

L'Elisir d'Amore / The Elixir of Love

by the Opera Colorado Young Artists

Cast of Characters

Adina	Soprano	Allison Nicholas
Nemorino	Tenor	Omar Najmi
Giannetta	Mezzo Soprano	Danielle Lombardi
Belcore	Baritone	Ryan Bradford
Dulcamara	Baritone	Charles Eaton

Pianist: Parisa Zaeri

Director; Cherity Koepke / Assistant Director: Brett Sprague

Abridged by: Cherity Koepke / Brett Sprague

Synopsis

ACT I

Nemorino is in love with Adina. When he hears Adina reading the story of a hero searching for the woman of his dreams, he is convinced that a magic potion will help him to gain Adina's love. The self-important Sergeant Belcore appears and immediately sets about courting Adina in front of everyone. The travelling doctor, Dulcamara, arrives, selling his cure-all to the town. Nemorino innocently asks Dulcamara if he has any of the love potion. Dulcamara's commercial talents enable him to sell a bottle of the cure-all – which isn't real- to Nemorino, claiming it is the love potion.

Dulcamara tells Nemorino the potion needs 24 hours to take effect — by which time, the doctor will be long gone. Nemorino drinks the potion. Emboldened by the "elixir" he thinks is real, Nemorino pretends he no longer cares about Adina. She becomes increasingly annoyed; perhaps she has feelings for Nemorino after all? Belcore returns and proposes marriage to Adina. Still riled by Nemorino and wishing to teach him a lesson, Adina falsely promises to marry Belcore in one week. Nemorino laughs in response: believing in the magic potion. However, when Belcore learns that his regiment must leave the next morning, Adina promises to marry him the next day. Nemorino panics and cries out for Dr. Dulcamara to come to his aid. Adina leaves with Gianetta to get ready for the wedding.

ACT II

Belcore suggests Nemorino join the arm to get some money. Belcore tries to excite Nemorino with tales of military life, while Nemorino only thinks of getting more potion and winning Adina. Belcore produces a contract, which Nemorino signs in return for the money. Nemorino privately vows to buy more potion, while Belcore muses about how sending Nemorino off to war has so easily dispatched his rival. After the two men have left, Giannetta gossips with Dulcamara. Swearing him to secrecy, she reveals that Nemorino's uncle has just died and left his nephew a large fortune. However, neither Nemorino nor Adina is yet aware of this. Nemorino enters. Hoping to share his fortune, Gianetta approaches Nemorino with overly friendly greetings.

Adina sees Nemorino with Gianetta, is rattled by his newfound popularity, and asks Dr. Dulcamara for an explanation. Unaware that Adina is the object of Nemorino's affection, Dulcamara explains that Nemorino spent his last penny on the elixir so desperate was he to win the love of some unnamed beauty. Adina immediately recognises Nemorino's sincerity, regrets her behavior and realizes that she has loved Nemorino all along.

Nemorino appears alone, pensive, reflecting on a tear he saw in Adina's eye when he was ignoring her earlier. Solely based on that, he convinces himself that Adina loves him. She enters and asks why he has chosen to join the army and leave the village. When Nemorino explains that he was seeking a better life, Adina responds that he is loved and that she has purchased back his military contract from Sergeant Belcore. As he takes the contract, Adina turns to leave. Nemorino vows that if he is not loved he might as well go off and die a soldier. Deeply moved by his fidelity, Adina finally declares that she will love Nemorino forever. Nemorino is ecstatic. Adina begs him to forgive her, which he does with a kiss. Belcore returns to see Nemorino and Adina in an embrace. When Adina explains that she loves Nemorino, the Sergeant takes the news in stride, noting that there are plenty of other women in the world. Dulcamara and Gianetta return and they all celebrate!