Much Ado About Nothing
William Shakespeare (1554-1616)

Much Ado About Nothing is generally considered one of Shakespeare’s best comedies, combining elements of robust hilarity with more serious meditations on honor, shame, and court politics. The play chronicles two pairs of lovers: Benedick and Beatrice (the main couple), and Claudio and Hero (the secondary couple). Benedick and Beatrice are engaged in a "merry war"; they are both very witty and proclaim their disdain of love. In contrast, Claudio and Hero are sweet young people who are rendered practically speechless by their love for one another. Although the young lovers Hero and Claudio provide the main impetus for the plot, the courtship between the wittier and wiser lovers Benedick and Beatrice is what makes Much Ado About Nothing so memorable. Benedick and Beatrice argue with delightful wit, and Shakespeare develops their journey from antagonism to sincere love and affection with a rich sense of humor and compassion. (Wikipedia)

Cast
Leonato: Bob Neufeld
Messenger: Ernst Pattynama
Beatrice/Boy/Second Watch: Elizabeth Klett
Hero: Amanda Friday
Don Pedro: Bruce Pirie
Benedick: mb
Don John: Eden Rea-Hedrick
Claudio: Beth Thomas
Antonio: Larry Wilson
Conrade: Brett Downey
Borachio: Chris Cartwright
Balthazar: James Silverstein
Margaret: Arielle Lipshaw
Ursula: Sarah Parshall
Dogberry: Alan Mapstone
Verges: Charlotte Duckett
First Watchman: rookieblue
Friar Francis: bala
Sexton/Lord: Todd
Narrator: Libby Gohn

Running time 02:32:51
Audio edited by mb and gloriana

Cover design by Kathryn Delaney
Cover illustration of Benedick and Beatrice by John Gilbert, 1856