, winning easily over the Baron. . . . The guests begin to leave for the dining room. Violetta begs Alfredo to leave before there is trouble. Alfredo says that he will not leave unless she accompanies him. Violetta explains that she cannot do so because she is bound by "a promise." He immediately thinks this refers to a liaison with the Baron. Defiantly, he insultingly hurls his winnings at Violetta's feet. He is challenged to a duel by the Baron while Alfredo's father is outraged by his son's violent and ungentlemanly behavior. After Alfredo departs, Violetta, in a semi-faint, admits her undying love for him.

ACT IV—Ravaged by consumption, Violetta is dying. She reads a letter from the elder Germont telling her that Alfredo is on his way to Paris, but Violetta knows that happiness has come too late. Anina announces Alfredo's arrival. He is overcome with grief and beseeches Violetta to forgive him. He talks of their return to their country home outside Paris where they had been so happy. Violetta, near death, listens to his every word, then, overcome with exhaustion, sinks back onto her pillow as the elder Germont arrives with the doctor. But it is too late. As she dies, Violetta gives Alfredo a locket as the last token of her love, then dies in her lover's arms.

Next Concert:

FRENCH NATIONAL ORCHESTRA, CHARLES MUNCH, *Conductor*
Wednesday, October 24, at 8:30 P.M.

For tickets and information, address:
University Musical Society, Burton Memorial Tower