La canterina
An opera buffa by Joseph Haydn
Written and premiered in 1766
Presented by Opera Workshop, Spring 2023

CAST
Gasparina ................................................................. Meg Booker
Apollonia ............................................................... Katherine Sharp
Don Ettore ............................................................. Kathryn Boyd
Don Pelagio ............................................................. Jimmy Renton

PRODUCTION CREW
Music Director and Performance Pianist .................. Damon Stevens
Stage Director ........................................................ Audrey Chait
Stage Manager ....................................................... Josh Turner
Costume Designer .................................................. Allison Jones

TIME
The Golden Age of Hollywood

PLACE
Gasparina’s apartment

THE VIDEOTAPING OR MAKING OF ELECTRONIC OR OTHER AUDIO AND/OR VISUAL RECORDINGS OF THIS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTING RECORDINGS OR STREAMS IN ANY MEDIUM, INCLUDING THE INTERNET, IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED, A VIOLATION OF THE AUTHOR(S)’S RIGHTS AND ACTIONABLE UNDER UNITED STATES COPYRIGHT LAW.
SUMMARY

Gasparina, a young ingénue, and Apollonia, her mother, are getting ready for the day when they are interrupted by Don Ettore, one of Gasparina’s admirers. Knowing how motivated she is by gifts, he gives her a diamond bracelet and some fine cloth. They are in turn interrupted by the arrival of Don Pelagio, Gasparina’s music teacher, who is also in love with her. Don Ettore pretends to be a linen seller in order to not arouse suspicion. Don Ettore arranges to meet Gasparina later in the day.

At her music lesson, Don Pelagio sings the new aria he has written for Gasparina. As he teaches her the music, he lets it slip that he is in love with her, but is thwarted from making a move when Apollonia interrupts them. Once the lesson is over, Don Pelagio leaves, and Gasparina immediately calls for Don Ettore. Don Pelagio, returning to collect his forgotten glasses, discovers the lovers, and flies into a jealous rage.

Don Pelagio denounces Gasparina as a traitor and demands that she and Apollonia leave the apartment, which he owns, right away. Pelagio orders a servant to take away the furniture, which he also owns. Gasparina begs for forgiveness, and at last Pelagio is moved. Out of affection, he offers to let her stay. Gasparina, overwhelmed at the situation (and perhaps with her own strategy in mind), faints to the ground. The others re-enter, and try a variety of ways to rouse Gasparina. The only thing that seems to work is when the men offer her diamonds and money. After a sufficient number of gifts, she finally opens her eyes. The young lovers celebrate, and everyone applauds the cleverness of Gasparina.

SPECIAL THANKS

Ashley Coates
Sandy Davis
Alexandra Deaton
Michael Hatton
Kimberly Lazzeri
Jo Sanburg