

The Fairy Queens

by Henry Purcell (after Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*)

Fall 2023

Who?

Music Director: Francis Fedora

Stage Director: Carson White

Producer: Mia Rolland

Preferred Contact Email: mia.rolland-bezem@yale.edu and carson.white@yale.edu

What?

Hermia and Lysander are fleeing from the wrath of her father and the Athenian law, Demetrius is chasing after his love and Helena after him; four craftsmen turned amateur acting troupe members meet in the depths of the same forest that evening to rehearse their new play. These eight Athenians stumble into fairy realm in the midst of a feud between its rulers Oberon and Titania and for a night are caught up in the wonder, trickery and danger of this magic kingdom before being returned to the real world the next morning slightly discombobulated, largely unscathed but undeniably changed.

This adaptation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* revels in the magic and darkness of Titania's fairy realm with Shakespeare's text set alongside five masques of English Baroque opera by Purcell.

When?

Date of First Rehearsal: September 10th

Current Tech Week Dates: December 3rd-9th

Performance Dates: December 7th-9th

Overall Dates (First Rehearsal to Last Performance): September 10th-December 9th

Time Commitment

Titania, Oberon, Bottom and Puck: 3-5 hrs/week until October Break; 6-8 hrs/week between October and November Break; 10-12 hrs the week after November Break.

Helena, Demetrius, Lysander and Hermia: roughly 4-5 hrs/week until October Break; roughly 8 hrs/week in between October and November Break; 10-12 hrs the week after November Break.

Fairies (variable depending on size of fairy part): 2-4 hrs/week starting late September until October Break; 4-8 hrs/week between October and November Break; 6-10 hrs the week after November Break.

Note: More detail is provided in the full audition packet!

Content Notices

The four lovers, Titania, Oberon and Bottom all in moments of staged intimacy. The opera contains allusions to and threats of violence and misogyny.

Note: More details regarding intimacy are provided in the full audition packet.

Audition Expectations

There will be both singing and acting auditions for *The Fairy Queen* that will take place as part of the OTYC's general Fall auditions. You can sign up for seven-minute slots [here](#) - if you are submitting both a singing and acting audition please sign up for two slots in a row! This semi-opera has some characters who don't sing and some who have only a few or no spoken lines so which characters you want to be considered for you will determine which auditions you need to submit. Please fill out the [audition form](#) prior to your slot.

Singing: For this please prepare a song of your choosing, from whatever genre is most comfortable ([here](#) are some guidelines and examples). Please prepare at least a 32-bar cut (60-90 seconds) but you can sing up to the whole song if you prefer. There is the opportunity to submit a self-tape (of your *singing* audition). In-person auditions are preferred but a self-tape will **not** put you at a casting disadvantage. You can submit this at the end of the [audition form](#) [required for Titania, Oberon, Bottom, Puck, Fairies, Chorus].

Acting: Please prepare a 10-20 line Shakespeare monologue - it **doesn't** have to be memorised. This can be any monologue of your choosing but we have also selected sides from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which you are free to use. You'll perform the monologue, we'll discuss it a little and give some notes and ask you to perform it again. *We may also ask you to cold-read one of the (other) sides we've selected* [required for Hermia, Lysander, Helena, Demetrius, Titania, Oberon, Bottom, Puck].

Audition Location(s)

Tuesday 5th (5-7:30pm) auditions will happen in WLH 207 and Wednesday 6th (4-6pm) will happen in Sudler Auditorium, on the second floor of WLH (William L. Harkness Hall - 100 Wall St), most easily reached through the entrance on Cross Campus closest to College St.

- There is an elevator to the second floor from the first floor.