

Music **Gaetano Donizetti** • Libretto **Salvadore Cammarano**

Lucia di Lammermoor

Chautauqua Opera dedicates this performance to the community which has continually supported opera at Chautauqua for 84 seasons.

Opera in Two Parts

Based on the novel *The Bride of Lammermoor* (1819) by Sir Walter Scott

Premiere Performance Naples, Teatro San Carlo, September 26, 1835

Chautauqua Opera Premiere 1945

This production is sponsored in part by The Emily and John Corry Endowment for the Performing Arts.

CAST

(in order of appearance)

The Spirits of Lammermoor

Molly Vine ‡
Shawn Sprankle ‡

Normanno, a retainer of Lord Ashton

Jason Wickson +

Lord Enrico Ashton, new Lord of Lammermoor

Todd Thomas *

Raimondo Bide-the-Bent, a Presbyterian minister

Richard Bernstein

Lucia Ashton, Henry's sister

Rachelle Durkin **

Alisa, Lucia's companion

Courtney Miller +

Lord Arturo of Bucklaw, Lucia's bridegroom

Adam Bonnani +

Edgardo of Ravenswood

Gregory Carroll

Servants

Graham Rogers, John Teresi

Retainers and Wedding Guests

Chautauqua Opera Young Artists

* Former Chautauqua Opera Young Artist

** Chautauqua Opera Debut

+ Chautauqua Opera Young Artist

‡ Member of the Chautauqua
Regional Youth Ballet

CREATIVE AND PRODUCTION

Conductor Joseph Colaneri

Conceived/Directed by Jay Lesenger

Chorus Master Carol Rausch

Set Designer Ron Kadri

Lighting Designer Michael Baumgarten

Costume Designer B.G. FitzGerald

Wig/Makeup Designer Georgianna Eberhard

Coach/Accompanists Emily Jarrell Urbanek,
John Keene

Diction Coach/Supertitles Allison Voth

Technical Director Erin Waters Ryan

Properties Master Tricia L. Thelen

Production Stage Manager Teri Jo Fuson

Assistant Stage Director Joel Atella

Assistant Stage Managers Amy Duffy,
Liz McGavock

Concertmaster Vahn Armstrong

Chautauqua Opera dedicates this
production to the memory of our friend,
Sheldon Hoffenberg (1938–2012).

Special Thanks

Monika Alch of the Chautauqua Regional Youth Ballet



Joseph Colaneri



Rachelle Durkin



Gregory Carroll



Todd Thomas



Richard Bernstein

SYNOPSIS

The Lammermoor Hills of Scotland, circa 1901

Before the action —

Murder lies buried in the family history of the Ravenswoods. Generations ago, a young man of the family slew the woman who rejected him. Since then the estate and castle have been haunted by their spirits.

Recently, having backed the wrong political powers, the Ravenswood family fortunes have fallen. Henry Ashton has used his political connections to evict the Ravenswoods from their estate and to seize the remainder of their holdings in the hills of Lammermoor. Edgar, the last of the Ravenswoods, is left destitute. But with the recent death of the Queen, the tables have now turned and the Ashton fortunes are teetering on collapse. In order to bolster his political position, Enrico has arranged a marriage between his sister Lucia and Lord Arturo of Bucklaw, the son of a wealthy and powerful family. Using the recent death of her mother as an excuse, Lucia manages to forstall the alliance. Enrico is getting desperate.

ACT I

Scene 1

The Cemetery of the Lammermoor Estate — Night

Edgardo of Ravenswood has been spotted in the park of the estate by Normanno and other huntsmen. They vow to find him and throw him off the estate for good. Enrico confers with Reverend Bide-the-Bent, the family minister and Lucia's tutor. His only hope to stave off political ruin is to marry Lucia into the Bucklaw family, but she has refused his demands. Normanno reveals that Lucia has fallen in love with a man who saved her from the attack of a wild bull. Since then, she has been meeting the stranger daily in the park. Enrico is enraged when he discovers that the stranger is Edgardo and vows to end the secret meetings once and for all.

Later that evening, Lucia and her companion Alisa enter the park to meet Edgardo. She recounts to Alisa the strange, ghostly apparitions she has seen near the fountain. When Edgardo arrives, he tells Lucia he must leave immediately for France, but he wishes to make peace with Enrico. Lucia reminds him that her brother's hatred for the Ravenswoods makes that impossible. They exchange rings and vow love until death. Promising to write frequently, Edgardo rushes off, leaving Lucia in the haunted park.

Scene 2

The Great Hall in the Lammermoor Castle — Several Months Later

The wedding of Lucia and Arturo has been arranged, even though Lucia still refuses to marry him. Enrico manages to intercept all the correspondence between Edgardo and Lucia, and Normanno has prepared a forged note

ostensibly from Edgardo in which he rejects Lucia for another woman's love. Lucia enters, dismayed that she has not heard a word from Edgardo. Enrico berates her for not putting the family's fortunes first, and for endangering his life. When Lucia declares that she considers herself as good as married to Edgardo, her brother shows her the forged letter. Lucia believes she has been abandoned by Edgardo.

Raimondo joins Lucia and tells her that Edgardo has not answered any of his letters either. Unknown to them, Enrico has intercepted these letters as well. The minister reminds Lucia that her vows to Edgardo are not blessed by the church and therefore not valid. In the name of God, he urges her to marry Arturo to save her brother. Lucia at last relents.

The guests gather for the wedding. Arturo promises to save the Ashton fortune, while Enrico assures his future brother-in-law that the relationship between Lucia and Edgardo is nothing but a rumor. The bride enters and reluctantly signs the wedding contract just as Edgardo bursts into the room. When Edgardo is shown the wedding contract, he rejects Lucia. Unable to bear his anger, Lucia's mind begins to fray.

INTERMISSION

ACT II

Scene 1

The Cemetery — Shortly After

Edgardo enters the park in despair. Enrico has followed him and challenges him to a duel. They agree to meet again at dawn.

Scene 2

The Great Hall

Raimondo interrupts the wedding festivities in shock. Hearing screams from the bridal chamber, Raimondo entered it to find Arturo dead and Lucia murmuring nearby, still clutching a bloodied knife.

Lucia enters the Great Hall. Torn between love and duty, she has been driven insane.

Scene 3

The Cemetery — Just Before Dawn

Edgardo awaits Enrico's arrival among the tombs of his own ancestors. A procession comes from the castle and tells him that Lucia is delirious. As he attempts to rush to her, the bells toll — Lucia is dead. Edgardo's last wish is to join her.

— Jay Lesenger, Stage Director

GUEST ARTISTS



Shawn Sprankle, Dancer/*Lucia di Lammermoor*: Chautauqua Regional Youth Ballet; Chautauqua Opera Debut.



Molly Vine, Dancer/*Lucia di Lammermoor*: Configurations Dance Theatre, Chautauqua Regional Youth Ballet/*The Chinese Nightingale*; Chautauqua Opera Debut.

CHAUTAUQUA OPERA ORCHESTRA

Violin I

Vahn Armstrong
David Hult
Erica Robinson
Matus Zelmanovich
Lenelle Morse
Cheryl Bintz
Marian Tanau
Ming Gao
Olga D. Kaler
Amanda Armstrong

Violin II

Diane Bruce
Simon Lapointe
Barbara Berg
Mary Whitaker
Marcia Steel
Cynthia Berginc
Margaret Cooper
Lara Sipols

Viola

Thomas Dumm
Cynthia Frank
Connie Lorber
Caryn Wiegand Neidhold
Eva Stern
Jessie Goebel

Cello

Chaim Zemach
Matia Lieberman
Marie Shmorhun
Wendy Brennan
Gena Taylor

Bass

Patricia Dougherty
Bernard Lieberman
Caitlyn Kamminga
Peter Haas

Flute

Richard Sherman
Emma Moon

Piccolo

Kathryn Levy

Oboe

Joan Wright
Jason Weintraub

Clarinet

Eli Eban
Jerome Simas

Bassoon

Janis McKay
Stephen R. Smith

Horn

Roger Kaza
Donna Dolson
Charles Waddell
Mark Robbins

Trumpet

Charles Berginc
Leslie Linn

Trombone

John Marcellus
Frederick Boyd
Eric Lindblom

Timpani

Brian Kushmaul

Percussion

Thomas Blanchard
Ronald Barnett

Harp

Beth Robinson

CREDITS

Scenery constructed by Local #266 I.A.T.S.E
Costumes for *Lucia di Lammermoor* designed by B.G. FitzGerald
and constructed by the Chautauqua Opera costume shop
Wigs provided by Philip Plowman
Lighting provided by Advanced Production Group



opera.ciweb.org

Find us online

 [/chautopera](https://www.facebook.com/chautopera)  [@ChautOpera](https://twitter.com/ChautOpera)

Michael Ventura (Wurm) and Todd Thomas (Miller) in Verdi's *Luisa Miller*, 2011

Chautauqua Institution is a non-profit organization, dependent upon your gifts to fulfill its mission.
Gate tickets and other revenue cover only a portion of the cost of your Chautauqua experience.

Chautauqua Institution
PO Box 28
Chautauqua, NY 14722
www.ciweb.org

