

THE WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION
and
THE SOCIETY OF NATIVE AMERICAN COMPOSERS
in cooperation with
THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AT LOS ANGELES

present
EXCERPTS IN CONCERT FORM

from

GAINSBOROUGH'S DUCHESS

Romantic Opera in 3 Acts

(An Episode in the Life of Thomas Gainsborough)

by

ALBERT COATES

Libretto

C. Reginald Grundy

ROYCE HALL AUDITORIUM

University of California
at Los Angeles, Westwood

Sunday, April 20, 1941

3:00 P.M.

and

EMBASSY AUDITORIUM

Wednesday, April 23, 1941

8:30 P.M.

CONDUCTOR, ALBERT COATES

NARRATOR, GEORGE HOUSTON

CHARACTERS

GEORGIANA, Duchess of Devonshire,	VERA DE VILLIERS GRAAFF
THOMAS GAINSBOROUGH, the Artist	ALEXIS TCHERKASSKY
MOLLY, Gainsborough's eldest Daughter, (in love with Fischer)	MARCIA NOLEEN
PEGGY, Gainsborough's younger Daughter,	MARGUERITE KOSTELNIK
JOHANN FISCHER, Oboe player to the Prince of Wales,	HENRY KORN
LORD BEECHMASTER	GEORGE BURNSON

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Vera de Villiers Graaff,	Dramatic Soprano
Alexis Tcherkassky,	Baritone
Marcia Noleen,	Soprano
Marguerite Kostelnik,	Soprano
Henry Korn,	Tenor
George Burnson,	Bass Baritone

Work Projects Administration
Symphony Orchestra

James Sample, Conductor

U.C.L.A. CHORUS

Raymond Moreman, Conductor

Publicity

Orwin Barnes

and

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EVENTS LEADING TO THE OPENING OF THE OPERA

Thomas Gainsborough, the well-known artist, has lately moved from Bath to London and is trying to establish as great a reputation in the Metropolis as he has acquired in the Western city. Everything looks promising. The "beau monde" is flocking to his studio, including Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, the queen of beauty and fashion. If he can paint a successful portrait of her, his fame will be assured.

But Gainsborough is not a business man. His twin passions, for which he is prepared to sacrifice everything, are painting and music. When the opera opens, Gainsborough's wife is in great distress. Instead of trying to concentrate his efforts on pleasing the Duchess, her husband is paying more attention to Miss Foyle, harpist to the Prince of Wales. In order to have an opportunity of buying her harp, on which he has set his fancy, he has induced her to sit for him.

The Duchess is angry, because she has been kept waiting repeatedly while Gainsborough dallied with the girl. More than once she has been inclined to cease sitting for him, but the portrait is promising to be very beautiful. Moreover, she hopes to persuade the artist to give his vote at the coming famous Westminster election to Charles, James Fox, in whose behalf she is canvassing day and night.

Gainsborough resents this. He does not wish to commit himself definitely to the opposition party, for many of his clients are Tories.

Another problem looms up when, against his wishes, his eldest daughter, Molly, becomes engaged to Johann Fischer, oboe player to the Prince of Wales.

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