

# Così fan tutte

**WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART**

**1789**

**SUNG IN ITALIAN  
APPROXIMATE RUNNING TIME: 165 minutes**

*Così fan Tutte* is an Italian-language opera buffa in two acts to a Lorenzo da Ponte's libretto and it originally premiered at the Weiner Burgtheater on the 26th January 1790.

*Così fan tutte* is commonly believed to be based on a true story which, however, it was more likely contaminated by a number of different sources Mozart and his librettist gleaned several elements from, including a famous Neapolitan opera buffa.

Light-hearted characters, cheeky intrigues, partner swapping game, infidelity and false appearances. These are the elements the audience is going to find in this opera, a finely crafted middle-ground between comedy and tragedy. The unfolding of the plot is gently accompanied by the majestic music containing some of the most attractive arias ever composed.



## MAIN CHARACTERS

**Fiordiligi**, Lady from Ferrara and sister to Dorabella, living in Naples (soprano)

**Dorabella**, Lady from Ferrara and sister to Firdiligi, living in Naples (soprano)

**Guglielmo**, Fiordiligi's fiancé (baritone)

**Ferrando**, Dorabella's fiancé (tenor)

**Despina**, maid (soprano)

**Don Alfonso**, old philosopher (basso)

## THE PLOT

Old philosopher Don Alfonso lays a wager with two young officers claiming he can prove their fiancés, like all women, are mercurial. With the aid of the two young ladies' maid, the philosopher tricks them into believing their fiancés are to leave town for a while. The two officers disguised as Albanians officials are to charm the young ladies in order to test their faithfulness. Eventually the two young ladies give in-as would all women do- although ultimately making it up with each other. It all results in two weddings and a big amount of bitterness.

### Act 1

Officials Fernando and Guglielmo make a bet with Don Alfonso that their fiancés will be eternally faithful should they have been out of town for a long time. Alfonso then trickingly informs the two young ladies that their fiancés are to stay away for a while in order to test their girls' ability to stay loyal. Maid Despina tries to cheer Fiordiligi and Dorabella up telling them stories and implying they're stupid for thinking men are able to remain faithful. Contemporarily Fernando and Guglielmo disguised as two Albanians officers try to charm the two young ladies with the aid of Despina, who is disguised as a doctor.

### Act 2

Dorabella is the first one starting to give in when Guglielmo hits on her, whilst Fiordigili, far more determined to resist, finally decides to go look for her fiancé but later caves in as well after meeting and be charmed by Ferrando. One step away from signing the wedding contract, public notary –Despina in disguise- announces the young boys' return. The whole trick is revealed and Don Alfonso manages to talk the two furious men into calming down and eventually forgiving their cheating fiancés that they ultimately marry. Peace is restored but bitterness does remain.

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