

La Clemenza di Tito

An Opera in Two Acts by
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Libretto by Pietro Metastasio,
revised by Caterino Mazzola

Conductor: Roland Peelman
Director: Moffatt Oxenbould
Based on the Göran Järvefelt production
Assisted by: Richard Dillane
Designer: Carl Friedrich Oberle
Lighting Designer: Nigel Levinge

Characters

Sextus, friend of Titus,
in love with Vitellia Bernadette Cullen
Vitellia, daughter of the
Emperor Vitellius Rosamund Illing
Annius, friend of Sextus,
in love with Servilia Fiona Janes
Titus, Emperor of Rome Christopher Doig
Publius, Captain of the Guard . . Stephen Bennett
Servilia, sister of Sextus,
in love with Anniius Clare Gormley*

Musical Preparation: Stephen Walter
John Dingle
Harpsichord Continuo: Stephen Walter
Cello Continuo: Zoltan Szabo
Clarinet Soloist: Terrence Stirzaker
Stage Manager: Brad Jarrett
Deputy Stage Manager: Nicholas Selman
RADA Stage Management Secondment:
Georgina Huxstep
Italian Language Coach: Renato Fresia
Surtitles: Brian FitzGerald

THE AUSTRALIAN OPERA CHORUS
Chorus Preparation: Richard Gill

THE AUSTRALIAN OPERA AND BALLET
ORCHESTRA
Concertmaster: Emil Kiss-Lazar

*The performance lasts approximately two and a half hours,
with one twenty-minute interval*

* Clare Gormley is the Esso Young Artist for 1991

Surtitles sponsored by  **Lufthansa**

Production sponsored by  **VALIANT**
COMMERCIAL FURNITURE

Harpsichord supplied and prepared by
Carey Beebe Harpsichords

THE STORY OF THE OPERA

La Clemenza di Tito is Mozart's last opera. Performed in September 1791 for the coronation of the Emperor Leopold II as King of Bohemia, it differs radically in tone and purpose from the other 'last works' — Die Zauberflöte and the Requiem. But it shares with them a concern for ultimate values and a strong sense that absolute moral standards operate within a social framework.

ACT ONE

Vitellia considers she has a right to the throne and feels humiliated because the Emperor intends to marry Berenice. She commands Sextus to murder Titus. Sextus is Titus' friend, but his passion for Vitellia overrides his loyalty and he promises to do as she asks. Anniius announces that Titus has given Berenice up. The news gives Vitellia hope, and she orders Sextus not to carry out the murder. Homage is paid to Titus by his courtiers and subjects and he plans to use their gifts to help the poor. Titus now proclaims Servilia, beloved of Anniius, as his empress, and Anniius has to bring her the news. Servilia decides to tell Titus the truth — that her heart belongs to Anniius. Titus praises her courage and honesty. Vindictive and jealous, Vitellia again commands Sextus to assassinate the emperor. Sextus makes his plans, but Vitellia is caught in her own trap when Publius and Anniius announce the emperor's latest decision: that he has chosen Vitellia as his consort. Horrified, she realises that it is too late to stop the assassination, and Sextus soon confirms that the emperor is dead. All mourn Titus.

ACT TWO

Annius announces that Titus is alive. (Sextus had stabbed another conspirator, Lentulus, who was disguised as the emperor.) He tries to persuade Sextus to confess to Titus, but Vitellia urges him to flee to save her and himself. The culprit has been discovered, however, and Sextus is led away to be sentenced. Titus is assured of his subjects' love and loyalty. He refuses to believe that his best friend lay behind the attempted murder. Publius demands that Titus sign Sextus' death warrant, but Titus wants to give his friend a chance to defend himself and speaks to him alone. Sextus, unwilling to betray Vitellia, shoulders the blame. Servilia and Anniius beg Vitellia to persuade Titus to pardon Sextus. Vitellia realises that she cannot ascend the throne with Sextus' life on her conscience. She gives up her dreams of imperial power and confesses her crime before emperor and courtiers. Despite his disappointment Titus is not led astray by thoughts of revenge. In the hour of trial he proves his clemency, rewards the truth and forgives everyone.

THE AUSTRALIAN OPERA RECEIVES FUNDING FROM

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