

FORBES CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY
School of Music
presents

Cinderella: **A Classic Fairytale Opera**

Written and adapted by Joshua Borths
Music by Gioachino Rossini and Jules Massenet
Based on the operas *La Cenerentola* (Rossini,
Ferretti) and *Cendrillon* (Massenet, Cain)

featuring
the JMU Opera Theatre

Joshua Borths, *stage director*
Steven Brancaleone, *pianist & music director*

Saturday, April 11, 2026 @ 6:30 pm
Sunday, April, 2026 @ 2 pm
Recital Hall

Recommended for ages 6 and up. Sung in English



This is a 35-minute show with no
intermission.
Stick around after the performance for Q&A
and pictures with the cast!

Cast

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Cinderella | Sydney Murrell |
| Prince | Ye Lynn Han |
| Stepsister #1 | Emma Jones |
| Stepsister #2 | Kelly Donlan |
| Stepfather | Habib Jaafar |
| Fairy Godmother | Augusta Nafziger |
| King | Ian Amos |
| Ensemble | Sarah Damon, Sydney Ashworth, Ivan Godoy, Yasmine Akoum, Katie Blackwell, Helen Albiston |

Synopsis

Once upon a time...

Don Magnifico lived with his two daughters—and one stepdaughter—in a splendid house at the edge of a kingdom. He doted on the eldest two, giving them the finest clothes and every opportunity, while the younger child was treated no better than a scullery maid. She was even nicknamed Cinderella because she was always covered in soot.

Meanwhile, in the palace, the royal family was running out of money. Therefore, the King made a secret deal with Don Magnifico: In exchange for Don Magnifico's funds, the King would arrange a marriage between the Prince and Don Magnifico's eldest daughter. Don Magnifico would become the power behind the throne, and the royal family would maintain their façade, living in style and luxury. It was a win-win situation as far as they both were concerned. However, they could not simply just announce the wedding. That would give away their secret! So, the King decided to throw a ball for his son, the Prince, and tell every maiden in the land that the future Queen would be chosen at the party. No one would suspect anything corrupt if the Prince just happened to choose Don Magnifico's eldest daughter...

Act One

Today, Cinderella is hastily helping her stepsisters and stepfather, Don Magnifico, prepare for the Prince's royal ball later that evening. Suddenly, a

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Synopsis (cont'd)

beggar knocks on the door. While Cinderella immediately wants to show him kindness and help the stranger, Don Magnifico is appalled and kicks him out of the house.

After her stepsisters leaves for the ball, Cinderella is left alone. She longs to go to the dance, but unlike her stepsisters, she does not want to win the hand of the Prince. Instead, she wishes to tell the Prince about the kingdom's problems and try to make the world a better place. At that moment, her Fairy Godmother arrives, and after Cinderella promises to leave the ball by midnight, the Fairy Godmother transforms Cinderella's tattered rags into a beautiful gown—complete with glass slippers.

Act Two

Back at the palace, it turns out that the beggar was the Prince in disguise! As he pines for his true love, he learns that his father, the King, has already decided whom he will marry. The Prince vows to foil the King's deal with Don Magnifico.

The ball begins, and Don Magnifico's eldest does everything she can to win the Prince's favor, but everything stops when a mysterious woman wearing a beautiful gown and glass slippers arrives. The Prince is immediately smitten, but after only a brief conversation, the woman leaves in haste as the clock strikes midnight. However, in her haste, she leaves behind one glass slipper. He resolves to find her, no matter the cost.

Act Three

Back at the house, Cinderella—back in her original tattered clothing—reflects on her journey while Don Magnifico eagerly waits for his daughters' return. When they do arrive, he learns that his plans have been dashed by the mysterious woman at the ball.

At last, the Prince knocks on the door... for the second time. He has been searching the land to find the woman who fits the glass slipper and everything changes when Cinderella tries the slipper on for herself...

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