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## ABOUT MUSIC

The University of Arkansas is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music and the Department of Music is housed within the Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences.

Home to over 300 music students and fifty faculty members, we offer a variety of degree programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Department faculty and students perform over 400 concerts per year, on and off campus. Large concerts are performed at the 600-seat Faulkner Performing Arts Center that opened in 2015. Chamber and solo recitals are primarily presented at the 200-seat Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall, which is slated for a full renovation starting December 2022.

For more information, find us on social media or contact us at (479) 575-4701, email us at **[music@uark.edu](mailto:music@uark.edu)**, or visit **[music.uark.edu](http://music.uark.edu)**.



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# UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS OPERA THEATRE

Dr. Jonathan Stinson, stage director

John Kimita Njenga – Conductor

Dr. Tomoko Kashiwagi – Piano

Rebecca Cannan – Choreographer

Mercy Embree – Costume Design

Dr. Jonathan Stinson – Lighting Design

Dr. Jonathan Stinson – Set Design

Dr. Erik Lawrence – Rehearsal Pianist

Thursday, April 4th, 7:30 pm

Saturday, April 6th, 3pm and 7:30 pm

Sunday, April 7th, 3pm

**Faulkner Performing Arts Center**

## **Dido and Aeneas**

By: Henry Purcell and Nahum Tate

# Cast

- Dido**.....Kate Jackson (Thurs, Sat matinee)  
Talina Woods (Sat evening, Sun)
- Aeneas**.....P Rob Brown
- Belinda**.....Nina Garavito-Davies (Thurs, Sat matinee)  
Kalista Brown (Sat evening, Sun)
- Second Woman**..... Avery Hamlin (Thurs, Sat matinee)  
Gabriela Madu (Sat evening, Sun)
- Spirit**.....Emma Scott
- First Sailor**..... Nathan Edwards
- Sorceress**..... Ashley Trotter (Thurs, Sat matinee)  
Jeffrey Kerst (Sat evening, Sun)
- First Witch**.....Amelia Booker
- Second Witch**..... Jeffrey Kerst (Thurs, Sat matinee)  
Ashley Trotter (Sat evening, Sun)
- Noble Chorus**.....Nathan Edwards, Avery Hamlin,  
Campbell Leiterman, Gabriela Madu,  
Sam Messick, Emma Scott
- Evil Chorus**..... .Amelia Booker, Joe A. Broom Jr., Jeffrey Kerst,  
Ashley Trotter
- \*Noble Dancers**..... Shae Aagard, Pyper Burchfield, Janie Kirkpatrick,  
Aviana Mauk, Lizzy Tucker, Taylor Woods
- \*Evil Dancers**.....Suri Baer, Madilyn Dardenne, Alaia Gatchel

\* Students from Arkansas Arts Academy

The exact date of composition for Dido and Aeneas is unknown, though scholars place the work between 1683-1688. The opera is based on Book IV of Virgil's The Aeneid. Set in 12th century BCE, the opera follows the hero Aeneas, having recently escaped the fall of Troy. On his way toward the Italian coast, he stops in Carthage, (which is now modern-day Tunisia). There, he meets Dido, Queen of Carthage, only to find that her kingdom is on the verge of collapse. Though their love has the potential to restore both Carthage and Troy to their former glory, the evil Sorceress and her band of witches take on the role of fate, conjuring up several magical obstacles, ensuring the fall of Carthage will continue unimpeded.

This production is unique when compared to traditional interpretations of the opera because the dancing is fully incorporated into the storytelling. Dido suffers from depression and manic mood swings as her empire crumbles. As the hero Aeneas seeks her love and the Sorceress takes pleasure in her downfall, a war wages within her mind. In our production, the dancers represent the Noble and Evil forces in Dido's head – ghostly apparitions unseen by those around her but tormenting Dido in plain sight.

### **SPECIAL THANKS**

Dr. Alan Gosman

Dr. Tomoko Kashiwagi

Isaac Baker

Arkansas Arts Academy

Faulkner Performing Arts Center

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