

LE NOZZE DI FIGARO by W. A. Mozart

The Marriage of Figaro, Mozart's supremely human comedy, is often described as the perfect opera. Based on Beaumarchais' play *La Folle Journée* (the crazy day) it is set in Count Almaviva's palace and gardens in Seville. Figaro, valet to Count Almaviva, is about to marry Susanna, the Countess's maid. Almaviva's marriage has soured due to his philandering and, when Susanna confesses that the Count is now wooing her, Figaro is furious. He enlists the help of Susanna and the Countess to thwart the Count's plan and teach him a lesson. Meanwhile, Bartolo, the Countess's former guardian is seeking to settle an old score with Figaro and attempts to force him to marry the middle aged housekeeper Marcellina. Elsewhere in the Palace, Cherubino, an amorous teenager, is besotted with the Countess while Barbarina, the gardener's daughter is infatuated with Cherubino. Much happens on a single crazy day until the various plots reach a climax in the garden that night, when the entire palace household stumbles across each other in the dark.

LUCIA DI AMMERMOOR by G. Donizetti

In a feud between the Scottish families of Ravenswood and Lammermoor, Enrico (Lord Henry Ashton of Lammermoor) has gained the upper hand over Edgardo (Edgar of Ravenswood), and taken over his estates. However, Enrico's fortunes have begun to wane. He arranges a financially advantageous marriage between his emotionally fragile sister Lucia and Lord Arturo Bucklaw, unaware that she is in love with Edgardo of Ravenswood. When he discovers their attachment he resolves to separate them and shows Lucia a forged letter stating that Edgardo has found another lover. Heartbroken, Lucia consents to marry Arturo, but when Edgardo arrives moments after the marriage has taken place she breaks down, becomes deranged and kills Arturo. Generally held to be Donizetti's finest work, the beautifully expressive score of Lucia di Lammermoor is best known for its unequalled mad scene.

DIVA OPERA

Diva Opera was founded by Anne Marabini Young and Bryan Evans in 1996. They present chamber opera at its best. With outstanding performances from both well known artists and gifted young singers they showcase contemporary talent and maintain a commitment to reinvigorating the classic works. During the past nineteen years, the company has produced more than forty different operas and has performed in festivals, theatre, and for charities throughout Great Britain and Europe. They have performed at Stuckeridge for the last fifteen years, probably their smallest and most intimate venue.

CHARITIES

Marie Curie Nurses provide care and support for the terminally ill and their families, giving them the choice to stay at home.

Live Music Now delivers programmes by professional musicians to transform the lives of those challenged by disability, illness, poverty or social disadvantage.

TICKETS

Tickets cost £100 and £150 (The Golden Circle)

The GOLDEN CIRCLE will form a special support group. These friends of the opera will receive priority booking, news, superior seating, and invitations to attend rehearsals, future events etc.

Due to restricted space these tickets are limited and allocated in order of application receipt.

Please apply by contacting caroline at caroline@stuckeridgeevents.co.uk