



THE ROYAL OPERA

Music Director Designate JAKUB HRŮŠA
Director of Opera OLIVER MEARS

The Tales of Hoffmann

OPERA FANTASTIQUE

Music JACQUES OFFENBACH
Libretto JULES BARBIER

Conductor ANTONELLO MANACORDA

Director DAMIANO MICHIELETTO
Associate Director ELEONORA GRAVAGNOLA
Set Designer PAOLO FANTIN
Costume Designer CARLA TETI
Lighting Designer ALESSANDRO CARLETTI
Choreographer CHIARA VECCHI

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS
Chorus Director WILLIAM SPAULDING

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
Concert Master SERGEY LEVITIN

EXCEPTIONAL PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT FROM
Royal Ballet and Opera Principal Julia Rausing Trust and
Season Principal Aline Foriel-Destezet

GENEROUS PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT FROM
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and Opera Young Philanthropists and Royal Ballet and
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ROYAL OPERA HOUSE ENDOWMENT FUND

Directed for the screen by RHODRI HUW

A co-production with Opera Australia,
Opéra National de Lyon and Fondazione Teatro
La Fenice di Venezia

The edition of *The Tales of Hoffmann* used in these
performances is published by Alkor-Edition, Kassel and
supplied by Faber Music, London

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15 JANUARY 2025

Approximate Timings

The performance lasts approximately 4 hours,
with two intervals.

PRE-SHOW 15 minutes
ACT I 1 hour 15 minutes
INTERVAL (Incl. Interval Feature) 17 minutes
ACT II 52 minutes
INTERVAL (Incl. Interval Feature) 25 minutes
ACT III 45 minutes
CURTAIN CALL 5 minutes

Guidance

Suitable for all. There are pyrotechnics used in Act I.
Children under the age of five are not permitted into our
theatres. Children over five must have their own ticket
and sit next to an accompanying adult.

Cast

Muse of Poetry/Spirit of Antonia's Mother
CHRISTINE RICE
Stella/Wife/Nurse MARIA LEON
Nicklausse JULIE BOULIANNE
Lindorf/Coppélius/Dr Miracle/Dappertutto
ALEX ESPOSITO
Andrès/Cochénille/Frantz/Pitichinaccio
CHRISTOPHE MORTAGNE
Luther JEREMY WHITE
Hermann/Schlemil GRISHA MARTIROSYAN*
Nathanael RYAN VAUGHAN DAVIES*
Hoffmann JUAN DIEGO FLÓREZ
Spalanzani VINCENT ORDONNEAU
Olympia OLGA PUDOVA
Chorus Solo (La harpe) OLLE ZETTERSTRÖM
Antonia ERMONELA JAHO
Crespel ALASTAIR MILES
Giulietta MARINA COSTA-JACKSON
*Jette Parker Artist

Extra Chorus
Sopranos CELESTE GATTAI, KATHRYN JENKIN,
ELIZABETH ROBERTS, JULIET SCHIEMANN
Mezzo-sopranos MARIA BROWN,
CLARE MCCALDIN, JENNIFER WESTWOOD
Tenors SIMON BIAZECK, ANDREW BUSER,
JONATHAN ENGLISH, DARRELL FORKIN,
ANDREW FRIEDHOFF
Basses GAVIN HORSLEY, SIMON PREECE,
MILES TAYLOR

Dancers TOBIAS RICHARDS, JACK THOMSON,
ADAM DEARMAN, ROSIE SOUTHALL,
KRYSTINE CUNNINGHAM, ABIGAIL NORRIE,
NATASHA TRIGG
Stilt walker DAN EDWARDS

Young Antonia BEATRICE HOPE HENLEY
Children FELICITY LOUISE PLANT,
ALICE LILY WHITTY, LILA SHAYEGHI,
EMILIA OSTROUMOFF, LARA ROSE OSTROUMOFF

Synopsis

PROLOGUE: Tavern

The Muse of Poetry descends among the Spirits of Wine. Stella, a beautiful opera star, has captivated the poet Hoffmann. The envious Muse orders the Spirits to help her dispose of Stella's unwanted influence. She disguises herself as Nicklausse, companion to Hoffmann.

A group of students arrives for refreshments during the interval of *Don Giovanni*. Hoffmann, preoccupied with his love for Stella, joins them, accompanied by Nicklausse. The students coax Hoffmann into telling the tale of Kleinzach. Tensions rise between Lindorf and Hoffmann: whenever the poet encounters Lindorf he is beset by misfortune. The poet relates the tales of his three loves.

OLYMPIA

The young Hoffmann is a pupil of the inventor Spalanzani. Hoffmann is in love with Olympia, whom he takes to be Spalanzani's daughter. Coppélius the spectacle-maker arrives. Hoffmann gazes at Olympia through a pair of his glasses and is overcome by her beauty. Spalanzani makes a deal with Coppélius, to buy out his stake in Olympia.

Guests arrive. Spalanzani presents Olympia to them as his daughter. Olympia sings, to great acclaim, and the guests go to dinner. Alone with Olympia, Hoffmann becomes convinced that she loves him. Coppélius returns, enraged that Spalanzani has cheated him. He takes revenge by destroying Olympia. Hoffmann realises at last that she was nothing but a mechanical doll.

ANTONIA

Crespel has whisked his daughter, Antonia, away to Munich, far from Hoffmann. She is ill, and it could be fatal for her to perform. Hoffmann arrives unannounced, desperate to find out the reason for Antonia's departure. She tells him that her father no longer permits her to perform. Hearing Crespel return, Hoffmann hides. Dr Miracle arrives, to Crespel's dismay: he remembers the part Miracle played in the death of his wife.

Hoffmann now understands Crespel's motives, but he keeps them secret. Instead, he urges Antonia to abandon hope of future glory as a performer. Miracle tries to lure Antonia into performing. She resists until he conjures up a spirit resembling her mother. Antonia gives way. Miracle accompanies Antonia while she performs. She collapses. Crespel accuses Hoffmann of causing his daughter's death. Miracle returns to confirm that Antonia is dead.

GIULIETTA

In a Venetian Palace, Hoffmann declares he is through with love. Schlemil escorts the courtesan Giulietta into the gaming room. She invites the other guests to join her. The demonic Dappertutto uses a sparkling diamond to summon Giulietta. He commands her to seduce Hoffmann and steal his reflection (or soul). Giulietta's conquest of Hoffmann is quick, yet when the poet realises what has happened, he remains infatuated with her.

EPILOGUE: Tavern

Hoffmann reveals that the three stories are different aspects of the same woman: Stella. When Stella appears, fresh from her triumphant operatic performance, Hoffmann, depressed and drunk, does not recognise her.

Stella and Lindorf depart together. Nicklausse transforms back into the character of the Muse. She sings a song of reassurance: through his suffering, Hoffmann's poetic art will flourish and he will eventually belong to her.

Production

Music Preparation CHRISTOPHER WILLIS,
ANDRÉ CALLEGARO, PATRICK MILNE,
RICHARD FU*
Assistant Directors JOHANNES STEPANEK,
SOPHIE GILPIN*
Assistant Choreographer ANDREA SPATA
Language coach SONJA NERDRUM
*Jette Parker Artist

Language

Sung in French with subtitles

The Royal Opera

Patron HM THE KING
Music Director Designate JAKUB HRŮŠA
Director of Opera OLIVER MEARS
Director of Casting PETER MARIO KATONA
Administrative Director CORMAC SIMMS

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