

# The Enchanting Opera: Mozart's Cosi Fan Tutte

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Cosi Fan Tutte is a timeless opera that has captivated audiences for centuries. With its witty libretto, unforgettable characters, and exquisite music, Cosi Fan Tutte is a masterpiece that continues to enchant and inspire opera lovers around the world. This article takes a closer look at the opera's story, characters, and music to uncover the secrets of its enduring appeal.



## The Metropolitan Opera Presents: Mozart's Cosi fan tutte: The Complete Libretto by Alastair Fontana

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Mozart composed Cosi Fan Tutte in 1789, just four years before his untimely death. The opera was commissioned by Emperor Joseph II and premiered in Vienna on January 26, 1790. The libretto, by Lorenzo Da Ponte, is based on an earlier play by Carlo Goldoni. The story follows two young men, Ferrando and Guglielmo, who are tricked into believing that

their fiancées, Dorabella and Fiordiligi, have been unfaithful to them. With the help of the cynical philosopher Don Alfonso, Ferrando and Guglielmo set out to test the loyalty of their beloveds by disguising themselves as Albanian suitors and attempting to seduce them.

## Characters

- **Ferrando:** A young, idealistic military officer who is deeply in love with Dorabella.
- **Guglielmo:** Ferrando's close friend and fellow military officer who is also in love with Fiordiligi.
- **Dorabella:** Ferrando's fidanzata (fiancée) who is a beautiful and vivacious young woman.
- **Fiordiligi:** Guglielmo's fidanzata who is a virtuous and faithful young woman.
- **Don Alfonso:** A cynical philosopher who believes that all women are inherently unfaithful.
- **Despina:** Dorabella and Fiordiligi's clever and resourceful maid.

## Music

Mozart's music for *Così fan tutte* is a masterpiece of the classical era. The opera is full of beautiful melodies, rich harmonies, and intricate ensembles. Mozart's use of leitmotifs, musical themes associated with specific characters and emotions, helps to create a sense of unity and coherence throughout the opera. The overture to *Così fan tutte* is one of the most famous and recognizable pieces of classical music ever written. It is a lively and energetic piece that sets the tone for the rest of the opera.

Some of the most famous arias from *Così fan tutte* include:

- "Una furtiva lagrima" (Ferrando's aria about his love for Dorabella)
- "Come scoglio" (Fiordiligi's aria about her unwavering faithfulness to Guglielmo)
- "Soave sia il vento" (Dorabella's aria about her desire for love and adventure)
- "Per pietà, ben mio, perdona" (Guglielmo's aria about his sorrow over Fiordiligi's supposed infidelity)

## Legacy

*Così fan tutte* has been performed countless times since its premiere in 1790. It is one of the most popular operas in the world and is regularly performed by opera companies around the globe. The opera has been adapted into several films and television productions, including a 1982 film directed by Milos Forman.

*Così fan tutte* continues to be admired for its timeless story, memorable characters, and exquisite music. The opera is a testament to Mozart's genius and his ability to create music that is both beautiful and profound.

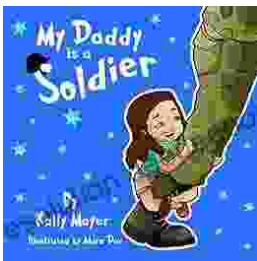
Mozart's *Così fan tutte* is a masterpiece of the classical era that continues to enchant and inspire audiences around the world. The opera's witty libretto, unforgettable characters, and exquisite music make it a timeless work of art that is sure to be enjoyed for generations to come.

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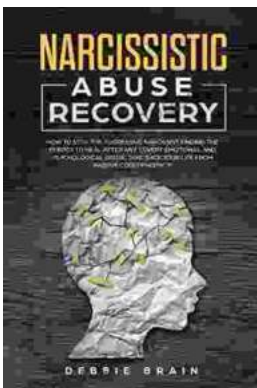


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