

Florida International University
School of Music & Department of Theatre

PRESENT

VENUS & ADONIS

BY JOHN BLOW

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2016 AT 7:30PM

A BAROQUE OPERA IN ONE ACT
BASED ON THE POEM BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
FEATURING THE FIU COLLEGIUM MUSICUM & CONCHITA ESPINOSA ACADEMY CHOIR

DIRECTOR PHILLIP M. CHURCH
MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR JUVENAL CORREA-SALAS
DIRECTOR FIU COLLEGIUM MUSICUM DAVID DOLATA



St Stephen's Episcopal Church, Coconut Grove
\$30 Preferred | \$20 General Admission | \$5 Students
18 And under are free | FIU Students are free w/i.d.

Ticketed by the Miami Bach Society at www.miamibachsociety.org
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Welcome!

It is with great pleasure that we present today's performance of John Blow's *Venus and Adonis*. Inspired by William Shakespeare's great narrative poem by the same name, it represents one of the earliest known examples of English language "opera," notwithstanding its true calling as a masque for the court of Charles II. At FIU, we strive to give our young singers the opportunity to perform a wide variety of repertoire from across the centuries. Our choice of this opera was inspired by the exhibit of Shakespeare's First Folio (1623) at the Patricia and Philip Frost Art Museum on FIU's main campus, and we're delighted to be part of the celebration! We are particularly thrilled to welcome the members of the Society for Seventeenth-Century Music to Miami. We thank you for your support and hope you enjoy our presentation of this exquisite rarity from the English Baroque.

- Robert B. Dundas, Director of the FIU School of Music

Message From the Director

"No man is an island." So said John Donne. In this respect it might well be that each of us is an essential mirror for the other, our lives validated through our reflection in the eyes of others. In John Blow's opera, *Venus and Adonis* (1684), the theme of love is laid out before us with a cast of characters who proceed to trivialize it as an expendable commodity to be toyed and played with. Everyone is feverishly caught up with the *idea* of love as a concept.

Venus and Adonis was originally staged as an entertaining "masque" for King Charles II and applauded by an elite audience of courtiers and aristocrats, irresistibly drawn to the comedy of self-reflected idolatry. Four hundred years later the material remains uncannily familiar. Throughout every age man's idealization of love has challenged society; yet the 21st century, with its obsessive hunger for virtual reality, brings into question the virtues of truth and transparency. Facebook has become the new reflected self, yet, can the eyes of the other validate by means of a static, cyber-screen image? With this production of *Venus & Adonis*, the FIU School of Music and Department of Theatre offer its audiences a contemporary lens through which to view a 17th-century court masque. Only when Venus is faced with the blankness of Adonis' dead eyes is she awakened to the consequences of her games of love. Conversely, when we "fall" in love, our reflection is re-turned from the deepest part of those living eyes, and it is perhaps at that time, more than any other, that we recognize the reliance of the other to support us so love can remain a reality rather than a concept.

In our version of *Venus and Adonis*, instead of hunting boar, Adonis hankers to go riding with his biker buddies while Venus is surrounded by housewives and beauticians. Here Venus's son and advisor in matters of love, DJ Cupid Jr., spins vinyl while teaching his posse of innocents, a.k.a. his interns, how to become mercenaries of Love. Adonis meets his end not through the horns of a boar but over the handlebar of his bike.

- Phillip M. Church, Director

Venus and Adonis
John Blow

CAST

Venus.....Amanda Orihuela
Adonis.....Roberto Lopez-Trigo
DJ Cupid Jr. Edgar Sanfeliz-Botta

Real Housewives of Arcadia

Cleo Dashing.....Melissa Iglesias
Sofia Craving.....Beatrice Murray
Angela Madding.....Mary Espinosa

Beauticians

Marylou Blossom.....Adriana Ruiz- Peña
Annabelle Flowers.....Monique Galvao

Real Husbands of Arcadia

Tom Dashing.....Kevin Barrios
Tad Craving.....Alex Toussaint
Joe Wanting.....Daniel Rodriguez
Max Madding.....Rohan Smith

Biker-Buddies

Billie.....Monique Galvao
Bobby.....Kevin Barrio
Biggie.....Rohan Smith

Philanthropists

Grace Divine.....Mary Espinosa
Grace Rapture.....Monique Galvao
Gabriel Grace.....Rohan Smith

Cupid Interns

Alondra Blaya / Miranda Grande
Jose Lopez-Gastgon / Arianna Martinez
Sara Suarez

PRODUCTION

Stage Director.....	Philip M. Church
Music Director/Conductor.....	Juvenal Correa-Salas
Director of the FIU Collegium Musicum.....	David Dolata
Production Manager.....	Rebecca Benitez
Choreographer.....	Emily Ricca
Costume Designer.....	Ileana Mateo
Lighting Designer.....	Paul Steinsland
Video Designer.....	Anton Church

FIU Collegium Musicum

Violin I: Caroline Buse & Renata García

Violin II: Mariana Yern & Gabriel Perez-Espinoza

Viola: Michelle Sanchez

Cello: Sada Adam Morales

Archlute: David Dolata

Harpichord: Juvenal Correa-Salas

Recorders: Birgitta Rausch-Montoto, Delmas Freeman, & Michael O'Connor

Conchita Espinosa Academy Choir

Elizabetha-Alvarez Valls, Wanda Marlene Urbay, Loly Lopez, Arlette Rojas, Elisa Blaya, Daisy Lopez-Gaston, Wanda Badillo, Ileana Martinez, & Lissette Suarez.

Special Thanks

Blair Brow, Marina Pareja, Richard Pabone, Joel Murray, Geordan Gottlieb, Britton Davis, Cindy Mesa, Marianna Murray, Paulette Rivera, Jessica Lettsome, Gladys Rivera, Michael O'Connor, Lloyd Mims, Dean, School of Music & Fine Arts, Palm Beach Atlantic University, Brian Schriener, Dean, FIU College of Architecture + the Arts, Rojas, Elisa Blaya, Daisy Lopez-Gaston, Wanda Badillo, Ileana Cruz-Martinez, Lisette Suarez, Birgitta Rausch-Montoto, and Alina Rernandez.

Upcoming Events

Tickets for performances at the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center may be obtained by phone at 305.348.0496, in person, or online at wpac.fiu.edu.

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