



Presents

Mefistofele (excerpts)

by

Arrigo Boïto

&

Suor Angelica

by

Giacomo Puccini

Friday & Saturday
April 12th, April 13th

8 p.m.

UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS
MEMORIAL CHAPEL

SYNOPSIS

This evening starts with Act III of

MEFISTOFELE

ACT III

Margherita is a young woman who was seduced by Faust, a scholar who has made a pact with the devil. She is in prison for having drowned her baby and for having poisoned her mother. Mefistofele helps Faust enter her cell in order to rescue her. Margherita senses that Faust's love for her is corrupted. Due to her guilty conscience, Margherita refuses to leave with Faust. He conjures visions of a distant shore that awaits them. Day breaks and Margherita, imagining her impending execution, sorrows that this was to have been her wedding day. As she dies, Margherita shuns Faust and calls upon Heaven for salvation. Mefistofele pronounces her damned; Heaven declares her saved.

ACT IV

Faust joins Elena (Helen of Troy) at a classical Sabbath. Haunted, she recalls the sack of Troy. Faust hails Elena as the ideal of classical beauty. They join in a hymn to love.

EPILOGUE

Now near death, Faust is filled with reflection and regret. He dreams of a realm more noble than the empty illusions of his carnal experiences. Mefistofele tries to lure Faust away from his idealistic vision. Faust glimpses paradise and eternity. And as he bids them to stay, he dies.

SUOR ANGELICA

Sister Angelica, a princess forced into a convent for reasons unknown to others, has not heard from her family in seven years. Suddenly, Angelica's aunt comes to visit to discuss business. Angelica cannot retain her composure and asks about the son she had out of wedlock. Her aunt informs her that he died two years earlier. Grief-stricken, Angelica drinks poison. Struck by the reality of that she has committed a damnable act, she prays for grace. A celestial choir is heard; Angelica, beholding a vision of the Blessed Virgin presenting her child to her, dies.