

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

Contact: Bob McGill

Mailed May 15, 1986

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - Abdallah Bou Habbib, Lebanese ambassador to the U.S., will be guest speaker at the seventh annual "Lebanese Night" May 23 at Youngstown State University.

There will be a reception for the ambassador at 7 p.m. in the Buckeye Suite of Kilcawley Center. Following his talk, at about 8:30 p.m. in the Chestnut Room, there will be a buffet dinner of Lebanese food and a program that includes a Lebanese dance group, a band, and a documentary film and slides on Lebanon.

The entire program is free and open to the public, students, faculty and staff. However, tickets must be obtained from the Lebanese Student Organization by May 20 by contacting that office, Room 274 in Kilcawley Center, or calling 742-3598.

The event, co-sponsored by Student Government, attracted some 350 persons last year.

Mohamed Darwish of Austintown, president of the Lebanese Student Organization, will introduce the ambassador and the program.

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NEWS SERVICE
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Mailed May 15, 1986

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - Youngstown State University's Dana School of Music and University Theatre will present an operatic twin bill when they open with Henry Purcell's "Dido and Aeneas" and Leonard Bernstein's "Trouble in Tahiti" at 8 p.m. May 22 in Ford Theatre at Bliss Hall, Wick Avenue.

The performances will continue on May 23 and 24.

Composed in 1689, "Dido and Aeneas" relates Virgil's story of the Trojan hero Aeneas and his escape from the fallen city of Troy to Carthage, his love affair there with Queen Dido, and his departure to found the city of Rome.

Singing the role of Queen Dido is Lisa Callahan, a junior music education major from Lordstown. Her lover, Aeneas, will be sung by senior voice major Jay Baylon from Fairview Park. Although this is Lisa's University Theatre debut, Jay has been heard in several YSU operas, including "The Marriage of Figaro" and "The Tender Land" in addition to chorus performance with the Blossom Music Festival and Cleveland Orchestra.

Supporting them will be Shelley Bigby of Warren as Belinda; Linda Gustinella-Smrek, Boardman, as the Sorceress; and Mark Spondike, Sharpsville, Pa., as the sailor.

Appearing as supporting characters are Tania Pshsniak of Salem; Killeen Vogel, Boardman; Michele Tinney, Conneaut; and Shellee Kloos, Salem.

Also appearing as part of the singing and dancing ensemble are Ashraf Zendah, Jamie Stabal, Lisa Bova, Angela Morgan, Kathy Prosser, Ruth Smrek, Sara Szabo, Maureen Putnam, Carolyn Carbone, Pam Ackelson, Ann Cliness, Donna Riffe, Rosemary Raridon of the Dana faculty, Denise Abbas, Gary Lehman, Robert McCorvey, Chris Kocis, Marte Spondike, Jeff Blewitt, Anthony Rogers, Robert Stubbs, William Ambert,

MORE

ADD ONE

Darryl Yeagley, and Dr. Wade Raridon of the Dana faculty.

"Dido and Aeneas" will be supported by a quintet comprised of Benn Podolski and Gil Bigenno on violin, Jayne Goldstein on viola, Larry Sharpe on cello, and Kathy Davison on harpsichord. The four are members of the Dana String Quartet.

The second half of this operatic double-header consists of a breezy, popular-song inspired opera with roots in the American musical theatre.

"Trouble In Tahiti" deftly depicts the domestic life and culture of typical suburbanites. This work by Leonard Bernstein has been chosen for inclusion in the New York Opera Company's permanent repertory of American operas.

Denise Abbas of Youngstown and Gary Lehman of Niles have the lead roles as Dinah and Sam, a young married couple who are so busy doing their own thing they cannot communicate. Both are vocal music seniors.

Throughout this show, a trio of voices provides comment on the past as well as present happenings. At times they even reflect the inner conscience of the pair as they try to relate to each other.

The trio, with the orchestra, are Kathy Prosser of Austintown, Robert McCorvey of Warren, and Chris Kocis of Sharpsville, Pa.

Both operas are under the direction of Dr. Donald Vogel of Poland, director of the Opera Theatre program of the Dana School of Music. The orchestra is under the direction of Michael Gelfand of Boardman; the Chorus Master for "Dido and Aeneas" is Dr. Wade Raridon, Youngstown; choreographer is Joan Wagman of Liberty.

Scenic and lighting design is by Mark Samuelof Sharon, Pa. while the costumes have been designed by Jane Shanabarger YSU's costumer from Boardman.

On opening night, a "First Nighters' Buffet" will be offered at the Wicker Basket Restaurant, Spring and Elm Streets. The specially prepared menu will consist of Tahitian glazed chicken, stir-fried beef, rice, peapods with lemon sauce, green and gold salad with light dressing, pineapple baskets with mandarin oranges, relish trays with spicy dips, rolls, butter, beverage and Ambrosia. The buffet is \$7 per person and reservations are required.

MORE

ADD TWO

Reservations for the buffet and all performances may be made by phoning the University Theatre Box Office at 742-3105 from 10:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Because of limited seating, early reservations are recommended. Play tickets are \$5 for the public. Admission is free for YSU students with I.D. cards.

"Dido and Aeneas" and "Trouble in Tahiti" are co-produced by University Theatre and the Dana School of Music and presented as part of the cultural offerings of the College of Fine and Performing Arts of Youngstown State University.

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NEWS SERVICE
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FOR RELEASE:



CUTLINES

YSU's dual opera presentations of "Dido and Aeneas" and "Trouble in Tahiti" include this dramatic scene from Henry Purcell's "Dido and Aeneas." From left are Shelley Bigby of Warren, Lisa Callahan of Lordstown in the lead role of Dido, and Tania Pshsniak of Salem. The two productions are a cooperative effort by the Dana School of Music and University Theatre and will be presented 8 p.m. May 22, 23 and 24 in Bliss Hall.

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85-571

In Leonard Bernstein's modern opera, "Trouble in Tahiti," Denise Abbas of Youngstown goes on a hat-buying spree to counteract frustrations in her troubled marriage. Playing her husband is Gary Lehman of Niles.

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85-572

(YSU photos by Elise Cleary)

FOR RELEASE:

CUTLINE

YSU's dual opera production of "Dido and Aeneas" and "Trouble in Tahiti" includes this dramatic scene from Henry Purcell's "Dido and Aeneas." from left are Shelley Bigby of Warren, Tania Pshsniak of Salem, and Lisa Callahan of Lordstown as Dido. In contrast, Leonard Bernstein's "Trouble in Tahiti" is a modern opera. The two are a cooperative effort by the Dana School of Music and University Theatre and will be presented May 22, 23 and 24 in Bliss Hall.

(YSU photo by Elise Cleary)

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85-573

FOR RELEASE:

CUTLINE

Gary Lehman of Niles and Denise Abbas, Youngstown, a married couple too busy going their separate ways, have a chance meeting on the street in a scene from Leonard Bernstein's modern opera, "Trouble in Tahiti." The other half of the twin bill by YSU's Dana School of Music and University Theatre is Henry Purcell's classic "Dido and Aeneas." The dual production will be presented May 22, 23 and 24 in the University's Bliss Hall.

(YSU photo by Elise Cleary)

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85-544

FOR RELEASE:

CUTLINE

Lisa Callahan of Lordstown, left, Tania Pshsniak of Salem, center, and Shelley Bigby of Warren share a dramatic moment in "Dido and Aeneas," part of the twin operatic production by YSU's Dana School of Music and University Theatre which will be presented May 22, 23 and 24 in Bliss Hall. Lisa is singing the lead role of Dido. The other offering is Leonard Bernstein's modern "Trouble in Tahiti."

(YSU photo by Elise Cleary)

85-575

FOR RELEASE:



CUTLINE

Queen Dido of Carthage, played by Lisa Callahan of Lordstown, sings to her lover, Aeneas, played by Jay Baylon of Fairview Park, in one of two opera presentations to be given May 22, 23 and 24 in Bliss Hall by YSU's Dana School of Music and University Theatre. In addition to "Dido and Aeneas," the twin bill offers Leonard Bernstein's modern "Trouble in Tahiti."

(YSU photo by Elise Cleary)

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85-576



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FOR RELEASE:



CUTLINE

Lisa Callahan of Lordstown, a junior music education major, sings the lead role of Dido, queen of Carthage, in the Dana-University Theatre presentation of "Dido and Aeneas." That classic opera and Leonard Bernstein's modern "Trouble in Tahiti" form a twin bill operatic production which will be presented at 8 p.m. May 22, 23 and 24 in Ford Theatre, Bliss Hall.

(YSU photo by Elise Cleary)

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85-577