

The Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry

Emory University

2015-2016 Great Works Seminar



The Women of Mozart's Operas

(begins April 6, 2016) ****WAITLIST ONLY****

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart lived in an age that both affirmed and challenged traditional attitudes toward women and their proper place in society. Nowhere is this paradox more visible than in the three operas he composed in collaboration with his brilliant librettist, Lorenzo Da Ponte. Our seminar focuses on these operas – *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, and *Così fan tutte* (*Ladies All Do It*) – in exploring how their female protagonists embodied the complex, sometimes conflicting views of women that characterized the age. We will assess the portrayal of women in each the three operas, and why the vision of Mozart and Da Ponte remains compelling and, at times, disturbing.

We will use as our literary text *Three Mozart Libretti: The Marriage of Figaro, Don Giovanni, and Così fan tutte*. DVDs of performances can be checked out in advance from the Fox Center. The meetings are scheduled as follows: April 6 (introduction); April 13 (*The Marriage of Figaro*); April 20 (*Don Giovanni*); April 27 (*Così fan tutte*).

The seminar will be moderated by James Melton, Professor of History at Emory University, and will meet at **The Fox Center** from **6:30pm to 8:30pm** for **four consecutive Wednesday evening** sessions during the **2016 spring semester: April 6, 13, 20, and 27**. Everyone from the Atlanta community is welcome and invited to join us for this free seminar. For further information and to reserve seating on a “first-come basis,” email the Fox Center at foxcenter@emory.edu, or call 404.727.6424.

We are grateful to the National Endowment for the Humanities for its support of this program. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in these seminars do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.