

## January 27, 2022 – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Don Giovanni*

On this week's Thursday Night Opera House we'll hear Mozart's magnificent retelling of the Don Juan legend, *Don Giovanni*. First performed in Prague on Oct. 29, 1787, it was set to a libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte. Perhaps Mozart's masterpiece and one of the greatest of all music dramas, *Don Giovanni* has remained one of the most popular of all operas.

The action takes place in 17th-century Seville. The libertine Don Giovanni (bass **Samuel Ramey**), aided by his servant Leporello (bass **Ferruccio Furlanetto**), attempts to seduce Donna Anna (soprano **Anna Tomowa-Sintow**) but is disturbed by her father, the Commendatore (bass **Paata Burcheladze**), whom he kills in a duel. Anna and her fiancé Don Ottavio (tenor **Gösta Winbergh**) swear vengeance. Giovanni's attempts to seduce the peasant girl Zerlina (soprano **Kathleen Battle**), engaged to Masetto (bass **Alexander Malta**), are foiled by Donna Elvira (mezzo-soprano **Agnes Baltsa**), whom Giovanni has seduced and abandoned. All turn against Giovanni at a party at his villa, but he escapes and finds himself in a churchyard, where the statue of the Commendatore speaks. Lightheartedly, Giovanni invites the statue to supper. The statuesque Commendatore arrives and drags the unrepentant Giovanni down to hell.

**Herbert von Karajan** conducts the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra and the Chorus of the German Opera Berlin in this 1986 Deutsche Grammophon recording.

From a 1990 Met Opera performance, here's the scene in which the statue of the Commendatore (**Kurt Moll**) comes to dinner with Don Giovanni (**Samuel Ramey**), much to the horror of Leporello (**Ferruccio Furlanetto**): [https://youtu.be/EB\\_HjICSn5g](https://youtu.be/EB_HjICSn5g).