

# *Don Giovanni*

**WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART**

**1787**

SUNG IN ITALIAN

APPROXIMATE RUNNING TIME : 150 minutes

This Mozart's masterpiece, to a libretto by De Ponte, can be considered as the peak of western art. Don Giovanni, whose main character has ultimately become a proper literary *topos*, derives from Tirso de Molina's *Don Juan* and, music wise it is the most complex among Mozart's operas, representing a milestone on the way to the birth of contemporary musical drama. It poses some controversial questions about human nature through topics such as desire, transgression and its consequent punishment.



*Don Giovanni* - Mariusz Kwiecien  
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## MAIN CHARACTERS

**Don Giovanni**, extremely debauched noble man (Baritone)  
**Il Commendatore** (Basso)  
**Donna Anna**, his daughter, committed to Don Ottavio (Soprano)  
**Don Ottavio** (Tenore)  
**Donna Elvira**, lady of Burgos, ditched by Don Giovanni (Soprano)  
**Leporello**, Don Giovanni's servant (Basso)  
**Zerlina**, a peasant (Soprano)  
**Masetto**, her fiancé (Basso)

## THE PLOT

The opera focuses on Don Giovanni's debauched life and the punishment he consequently undergoes. The action takes place in Seville where Don Giovanni ends up being taken straight to hell for seducing and then cheating on women and for refusing to repent.

### Act 1

Don Giovanni tries to charm Donna Anna by dressing up as her fiancé Don Ottavio. The lady's father is alarmed by her daughter's crying and while attempting to defend his daughter's honour he gets stabbed and killed by the mysterious seducer in disguise. In the meantime Don Ottavio enters and pledges to avenge his fiancé. Having finally joined his servant Leporello again, Don Giovanni bumps into Donna Elvira, one of Don Giovanni's many victims, that harshly tells him off for ditching her. The ruthless seducer manages to get rid of the annoying lady and off he goes again. He slips in the wedding ceremony of young peasant Zerlina and Masetto, where he expectedly tries to seduce the young lady. The first act ends with Donna Elvira, Donna Anna and her fiancé Ottavio partaking the ceremony as well and Don Giovanni fleeing again.

### Act 2

2nd act opens with a series of misunderstandings resulting from the two fugitives' swapping of clothes which misleads the chasers into taking hold of the poor servant Leporello. Nevertheless, Donna Elvira, who is still in love with Don Giovanni, gives up her revenge and let the poor servant go. The latter joins his master in the graveyard where Don Giovanni, sitting on the Commendatore's tomb, is up to make a fool out of the deceased man. He starts talking to its statue and invites it for dinner in an attempt to make fun of the commendatore. Unexpectedly, the statue nods and accepts the invitation. At supper, Elvira begs Don Giovanni to repent and change his lifestyle and when the man refuses he gets swallowed by the flames of hell. Donna Anna and Ottavio ultimately get married, while Elvira retires to a convent and Leporello can't do but looking for another master.

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