

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 | Catherine Satterlee |
| Aeneas         | Douglas Houston     |
| Belinda        | Pamela Downs        |
| Sorcerer       | Joel Katz           |
| First Witch    | Kimball Wheeler     |
| Second Witch   | Elizabeth Swados    |
| First Woman    | Yasmin Aga Khan     |
| Second Woman   | Alexandra Hughes    |
| Sailor         | Erik Nielsen        |
| Attendants     | Timothy Baker       |
|                | Paul Dixon          |
|                | Stanley Scott       |

Conducted by Michael Finckel

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| First Violin       | Carolyn Bond       |
| Second Violin      | Susan Cantrick     |
| Viola              | Deborah Borda      |
| Cello              | William Peck       |
| Harpichord         | Marianne Finckel   |
| Choreography       | Elizabeth Pattison |
| Props and Lighting | 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.