

NEWTON
THEATRE
COMPANY

Newton Theatre Company
and Cappella Clausura Present

Mary Stuart

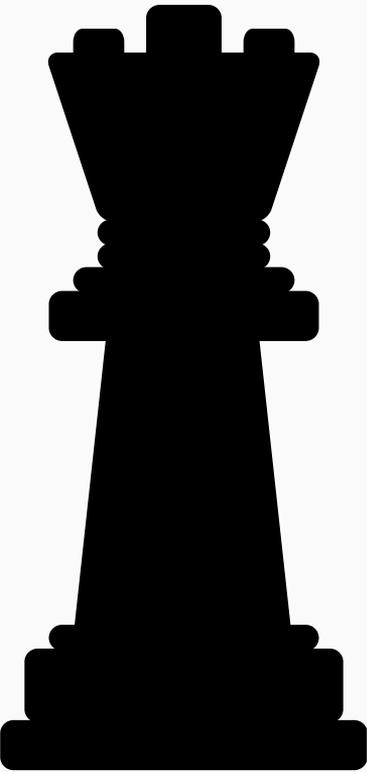
By Freidrich Schiller
Translated by Peter Oswald

Directed by
Melissa Bernstein

Cappella Clausura Musicians
Directed by Amelia LeClair

June 11-13, 2021
The Hyde Bandstand

This production is made possible through generous grants from Newton Community Pride and the Newton Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.



Cast and Crew

Sarah Brooke Vanaman – Mary, Queen of Scots

Tatiana Ramos – Lord Burleigh

Linda Goetz – Queen Elizabeth I

Barbara Hill – Soprano

Frankie Campofelice – Tenor

Charles Iner – Lute

Melissa Bernstein – Director

Amelia LeClair – Director of Cappella Clausura

Bernie Bernstein – Technical Director

Nicholas Manthei – Lighting Designer

Special Thanks

Leslie Held

John Rice

Who's Who: The Cast

Sarah Brooke Vanaman (Mary, Queen of Scots) is thrilled to be performing in person again with Newton Theatre Company. Previous in-person credits include Mary Crawford in "Mansfield Park", Jo March in "Women", and Menelaus in "Helen". Sarah has also been an integral part of NTC's Zoom Radio Play series. She graduated with honors from the Tisch School of the Arts at NYU.

Tatiana Ramos (Lord Burleigh) is a global health researcher who has loved performing for years, from minoring in theatre at the University of Vermont to now being a part of Newton Theatre Company! Based in Boston, Tatiana combines theatre with public health and non-profit work. Previous NTC credits include: "Sorry, Wrong Number", "Antigone", and "A Medal for Willie" (which she both performed in and co-directed).

Linda Goetz (Queen Elizabeth I), Co-founder and actor of Newton Nomadic Theater, has acted with Newton Theatre Company and various other companies for the past 15 years. She toured nationally with various productions, has taught Shakespeare and children's theater and dance for in schools, workshops and camps. Linda strongly believes in the power of theater to connect to each other and to the world around us. As the digital age takes us further away from human interaction and communication, theater can help us understand each other and ourselves.

Who's Who: The Musicians

Barbara Hill (Soprano) is a GRAMMY-winning ensemble member and soprano soloist. As a soloist, she has appeared with Masterworks Chorale, Musica Sacra, The Boston Cecilia, Seven Times Salt, 7 Hills Renaissance Wind Band, and Long & Away: A Consort of Viols. As an ensemble member, she performs with the GRAMMY-winning ensemble The Crossing (Philadelphia, PA), Emmanuel Music (Boston, MA), Meravelha Medieval Ensemble (Boston, MA), Red Shift (Baton Rouge, LA), Ensemble Altera (Providence, RI) and Cappella Clausura (Boston, MA), among others.

Frankie Campofelice (Tenor) is a singer and vocal pedagogue who came to Boston in 2009 and he earned his Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance as well as his Masters in Music Education and Vocal Pedagogy. He has had the pleasure to perform in numerous locations within the metro Boston area, including Emmanuel and Old South Church, Ryles Jazz Club and the Napoleon Room at Club Cafe. Mr. Campofelice works proudly as a full time voice instructor through Berklee's Institute for Arts Education/Special Needs, as well as Boston Arts Academy and the Amy Dancz Voice Studio.

Charles Iner (Lute) is a recent graduate of Boston University, where he received a Master of Music in Historical Performance, with a concentration in Lute and Early Guitar. Previously, he completed a Bachelor of Arts in Music at Benedictine College. Charles has been keeping busy during the recent cessation of live performances with regular posts on Instagram, Youtube, and Soundcloud, detailing a deep dive into early 17th-century French lute music, and 18th-century French guitar music, repertoires near and dear to his heart. In addition to solo and ensemble performing, Charles has maintained a career as a lute and guitar instructor, in both classroom settings and as a private instructor.

Historical Context

Mary Stuart (1542-1587) was crowned Queen of Scotland at just six days old. Like Queen Elizabeth I (1533-1603), she was a direct descendent of King Henry VII, the founder of the House of Tudor. At five years old, she was sent by her mother to live in France. Mary spent the next 13 years there and married the Dauphin, Francis, in 1558. After Francis' death in 1560, Mary returned to Scotland. She would go on to marry two more men: Henry Stuart, the Earl of Darnley, and James Hepburn, the Earl of Bothwell. Each relationship brought with it alliances and scandals— most notably, Henry's mysterious death by explosion in 1567 following a period of hostility between him and Mary. Before his death, Henry fathered Mary's only child, James VI.

The Scottish nobility turned against Mary after her third marriage, claiming that the union was unseemly thanks to rumors that her new husband had participated in Henry's death. They imprisoned Mary in Lochleven Castle in Scotland and forced her to abdicate in favor of her son. Mary managed to escape to England in 1568 and asked Elizabeth for help regaining her throne. Elizabeth was hesitant to provide assistance and instead ordered an inquiry into Mary's involvement in Henry's death. Later that year, Elizabeth had Mary imprisoned in Bolton Castle. She would remain in captivity in England until her death, 18 years later.

In 1586, Mary was implicated in the Babington Plot, an assassination attempt by British Catholics that sought to replace Elizabeth with Mary on the throne. Mary was found guilty of treason and beheaded in 1587. Although she did not live to see him crowned, her son James would go on to succeed Elizabeth as the ruler of Britain.

James ascension solved an issue created by Elizabeth's commitment to being the "Virgin Queen." She never married or had children, instead devoting herself to ensuring political and religious stability in England. Notable accomplishments from her reign include re-establishing the Church of England, defeating the Spanish Armada in 1588, and becoming a patron of the arts. Although strife between Catholics and Protestants both at home and abroad would persist throughout this period, Elizabeth's reign became known as the Golden Age of England.

Featured Music

"Friend of My Heart"

by Miss Harriet Abrams (1758-1829)

"False Designe"

by Mary Harvey, the Lady Dering (1629-1704)

"O Deathe" by Anne Boleyn (1501?- 1536)

"Little Boy Blue"

by Miss Harriet Abrams

"Three Sighs"

by Miss Harriet Abrams

"O Deathe"

by Anne Boleyn

"When First I Saw"

by Mary Harvey

"And Is This All"

by Mary Harvey

Finale: "O Deathe"

by Anne Boleyn

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— Chita Rivera



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