



# Opera!

## What the fuss?

PRESENTED BY OPERA WORKSHOP FOR CULTURE NIGHT 2022

### CAST

Jean Wallace - Soprano

Triona Walsh - soprano

Roisín Walsh - Soprano

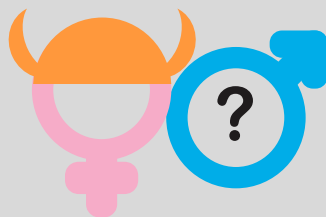
Shirley Keane - Mezzo Soprano

Sarah-Ellen Murphy - Contralto

Kevin Neville - Bass Baritone

Eóin Scanlon - pianist

***\*We kindly ask that you please refrain from recording the performances***

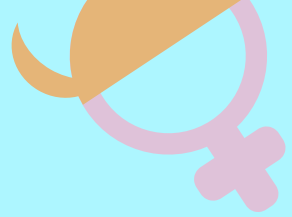




## Program

It's a Grand Night for Singing from <i>State Fair</i> Rodgers & Hammerstein	Company
Quando m'en vo from <i>La Bohème</i> , Puccini	Roisín
Voce di donne from <i>La Gioconda</i> , Ponchielli	Sarah-Ellen
Poor Wandering One from <i>Pirates of Penzance</i> Gilbert & Sullivan	Jean
Soave sia il vento from <i>Così fan tutte</i> , Mozart	Jean, Sarah-Ellen & Kevin
I hate men from <i>Kiss Me Kate</i> , Porter	Tríona
Vecchia zimarra, senti from <i>La Bohème</i> , Puccini	Kevin
Tutto quello che puoi fare, io posso farlo <i>Annie, prendi la tua pistola</i> , Berlin	Roisín & Sarah-Ellen
Ombra mai fu from <i>Serse</i> Handel	Shirley
Tea Scene from <i>No 2 Pery Square</i> Linnane	Tríona & Kevin
Finale	Company

## Aria Synopsis



**Quando m'en vo** from *La Bohème* by Giacomo Puccini

Musetta - Roisín

Musetta and her on-off boyfriend Marcello have fallen out.... again! She amuses friends at the Café Momus, by flirting and teasing, describing how she cannot help but be desired where ever she goes. Marcello, sitting conveniently nearby, knows exactly what it is he is missing.

**Voce di donne** from *La Gioconda* by Amilcare Ponchielli

La Ciecca - Sarah-Ellen

In 17<sup>th</sup> century Venice La Ciecca has been denounced as a witch. Laura, the wife of a member of the Venetian inquisition declares that Ciecca is under her protection. The old lady thanks her for saving her life, by giving Laura her most treasured possession, a set of rosary beads.

**Poor Wandering One** from *Pirates of Penzance* by Gilbert & Sullivan

Mabel - Jean

Mabel ignores her many sisters who reject a young stranger's plea for help, as he wishes to repent his years as a pirate. Mabel feels pity for the young pirate and offers her support. She and the young stranger, Frederick, fall in love.

**Soave sia il vento** from *Così fan tutte* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Fiordiligi - Jean | Dorabella - Sarah-Ellen | Don Alfonso - Kevin

Don Alfonso has laid an elaborate trap in order to win a bet in which he aims to prove that all women are deceivers in love. He has convinced Dorabella and Fiordiligi that their lovers are sailing off to war. The sisters pray to the wind and to the sea to carry their lovers to safety, encouraged by the wily Don Alfonso.

**Vecchia zimarra, senti** from *La Bohème* by Giacomo Puccini

Colline - Kevin

Colline says his farewells to his dear old coat which he is about to bring to the pawnbrokers. His friend Rodolfo's lover Mimi has come to their poor Parisian apartment and is desperately ill. The money from the coat will help buy medicine though they all know deep down, that she is dying.

**Ombra mi fu** from *Serse (Xerxes)* by George Friedrich Handels

Xerxes - Shirley

Xerxes the King of Persia has it all, but like so many dictators he wants more. In this Baroque opera, Xerxes sets out to ruin the engagement of his brother by insisting his brother's fiancée marry him. He must of course ditch his own fiancée in the process and threatens death on anyone who stands in his way, including his potential in-laws. However, at the very start of this operatic tale of selfish, narcissistic ego-mania, Handel gives Xerxes a beautiful aria. In *Ombra mia fu*, Xerxes declares his love of the plane tree and the beautiful peace offered within its shade.

**Tea Scene** from *No 2 Pery Square* by Fiona Linnane

Sophia Vanderkist - Triona | George de la Hare - Kevin

Set in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Limerick. *No 2 Pery Square* is a contemporary opera inspired by the landmark Georgian house, built by investors of the Newtown Pery Tontine scheme. Tontine schemes were a popular form of raising capital in the 1700 and 1800s, but were riddled with rumours of foul play and scandal. The first tontine schemes were built on the premise that shares would be sold and the shareholder that outlived the rest an' won the building or house! At this point in the opera, rumours abound regarding the mysterious deaths of people in Limerick connected with the Newtown Pery Tontine scheme. Sophia Vanderkist, a tontine investor, takes tea with her friend the artist George de la Hare, who has heard some disturbing gossip.



# OPERA

workshop



**Opera Workshop** is a Limerick based opera production company. We commission new works and re-imagine familiar opera, mounting productions in unexpected places and in unexpected ways. Our unique ensemble approach to making opera inspires artists who want to work with us and excites audiences, many of whom experience opera for the first time. We are proud that our work stimulates new perceptions of opera: what it is and who it is for.

Though our skills as singers, writers and composers are embedded in historic, revered traditions, to which we are indebted, we are quite happy to discard, adapt and remake these mores as our imaginations and creative instincts demand. Imbued with this spirit of adventure and possibility, we always seek to share joy.

This evening's concerts are funded by Limerick City & County Council, Arts Office



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick** City  
& County Council

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**arts**  
OFFICE

With thanks to Shannon Rowing Club



**COMING SOON.....Twisted Tales**

**OPERA**  
workshop

# Twisted Tales

Short contemporary operas  
by Fiona Linnane & Luke Byrne  
Directed by Shirley Keane

Thurs - Sun 27<sup>th</sup> | 28<sup>th</sup> | 29<sup>th</sup> | 30<sup>th</sup> October

Coach House at No. 2 Pery Square

7:30pm (One hour show)

Tickets €25

Book online at Lime Tree | Belltable

[www.limetreetheatre.ie](http://www.limetreetheatre.ie)

