**TAYSIDE OPERA**

**L’ELISIR D’AMORE - SPRING, 2023**

**DIRECTOR’S AUDITION-NOTES FOR PRINCIPALS**

These brief notes are prepared in the hope that you might find them of help when preparing for the auditions. Naturally, any basic ideas about characterisation will be discussed with the successful applicants after casting.

**Overall Note***:* ***L’Elisir d’Amore*** (***The Elixir of Love***), first performed in Milan on 12th May 1832,was the 41st of Gaetano Donizetti’s 71 operas – reputedly written in only 14 days!! It’s a sparkling gem of a piece – one of the few operas to have a happy ending. Packed with glorious melodies and lots of scintillating humour, the opera is far from easy to perform. The characters need to be believable so that we empathise with them as we follow their emotional journeys. It requires strong acting from everyone in the cast. However, Tayside Opera certainly doesn’t shrink from challenges, and I look forward to working on such a splendid, life-enhancing, piece.

**SOME BASIC NOTES ON CHARACTERISATION.**

There are only a few principal roles in ***L’Elisir d’Amore*** and every one of them has to be taken by someone who is a talented singer and actor. I hope that many of you will come along to audition so that we have a large number of auditionees from which to choose our cast.

**Adina** A rich and, dare I say, rather spoiled young lady, Adina is a tenant-farmer by trade. She’s very pretty – and knows it!! Despite being capricious, and rather cruel to Nemorino, we need to feel some sympathy for her as she tries to work out her love life!

**Nemorino** A young, good-looking, farm worker who is rather naive and simple. Can’t really hold his liquor. Madly, and irrationally, in love with Adina.

**Belcore** Handsome – and he knows it!! A sergeant who leads a troop of soldiers. He is determined to win Adina’s heart.

**Doctor Dulcamara**  A quack doctor who’ll do anything for money. A humorous, self-assured character.

**Gianetta** A village girl.

If you’ve any queries or wish to discuss any aspects of the above please don’t hesitate to

e-mail me on aborth@sky.com putting “Tayside Opera” clearly in the subject line.

All the best.

**ALAN BORTHWICK**

***Artistic Director***