



Dido & Aeneas



NOVEMBER 7 & 8, 2025

7:30 PM

THE RECITAL HALL

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

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Concert Choir
University Mixed Chorus

Eastern Symphony Orchestra

Jazz Ensembles

Jazz Combos
Jazz Ensemble
Jazz Lab Band

Music Theatre/Opera Ensemble

Percussion Ensemble

University Bands

Concert Band
Eastern Symphonic Band
Panther Marching Band
Wind Symphony

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PROGRAM

Act I – Dido’s court

The opera opens with the Queen of Carthage, Dido, in her court, entering with her attendants. Belinda, Dido’s most trusted friend, tries to cheer Dido, whose heart is heavy with sadness. Belinda, who believes that the source of Dido’s grief is her love for the Trojan Aeneas, tries to convince the Queen that a marriage between Dido and Aeneas could resolve all of Carthage’s troubles. Aeneas enters and does his best to woo the hesitant queen. Eventually, Dido acquiesces and she accepts his love.

Act II – Outside the Sorceress’ cave; A shady grove

The Sorceress has seen Dido’s happiness and plots the destruction of Carthage. Along with the help of her fellow witches, she plans to call up a Spirit, disguised as the god Mercury, to tempt Aeneas to leave Dido and sail to further military glory in Italy.

In the grove, Dido, Aeneas, and their attendants enjoy a romantic picnic. Soon, the Sorceress’ spell calls up a storm, prompting the idyllic part to leave the scene. Before he can leave, Aeneas becomes rapt at the sight of the Sorceress’ Spirit, calling him to war. Aeneas grudgingly consents to leave his beloved, leaving the stage to prepare for his ships’ departure from Carthage.

Act III – The harbor at Carthage: Dido’s court

As the sailors prepare to leave Carthage, the Sorceress enters, announcing her plans to destroy Aeneas and his companions “on the ocean.” No one will be left unscathed due to her malicious plans.

Dido and Belinda enter the court, bewildered by Aeneas sudden disappearance after their picnic. Suddenly, Aeneas enters the court. Although Dido is apprehensive, she is pleased to see him. Aeneas tells her of his plan to leave Carthage. When he sees her distress, Aeneas offers to stay, but Dido, pride wounded, tells him to leave. As the opera concludes, Dido hopes to be remembered, even as her city burns and she dies of a broken heart, all having fallen victim to the Sorceress’ evil plan.

FOR TICKETS TO FUTURE EVENTS

Call the Doudna Fine Arts Center Box Office at 217-581-3110! The Box Office is open Tuesday - Friday 11:00am - 5:00pm and one hour prior to every ticketed event. You can also visit www.eiu.edu/doudnatix and purchase/print your tickets at home and skip the line all together!

CAST

Dido, Queen of Carthage	Jemma Allen
Aeneas, a soldier of Greece.....	Owen Hough
Belinda, Dido's attendant	Brianna Olshawsky
Second attendant	Christopher Andrus
Sorceress	Olivia Enlow
Spirit	Stephen Torres
Witch	Katie Chumbley
Witch	Charlotte Hedberg
Witch	Emily Ritter
Sailor	Harrison Hahn
Sailor	Nathan Blackwell
Quartet ensemble.....	Nathan Blackwell Katie Chumbley, Harrison Hahn, Charlotte Hedberg, Emily Ritter Stephen Torres
Camerata Chamber Ensemble	Tim Anderson Christopher Andrus, Nathan Blackwell Alana Dove, Brian George, Emily Ritter Katie Shamhart, Elaina Sutula, Olivia Theirl Sophia Thomas

PRODUCTION TEAM

Music Director/Area Coordinator	Dr. Rebecca von Kamp
Stage Director	Prof. Larry Cox, Jr.
Director of Choral Activities	Dr. Howard Eckdahl
Collaborative Pianist.....	Zinuo Zeng
Violin.....	Elaine Fine
Cello	Stephanie Tillman
Lighting Designer	Gage Matthews
Supertitles	Maria Ochs
Social Media Manager.....	Jemma Allen
Costumes	Brianna Olshawsky

BIOGRAPHIES

Dr. Rebecca von Kamp, Music Director/Area Coordinator

Dr. von Kamp is excited to return to EIU's Music Theatre/Opera program as Music Director of *Dido and Aeneas*, having previously worked in this capacity on *The Impresario*. Dr. von Kamp teaches voice lessons and various music classes as an instructor at Eastern Illinois University, having happily made her home in Charleston, Illinois. In addition to performing around the U.S. and Europe, her Music Directing credits include various operas and musicals, including *Suor Angelica*, *My Favorite Year*, and the EIU productions of *Little Women*, *Xanadu*, *Children of Eden*, *Spamalot*, and *She Loves Me*. As a recitalist and performer, Dr. von Kamp also loves sharing music with family and friends in the audience. Her favorite past roles include Carlotta (*The Phantom of the Opera*), Dot/Marie (*Sunday in the Park with George*), Alice (*The Addams Family*), and Donna Elvira (*Don Giovanni*). Thank you for supporting this great program and these wonderful students. Enjoy the show!

Larry Cox Jr., Stage Director

Larry is a seasoned performer and educator whose career spans stage, television, and film. He has collaborated with acclaimed artists across regional theatres and international venues, contributing to the entertainment industry in diverse roles.

At Eastern Illinois University, Larry founded and continues to lead the Musical Theatre track within the BA in Theatre program. Under his direction, the program has achieved national recognition, including a recent performance at Lincoln Center in New York City alongside a Broadway cast in *Children of Eden*, directed by Tony Yazbek.

Larry has also held faculty positions at Emory University and the University of Georgia, where he was honored with an Excellence in Teaching Award and recognized among the top 1% of graduate assistant instructors. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education (piano/voice) and two graduate degrees from Villanova University and the University of Georgia. He is a proud member of the Actor's Equity Association.

Jemma Allen, Dido, Queen of Carthage

Jemma is a graduate student pursuing a vocal performance degree at Eastern Illinois. They are so excited to be a part of *Dido and Aeneas* and hope you enjoy the show! Jemma played Marcellina in *Le Nozze di Figaro* earlier this year with Musica Prohibita Management & has also participated in *She Loves Me*, *Down in the Valley* & the *Side by Side Cabaret* at EIU. Jemma would like to thank Dr. von Kamp & Larry Cox Jr. for their insight and support throughout the rehearsal process!

BIOGRAPHIES

Owen Hough, Aeneas, a soldier of Greece

Owen is a Vocal Music Education major and is a senior at Eastern Illinois University. This is Owen's first time performing in an opera at EIU but he has performed in other regional shows such as *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Cinderella*, *Elf*, *You Can't Take it with You*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, and *Almost Maine*. Owen would like to thank his friends, family, and both the music director and stage director for giving him this opportunity.

Brianna Olshawsky, Belinda, Dido's attendant

Brianna is a Senior Musical Theatre Major at Eastern Illinois University. She has done many productions while at EIU including *Children of Eden*, *Xanadu*, and *The Wolves*. This is her second Opera Production with the Music Department, the first one being *Down in The Valley*. She is very proud of the work the faculty and students have put into this Opera production. She also would like to say thanks to all the love and support from her family and friends in all she does.

Chris Andrus, Second attendant

Chris is a senior Vocal Performance and ART major. He has only been in one production in the theatre: *The Duet Cabaret*. Chris is very excited to be one of the main roles in this opera and is grateful to have his own solo and duet. He would like to thank his family for convincing him to audition for the opera, as he is grateful that he did.

Olivia Enlow, Sorceress

Olivia is a senior Musical Theatre major. She has been in multiple productions at Eastern including: *The Wolves*, *She Loves Me*, *Dead Man's Cellphone*, *Children of Eden*, and *Xanadu*. Olivia has had so much fun working on this production and is incredibly grateful to be working with so many talented and creative people! She would like to thank her lovely family for their support!

Harrison Hahn, Sailor

Harrison is a senior Music Education major from Olney, Illinois. During his time at EIU, he has been in many productions including *She Loves Me* and *Children of Eden*. Harrison is excited to share all the work he and his cast mates have put into this amazing production and hopes that you enjoy the show!

BIOGRAPHIES

Nathan Blackwell, Sailor

Nathan is a sophomore Music Education major. This is his first opera production, though he has previously performed in regional shows such as *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Nathan hopes you enjoy the show!

Stephen Torres, Spirit

Stephen is a senior majoring in Audio & Recording Technology with a minor in Television & Video Production. Some other performances include *Handel's Messiah* and Demetrius in Shakespeare's, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Stephen has also performed twice in Walt Disney World with his high school marching band. He is delighted to be in *Dido and Aeneas* as the Spirit and hopes you enjoy the show!

Katie Chumbley, Witch

Katie (she/they) is a Sophomore Vocal Performance Major and Theater minor at EIU! This is Katie's first opera!!! Katie has been singing and acting from a very young age, along with 9 years of choral experience! She performed at Carnegie Hall in the HPS choirs when she was in 6th grade and just recently along with other members of the EIU concert choir at The Lincoln Center directed by Eric Whitacre. Acting wise, Some of her favorite roles over the years are Rona Lisa Peretti in SVHS's *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and Lucy in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown!* Later in November she can be seen as the Narrator in EIU Theater's *A Christmas Carol: Radio Play!* Katie is very thrilled and honored to get to share the stage with some of the most talented, hard-working, and kindhearted people she has ever gotten to meet in this production of *Dido and Aeneas*! She cannot wait for everyone to see it and enjoy in its whimsy!

Charlotte Hedberg, Witch

Charlotta is in her final year at Eastern earning dual degrees of a B.A. in Music and B.F.A. in 2D Studio Art. She has been in a production of *Down in the Valley* at EIU as well as the *Duet Cabaret*. She's excited to return to the stage to bring all the witchy vibes to her role in *Dido and Aeneas*. She dedicates her performance to Montgomery for his endless support.

BIOGRAPHIES

Emily Ritter, Witch

Emily is a senior studying Vocal Music Education and Theatre. Most recently, she performed in Twin City Theatre Company's production of *Space Girl* and CUTC's production of *Beautiful*. Emily has loved working on this show with her amazing fellow actors, as well as the incredible director and music director. She has greatly enjoyed the experience and the challenges it presented and would like to thank Larry and Rebecca for giving her the opportunity to perform.

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Juliane Sharp and the CHS Drama Department
Jenna Gove
Holly Glosser
EIU Department of Music
EIU Department of Theatre
Conor Baltz
Stacy Butler

Thank you for attending EIU's production of Dido and Aeneas. Support from patrons like you mean that we can continue the important work of educating these wonderful students and supporting their future artistic endeavors, whatever they may be! We truly appreciate it.

FRIENDS OF DOUDNA

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Randy & Sue Taylor

Dvorak Level

Glenna Murphy
Linda K Keeler
Barbara & Michael Watts
Randy Wells
Bill & Linda Perry

A poster with a purple background featuring several black lightning bolts. In the center is a large, stylized mouth with white teeth. Inside the mouth, the text "REVOLT. SHE SAID. REVOLT AGAIN." is written in a hand-drawn, orange-brown font. Below the mouth, the signature "Playwright Alice Brock" is visible.

NOV. 6 - 9, 2025

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PRESENTED BY THE EIU THEATRE DEPARTMENT

A poster featuring a colorful, abstract illustration of four musicians playing instruments: a saxophone, a trumpet, a double bass, and a piano. The title "The Goodness of Music" is written in a large, bold, pink font. To the right of the title, "Jazz Faculty Concert" is written in a smaller, orange font.

The Goodness of Music Jazz Faculty Concert

SUNDAY | 11.9.2025

PRESENTED BY THE EIU DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

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FINE ARTS CENTER

A poster featuring a portrait of a man in a black tuxedo and bow tie. The title "Lyricism & Virtuosity" is written in a large, elegant, white script font. Below the title, "ACROSS CENTURIES" is written in a smaller, white, all-caps sans-serif font.

Lyricism & Virtuosity
ACROSS CENTURIES

NOVEMBER 10, 2025

PRESENTED BY THE EIU DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

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A Christmas Carol

NOV. 13-16, 2025

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Adapted for radio from
Charles Dickens' novella by
ANTHONY E. PALERMO

Original musical score
composed & Arranged by
ANTHONY E. PALERMO

Wind Symphony & Concert Band

FRIDAY | 11.14.2025
PRESENTED BY THE EIU DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

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JAZZ LAB BAND

TUESDAY | 11.18.2025
PRESENTED BY THE EIU MUSIC DEPARTMENT

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PATRON SERVICES GUIDELINES

Usher Staff

Ushers are located at the entrance of the venue. If you have a question or a problem, please let them know and they will contact the House Manager.

Ticket Policies

Please note that all ticket sales are final, and refunds will not be given.

Late Arrival

During classical concerts, late seating will only take place during the first convenient pause in the program.

During jazz, folk, world, or pop concerts, late seating is more casual, but ushers may ask you to wait to be seated between pieces. Please check with an usher regarding when you may enter the venue.

Mobile Devices, Photography and Recording

Please turn off all light-illuminating or sound-emitting devices. Mobile phone use is strictly prohibited inside all venues. Text-messaging and the taking of photographs or videos by phone are not permitted.

The use of cameras - with or without flash - and recording devices is a violation of copyright law and discourteous to other audience members.

Failure to comply will result in being asked to leave the performance without a refund.

Doctor and Parent Emergency Calls

If you are a medical professional/parent with a sitter at home, please put your phone on silent and wait to take the call until you are out of the performance venue.

No Smoking

Eastern Illinois University is a tobacco-free campus. Smoking of any kind, including electronic cigarettes, is prohibited on all university property.

Food and Beverages

Food is not allowed inside any of the venues. Only beverages in the special Doudna drink cup, with a secured lid, are permitted in the venues.

Accessibility

Special seating areas for wheelchair accessibility are available. Contact the Box Office in advance to secure a seat in these areas. Audio amplification is available for the hearing-impaired free of charge. A driver's license or other identification is all that is required for deposit.

In the Event of an Emergency

Emergency exits may be found outside of the venue and are marked accordingly. The lighted "Exit" sign nearest your seat is the shortest route out of the building.

Families

The Doudna welcomes patrons of all ages to experience and enjoy the arts. Please carefully consider whether a performance is appropriate for children before planning to attend with young people. If you have concerns or questions about a specific event, please call the Box Office at (217) 581-3110.

Please be considerate of others in the audience and your young person's comfort. Children who are disruptive will not be allowed to remain in the venue.

Lost and Found

Found items should be left with an usher. To determine whether a personal item has been turned in, please call the Box Office at (217) 581-3110 or the Programming, Publicity, & Promotions Office at (217) 581-8513.

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- Backstage Tour

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 - Attend a rehearsal/sound check or join the group for dinner.
 - Arranged by the Doudna Fine Arts Center

