

Falstaff

Music by **Giuseppe Verdi** • Libretto by **Arrigo Boito**

English Translation by **Andrew Porter**

Performances Friday, July 26 and Monday, July 29 at 7:30 p.m.

Chautauqua Opera dedicates this performance to the Chautauqua Opera Guild. The generosity of Guild members comes to us in so many ways – the Adopt-An-Artist program, master classes, Operalogues, Young Artist scholarship awards and their incredible enthusiasm. The entire company thanks you for your love and support.

Opera in Three Acts

After *The Merry Wives of Windsor* by William Shakespeare

Premiere Performance Teatro alla Scala, Milan, February 9, 1893

Chautauqua Opera Performances 1987, 1995 and 2001

CAST

At the garter inn

Sir John Falstaff, *Knight of the Garter*

Kevin Glavin

Bardolph, *a follower of Falstaff*

Aaron Short+

Pistol, *a follower of Falstaff*

Jonathan Harris+

Innkeeper

Adam Barta+

Innkeeper's Wife

Emily Spencer+

Robin, *Falstaff's Page*

Beck Benson

In the neighborhood

Ford, *a wealthy townsman*

Michael Chioldi

Alice Ford, *his wife*

Amy Burton**

Nanetta, *their daughter*

Mandy Brown+

Fenton, *beloved of Nanetta*

Jon Jurgens+

Dame Quickly, *Nanetta's Godmother*

Jennifer Roderer**

Meg Page, *a neighbor*

Ellen PutneyMoore+

Dr. Caius, *sutor for Nanetta*

Ethan DePuy+

Townsppeople of Windsor

Chautauqua Opera Young Artists

Fairies and Goblins

Victoria Pucci-Schaefer**, Isabella Pucci-Schaefer**,

Alexandra Pucci-Schaefer**, Elizabeth Pucci-Schaefer**,

Shannon McKee, Alexandra McKee

Ford's Servants

Max McKee, Shawn Sprinkle, Frank Witgen

**Chautauqua Opera Debut

+Chautauqua Opera Young Artist

CREATIVE AND PRODUCTION

Conductor	James Meena
Conceived/Directed by	Jay Lesenger
Chorus Master	Carol Rausch
Set Designer	Ron Kadri
Lighting/Video Designer	Michael Baumgarten
Costume Designer	B. G. FitzGerald
Wig/Makeup Designer	Georgianna Eberhard
Coach/Accompanists	Emily Jarrell Urbanek Dorothy Randall
Diction Coach/ Supertitles	Allison Voth
Technical Director	Erin Waters Ryan
Properties Master/ Scenic Artist	Tricia L. Thelen
Production Stage Manager	Teri Jo Fuson
Assistant Stage Director	Alison Moritz
Assistant Stage Managers	Melissa Futch Susan Stephenson
Concertmaster	Vahn Armstrong

Andrew Porter (English Translation), born August 26, 1928, in Cape Town, South Africa, is a British music critic, scholar, organist, and opera director. His writings for *The New Yorker* (1972–1992) won respect from leading figures in the musical world. The composer and critic Virgil Thomson stated, "Nobody reviewing in America has anything like Porter's command of [opera]." In more recent years he has written for *The Observer* and *The Times Literary Supplement*. He has translated 37 operas, of which his English translations of *Der Ring des Nibelungen* and *The Magic Flute* have been widely performed. He authored the librettos for John Eaton's *The Tempest* and Bright Sheng's *The Song of Majnun*.

Special Thanks to Suzanne Shull and Special Studies Guitar Classes for the use of their guitar.



James Meena



Kevin Glavin



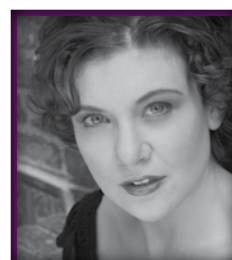
Amy Burton



Michael Chioldi



Jennifer Roderer



Ellen PutneyMoore

SYNOPSIS:

THE TALE OF THE MERRY WIVES

Place: Windsor, England, and the neighborhood
Time: The Reign of Queen Elizabeth I

Act I

Scene 1 — The Garter Inn, early morning

Scene 2 — Outside Ford's house, later that morning

Act II

Scene 1 — The Garter Inn, that afternoon

Scene 2 — Ford's House, just from two until three

Act III

Scene 1 — Outside the Garter Inn, sundown

Scene 2 — Windsor Forest, midnight

Sir John Falstaff is a knight who has fallen on hard times. He is being fleeced by his avaricious retainers, Bardolph and Pistol; he has been accused of robbing Dr. Caius while the physician was drunk; and worst of all, he is in danger of losing his beloved paunch for lack of funds to supply it with food and drink.

He sees his salvation in the fortunes of two wives from Windsor—Alice Ford and Meg Page. Believing that they, separately, have shown more than a passing interest in him, he writes to each of them declaring his love, with the intention of gaining control of their money and of cuckolding their husbands.

Mistress Ford and Mistress Page each receive Falstaff's request for an assignation. The women are outraged by his audacity. With the help of the Widow Quickly and Alice's daughter Nanetta, they resolve to teach him a lesson he will never forget.

Against her wishes, Nanetta has been promised in marriage to the wealthy Dr. Caius by her father. Nanetta is truly in love with Fenton, a young gentleman with whom she whispers quotes (in Italian!) from Boccaccio's Decameron: "A mouth, once kissed, never loses its freshness; Rather, like the moon it renews itself." The Merry Wives determine to prevent a wedding with Caius from ever taking place.

The jealous Ford, having learned of Falstaff's plans from the ousted Bardolph and Pistol, disguises himself as a certain "Master Brook" to confirm his wife's infidelity.

Audacious knights and foolish husbands meet their match at midnight in Windsor Forest under the haunted Herne's Oak...

— Jay Lesenger, Stage Director



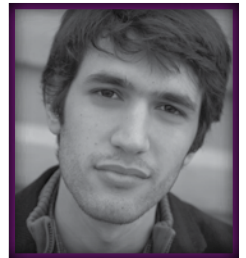
Mandy Brown



Jon Jurgens



Aaron Short



Jonathan Harris



Ethan DePuy



Beck Benson

CHAUTAUQUA OPERA ORCHESTRA

Violins I

Vahn Armstrong
Concertmaster
David Hult
Assistant

Concertmaster
Erica Robinson
Lenelle Morse
Olga D. Kaler
Amanda Armstrong

Violins II

Simon Lapointe, *Principal*
Mary Whitaker, *Assistant*
Margaret Cooper
Lara Sipols

Violas

Jennifer Stahl, *Principal*
Connie Lorber, *Assistant*
Eva Stern

Cellos

Jeffrey Szabo, *Principal*
Daryl Goldberg, *Assistant*
Marie Shmorhun

Basses

Owen Lee, *Principal*
Peter Haas, *Assistant*

Flutes

Kathryn Levy
Travis Jones (Piccolo)

Oboes

Joan Wright
Jason Weintraub
(English Horn)

Clarinets

Jerome Simas
Daniel Spitzer

Bassoons

Jeffrey Robinson
Stephen Smith

Horns

Donna Dolson
William Bernatis
Charles Waddell
Bruce Hennis

Trumpets

Peter Lindblom
Leslie Linn

Timpani

Brian Kushmaul

Percussion

Thomas Blanchard

Harp

Beth Robinson

CREDITS

Andrew Porter's English translation is used by arrangement with the translator.

Orchestral reduction by James Meena.

Orchestral materials provided by Opera Carolina.

Scenery constructed by Virginia Scenic, a division of Virginia Opera.

Lighting provided by Advanced Production Group.

Costumes for *Falstaff* provided by Malabar Ltd. and the Chautauqua Opera costume shop.

Wigs provided by Philip Plowman.



Peter Grimes, Part II, Scene 6 (from left: David Kravitz, Elizabeth Baldwin, Beck Benson, Kevin Ray)

Photo: Roger Coda



Peter Grimes, Part I, Scene 3, "The Boar"

Photo: Roger Coda

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