Tristan und Isolde

1936

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rebruary 5	February
February 19	February
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Famous stars assembled by General Director Gaetano Merola, who for fourteen years has guided its artistic destiny, presented in a repertoire of established Italian and French operas and four great Wagner works performed under the batons of pre-eminent conductors, have combined to again flash the San Francisco Opera Company into view as one of the world's great opera organizations and to still more firmly establish the City in its recognized place as a cultural center.



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The San Francisco Opera Company

GAETANO MEROLA, General Director

With performances at popular prices included in its repertoire for the first time, the San Francisco Opera Company, maintained by the San Francisco Opera Association, begins its Fourteenth Annual Season on Friday evening, October 30, and brings it to an end Sunday afternoon, November 22.

Conductors

GAETANO MEROLA FRITZ REINER
GENNARO PAPI RICHARD LERT KARL RIEDEL
Assistant Conductors: Antonio Dell'Orefice, Hugo Strelitzer,

Giacomo Spadoni, Maurice Rouyer, William Tyroler, Fredrick Vadja.

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Continued on page 34

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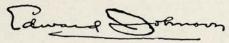
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Programme

LA FORZA DEL DESTINO

MONDAY NIGHT, NOVEMBER 16, AT 8:00

Opera in four acts and seven scenes. *Music by Giuseppe Verdi. Text (in Italian) by Piave.

THECASTMarquis of Calatrava LOUIS D'ANGELO his children ELISABETH RETHBERG Donna Leonora Don Carlo CARLO MORELLI Father Guardiano, Abbot of Hornacuelos EZIO PINZA Melitone, a friar · · · · . ALFREDO GANDOLFI Preziosilla OLGA CALLAHAN Trabucco LUDOVICO OLIVIERO The Surgeon · · · · · . . . JOHN BURR Alcade . . . JOHN HOWELL Staff Officers, Muleteers, Peasants, Soldiers, Friars, etc. Conductor: GENNARO PAPI

Stage Director: Armando Agnini Chorus Master: William Tyroler

*The opera was first produced in St. Petersburg, November 11, 1862. Seven years later at La Scala another scene was added. The original production is here given with the overture played between Scenes 1 and 2 of Act I.

TIME AND PLACE: About the middle of the Eighteenth Century; Spain and Italy

- Act I Scene 1. Room in the House of Marquis of Calatrava Scene 2. An Inn at Hornacuelos
- Act II The Cloister of the Monastery of Hornacuelos
- Act III Desolate Farm House in Velletri Wood
- Act IV Scene 1. Same as Act II
 Scene 2. A Solitary Spot near the Convent.

Bell rings three minutes before curtain rises. Encores not permitted.

THE STORY

ACT I

Don Alvaro, a young prince of India, and Leonora, daughter of the Marquis of Calatrava, plan to elope. They are discovered by the Marquis, and in the altercation which follows Alvaro's pistol is accidentally discharged killing the Marquis. (Scene 2): Parted from Alvaro in their flight Leonora, in male attire, stops at an inn at Hornacuelos to which her brother, Don Carlo, disguised as a student, has come in pursuit of the eloping lovers. She flees the place in the confusion which follows the announcement that Italy and Spain have declared war.

ACT II

Leonora, believing Alvaro has deserted her, seeks refuge in the monastery at Hornacuelos confessing all to Father Guardiano. He grants her sanctuary as a hermit in a cave near the monastery. The monks gather to consecrate Leonora's penitence. Laying a curse on any who may seek the stranger's identity, the monks are warned to shun the cave unless summoned by an alarm from the bell hung within it.

ACT III

Alvaro, thinking Leonora dead, had enlisted under an assumed name at the outbreak of the war. He chances upon a quarrel and finds Don Carlo sorely wounded. As the two had never met, there is no recognition and a close friendship is formed. (Scene 2): In a following battle Alvaro is mortally wounded. Fearing death he begs Don Carlo to destroy the letters to be found in a sealed casket among his effects. But Alvaro does not die and Carlo, his suspicions aroused by the mention of Leonora's name, searches Alvaro's kit and finds a picture of his sister. When Alvaro recovers, Don Carlo reveals his identity and demands vengeance for the dishonor to his family. Alvaro strives to convince Carlo he is guiltless of wronging Leonora and refuses to fight. Carlo then tells him that Leonora still lives and threatens to take her life instead. In the duel which follows Alvaro is victorious but, recognizing the force of destiny, enters the monastery of Hornacuelos.

ACT IV

After five years' search Don Carlo finds Alvaro, now Father Raphael, and attempts to taunt him into fighting. The priest refuses, even prostrating himself to petition peace. But, goaded by insults, he at last grasps the offered sword and they rush off to unconsecrated ground to duel seeking the hill-side where, unknown to either, Leonora abides in solitary misery. (Scene 2): Leonora has come from the cave to implore heaven for the thousandth time to let her die, but is driven back by a breaking storm just as the two men come upon the scene. Again Alvaro vanquishes Don Carlo who falls wounded unto death. Leonora, aroused, hurries from her hermitage, and sounds the alarm. Recognizing Alvaro she rushes to embrace the dying Carlo who, relentless and unforgiving, stabs her. Father Guardiano, summoned by the alarm, surrenders Leonora, dying, into the arms of Alvaro who curses the mockery of destiny which leaves him, the only guilty one, unpunished.



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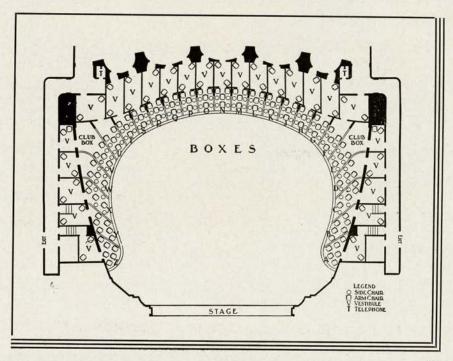
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Programme

TRISTAN UND ISOLDE

TUESDAY NIGHT, NOVEMBER 17, AT 7:45

Opera in three acts. Music and text (in German) by Richard Wagner

THE CAST

Tristan, a Cornish Knight, nephew of King Mark LAURITZ MELCHIOR
Isolde, Princess of Ireland KIRSTEN FLAGSTAD
Brangäne, Isolde's friend and attendant DORIS DOE
King Mark of Cornwall EMANUEL LIST
Kurvenal, Tristan's devoted servant FRIEDRICH SCHORE
Melot, one of King Mark's courtiers ARNOLD GABOR
Shepherd LUDOVICO OLIVIERO
Steersman Louis d'angelo
A Sailor's Voice
Sailor Lad, Sailors, Knights, Esquires, Men-at-Arms

Conductor: FRITZ REINER

Chorus Master: WILLIAM TYROLER Stage Director: ARMANDO AGNINI

TIME AND PLACE: Legendary

Act I On board a Vessel nearing the Cornish Coast

Act II Garden before Isolde's Castle; Summer Night

Act III Garden of Tristan's Estate in Brittany.

Bell rings three minutes before curtain rises. Encores not permitted.

THE STORY

Sent to captured Cornwall to collect tribute, Morold, a chieftain affianced to the Irish princess, Isolde, is slain by Tristan, favorite nephew of King Mark of Cornwall. For his own wounds, Tristan, incognito, seeks the aid of Isolde famed for her healing. Recognizing him by a notch in his sword as the slayer of her betrothed, Isolde plans to kill Tristan but falls in love with him and stays her hand. But Tristan sees in her only a queenly wife for King Mark. Presently Tristan returns to Ireland to bespeak Isolde for the bride of his uncle. Isolde accepts and they take ship for Cornwall. Tristan has now come to realize his own love for Isolde but bound by honor has concealed his plight and carefully remained away from her during the voyage. As the ship nears Cornwall's shores, the drama begins.

ACT I

Infuriated at Tristan's apparent indifference and despondent at the thought of her approaching loveless marriage, Isolde tells Brangane the story of her unrequited love for Tristan and, commanding her to prepare a poisonous draught, summons Tristan to her presence. Brangane, sensing disaster, substitutes a love potion for the poison cup. When Tristan comes Isolde reproaches him for the death of Morold. He offers his sword for her revenge but she, feigning forgiveness, proposes they drink a pledge of peace. Together they drain the cup prepared by Brangane and succumbing to its rapturous charm remain oblivious to their surroundings as the vessel reaches shore.

ACT II

Isolde, wedded to King Mark, has continued her relations with Tristan. They are suspected by Malot, a knight of the court, who arranges a pretended hunt in the hope of trapping the lovers. As the curtain rises Brangane confesses to Isolde her substitution of the love philtre. Fearing the hunt a ruse, she warns Isolde not to signal for a meeting with Tristan. But Isolde, lost in the intoxication of the love potion, will not heed and waves a beckoning handkerchief. The unexpected return of the hunters interupts a long and ardent love scene. King Mark bitterly reproaches Tristan and offers him banishment. But Melot, shouting treason, rushes forward sword in hand. Tristan draws in turn but, seeking only death with honor, drops his guard and receives a mortal wound.

ACT III

Tristan lies delirious in his castle where he has been taken by Kurvenal who has sent for Isolde knowing that only she can cure his master's wounds. In a lucid moment Kurvenal tells Tristan of Isolde's expected coming. The pipe of a shepherd, posted to signal the approach of her ship, takes on a joyous note. Kurvenal, crying out that Isolde comes, rushes off. Tristan, overcome by joy, tears at his bandaged wounds and staggering to his feet as Isolde arrives, dies in her arms. King Mark, having learned of the love potion, has followed in forgiveness close behind Isolde. Kurvenal, barring entrance, slays Melot and is killed by the soldiers. King Mark invokes a blessing on the dead as Isolde sings to her dead love the immortal Liebestod.



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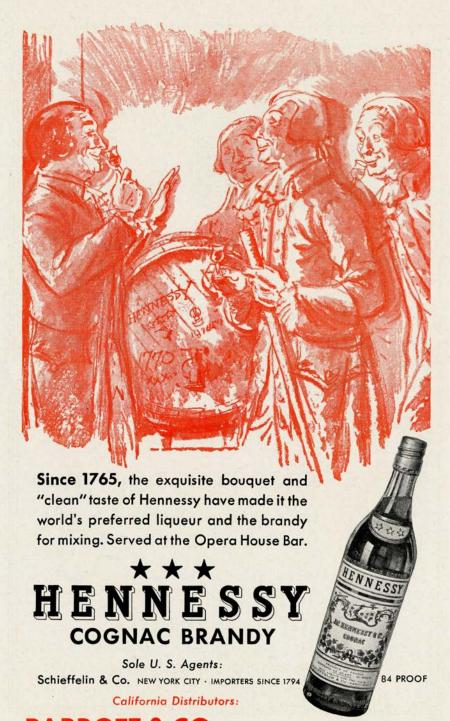
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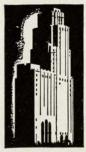
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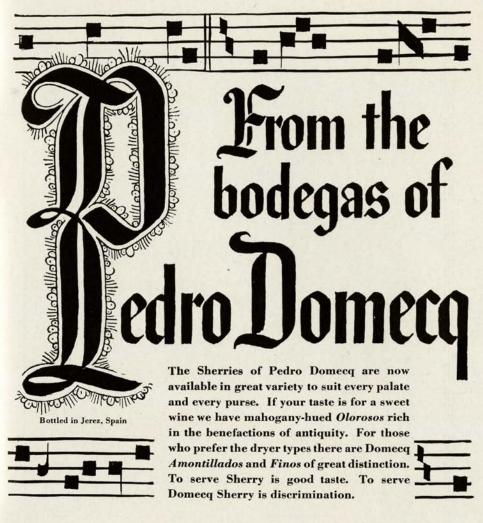
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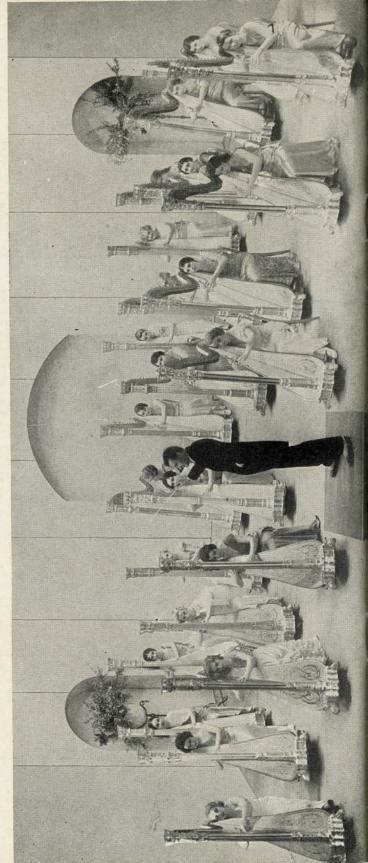
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