

# *Così fan tutte: La scuola degli amanti*

music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte

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## OVERTURE

### ACT I, scene i

**Ferrando, Guglielmo, Don Alfonso**

TRIO *La mia Dorabella*

RECIT *Fuor la spada*

TRIO *E le fede della femmine*

RECIT *Scioccherie di Poeti!*

TRIO *Una bella serenata*

We land in the midst of an argument between Ferrando and Guglielmo on one side and their older, more experienced friend Don Alfonso on the other. Ferrando and Guglielmo believe that their girlfriends will be true to them no matter what. They bet money that Don Alfonso cannot prove them wrong, and agree to do whatever Don Alfonso requires of them in his scheme to disprove their beliefs.

### ACT I, scene ii

**Fiordiligi, Dorabella**

DUET *Ah guarda sorella*

RECIT *Mi par che stammatina*

We meet the girlfriends in question, sisters Fiordiligi and Dorabella, who sing of their admiration for their boyfriends and of their devotion.

### ACT I, scene iii

**Don Alfonso, Fiordiligi, Dorabella**

ARIETTA *Vorrei dir* Don Alfonso

RECIT *Stelle, per carità*

Don Alfonso enters and, in rather dramatic fashion, informs the women that their boyfriends have been called to military service. The hoax begins!

### ACT I, scene iv

**Guglielmo, Ferrando, Don Alfonso, Fiordiligi, Dorabella**

QUINTET *Sento, o Dio*

RECIT *Non piangere*

DUETTINO *Al fato dan legge* Ferrando, Guglielmo

RECIT *La commedia e graziosa*

The four lovers embark upon a prolonged farewell.

**ACT I, scene v**

**Chorus, Don Alfonso, Fiordiligi, Dorabella, Ferrando, Guglielmo**

**CHORUS**     *Bella vita militar*

**RECIT**       *Non v'è più tempo*

**QUINTET**    *Di scrivermi*

**CHORUS**     *Bella vita militar*

The farewell continues, with a military march from the chorus.

**ACT I, scene vi**

**Dorabella, Don Alfonso, Fiordiligi**

**RECIT**       *Dove son?*

**TRIO**        *Soave sia il vento*

Don Alfonso and the women call on the waves and winds to be gentle with the ship carrying the men to war.

**ACT I, scene vii**

**Don Alfonso**

**RECIT**        *Non son cattivo comico*

Don Alfonso gives himself a preemptive pat on the back.

**ACT I, scene viii**

**Despina**

**RECIT**        *Che via maledetta*

We meet Despina, who complains about having to be a ladies' maid.

**ACT I, scene ix**

**Despina, Fiordiligi, Dorabella**

**RECIT**        *Madame, ecco la vostra collazione*

**RECIT**        *Ah scostati*                    **Dorabella**

**ARIA**         *Smanie implacabili*        **Dorabella**

**RECIT**        *Signora Dorabella*

**ARIA**         *In uomini, in soldati*       **Despina**

Fiordiligi and Dorabella pour out their hearts to Despina, who suggests to them that they should be less attached to their absent men and try to have some fun.

**ACT I, scene x & xa**

**Don Alfonso**

**RECIT**        *Che silenzio*

**Don Alfonso, Despina**

**RECIT**        *Despinetta!*

Don Alfonso enlists Despina's help. The reward for her cooperation will be financial.

**ACT I, scene xi**

**Don Alfonso, Ferrando, Guglielmo, Despina, Fiordiligi, Dorabella**

SEXTET *Alla bella Despinetta*

RECIT *Che susurro, che strepito*

RECIT *Temerari* **Fiordiligi**

ARIA *Come scoglio* **Fiordiligi**

RECIT *Ah non partite*

ARIA *Non siate ritrosi* **Guglielmo**

Don Alfonso introduces Ferrando and Guglielmo, disguised, to Despina. Despina is to pave the way with the women. The women appear and rebuff the strangers roundly.

**ACT I, scene xii**

**Don Alfonso, Ferrando, Guglielmo**

TRIO *E voi ridete?*

RECIT *Si puo sapere*

ARIA *Un' aura amorosa* **Ferrando**

Ferrando and Guglielmo are ready to celebrate their triumph.

**ACT I, scene xiii**

**Don Alfonso, Despina**

RECIT *La saria da ridere*

Despina assures Don Alfonso that Fiordiligi and Dorabella will give in.

**ACT I, scene xiv**

**Fiordiligi, Dorabella**

DUET *Ah, che tutta in un momento*

Fiordiligi and Dorabella bemoan their fate.

**ACT I, scene xv**

**Ferrando, Guglielmo, Don Alfonso, Fiordiligi, Dorabella, Despina**

SEXTET *Si mora si*

The strangers claim to have poisoned themselves, inspiring pity in Fiordiligi and Dorabella, who call for a doctor.

**ACT I, scene xvi**

**Don Alfonso, Ferrando, Guglielmo, Despina, Fiordiligi, Dorabella**

SEXTET *Eccovi il medico*

Despina enters disguised as a doctor, and heals the strangers. The strangers get fresh with Fiordiligi and Dorabella, who rebuff them again.

**ACT II, scene i**

**Despina, Fiordiligi, Dorabella**

RECIT *Andate la*

ARIA *Una donna* Despina

Despina advises Fiordiligi and Dorabella to toy with the strangers, and shows them how to do so.

**ACT II, scene ii**

**Fiordiligi, Dorabella**

RECIT *Sorella, cosa dici?*

DUET *Prendero quel bruttino*

Fiordiligi and Dorabella confer and decide to give it a go. Dorabella will go for the brown haired one (Guglielmo, who is Fiordiligi's boyfriend in disguise). Fiordiligi will go for the blond one (Ferrando, who is Dorabella's boyfriend in disguise). Uh-oh.

**ACT II, scene iii**

**Don Alfonso, Dorabella**

RECIT *Ah, correte al giardino*

Don Alfonso summons the sisters to the garden.

**ACT II, scene iv**

**Ferrando, Guglielmo, Chorus, Don Alfonso, Fiordiligi, Dorabella, Despina**

DUET *Secondate aurette amiche* Ferrando, Guglielmo, Chorus

RECIT *Il tutto deponete*

QUARTET *La mano a me date* Don Alfonso, Ferrando, Guglielmo, Despina

The strangers, with the help of the chorus, serenade the sisters. Don Alfonso and Despina move them closer together.

**ACT II, scene v**

**Fiordiligi, Ferrando, Dorabella, Guglielmo**

RECIT *Oh che bella giornata!*

DUET *Il core vi dono* Guglielmo, Dorabella

After an incredibly awkward moment, Guglielmo and Dorabella, left alone, come to an understanding.

**ACT II, scene vi**

**Ferrando, Fiordiligi**

RECIT *Barbara, perche fuggi?*

ARIA *Ah lo veggio* Ferrando

Ferrando woos Fiordiligi.

## **ACT II, scene vii**

### **Fiordiligi**

RECIT *Ei parte...senti...ah no*

ARIA *Per pieta, ben mio, perdona*

Fiordiligi feels absolutely terrible about potentially betraying her boyfriend, and resolves not to do so.

## **ACT II, scene viii**

### **Ferrando, Guglielmo**

RECIT *Amico, abbiamo vinto!*

ARIA *Donne mie* Guglielmo

Guglielmo is appreciative of Ferrando's lack of progress with his own girlfriend Fiordiligi, but is not so sensitive to Ferrando's feelings when he shares his success with Ferrando's girlfriend Dorabella.

## **ACT II, scene ix**

### **Ferrando, Don Alfonso, Guglielmo**

RECIT *In qual fiero contrasto* Ferrando

ARIA *Tradito, schernito* Ferrando

RECIT *Bravo! questa e costanza*

Don Alfonso joins Ferrando and Guglielmo. Ferrando is really upset.

## **ACT II, scene x**

### **Despina, Dorabella, Fiordiligi**

RECIT *Ora vedo*

ARIA *E Amore un ladroncello* Dorabella

Dorabella now firmly believes that one has to submit to the whims of Love.

## **ACT II, scene xi**

### **Fiordiligi, Guglielmo, Despina, Don Alfonso**

RECIT *Come tutto congiuro*

Fiordiligi resolves to dress as a soldier, along with Dorabella, and go to war with Ferrando and Guglielmo.

## **ACT II, scene xii**

### **Fiordiligi, Ferrando**

DUET *Fra gli amplessi*

When Ferrando (disguised) arrives, Fiordiligi loses her resolve.

**ACT II, scene xiii**

**Guglielmo, Don Alfonso, Ferrando**

RECIT *Ah, poveretto me*

ARIETTA *Tutti accusan le donne* Don Alfonso

Guglielmo has seen himself betrayed. Don Alfonso tells Ferrando and Guglielmo that no woman is perfect and that they might as well commit themselves, now that they know this. "*Così fan tutte*" - "All woman do this (behave this way)"

**ACT II, scene xiv**

**Despina, Ferrando, Guglielmo, Don Alfonso**

RECIT *Vittoria, padroncini*

The women have instructed Despina to call in a notary to marry them to the strangers.

**ACT II, scene xv**

**Despina, Chorus, Don Alfonso**

FINALE *Fate presto*

Wedding preparations are made.

**ACT II, scene xvi**

**Chorus, Fiordiligi, Dorabella, Ferrando, Guglielmo**

FINALE, continued *Benedetti i doppi conjugii*

*E nel tuo, nel mio bicchiere*

The chorus blesses the couples, the couples come together.

**ACT II, scene xvii**

**Don Alfonso, Fiordiligi, Dorabella, Ferrando, Guglielmo, Despina, Chorus**

FINALE, continued *Miei Signori, tutto e fatto*

Despina arrives, disguised as a notary, and performs the wedding ceremony. As the couples are signing, the military march is heard. As Fiordiligi and Dorabella panic, the strangers disappear.

**ACT II, scene xviii**

**Ferrando, Guglielmo, Don Alfonso, Fiordiligi, Dorabella, Despina**

FINALE, continued *Sani e salvi agli amplessi amorosi*

*V'inganni, ma fu l'inganno*

*Fortunato l'uom che prende*

Ferrando and Guglielmo return as themselves. The men reveal the full scope of the hoax, surprising even Despina, who was not aware that the strangers were Ferrando and Guglielmo in disguise. Accord is rather swiftly reached, and all sing a hymn to reason.