

The Mozart – Da Ponte Operas











Lorenzo da Ponte







Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart





Benucci


Le Nozze di Figaro
(commedia in musica)
Premiere performance
Vienna
May 1, 1786



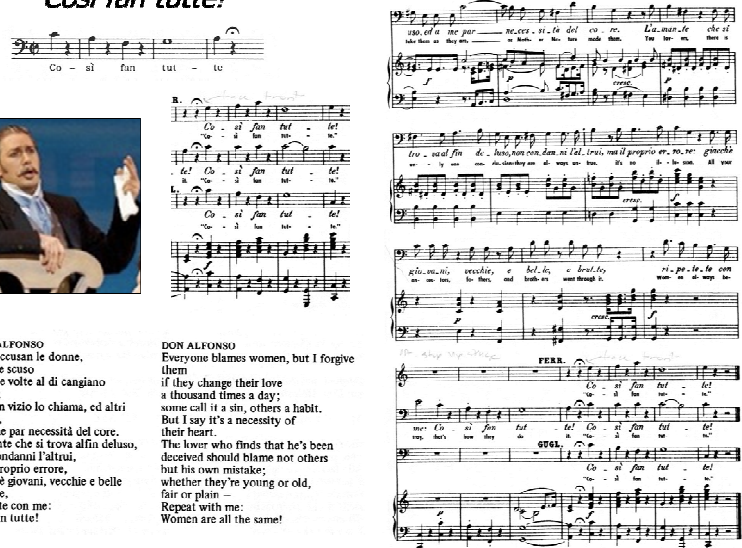



Vienna's Burgtheater

SAMPLE SLIDES



Così fan tutte!



DON ALFONSO
Tutti accusan le donne,
Ed io le scuso
Se mille volte al dì cangiano
amore;
Altri un vizio lo chiama, ed altri
un uso,
Ed a me par necessità del core,
L'amante che si trova alfin deluso,
Non condanni l'altroi,
Ma il proprio errore,
Giacchè giovani, vecchie e belle
e brutte,
Ripetete con me:
Così fan tutte!

DON ALFONSO
Everyone blames women, but I forgive
them
if they change their love
a thousand times a day;
some call it a sin, others a habit,
But I say it's a necessity of
their heart.
The lover who finds that he's been
deceived should blame not others
but his own mistake,
whether they're young or old,
fair or plain –
Repeat with me:
Women are all the same!

An introduction to Mozart's operas with particular focus on the Da Ponte collaborations. The place of opera and music theatre in 18th Century society is examined, Mozart's oeuvre is considered and the various genres that he explored are discussed. The significance of a successful collaboration between librettist and composer is made clear by close studies of *Le Nozze di Figaro* and/or *Così Fan Tutte*. Performance contexts are provided whilst plots, characters and key scenes are analysed in some detail.