

# Trial By Jury

## A Dramatic Cantata

Carol Ciancia  
Stage Director

James Biddlecome  
Music Director

### CAST

The Learned Judge .....	Fred Bernardi
The Plaintiff (Angelina).....	Danielle Marchand
The Defendant (Edwin).....	Daniel O'Keefe
Counsel for the Plaintiff.....	Peter O'Malley
Usher .....	John Holmboe
Foreman of the Jury.....	Bob Bromberg
The Bridesmaid.....	Ryan Cahill
The Other Woman.....	Carol Ciancia
A Newsboy .....	Alban Lebevve

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**Spectators**.....Barbara Domini, Randi Kestin, April Johnson, Judy Rosenthal, Wendy Ryle, Eileen Karlson White, Wynne Webster, Judy Weis

**Jurors**.....Larry Bogert, Timothy Domini, Charles Farrell, Michael Schmidt, Tim Schwartz, Philip Sternberg, Jack Strangfeld

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**Orchestra**.....*Violin I:* Marnen Labow-Koser, Yoonhee Roberts. *Violin II:* Sylvia Levin Rubin, Clair Kapilow. *Viola:* Alison Muldoon. *Cello:* James Pederson. *Bass:* José Rodriguez. *Flute/Piccolo:* Joanne Keiler. *Oboe:* Nancy Vanderslice (5/21); Lynn Grice (5/22, 6/12). *Clarinet:* John Cento. *Bassoon:* Elisabeth Romano. *Trumpet:* Barry Davidson. *Horn:* Deborah Thurlow. *Trombone:* Jason Wysocki. *Percussion:* Jeff Pines (5/21, 5/22); Justin Derma (6/12). *Rehearsal Pianists:* Terezija Cukrov, Susan LaFever.

# *Musical Numbers*

## Scene - A Court of Justice

- 1 Hark, the hour of ten is sounding .....*Ensemble and Usher*
- 1a Is this the Court of the Exchequer? .....*Defendant*
- 2 When first my old, old love I knew .....*Defendant, Usher and Ensemble*
- 3 All hail great Judge!.....*Ensemble, Judge and Ensemble*
- 4 When I, good friends, was called to the Bar.....*Judge and Ensemble*
- 5 Swear thou the Jury!.....*Counsel, Usher, Defendant, Judge and Jury*
- 6 Where is the Plaintiff?.....*Counsel, Usher, Bridesmaid and Plaintiff*
- 7 Oh, never, never, never .....*Judge, Foreman, Plaintiff, Usher, Jury and Ladies*
- 8 May it please you .....*Counsel Plaintiff, Usher and Ensemble*
- 9 That she is reeling is plain to me! .....  
.....*Judge, Foreman, Plaintiff, Counsel and Ensemble*
- 10 Oh, gentlemen, listen, I pray .....*Defendant and Ladies*
- 11 That seems a reasonable proposition ....*Judge, Counsel, Jury, Usher and Ensemble*
- 12 A nice dilemma.....*Ensemble*
- 13 I love him.....*Ensemble*
- 14 Oh, joy unbounded .....*Ensemble*

## SYNOPSIS

The curtain rises on the Court of the Exchequer, where a jury and the public assemble to hear a case of breach of promise of marriage.

The Usher introduces the proceedings by exhorting the jury to listen to the broken-hearted Plaintiff's case but telling them that they "needn't mind" what the "ruffianly defendant" has to say. He adds, however, that "From bias free of every kind, this trial must be tried!" The Defendant (Edwin) arrives, and the jurymen greet him with hostility, even though, as he points out, they have as yet no idea of the merits of his case. He tells them, with surprising candour, that he jilted the Plaintiff because she became a "bore intense" to him, and he then quickly took up with another woman. The jurymen recall their own wayward youth, but they are now respectable gentlemen and no longer have any sympathy for the Defendant.

The Judge enters with great pomp and describes how he rose to his position – by courting a rich attorney's "elderly, ugly daughter." The rich attorney then aided his prospective son-in-law's legal career until "at length I became as rich as the Gurneys" and "threw over" the daughter. The jury and public are delighted with the judge, and ignore that he has just admitted to the same wrong of which the Defendant is accused.

The jury is then sworn in, and the Plaintiff (Angelina) is summoned. She is preceded into the courtroom by her bridesmaids, one of whom catches the eye of the judge. However, when Angelina herself arrives in full wedding dress, she instantly captures the heart of both Judge and jury. The Counsel for the Plaintiff makes a moving speech detailing Edwin's betrayal. Angelina feigns distress and staggers, first into the arms of the Foreman of the Jury, and then of the Judge. Edwin counters, explaining that his change of heart is only natural:

Oh, gentlemen, listen, I pray,  
Though I own that my heart has been ranging,  
Of nature the laws I obey,  
For nature is constantly changing.  
The moon in her phases is found,  
The time and the wind and the weather,  
The months in succession come round,  
And you don't find two Mondays together.

He offers to marry both the Plaintiff and his new love, if that would satisfy everyone. The Judge at first finds this "a reasonable proposition," but the Counsel argues that from the days of James II, it has been "a rather serious crime / To marry two wives at a time" (humorously, he labels the crime in question "burglary" rather than "bigamy"). Perplexed, everyone in court ponders the "nice dilemma" in a parody of Italian opera ensembles.

Angelina desperately embraces Edwin, demonstrating the depth of her love, and bemoans her loss – all in evidence of the large amount of damages that the jury should force Edwin to pay. Edwin, in turn, says he is a smoker, a drunkard, and a bully (when tipsy), and that the Plaintiff could not have endured him even for a day; thus the damages should be small. The Judge suggests making Edwin tipsy to see if he would really "thrash and kick" Angelina, but everyone else (except Edwin) objects to this experiment. Impatient at the lack of progress, the Judge resolves the case by offering to marry Angelina himself. This is found quite satisfactory, and the opera is concluded with "joy unbounded."