

Concerto for Frenemies Summary

Concerto for Frenemies is a fusion of classical music and theatre with comedic elements thrown in to keep things light hearted. Mozart wrote a concerto for oboe in C Major in 1777, and the following year he transcribed it to D Major for flute. Oboists and flutists have both claimed this concerto as their own, and still disagree as to whose edition is better and whose instrument Mozart would have preferred to play the concerto! We take Mozart's Concerto in C Major for Oboe and its twin Concerto in D Major for Flute, put them together, sometimes simultaneously, and transform the performance into a story. We use costumes and props to travel back in time to the year 1787 and once there, the Divas and Under-Appreciated Accompanist take control of the story and the music.

Plot: It is the year 1787, and Concerto for Frenemies tells the story of a flutist and oboist who are invited to perform at a celebration of Mozart's music. The two Divas have been rivals for years and happened to prepare the same piece. They each try to upstage the other and prove their musical dominance, while the Under-Appreciated Accompanist tries to hold the performance together. Rivalry, impoliteness, short tempers, a little romance, and of course, Mozart's music, reign supreme in this comedic classical music production.

A typical classical music performance often asks that the audience sit quietly during the music, but we've thrown that tradition out with this production. In addition to our three musician characters, the audience is an essential character in the show. We ask for applause during the performance, sometimes while we play, and encourage the audience to cheer, laugh, and sometime heckle us throughout our performance. In Concerto for Frenemies, the audience gets the unique opportunity to become a participant in the concert. Our novel audience engagement model gives the reluctant audience member an approachable experience at a classical music concert, perhaps encouraging their attendance at future classical music concerts. The lighthearted portrayal of musical stereotypes also makes the show fun, engaging, and relevant for musicians and music enthusiasts.

Video: https://youtu.be/kfx7b_wuAX0