

Tamborine Mountain U3A presents:



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THE ELIXIR OF LOVE

AN OPERA IN TWO ACTS BY GAETANO DONIZETTI

STARRING

LUCIANO PAVAROTTI AND JUDITH BLEGEN

ACT 1: Scene 1: Nemorino, a shy young Basque farmer, is in love with the wealthy and haughty Adina who lures him on and then rejects his love. She is not only a flirt, she is something of a show-off and when the curtain rises she is showing off her intellectual superiority to a bunch of admiring friends, telling the story of Tristan, Isolde and the magic potion that makes them fall in love. Hovering in the background is the lovesick Nemorino, trying as usual to attract her attention. The sound of a drum heralds the arrival of a platoon of soldiers headed by the dashing, bombastic and extremely conceited Sergeant Belcore. He, too, begins to woo Adina and she is flattered though makes it clear he has met his match when it comes to arrogance and self-worth. Poor Nemorino, feeling outclassed nonetheless persists in his suit, only to be spurned again.

ACT 1: Scene 2: It's all excitement in this remote mountain village because now along comes another flamboyant character, the exotic and loquacious quack, "Dr" Dulcamara, who is flogging his acclaimed potions to cure all ills. The naïve Nemorino is very impressed and asks the "doctor" if he sells Queen Isolde's love potion. Surprise, surprise, he does! But warns that the potion will only take effect 24 hours after consumption. Nemorino is thrilled and, sure in his possession of the magic potion, acts indifferently and cheerfully around Adina who is piqued enough to offer to marry Belcore in six days time. Nemorino remains unworried, believing she will be his on the morrow. However, in the unlikely way of operas, Belcore is suddenly transferred and Adina agrees to marry him immediately. The marriage feast is prepared - and Nemorino is distraught!

ACT 1: Scene 1: In this village they appear to start the wedding feast before the wedding! Everyone is having a good time, including Dr Dulcamara, but Adina stalls when it comes to signing the contract. Ostensibly she wants to wait until Nemorino shows up, to punish him, but WE have now begun to suspect that she's really pretty keen on him (even if she does have a strange way of showing it). The desperate Nemorino asks Dulcamara for more of the magic elixir but has run out of money; his one option is to earn it by joining Belcore's troop.

ACT 1: Scene 2: Now a very operatic bit of luck occurs: Nemorino's rich uncle dies leaving him sole heir. All the girls in the village suddenly want to marry him. Adina, too, is astonished at his sudden popularity until she learns from Dulcamara about the potion and how Nemorino has sold his freedom for her sake. She is deeply moved and (didn't we just know it!) now realises she loves him. Everything is on track for a happy ending - and, of course, it's all due to the elixir of love!