PENNINGTON COLLEGE
presents
The Opera
DIDO AND AENEAS
by Henry Purcell
Directed by Catherine Satterlee

Sunday
June 6, 1971
8:15 P.M.
Carriage Barn

Dido or Elissa
Aeneas
Belinda
Sorcerer
First Witch
Second Witch
First Woman
Second Woman
Sailor
Attendants

Catherine Satterlee
Douglas Houston
Pamela Downs
Joel Katz
Kimball Wheeler
Elizabeth Swados
Yasmin Aga Khan
Alexandra Hughes
Erik Nielsen
Timothy Baker
Paul Dixon
Stanley Scott

Conducted by Michael Finckel

First Violin
Second Violin
Viola
Cello
Harpsichord
Choreography
Props and Lighting

Carolyn Bond
Susan Cantrick
Deborah Borda
William Peck
Marianne Finckel
Elizabeth Pattison
Gael Alcock

Special thanks to Frank Baker for his musical direction.

ACT I:
Dido, the Queen of Carthage, is assured by her sister Belinda that her love for Aeneas, the leader of the Trojans, will be condoned by the gods -- Dido had vowed that she would never love another man since her husband, murdered by Dido's brother, died an unnatural death. Aeneas, fresh from the Trojan War, is a guest in Dido's court. He asks Dido that she accept him as her husband and king for the good of her empire; Belinda encourages the hero in his conquest of the Queen.
ACT II, Scene I
The Sorcerer calls upon his cohorts, the witches, to share in his adventure. They form the plans which will ruin Dido, the first of which is to create a storm while the court is out hunting. At this point, when Dido and Aeneas are separated from the court and their love consummated, the Sorcerer plans to send his witch, in the form of a god, to Aeneas. She will say that Jove demands Aeneas' return to Italy.

ACT II, Scene II
During this scene, the Sorcerer's plans are realized. There is the hunt and the storm; the court hastens back to town and Dido and Aeneas are left alone in the woods. The witch comes to Aeneas and chides him for staying so long on foreign shores. The hero now proclaims his readiness to obey the gods, but is distressed that Dido, having at last given to her passion, will suffer by his leaving.

ACT III
Having heard from Aeneas that they will leave, the Sailor summons his fellows to ready the ships. Their plot accomplished, the Sorcerer and witches rejoice for Dido's demise. The Sorcerer has yet more misfortunes to attempt; he will create a storm so that Aeneas and his sailors are harried at sea. Dido has heard by now that her lover plans to desert her and bemoans her fate. Having broken her vow with the gods, having been deserted by Aeneas, and her kingdom left in turmoil she can see no possible means of living. After the lovers' quarrel, she decides that death is her only resort. She takes the poison and is comforted by her sister Belinda as she dies.