



DER FLIEGENDE HOLLÄNDER

Richard Wagner

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Logos for this production: **Rising Alternative + Teatro Real, Madrid + Oxymore**

Opera in three acts
Sung in German

From Teatro Real, Madrid

Recorded December 2016

Total running time: Approximately 2h20 minutes, with no intermission

CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor	Pablo Heras-Casado
Director	Àlex Ollé, <i>La Fura dels Baus</i>
Set	Alfons Flores
Make-up Artist	Josep Abril
Lights	Urs Schönebaum
Video Director	Franc Aleu
Chorus Master	Andrés Máspero

ARTISTIC TEAM

Der Holländer	Samuel Youn
Daland	Kwangchul Youn
Senta	Ingela Brimberg
Erik	Nikolai Schukoff
Mary	Kai Rützel
Daland's Helmsman	Benjamin Bruns

Orchestra and Chorus of Teatro Real, Madrid

PRESENTATION

Richard Wagner's *Der Fliegende Holländer* (*The Flying Dutchman*) is a masterpiece of the Romantic era, a gripping exploration of love, death, purity and damnation. In this production by Alex Ollé (La Fura dels Baus), the conflict between good and evil is a reflection of a tormented and imprisoned soul.

The Dutchman, condemned to sail across an infinite ocean until the end of time, desires only to be released from his doomed vessel and return to a life on land. The sea, infinite and transcendent, becomes a powerful metaphor for the ultimate limits imposed on man.

In Richard Wagner's autobiography, the composer wrote that his inspiration for *Der Fliegende Holländer* first struck during a sea voyage with his wife, traveling from Riga to London. A work full of symbolism, its

central theme is redemption through a woman's love: in young Senta's pledge of faith, the sea captain recognizes his salvation. For her part, Senta abandons herself to a destiny with the nameless specter.

Based on an ancient legend and reinterpreted by poet Heinrich Heine, this libretto expresses the tragic nature of the romantic spirit. The Dutchman is damned, condemned to sail forever. The opera has an intense, mirror-like quality to its score, possessing all of the ingredients of what was to come with Wagner's mature artistry.

SYNOPSIS

The coast of Norway, at an indeterminate time.

ACT I

An icy storm drags Captain Daland's ship miles away from his home on the Norwegian coast. As the sky darkens and the waters begin to stir, another ship, a ghostly schooner, appears, casting the anchor beside Daland's ship. Its captain, the Flying Dutchman, disembarks desperately to face his fate: in ages past, he invoked Satan in his quest to sail around the Cape of Good Hope. As a result, the Dutchman was cursed. Once every seven years he returns to earth and descend from his ship in search of a woman whose faithful and absolute love will redeem him. Until this redemption, the Dutchman is doomed to travel the seas until the Day of Judgment.

The Dutchman tells Daland his situation and offers him gold and jewels in exchange for hospitality for one night. Later, upon learning that Daland has a young daughter, he asks for her hand. Seeing that the stranger is full of riches, Daland accepts immediately. Instructing the Dutchman to follow him, Daland sails to his home port.

ACT II

In Daland's house, his daughter Senta watches the women of the town as they spin and sew. Although they joke about the young woman and her suitor, the hunter Erik, she remains in trance. Staring at a portrait of the wandering Dutchman, she sings a ballad about the ghost captain and prays earnestly to be the one to save him.

Erik enters, and, when left alone, asks Senta to defend his case for marriage to her father. Realizing her obsession with the portrait of the Dutchman, Erik tells her of a terrifying dream, in which he sees her embrace the Dutchman and leave in his boat. Senta exclaims that this is her dream, and Erik leaves in despair. A moment later, the Dutchman appears in person before the young woman, and she promises remain faithful to him until her death. Daland blesses the union.

ACT III

In the port, the inhabitants of the town celebrate the return of the Daland's ship. They invite the crew of the Dutchman to join them, but are chased away the strange chants of the ghostly sailors.

Senta enters, pursued by Erik, who insists that she has promised him his love. Upon hearing it, the Dutchman thinks he has been betrayed and hurries to his boat. Before the horrified eyes of the people of the town, the Dutchman reveals his name and his curse, unfolding the sails to leave. Senta runs to the edge of the cliff and, triumphantly proclaiming her fidelity to the death, throws herself into the sea.