

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY
THEATRE GUILD
AND
ELDER CONSERVATORIUM



THURSDAY, AUGUST 22nd
FRIDAY, AUGUST 23rd
1940

ORCHESTRAL PRELUDE

SUITE FOR STRINGS—"The Rival Sisters"	-	-	-	-	Purcell
SUITE FOR STRINGS AND FLUTES (from "Orpheus")	-	-	-	-	Gluck

Players:

Sylvia Whittington (leader), Helen Magarey, Kathleen Meegan,
Marjorie Hounsell, Clarice Gmeiner, Valmai Bermingham, Harold
Parsons, William Wright, Constance Pether and James Duncan;
Vivien Tuck (pianiste)

"DIDO AND AENEAS"	-	-	-	-	-	Purcell
-------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---------

The opera was especially written for the pupils of the girls' school kept by Mr. Josias Priest, and was performed by them in 1689. Singing, dancing, and acting were an important part of the education of boys and girls in those days; and Priest, like many other schoolmasters, was a dancing master and closely connected with the theatre.

"Dido and Aeneas" is not the first English opera, as generally supposed; the first was the "Siege of Rhodes", produced in 1656. The first opera with music from beginning to end was "Venus and Adonis" by Purcell's master, Dr. John Blow, and appeared a few years before "Dido and Aeneas."

"Dido" might be described as an opera in miniature. One finds in it the utmost economy of detail, both in music and in action; indeed at times the action is so compressed as to be naive in the extreme, and the words often border on absurdity in their terseness. But Purcell's music, simple as it is, frequently achieves marked beauty and poignancy; and his handling of chorus, aria, and declamation, attains a perfection of both lyrical and dramatic expression that makes this miniature drama a masterpiece.

Act I, Scene I—The Palace at Carthage. Dido, smitten by love of Aeneas, and despairing of its requital, is urged by Belinda to hope. Aeneas enters and presses his suit, which she accepts amid general rejoicing.

Act I, Scene II—The Witches' Cave. The Sorceress summons the witches and they plot the overthrow of Dido, through separation of the lovers. The scene ends with an echo chorus and an echo dance of the witches.

Act II—A Grove. Dido and Aeneas are engaged in hunting the boar, when a storm is raised by the witches and all disperse for the city. A witch, disguised as Mercury, intercepts Aeneas and orders him to return to Troy.

Act III, Scene I—The Quay. The sailors prepare to sail for Troy. The witches appear and triumph in their success.

Act III, Scene II—The Palace. Seeing Dido's bitter distress, Aeneas protests his affection and determines to remain; but Dido dismisses him in fury. Despairing at his apparent faithlessness, she collapses and dies of a broken heart.

UNIVERSITY THEATRE GUILD

Committee:

President: Mr. John Horner

Professor E. Harold Davies	Dr. Charles Fenner
Professor J. Innes Stewart	Miss Barbara Howard
Dr. T. D. Campbell	Mr. J. Irwin
Mr. Clive Carey	Mr. Frank Johnston
Mr. J. Cornell	Mr. D. B. Kerr
Mr. E. R. Corney	Dr. Eugene McLaughlan

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. D. Byrne

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. B. Elliott

Guild activities include study groups in Play Reading, Acting, Stage Decoration, Ballet and Make-up. The development of the work of this theatre will depend upon an increase in membership. Subscription 10/- per year; undergraduates 5/-. Anyone interested in membership or active work in this small theatre movement is invited to apply to the Honorary Secretary, Mrs. D. Byrne, care of the University.

Lino Cut by Pauline Stephens.

Proceeds from Programme in Aid of Red Cross Funds.