

March 17, 2022 – Franz-Josef Haydn's *Il Mondo della Luna*

On this week's *Thursday Night Opera House*, we'll hear an encore broadcast, hosted by the late **Al Ruocchio**, of Haydn's *Il Mondo della Luna* (*The World on the Moon*), an opera buffa set to a libretto by Carlo Goldoni in 1750. It was first performed at Eszterháza, Hungary on August 3, 1777.

The wealthy merchant Buonafede (baritone **Domenico Trimarchi**) opposes his daughter Lisetta (mezzo-soprano **Frederica Von Stade**)'s wish to marry the cavalier Ernesto (mezzo-soprano **Lucia Valentini Terrani** in a "trouser" role), who's in love with Buonafede's daughter Flamia (soprano **Arlene Auger**). The pseudo-astrologer Ecclitico (tenor **Luigi Alva**), who loves Buonafede's other daughter Clarice (soprano **Edith Mathis**), deceives the merchant into believing he can travel through the heavens, giving him a potion and disguising his garden as a moonscape, where he introduces Buonafede to the Emperor of the Moon, Cecco (tenor **Anthony Rolf Johnson**). There, Ecclitico tricks Buonafede into allowing all the lovers to marry the mates of their choice. When the deception is finally revealed, the merchant graciously forgives everyone.

Antal Dorati conducts the Chamber Orchestra of Lausanne in this 1978 Philips recording, CD number 432420.