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.

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The Secret Gardener
(La Finta Giardiniera)
Music by W.A. MOZART
Libretto by GIUSEPPE PETROSELLINI

CAST

Marchioness Violante
Onesti (Sandrina)
disguised as a gardener
Serpetta the Podestá’s servant
Cavalier Ramiro
Don Anchise, the Podestá (Mayor)
Roberto (Nardo)
Violante’s servant/
disguised as a gardener
Arminda niece of Don Anchise
Contino Belfiore
Understudy of Don Anchise

Nov. 21/23
Nov. 22/24
Skylar Cameron
Kaitlin Stenbeck

Hannah Pinhorn
Olivia Maldonado
Hillary Tufford
Michal Aloni
Matthew Bermudez
Matthew Bermudez
Jordan DeSouza
Jorge Trabanco
Katherine Trussler
Natalie Nelson
Robert Hutson
James Smith
Cameron Mazzei

ORCHESTRA

Violin 1
Frangel Lopez Cesena
Kirit Mascarenhas
Jillian Yang
Paul Baek

Violin 2
Dorothy Lin
Eun Jee Gloria Kim
Melissa Mogrovejo
Jeanny Jung

Viola
Jeffrey Komar
Molly Burnett
Paige Bursey

Cello
Isaac Lee
Heather White
Matt Kwan

Bass
Andrew Kosty
Michael Ippolito

Flutes
Natalia Scarsellone

Oboes
Zihao Bob Wie
Gabriel Munteanu

Horns
Lindsey Cook
Josh Dunham

Harpischord
Connor O’Kane

ACkNOwleDgeMeNTS

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PLOT SYNOPSIS

Prior to our story beginning

A hall in the home of the Podestá
Armina’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 Podestá responds with a mixture of awe and skepticism, not caring who this buffoon of a Count is as long as he marries his niece.

Act 1

A garden at the home of the Podestá
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 Podestá 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 Podestá blames everything on Serpetta, who in turn blames Sandrina.

OPERAs

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

Director – Professor T. Baerg
Music Director – Simone Luti
Costume Coordinator – Julie McGill
Lighting Design – Bryan Hart
Set Arrangement – Theatre Staff & Professor T. Baerg
Repertieurs – Brian Cho, Michelle Kitsis, Connor O’Kane, Heidi Wall
Stage Manager – Andrea Nolan
Assistant Stage Managers – Leah Macdonald, Mabel Wonnacott

Surtitles – By the Cast,
created/coordinated by Jorge Trabanco
Theatre Manager – Louis D’Alton
Video and Audio Recording – Michael Godwin, Wade Haan, Adam Pypstra, ITRC
Publicity – Rachel Condie
Development – Carmen Ferraro
Stage Crew – Stylian Michailidis, Raymond Salgado-Tran, Yanxue Hu, Ting Zhang

- Theodore Baerg