

BV Ballet Victoria

Fate and Love

“Fate fights against me, whether I’m rich or good. Love and weakness both enslave me. So now play the music!” (Excerpt from O Fortuna)



From the first notes to the very last words of Carmina Burana, Carl Orff managed to enthrall everyone with music. It plays with our minds by connecting with the human experience and turns our perceptions upside-down. Each song tells its own story, in three specific sections: O Fortuna and Springtime, In the Tavern, and A Court of Love. All of these come together to make Carmina Burana a spectacular visual and musical experience.

‘O Fortuna’ and ‘Springtime’ tell the journey of life on the wheels of fate and the warmth of spring. The flow of time is forever

changing, showing us what it means to be human. We all go through sorrow, hope for something new, and look forward to being loved.

The warmth of ‘Springtime’ brings new life and the blossoms of love. The change in the seasons symbolizes the start of a new journey, where people follow their hearts and are drawn into a world of love. The search for love is a familiar winding path that takes us to the edges of the world to find the one we love. Springtime reflects the longing for the warmth of others and the tender embrace of those we cherish.

Revelry and longing are the next spoke on fate’s wheel. ‘In the Tavern’ takes us through the pains and sorrow of love. “Without a guide, it can feel like an abandoned ship floating on the waves with no direction.” There is a loneliness that can’t be tamed by alcohol or gambling.

The journey for love finds its home in ‘A Court of Love.’ Following the desires of the poems’ authors, young men and women come together hoping for romance. They find beauty in one another while teasing those who are lonely. Giving themselves to the pursuit of passion, fighting for the chance at love, they come together in adoration and celebration.

As the wheels of fate continue to turn, “love and weakness both enslave” us. By choosing to open and close Carmina Burana with ‘O Fortuna,’ Carl Orff reflects the cyclical nature of fate and how it is ever-changing people’s lives. Carmina Burana shares human desires and experiences, bringing it to the stage in a revelry of sound.