



i Puritani

Bellini

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Dame Joan Sutherland

(November 7, 1926 - October 10, 2010)



Joan Sutherland as Elvira in *I Puritani*

During the course of their illustrious four-decade career, Dame Joan and her husband, Maestro Richard Bonyng, championed the genre of opera called *bel canto*. Without their bringing to life works by Bellini, Donizetti and Rossini it is unlikely that ours or any company would be performing many of these operas. Joan's spectacular *I Puritani* was recorded twice and three of opera's greatest tenors (Pavarotti, Gedda and Kraus) partnered her Elvira on stage.

I was blessed to have known Joan and Richard during the 1970s while working for San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, and Miami Opera where I was privileged to accompany their *Lucia di Lammermoor*.

Joan's passing in October was a tragic loss. A day does not pass that I don't listen to her, still in awe and forever in debt to a humble, gracious artist. So it is with gratitude for a lifetime of inspiration and pleasure that this production is dedicated to Joan.

To Richard, her son Adam and his wife Helen, and to her grandchildren Knoxville Opera joins the opera world in offering our deep condolences. Joan will be painfully missed, admired, and loved forever.

Brian Salesky, Executive Director and Conductor

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I Puritani

Music by Vincenzo Bellini



Libretto by Count Carlo Pepoli

based on the play *Têtes Rondes et Cavaliers* by J.A. Ancelot and J.X.B. Saintine

First performance: January 25, 1835, Théâtre des Italiens, Paris, France

Friday Evening, April 8, 2011 at 8:00 and Sunday Afternoon, April 10, 2011 at 2:30
Tennessee Theatre, Knoxville, Tennessee

Music Director and Conductor
Stage Director

Brian Salesky
James Marvel

Cast in order of vocal appearance:

Sir Richard Forth (Riccardo), *Puritan colonel*

Elvira, *daughter of Lord Walton*

Sir George (Giorgio), *Elvira's uncle, retired Puritan colonel*

Lord Arthur Talbot (Arturo), *Cavalier, Stuart partisan,*
Elvira's fiancé

Lord Walter Walton (Valton), *Puritan Governor-general*

Sir Robertson (Bruno), *Puritan official*

Henrietta (Enrichetta), *widow of Charles I, King of England*
*Knoxville Opera debut

Nelson Martinez

Rachele Gilmore

Daniel Mobbs

Yeghishe Manucharyan*

Daniel T. Berry

Harry House

Lorraine Di Simone

Knoxville Opera is funded under agreements with the Tennessee Arts Commission, The National Endowment for the Arts, Knox County and the City of Knoxville.

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I Puritani Synopsis

Act I; Scene 1: A fortress near Plymouth; June, 1651, Elvira's wedding day. At daybreak, the Puritan soldiers anticipate victory over the Royalists (Cavaliers). Sir Richard Forth had been promised Elvira's hand in marriage by Lord Walton but, returning to Plymouth, is heart-broken to learn that she is in love with Lord Arthur Talbot (a Royalist Cavalier), and will marry him instead.

Act I; Scene 2: Sir George's room in the fortress; the same day. Elvira confides in her uncle Sir George that she would rather die than marry Richard, but he assures her that her father has consented to her marriage with Arthur. They are overjoyed when they hear Arthur's heralded arrival in the distance.

Act I; Scene 3: A hall in the fortress; later the same day. Arthur arrives for the wedding and celebrates his new found happiness. Walton is to take a mysterious woman prisoner (suspected of being a Royalist Cavalier spy) to appear before Parliament. Arthur discovers that she is really Queen Henrietta, the widow of the executed King Charles I of England. Elvira appears singing a joyful polonaise and drops her wedding veil as she departs to make ready for the wedding. Arthur uses the veil to disguise Henrietta as Elvira and so enabling her to escape. They encounter Richard and, when it is revealed that the woman with Arthur is not Elvira, he lets them pass. Upon learning that Arthur has escaped with the prisoner, Elvira believes herself deserted. Losing her sense of reality she imagines herself going to the temple to be married with Arthur.

Intermission

Act II: A hall in the fortress.

George describes Elvira's madness to her friends who pray for her recovery. Richard brings the news that Arthur is now a fugitive who has been condemned to death for participating in Henrietta's escape. Elvira appears, still deranged and longing for Arthur. George and Richard argue over whether Arthur's death would bring on Elvira's demise. The two agree that Arthur must die if he is found fighting for the Royalists in the impending battle.

Act III: The countryside near the fortress; September, 1651. Arthur, returning to see Elvira, hides from his pursuers during a storm. The two are reunited and Elvira is relieved to learn that Arthur did not abandon her, but rather left her to save the life of the Queen. The Puritans discover Arthur with Elvira and demand his execution. A herald brings word that the war is over with the defeat of the Royalists. Upon learning that Oliver Cromwell has pardoned all prisoners, the lovers are finally united in happiness.



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Maestro Brian Salesky joined Knoxville Opera as its fourth Executive Director and Conductor in May 2005. His administration has been marked by a period of artistic growth, presenting exciting young artists and veterans, and financial stability. Mr. Salesky has enjoyed a highly versatile, international career as a conductor of symphonic and chamber orchestras, opera and operetta, ballet and modern dance, Broadway musicals and popular music. During his four decades of service in the performing arts, Mr. Salesky has also engaged in a wide variety of work as a producer/manager of concerts, opera, television, radio and videos, and has distinguished himself as an accompanist, music arranger, fund-raiser, educator, lecturer, author and consultant.

Mr. Salesky first won critical plaudits during his six-year tenure as a resident conductor and administrator with the New York City Opera. With the company in New York City and on tour in Los Angeles, Washington, and Mexico, his twenty-five-opera repertoire included the "Live From Lincoln Center" telecast of *La Cenerentola*. Mr. Salesky also served as the artistic and administrative director of the N.Y.C. Opera National Company, conducting *Carmen* and *La Traviata* in 45 cities. The conductor has also appeared with the opera companies of Barcelona, Sydney, Chicago, Cincinnati, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Dayton, Central City, and Montana. Maestro Salesky has performed with the leading symphony orchestras of Chicago, Madrid, Winnipeg, Peru, Denver, San Diego, Syracuse, the Kennedy Center, Chicago's Grant Park, Napa, South Bend, Greensboro, Utica, and Greeley, and the chamber of orchestras of Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Indianapolis and Woodstock. In his native New York City, Mr. Salesky has served as Music Director for the Congress of Strings, Musique à la Mode Chamber Orchestra, the Jamaica Symphony Orchestra, the Broadway revival of *Man of La Mancha* (with Raúl Juliá) and as Resident Conductor for George Abbott's Tony Award production of *On Your Toes*. During his career he has conducted for legendary artists Renata Scottò, Catherine Malfitano, and Alfredo Kraus and has accompanied hundreds of singers including Joan Sutherland, Richard Tucker, Sherrill Milnes, and Robert Merrill.

Away from the podium, the Indiana University *Phi Beta Kappa* graduate's eclectic range of activities have included education positions with Indiana University, Hunter College and the Israel Vocal Arts Institute, and Artistic Adviser positions with the symphony orchestras of Denver and Utica, Walt Disney Studios, the American Guild of Musical Artists, and the New York City Performing Arts Education Advisory Commission. From 1996 to 2001 he served as Co-founder, Executive Producer and fund-raiser for the Raúl Juliá Ending Hunger Fund's four-million-dollar campaign.

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U.S. Opera Companies: New Orleans, Virginia, Sacramento, San Antonio, Knoxville, Wichita Grand, Syracuse, Santa Barbara, Wolf Trap (VA), Grand Rapids, Utah Festival Opera, North Carolina, Shreveport, Toledo, Kentucky, Opera Boston, Tampa, Piedmont Opera, Cedar Rapids, San Francisco Opera Merola Program, Indiana University, Juilliard School, Boston University, University of Southern California

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RACHELE GILMORE (*Elvira*)

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Birthplace: Atlanta, Georgia

Foreign Opera Companies: Bayerische Staatsoper (Munich), Deutsche Oper am Rhein, Grand Théâtre de Genève, Opera Hong Kong, Opéra de Vichy

U.S. Opera Companies: Metropolitan Opera, Boston Lyric, Florida Grand, Portland, Knoxville, Indianapolis, Opera New Jersey, Michigan Opera Theatre, Orlando

U.S. Orchestras: Baltimore Symphony, Toledo Symphony



YEGHISHE MANUCHARYAN (*Arturo*)

Mr. Manucharyan's appearance is sponsored thanks to the generosity of Mary and Joe Sullivan

Birthplace: Yerevan, Armenia

Foreign Opera Company: Armenian National Opera, Wexford Festival Opera (Ireland)

Foreign Orchestras & Festivals: Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de Mexico, Armenian State Philharmonic

U.S. Opera Companies: Metropolitan Opera, San Diego, Minnesota Opera, New York City Opera, Opera Boston, Tulsa, Baltimore, Michigan Opera Theatre

U.S. Orchestras & Festivals: Dallas Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Boston Modern Orchestra, Eugene Symphony, Opera Orchestra of NY, Caramoor Festival

Guest Artists



NELSON MARTÍNEZ (*Riccardo*)

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Birthplace: Holguin, Cuba

Foreign Opera Companies: Cuban National Opera, Rodrigo Prats Lyric Theater, Teatro Lirico de Europa

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Foreign Opera Companies: Warsaw National Opera, De Vlaamse Opera

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Lorraine DiSimone (*Enrichetta*)

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Birthplace: Syracuse, New York

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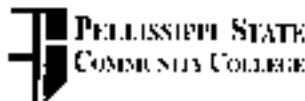
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