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.