Lohengrin

1937

Friday, November 5, 1937 7:45 PM Thursday, November 11, 1937 7:45 PM

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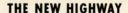
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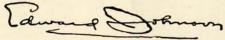
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LOHENGRIN

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

THE CAST

Lohengrin, Knight of the Holy Grail
Elsa of Brabant
KIRSTEN FLAGSTAD
Frederick of Telramund, Count of Brabant
Ortrud, his wife
Henry the Fowler, King of Germany
The King's Herald
Gottfried
LAURITZ MELCHIOR
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Stage Director: HERBERT GRAF

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TIME AND PLACE: Antwerp, during the First Half of the Tenth Century

ACT I On the Banks of the River Scheldt

ACT II Court of the Palace

ACT III Scene 1 The Bridal Chamber of the Palace Scene 2 Same as Act I

Settings designed by Armando Agnini

SEATS FOR THE REPEAT OF "LOHENGRIN" AND FOR "RIGOLETTO" ARE AVAILABLE AT SHERMAN, CLAY

Bell rings three minutes before curtain rises

Encores not permitted

THE STORY

ACT I

King Henry, come to enlist the aid of the Knights of Brabant against the invading Huns, finds strife among the nobles. Telramund, who had been appointed by the dying Duke of Brabant as guardian of his children, Elsa and Gottfried, has accused Elsa of having killed her brother and concealed his body. Telramund was betrothed to Elsa but suspecting her of fratricide he has married Ortrud and claimed the Dukedom. King Henry summons Elsa to plead her cause. She makes no statement, but tells of a vision she has had of a knight sent by Heaven to champion her. Telramund demands that Elsa produce her dream knight to combat him. Three calls of the trumpet are sounded, and a knight appears in silver armor, standing in a boat drawn by a swan. He announces that he has been sent by God to defend a slandered maiden and offers himself as her champion, and her husband, provided only that she will never ask his name. Elsa accepts his condition and the knight fells Telramund.

ACT II

Telramund upbraids Ortrud for their downfall, but she explains that the knight had won by sorcery and they need only overcome his power to win their own reinstatement. As they argue Elsa comes to her window, pouring out her love for the young stranger. Making her presence known, Ortrud feigns repentance in order to gain Elsa's ear and implant in her heart the seeds of doubt and suspicion. The light of day is welcomed by a trumpeter. A herald proclaims the banishment of Telramund and the leadership of the mysterious knight as the Guardian of Brabant. Elsa's wedding procession starts. She is about to enter the chapel when Ortrud appears and demands priority over the bride-elect of a nameless knight. Telramund accuses the knight of sorcery, but the King will not listen. The train enters the church, and Elsa and Lohengrin are united.

ACT III

This act opens in the bridal chamber. The seeds of curiosity and distrust which Ortrud has sown in Elsa's mind have ripened. In spite of her conviction that it will destroy her happiness, she questions Lohengrin with increasing vehemence, at last openly demanding to know his secret. At this juncture Telramund breaks into the apartment with four followers, intending to take the life of Lohengrin. A single blow of the knight's sword stretches him lifeless. Lohengrin then places Elsa in the charge of her ladies and orders them to take her to the presence of the king at the Oak of Justice whither he will follow and disclose his identity. (Scene 2) The knight easily justifies his slaying of Telramund. Then, compelled by his wife's unfortunate rashness, he discloses himself as the son of Parsifal, Knight of the Holy Grail, and announces that he must now return to its guardianship. The swan once more appears and as he steps into the boat he bids Elsa an eternal farewell. Before he sails away, however, Ortrud declares to the wondering crowd that the swan is Elsa's brother. Lohengrin at once disenchants the swan, Gottfried appears and rushes into his sister's arms. A white dove flies through the air and Lohengrin sails away as Elsa dies in the embrace of her newly found brother.



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Jan. 7	 JASCHA HEIFETZ, Violinist
Jan. 21	 Rose Bampton, Soprano
Feb. 4	 YVONNE ASTRUC, Violinist
Feb. 11	 Josef Hofmann, Pianist
Feb. 25	 GRISHA GOLUBOFF, Violinist
Mar. 11	 TILLY LOSCH, Danseuse
Mar. 25	 MISCHA ELMAN, Violinist
Apr. 1	 Shakespearean Program
William F	(Guest Artist to be Announced)
Apr. 8	 ARTUR SCHNABEL, Pianist
Apr. 22	 Municipal Chorus
	In Cesar Franck's "Beatitudes"

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J	an.	8			•	JASCHA HEIFETZ, Violinist
J	an.	22				Rose Bampton, Soprano
I	Feb.	5				YVONNE ASTRUC, Violinist
1	Feb.	12				Josef Hofmann, Pianist
I	Feb.	26				GRISHA GOLUBOFF, Violinist
1	Mar.	12				TILLY LOSCH, Danseuse
1	Mar.	26				MISCHA ELMAN, Violinist
1	Apr.	2	-			Shakespearean Program
						(Guest Artist to be Announced)
1	Apr.	9				ARTUR SCHNABEL, Pianist
F	Apr.	23				Municipal Chorus
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- 2. THE BIG CITY Ballet by Kurt Jooss
- Music by Alexander Tansman 3. JOHANN STRAUSS, TONIGHT! Ballet by Kurt Jooss
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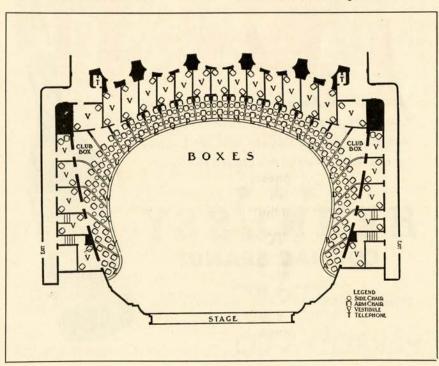
SUNDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 5

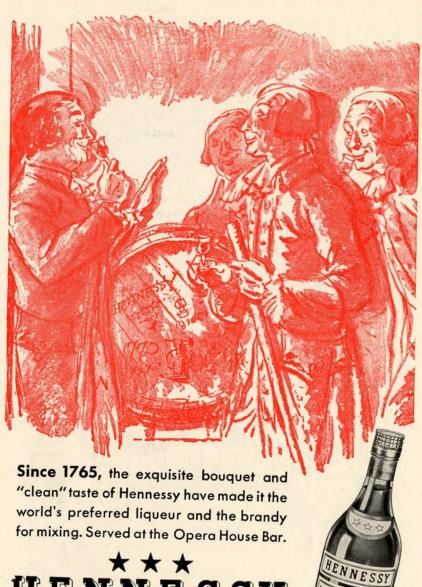
- 1. THE SEVEN HEROES Comic Ballet by Kurt Jooss
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Rigoletto, a hunchback, jester to the Duke Gilda, his daughter Duke of Mantua, a titled profligate Sparafucile, a hired assassin Maddalena, his sister Count Monterone Count Ceprano Borsa Marullo Countess Ceprano Giovanna Page

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ACT I Ballroom in the Duke's Palace

Act II A Street outside Rigoletto's House

ACT III Hall in the Duke's Palace

Act IV Ruined Inn in a Lonely Spot-Sparafucile's Home

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THE STORY

ACTI

The court of the Duke of Mantua is a place of debauchery. Rigoletto, a hunchback jester, whose biting wit has made him many enemies among the courtiers, panders to the Duke's depravity. The jester has a daughter, Gilda. But knowing so intimately the follies of his time he has kept her in a far quarter of the city to hide her face and person from his profligate associates. The Duke, however, has seen her several times in church and, disguised as a student, has won her love. The curtain rises on a fete in the palace of the Duke who tells his confidant, Borsa, of the unknown beauty. But charms at hand are not to be overlooked and he courts the Countess Ceprano under the very eyes of her husband. Marillo has discovered Rigoletto's secret but believes Gilda to be his mistress. He plans with the courtiers for her abduction to avenge themselves on the jester. Monterone, who has lost his wife and daughter to the Duke, comes to the fete and pronounces a father's curse on Rigoletto and his master much to the terrification of the hunchback.

ACT II

Rigoletto hurriedly steals to the house where Gilda is kept secluded. He meets Sparafucile, a professional killer, and promises to bear him in mind should he wish to make away with any enemies. Entering the courtyard of his home, Rigoletto embraces Gilda tenderly and, remembering the curse, commands her never to leave the house. As they talk the Duke, in student's guise, slips into the yard through connivance with Gilda's maid. The Duke and Gilda are exchanging vows following the departure of Rigoletto, when they hear approaching voices and the Duke hurries away. Rigoletto meets the party of courtiers who have come to carry out their plan for the abduction of Gilda. To mislead him they ask for his aid in abducting the Countess Ceprano. Rigoletto submits to blindfolding and holds the ladder down which they carry Gilda. Left alone he removes the blind and realizes he has been duped.

ACT III

The Duke, having returned to the hunchback's home to find his bird flown, is now back at the palace disconsolate. Informed that Rigoletto's "mistress" has been captured and is in the next room he hastens in to her. Rigoletto enters and, despite pitiable jocular attempts at concealment, breaks down and heartbrokenly admits the abducted girl to be his daughter. The door opens and Gilda rushes into his arms as he vows vengeance on the Duke.

ACT IV

To prove the Duke's falseness to Gilda who still loves him, Rigoletto takes her to Sparafucile's inn where she hears her lover with Maddalena, the inn-keeper's sister. Heartbroken she goes away with her father to prepare for flight from the city. Rigoletto returns and bargains with Sparafucile for the murder of the Duke. Gilda, beaten back to the inn for shelter from a storm which has arisen, hears Sparafucile promise Maddalena to spare the Duke's life if another person comes to the inn who might be murdered in his stead. Gilda enters, is killed and her body in a sack, is delivered to Rigoletto.



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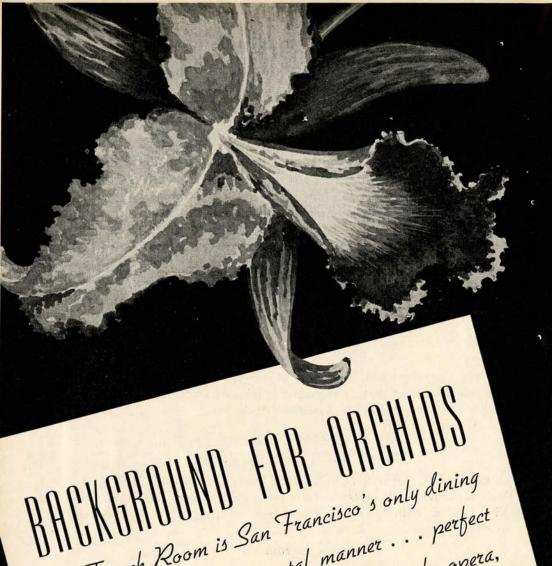
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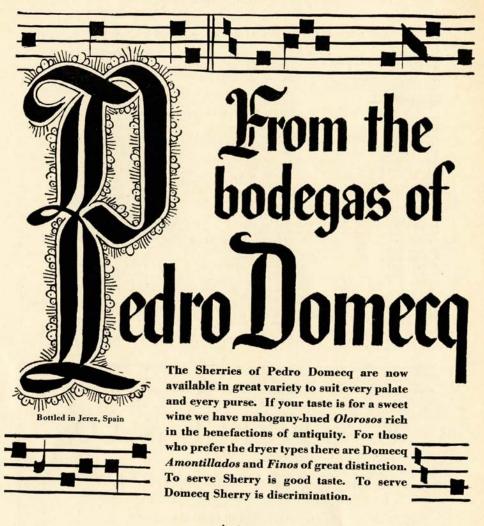
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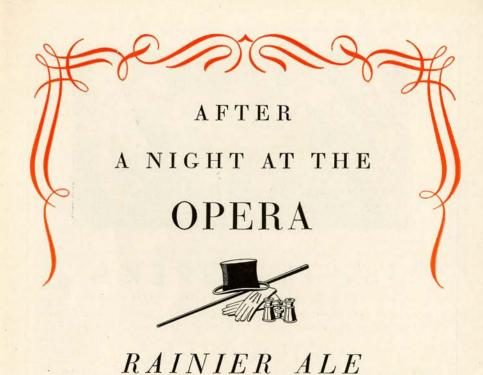
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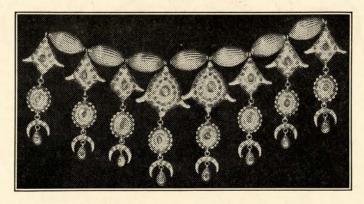


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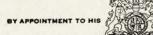
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TIME AND PLACE: Antwerp, during the First Half of the Tenth Century

Act I On the Banks of the River Scheldt

ACT II Court of the Palace

Act III Scene 1 The Bridal Chamber of the Palace Scene 2 Same as Act I

Settings designed by ARMANDO AGNINI

Bell rings three minutes before curtain rises

Encores not permitted