

MENDOCINO MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

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Effective dates: Immediately

Mozart's *Così fan tutte*: Fitting Finale for the 2007 Mendocino Music Festival

On closing night, Saturday, July 21, the Festival Orchestra and opera cast will present a concert version of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's masterpiece *Così fan tutte*. This is pure *opera buffa*, comic opera, a style that arose in 17th century Italy, continued through the 19th century to include *Die Fledermaus* by Johann Strauss, and inspired the clever silliness of Gilbert and Sullivan. The story told in *Così fan tutte* is sublimely hilarious, involving wagers, infidelity, disguises, and magnetic cures and, of course, a grand reconciliation. The music is inventive and joyful, filled with buoyant arias and sparkling ensembles, making it a fitting finale to the 2007 Mendocino Music Festival.

The roles in this *tour de force* include the two sisters, Fiordiligi, performed by soprano Nicolle Foland, returning to the festival tent again, whose strong lyric soprano ranges from ringing high attacks to subtle musical flourishes, and Dorabella, played by mezzo soprano Donna Olson, a resident artist with Opera San José for two seasons, who can use her rich voice to full effect with subtlety and tonal beauty. The male leads are the two suitors to the sisters: Guglielmo, performed by one of the most sought after performers on the west coast, bass/baritone Matthew Treviño, who has appeared with the San Francisco, Santa Barbara, and West Bay operas, and Ferrando, voiced by tenor Kalil Wilson, who has performed with the Los Angeles Opera and Philharmonic, the Oakland Symphony, and the Aspen Music Festival. Rounding out the cast are Despina, the chambermaid to

the sisters, performed by soprano Sarah Viola, a member of Opera Santa Barbara's young artists program, and the old philosopher Don Alfonso, performed by bass Bojan Knezevic, who began his career in Yugoslavia and, after coming to the United States, has performed with the San Francisco, Chicago Lyric, Minnesota and Fort Worth Operas.

Tickets for *Così fan tutte* are on sale now, at the festival office at 707-937-4041, and online at mendocinomusic.com.