All audience members are asked to wear a mask. An exception will be made if eating from the provided concession stand while maintaining social distance from other patrons.

While the exhibits are closed during the event, some animals may make an appearance to watch the show. Thank you and enjoy the show!

DIRECTOR’S NOTE
I first encountered Alcina when I was asked to be involved in a production during graduate school. I immediately became enchanted with the fantastical story, the passionate, deeply human characters, and of course Handel’s spectacular music. The aspect that keeps bringing me back to Alcina, however, is its timeless message of death, rebirth, and transformation. The incredible beauty of Alcina’s island only exists through magical trickery, and it forever imprisons all those who try to enter into its seduction. In reality, the island is only a barren wasteland, and in order for its inhabitants to be freed, its beauty must be destroyed. Ruggiero laments this truth in his famous second act aria “Verdi prati”:

Verdant pastures, leafy woodlands
All your beauty will decay.
Perfumed flowers, clear flowing rivers
Though you invite me and delight me,
Tis your fate to fade away

Yet Ruggiero knows that it is only through the destruction of Alcina’s contrivance that the island’s inhabitants can be set free.

Alcina reminds us that as fallible human beings we surround ourselves with enticing, artificial entrapments, yet we can only be reborn into our best selves by allowing those artifices to die so that we can awaken to the inexorable truth. Those of us who are people of faith believe that this awakening allows us to see God’s transcendent truth. Today, in the midst of disheartening polarization and a world-changing pandemic, my hope is that tonight’s performance leaves you with hope that our world’s challenges may just be the things that allow us to let go of the artifices that ensnare us and be transformed.

Dr. Matthew Schloneger
PROGRAM SYNOPSIS

ACT I

Bradamante, disguised as her brother Ricciardo, and her tutor Melisso have been ship-wrecked and cast ashore while searching for her betrothed Ruggiero. They meet Morgana, Alcina’s sister, who falls in love at first sight with “Ricciardo” and promises to take them to Alcina. With a clap of thunder, Alcina is revealed, surrounded by her court, including Ruggiero and a young boy called Oberto. She receives the travelers graciously and tells Ruggiero to show them the sights of the island.

Bradamante confronts Ruggiero, who recognises her as Ricciardo but denies any interest in Ricciardo’s sister - he is the faithful lover of Alcina. He runs off to find her and Oberto asks the travellers if they have seen his father Astolfo. They too had been cast ashore by a storm, but his father, after a welcome from Alcina, had disappeared. Bradamante suspects that Astolfo has been changed into a wild beast like Alcina’s other victims.

Oronte, Alcina’s commander-in-chief, rightly suspecting the constancy of Morgana, whom he loves, charges “Ricciardo” with having stolen Morgana’s love. Morgana defends “Ricciardo” and insults Oronte. The disguised Bradamante tries to calm their mutual recriminations.

Oronte, coming upon Ruggiero who is sighing for the absent Alcina, decides to alleviate his own jealousy by making Ruggiero jealous too, and concocts a tale that Alcina now loves “Ricciardo” and will no doubt soon add Ruggiero to her collection of discarded and transformed lovers. Ruggiero believes him and heaps reproaches on the puzzled Alcina, who assures him that her feelings are unchanged.

Bradamante accuses Ruggiero of disloyalty, but he retaliates with defiance, accusing her, as Ricciardo, of having stolen Alcina’s love. Bradamante discloses her identity, but Melisso, worried that Ruggiero is not yet ready for this information, convinces him that she is not really Bradamante.

Morgana warns Bradamante that Ruggiero has persuaded Alcina to change her into a wild beast, so Bradamante tells Morgana to assure Ruggiero that she does not love Alcina, but another. Believing that other to be herself, Morgana happily expresses her faithful love to “Ricciardo.”

ACT II

Melisso, disguised as Ruggiero’s tutor Atlante, reproaches him and gives him a magic ring which reveals the truth, that Ruggiero has been enchanted by Alcina and that the island is in reality a desert wasteland. Ruggiero regrets his faithlessness to Bradamante and wishes to send a message of defiance to Alcina, but Melisso advises him to pretend that he still loves her. Bradamante again reveals her identity, only to have Ruggiero reject this revelation as another of Alcina’s deceptions.

Alcina prepares to change Ricciardo into a wild beast to appease Ruggiero, while Morgana tries to dissuade her and Ruggiero assures her that he is no longer jealous so drastic measures are no longer necessary. Alcina notices that Ruggiero is not in his usual spirits and he suggests a hunt as a restorative. She consents and he departs. Oberto continues to lament his father’s disappearance and Alcina falsely raises his hopes of a speedy reunion. Oronte brings the news that Ruggiero is planning to flee and Alcina, realizing that her love spell has been broken, laments her lost love and swears revenge.
Oronte tells Morgana that her new love is about to leave her, but she refuses to believe this, invoking anger and frustration from Oronte. Ruggiero is at last convinced that Bradamante is really herself and laments that the island’s verdant paradise must turn to dust to release Alcina’s spell and allow true rebirth.

Furious, Alcina summons ghostly phantoms to seek revenge and bind Ruggiero to her.

**ACT III**

Morgana tries to ingratiate herself with Oronte, who pretends indifference, but has to admit to himself that he still loves her. Alcina chastises Ruggiero for trying to leave her. He tells her that his betrothed Bradamante now has his love, and she threatens vengeance, though unable to obliterate her feelings of love for him. Her love for Ruggiero is crippling her power and ability to take revenge.

Bradamante and Melisso join Ruggiero to plan their campaign. Melisso tells them that the island is surrounded by Alcina’s enchanted monsters and gives Ruggiero the enchanted Gorgonian shield to help him in the fray. As Oronte announces to Alcina the complete defeat of her forces, Ruggiero, Melisso, Bradamante burst into Alcina’s chambers and threaten her. Oronte turns on Alcina and joins the rebellion, finally rejecting both Alcina and Morgana. When they depart, Alcina laments her cruel fate with Morgana.

Alcina tries to make Oberto kill a lion with a dagger, but Oberto realizes that the lion is his father Astolfo, and threatens to turn the dagger on Alcina herself. Ruggiero and Bradmante confront Alcina, each advising the other not to be taken in by her deceptions. She tries both pleading and threats in vain. Ruggiero pardons Oronte and then smashes the urn which holds Alcina’s secret power. All her spells are broken and the animals, trees and rocks, including Astolfo, Oberto’s father, resume their human shapes. They rejoice at their liberty and all celebrate the triumph of love.

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**Thanks for supporting the arts!**

We hope you enjoyed Friends University’s production of Alcina! This COVID-19 pandemic has affected us all and the arts are no exception. Now more than ever, we value your support and involvement. In considering the safety of our patrons and performers, we have made the decision to move a majority of productions online which has drastically cut ticket revenue. We humbly request donations to the Fine Arts Division to help offset the loss.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Dr. Joan Griffing
Tim and Gail Buchanan Endowed Chair of the Fine Arts
SYNOPSIS
The setting of the opera is the enchantress Alcina’s island: here by her magic powers she has created a magnificent palace in a beautiful landscape to lure her many lovers into her power. After tiring of each prisoner, she turns them into a wild animal, rock, or tree. One of these prisoners is Ruggiero, a warrior, who under Alcina’s love spell has forsaken his duty and his betrothed, Bradamante.

ACT I

Overture

Laughing or smiling
Morgana

Bliss resides within
Chorus

Gavotte, Sarabande and Menuet
Dancers

Speak and tell them
Alcina, Dancers

If you help me find my father
Oberto

You make me laugh
Ruggiero

I see you are jealous
Bramante

You are crazy to trust a lady
Oronte

Yes, you know me
Alcina

I know these glances
Ruggiero

Come take me in your arms
Morgana

INTERMISSION - 10 MINUTES

ACT II

If you hide from my sight
Ruggiero

What contrivance has released me
Ruggiero

Think of the woman who weeps in mourning
Melisso

In fury I call for revenge
Bramante

To my beloved
Ruggiero

My heart-beat is pounding
Oberto

Ah, my heart!
Alcina

My Mad Infatuation
Oronte

Verdant pastures
Ruggiero

Ah Ruggiero so cruel….Ghostly phantoms
Alcina and Dancers

INTERMISSION - 10 MINUTES

ACT III

Entrance of Pleasant and Frightening Dreams
Shade

Sinfonia

Believe the pain I suffer
Morgana

Just a moment of contentment
Oronte

When back to my you fly
Alcina

On souls that keep faith
Bramante

Deep in the forest
Ruggiero

My tears alone are left to me
Alcina

A wonderful procession
Chorus

Murderer!
Oberto

I bid farewell to jealous feelings
Alcina, Ruggiero, Bramante

From the night of sombre blindness
Chorus, Dancers
CAST

Alcina, a sorceress
Samantha Scantlin

Morgana, her sister
Bethany Filer

Ruggiero, a knight
Hannah Howard

Bradamante, Ruggiero’s betrothed, disguised as her own brother, the knight Ricciardo
Samantha Kuemmerle

Oronte, Alcina’s general, lover of Morgana
Asael Gonzalez Castillo

Melisso, sorcerer and former tutor of Ruggiero
Tucker Tasker

Oberto, a boy searching for his father
Abigail Hale

Astolfo, father of Oberto, turned to a lion by Alcina
Isaac Chirchir

Chorus of Alcina’s courtiers, turned into animals by Alcina
Chenille Hawkins
Gabriel Karst
Emily Kreis
Jonathan Lee
Gretchen Otter
Salma Pena
Amanda Williams

Shades, courtiers turned into animals by Alcina
Andrea Vazquez-Aguirre
Calista Cano
Alicia Panzer
Erin Sprague-Carroll

PRODUCTION

Producer & Stage Director | Dr. Matthew Schloneger
Music Director & Rehearsal Pianist | Dr. James Knight
Choreography | Andrea Vazquez-Aguirre
Costumer | Emily Baldridge
Technical Director, Sound Design | Robert Hett
Lighting Design and Light Board | Dan Harmon
Production Assistant | Gabriel Karst
Stage Manager | Noah Townsend
Sedgwick County Zoo Liaison | Bridget Beckler
Publicity | Alyssa Whalen
Seamstress | Emily Kreis
Hair | Jane Shelden
Wigs | Luis Fonseca

ORCHESTRA

Harpsichord, director | Dr. James Knight
Violin | Tan Ngo
Violin | Porter Wilkes
Viola | Joseph French
Cello | Ezekiel McGhee

THANKS

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The Sedgwick County Zoo
Friends University President, Dr. Amy Carey, and Administration for an outdoor rehearsal tent
GraceMed Health Clinic
Dr. Joan Griffing
Robyn Mabe
Dr. Lillian Green
SAMANTHA SCANTLIN | ALCINA

Samantha Scantlin is thankful for the challenge of playing such a dramatic role as Alcina. Originally from Riverton, Kansas, she has performed roles in numerous theatrical productions at Friends University including Martha in The Secret Garden, Mama Murphy in Bright Star, and most recently she played Princes Orlofsky in Die Fledermaus. She has also worked with Opera Kansas. Samantha would like to thank her friends, family, and professors for their constant support in pursuing her dreams!

BETHANY FILER | MORGANA

Dr. Matthew Schloneger’s soprano student, Bethany Filer, has sung Mademoiselle Silberklang from Impresario, performed scenes from 110 in the Shade and Marriage of Figaro, played chorus roles, and sung with Opera Kansas. While home-schooled in New Mexico, studying under Nate Salazar, vocal coach for the Santa Fe opera and Boston Lyric Opera she sang a Zarzuela production, Blonde in Die Entführung aus dem Serail, a spirit and a Pamina duet in the Magic Flute for the Santa Fe Opera guild Opera on the Rocks. Bethany is accomplished on Irish whistle and won regional honors for her SSA choral composition at an NMMTNA competition. She is grateful for the opportunity to play Morgana in Friends University’s production of Alcina.

HANNAH HOWARD | RUGGIERO

Hannah Howard is excited to play Ruggiero as her first major role in a production at Friends University! In addition to pursing a degree in Accounting, Hannah is very involved in music and singing. Last semester, she performed in her first opera as Ida in the university’s production of Die Fledermaus. She is looking forward to traveling to Italy in Summer 2021 for an opera training program in Arezzo. She would like to thank her teachers for their encouragement, and her parents and family for their continued support. She hopes you enjoy the show!

SAMANTHA KUEMMERLE | BRADAMANTE

Samantha Kueummerle is thrilled to be playing her first leading role as the strong warrior Bradamante in Alcina. Samantha is a senior at Friends and is studying Music Education. She is always on the move and appreciates serving in leadership roles. This year she is the student conductor of the Singing Quakers and last year she was the student teacher assistant of the WCCC children’s chorus. She loves teaching music and being a part of a great community such as Friends and is excited to see where her career takes her. She would like to thank Dr. Matthew Schloneger and Rolaine Hetherington for giving her the opportunity to play such an incredible role and her friends and family for their never ending love and support. She’d like to give a special shout out to the cast of Alcina for making this experience one she has cherished and will never forget!

ASAELE GONZALEZ CASTILLO | ORONTE

Asael Gonzalez Castillo is excited to be in the production of Alcina playing Oronte. He is a double major in Voice and Music Education. His previous roles at Friends University include: Mr. Angel in The Impresario, Daryl in Bright Star, Dr. Blind in Die Fledermaus, and Fakir in The Secret Garden. Asael is preparing for his junior recital coming up on November 8th, and would like to thank his voice teacher, Dr. Schloneger, his friends, his family and his coffee maker for making this all possible.

TUCKER TASKER | MELISSO

Tucker Tasker is a junior General Music Education Major here at Friends. He was previously seen in Frankenstein, The Mikado, The Secret Garden and Die Fledermaus. Tucker is a First-Year Mentor and is also a student conductor for Chamber Choir. He is excited to be a part of Alcina and hopes you enjoy this amazing opera. Tucker would like to thank his parents for coming to his countless performances throughout his career.

ABIGAIL HALE | OBERTO

Abigail is a senior at Friends University and is studying vocal performance and music theatre! She has been performing since she could talk and can’t imagine her life without it. Her favorite roles have been Eliza Doolittle in My Fair Lady, and Laurey Williams in Oklahoma. Last year, she portrayed Adele in Friends University’s production of Die Fledermaus. She would like to thank her parents, six younger siblings, and her many wonderful friends for encouraging her to pursue performing for God’s glory. She hopes you enjoy the show!

ISAAC CHIRCHIR | ASTOLFO

Isaac Chirchir is thankful for the opportunity to be featured as Astolfo and the Chorusmaster in Alcina. He is currently studying music education at Friends University. He was featured as Ivon in Friends University’s production of Die Fledermaus. Isaac has held the title of Friends University Singing Quakers Student Conductor for the 2019-2020 school year as well as Music Minster at Mount Vernon United Methodist Church.