

Carmina Burana

📅 JANUARY 26, 2019

🕒 7:30 P.M.

📍 THE ISABEL

📅 JANUARY 27, 2019

🕒 2:30 P.M.

📍 THE ISABEL

ELIZABETH POLESE *Soprano*
CHRISTOPHER MAYELL *Tenor*
JEAN-PHILIPPE McCLISH *Baritone*
EVAN MITCHELL *Conductor*
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY CHORAL ENSEMBLE
DARRELL BRYAN *Director*

Program

Overture to Il Segreto di Susanna WOLF-FERRARI (1876-1948)

Finale of Act 1 of The Boatswain's Mate SMYTH (1858-1944)

Intermission

Carmina Burana ORFF (1895-1982)

Today's Music

WITH EVAN MITCHELL

We're lucky to have pieces in the repertoire that have remained universally popular for years and years. Carmina Burana is one such piece. It takes about an hour to perform - not quite long enough to make a full concert by itself. You need to balance it against a first half which is not so much that it makes for an overlong concert, but not so little that you can't justify an intermission.

The solution is simple. Carmina Burana is a piece about giving into base desires, so why not find a few works along the same lines? It turns out there's all sorts of music dealing with sinful indulgence and bad behaviour!

We begin with Wolf-Ferrari's Overture to Susanna's Secret, an opera about a woman struggling to hide her smoking habit from her husband. Naturally he presumes from the excessive perfume she wears to mask the smell of smoke that she's having an affair, and hijinks ensue. Quick and fleet, this opera's delightful overture is today's frothy first course.

Moving ahead to the end of Act 1 of Ethel Smyth's The Boatswain's Mate, the main character Mrs. Waters gives an extraordinary rumination on finding love at an older age. At the height of this aching and personal meditation, a band of pub-crawling drunks bursts into Mrs. Waters' tavern after hours in search of "mugs all around!" It's charming and quite funny, but it will be the intimate personal confessions of Mrs. Waters that will stay with you once the concert is done.

Of course, Carmina Burana, Carl Orff's magnum opus, is chock full of lust, indulgence, and living-in-the-moment without care for the consequences. It's a powerhouse of a piece for orchestra and choir alike. The Kingston Symphony is thrilled to be performing this grand staple of debauchery today.