PLU Opera presents

Giulio Cesare in Egitto

Thursday, January 27th – Saturday, January 29th, 2022 at 7:30pm
Sunday, January 30th, 2022 at 3pm
Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille Phillips Center
PLU Opera presents

*Giulio Cesare in Egitto*
*(Julius Caesar in Egypt)*

composed by Georg Frideric Handel (1685-1759)
libretto by Nicola Francesco Haym
world premiere: King’s Theatre, London, 1724

James Brown, *conductor/music director*
Barry Johnson, *stage director*
Sheila Bristow, *rehearsal pianist*
Barry Johnson, *costume designer*
Art Giddings, *stage services*
Henry Hossner, *stage manager*
Lizveth Delgado-Olvera, *stage manager*

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Welcome to Eastvold Auditorium.
**Masks must be worn at all times while indoors and for the duration of the performance.**
Please disable the audible signal on all watches and cellular phones for the duration of the concert.
Use of cameras, recording equipment and all digital devices is not permitted in the concert hall.

**PROGRAM**

*There will be an intermission after Act I of Giulio Cesare in Egitto*

**CAST**

**Giulio Cesare, Dictator of the Roman Empire**
Arthur Keast (1/27, 1/29)
Hugh Davis (1/28, 1/30)

**Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt**
Ellie O’Brien (1/27, 1/29)
Mackenzie Taylor (1/28, 1/30)
Kaitlyn Ochs (cover)

**Tolomeo, her brother, King of Egypt**
Maria-Viktoria Kovalsky
Ella Ekstedt (cover)

**Cornelia, widow of Pompeo**
Rae Hyra (1/27, 1/29)
Caitlyn Babcock (1/28, 1/30)
Sesto, her son                   Isabella Daltoso (1/27, 1/29)
                                   Caitlyn Carnahan (1/28, 1/30)

Achilla, Tolomeo’s General       Trevor Hansen
                                   Robert Cope-Powell (cover)

Curio, Caesar’s General          Dominic Walker (1/27, 1/29)
                                   Emma Christensen (1/28, 1/30)
                                   Lilla Seitz (cover)

Nireno, Cleopatra’s and Tolomeo’s servant 
                                   Lillian Gundersen (1/27, 1/29)
                                   Kaitlyn Ochs (1/28, 1/30)
                                   Hailey Wharton (cover)

CHORUS

Soprano
Madison Ashley
Kylie Cordero
Kenzi Locke
Hannah McVay
Emily Miller
Hailey Wharton

Alto
Emma Christensen (1/27, 1/29)
Ella Ekstedt
Cassandra Felgar
Lillian Gundersen (1/28, 1/30)
Lilla Seitz

Tenor
Joel Barkman
Kendan Bendt
Allen Benjamin Tugade
Jackie Wray

Bass
Robert Cope-Powell
Riley Penland
TJ Rincon
Dominic Walker (1/28, 1/30)

DANCERS

Hailey Wharton
Madison Ashley
PLU OPERA ORCHESTRA

* PLU faculty, + PLU student

Flute
AJ Moore +
Blake Leahy +

Bassoon
Rorie Millward +

Violin
Mary Manning, concertmaster
Naomi Southard +
Katrin St. Clair

Viola
Padua Canty

Cello
Rowena Hammill *

Bass
Anna Jensen *

Lute
Elizabeth Brown *

Harpsichord
Sheila Bristow *

Organ
Paul Tegels *

Synopsis

The action is based on the historical events of the Roman civil war of 48–47 BC. Julius Caesar (Giulio Cesare) has defeated his rival Pompey (Pompeo) and pursued him to Alexandria, capital of Egypt. The kingdom is ruled jointly by Cleopatra and her younger brother Ptolemy (Tolomeo), the last of the dynasty established in Egypt after its conquest by Alexander the Great. Pompeo has appealed to Tolomeo for arms and refuge.

Act 1
Cesare enters Alexandria with his general Curio and his army to be met by Cornelia and Sesto, the wife and son of Pompeo, who have come to sue for peace. Cesare agrees to embrace his enemy, but at that moment Tolomeo’s general Achilla arrives with a greeting and gift from his king: Pompeo’s severed head. Disgusted Cesare sends Achilla back with an angry message for Tolomeo and a threatening promise that he will meet with the king at his palace before nightfall. Cornelia laments her loss and Sesto swears to avenge his dead father. In the palace at Alexandria, Cleopatra plots to take sole possession of the throne. When she learns of Tolomeo’s betrayal of Pompeo from his servant Nireno, she resolves to visit Cesare’s camp and win his favor and aid. She and Tolomeo bicker before she steals away. Achilla tells Tolomeo of Cesare’s angry reception of his gift and offers to accomplish his murder if Tolomeo grants him Cornelia as a reward. Tolomeo fears the growing strength of Rome under the leadership of Cesare and agrees. At the camp, Cesare presides over Pompeo’s funeral rites. In disguise, Cleopatra presents herself to Cesare as Lidia, a handmaiden in the palace, but one of noble birth, robbed of her birthright by Tolomeo. Captivated, Cesare promises to help her. Cleopatra and Nireno watch as Cornelia pays her last respects to her dead husband. Cornelia and Sesto plan to kill Tolomeo. Achilla offers Cornelia her freedom in return for her favors, but she angrily refuses. She and Sesto bid each other a sad farewell before the guards separate them.
**Act 2**

With Nireno’s help, Cleopatra has arranged an entertainment calculated to ensnare further the interest of Cesare. Lured by Nireno, he arrives and is enchanted by her song. Nireno assures Cesare that the supposed Lidia is deeply attracted and will wait for him later that night in her apartment. Cornelia, now Tolomeo’s prisoner, laments her fate. She repulses Achilla once more, only to be met by the advances of Tolomeo himself. She resolves to take her own life, but is saved by Sesto who has escaped with the aid of Nireno, who also brings the news that Tolomeo has commanded she become one of his concubines. He will help to smuggle Sesto into the harem as well, where, unguarded, the king will be at his most vulnerable. In her apartment, Cleopatra waits for Cesare, pretending to be asleep when he enters. The lovers’ tryst is interrupted by Curio, who has overheard Achilla’s assassins searching the palace for Cesare. Cleopatra reveals her true identity to Cesare and begs him to fly to safety. Cesare refuses and goes to meet his enemy. Cleopatra prays to the gods to preserve him and the love she now truly feels for him. Fearing for her safety, Cleopatra attempts to flee but is chased and taken prisoner by Tolomeo and his soldiers. Cesare is believed to have plunged to his death in the harbor during the previous night’s assault and Tolomeo promises to take a terrible revenge but she faces death with courage. Cesare, though, is not dead; the sea has cast him up onto the shore. Far from his armies, he prays to the breezes for help. Sesto and Nireno stumble across the wounded Achilla dying on the beach. Overheard by Cesare, he gives Sesto a seal, the sight of which will give the bearer authority to command his troops. As Achilla dies, Cesare takes the seal from Sesto and goes to assemble a force to storm the palace. Sesto finds new hope as revenge will soon be his. In prison, Cleopatra has prepared to take her own life. Cesare breaks in with his troops and rescues her. Believing himself to be victorious, Tolomeo sees no obstacle to his pursuit of Cornelia, but Sesto at last seizes his chance and kills him. The battle has been won and Cesare crowns Cleopatra as sole Queen of Egypt. She declares her allegiance to the Roman Empire. The lovers sing and all welcome the arrival of peace.
Spring Events
at Pacific Lutheran University
ALL MUSIC EVENTS ARE IN MARY BAKER RUSSELL MUSIC CENTER, LAGERQUIST CONCERT HALL AT 8PM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

FEBRUARY

6 Sunday, 3pm
Benefit Concert for ORS of Tacoma, free admission (donation suggested)

13 Sunday, 3pm
Richard D. Moe Organ Recital Series: Mark Brombaugh, Organist
Tickets: $17 general admission; $10 senior citizen (60+), military, alumni, PLU community; $5 PLU students & 18 and under

15 Tuesday, 8pm
PLU Student Showcase, an AMP fundraising event. Free admission, $5 suggested donation

16 Wednesday, 8pm
Artist Series: Sheely Alves, Voice; Cassio Vianna, Piano & Wagner Trindade, Bass, free admission

20 Sunday, 3pm
Artist Series: Erik Steighner, Saxophone with Oksana Ejokina, Piano, free admission

MARCH

5 Saturday, 1pm
Rhythm Celebration concert, free admission

10 Thursday, 6pm
Artist Series: Julianne Olson, Soprano; Nathaniel Olson, Baritone & ChoEun Lee, Piano

15 Tuesday, 8pm
University Symphony Orchestra: Student Showcase

18 Friday, 12pm
Artist Series: Bradley Howard, Tenor with Lee Thompson, Piano, free admission

19 Saturday, 1pm
Guitar Orchestra & Guitar Ensemble, free admission

19 Saturday, 5pm
Artist Series: Guitar Faculty Recital

19 Saturday, 8pm
Choral Union. Tickets: $17 general admission; $10 senior citizen (60+), military, alumni, PLU community; $5 PLU students & 18 and under

20 Sunday, 3pm
University Wind Ensemble

21 Tuesday, 8pm
University Jazz Ensemble with Guest Artist Greg Gisbert, Trumpet
Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille Phillips Center

24 Thursday, 8pm
Keyboard Students Recital, free admission

27 Sunday, 5pm
PLU Honor Orchestra for Strings, free admission

APRIL

2 Saturday, 5 and 6:30pm
Northwest High School Honor Band, free admission

6 Wednesday, 8pm
Artist Series: Jennifer Rhyne, Flute

12 Tuesday, 8pm
University Symphony Orchestra: KammerMusikeren

20 Wednesday, 8pm
Keyboard Students Recital, free admission

24 Sunday, 3pm
Richard D. Moe Organ Recital Series: Paul Tegels, University Organist. Tickets: $17 general admission; $10 senior citizen (60+), military, alumni, PLU community; $5 PLU students & 18 and under

24 Sunday, 8pm
Regency String Quartet with William Chapman Nyaho, Piano

28 Thursday, 6pm
University Chorale

30 Saturday, 1pm
PLUtonic/Gold Rush, MBR Amphitheater, free admission

30 Saturday, 5pm
University Singers & Knights Chorus, free admission

MAY

1 Sunday, 12pm
Sølvvinden Flute Ensemble, free admission

1 Sunday, 5:30pm
Second City Chamber Series: Viennese Finesse. Tickets: $30, purchased through Second City Chamber Series only, by phone at 253-572-8863 or at their website: www.scchamberserie.org

1 Saturday, 8pm
Viennese Piano Masterclass, free admission

3 Tuesday, 5:30pm
 Saxophone Quartets & Jazz Combos. The Cave, Anderson University Center, free admission

3 Tuesday, 8pm
Choir of the West

6 Friday, 8pm
Steel Band & Percussion Ensemble, free admission

7 Saturday, 8pm
PLU Ringers

8 Sunday, 3pm
Woodwind Students Recital, free admission

8 Sunday, 4:30pm
Brass Students Recital, free admission

10 Tuesday, 8pm
University Symphony Orchestra

12 Thursday, 8pm
Keyboard Students Recital, free admission

14 Saturday, 3pm
Piano Ensemble, free admission

14 Saturday, 8pm
Guitar Orchestra & Guitar Ensemble, free admission

15 Sunday, 3pm
University Wind Ensemble

17 Tuesday, 6pm
Chamber Music Kaleidoscope, free admission

17 Tuesday, 8pm
String Kaleidoscope, free admission

18 Wednesday, 8pm
University Chorale

19 Thursday, 8pm
University Jazz Ensemble. Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille Phillips Center

20 Friday and 21 Saturday

22 Sunday, 3pm
Composers Forum, free admission

22 Sunday, 5:30pm
Songwriters Workshop. Jennie Lee Hansen Recital Hall, free admission

JUNE

25 Thursday, 8pm
Choral Union Tour Preview Concert. Tickets: $17 general admission; $10 senior citizen (60+), military, alumni, PLU community; $5 PLU students & 18 and under

To Order Tickets:
On Line: www.plu.edu/musictickets
At the Concert: Lobby Desk in Mary Baker Russell Music Center

CONCERTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

MUSIC EVENT TICKET PRICES: $10 GENERAL; $5 SENIOR CITIZENS (60+); MILITARY, PLU ALUMNI, & PLU COMMUNITY, FREE TO PLU STUDENTS & 18 AND UNDER UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. CONCERTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND SOME CONCERTS MAY BE ADDED AFTER PUBLICATION. www.plu.edu/music/calendar (updated January 20, 2022)