



I CAPULETI E I MONTECCHI

Vincezo Bellini
Libretto F. Romani

Sunday, February 19, 2017 at 12 pm
Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 7pm

Opera in 2 acts
Sung in Italian

Recorded June 2016
From the Gran Teatre del Liceu, Barcelona, 20h (local time)

Approximate Running Time: 2h 50 min

CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor	Riccardo Frizza
Stage Director	Vincent Bousard
Sets	Vincent Lemaire
Costumes	Christian Lacroix
Lighting	Guido Levi
Corus Master	Conxita García

ARTISTIC TEAM

Romeo	Joyce DiDonato
Giuletta	Patrizia Ciofi
Tebaldo	Antonino Siragusa
Lorenzo	Simón Orfila
Capellio	Marco Spotti

Symphony Orchestra and Chorus of the Gran Teatre del Liceu

Presentation

Starring the acclaimed Joyce DiDonato and Patrizia Ciofi, coming both back to the Liceu stage.

The production features costumes by Christian Lacroix , who seeks to “reveal the hidden and fragile inside of the characters” (Broussard).

The opera premiered the 3rd of November 1830 at the Teatro La Fenice in Venice. The first performance at the Liceu took place on the 6th of August 1854.

The eternal classic love story of Romeo and Juliette, between Romeo, the Montecchi’s leader, and Juliet, the Daughter of the Capuleti, two rival factions in the Verona of the XIII century. In a world full of intrigues, fights and rivalries, Juliet fakes her death in order to escape with her

lover, but Romeo, not knowing of this ruse, commits suicide. When she wakes up, and sees him dead, she too kills herself.

Synopsis

Place: around the palace of Capellio (Capulet) in Verona

Time: 13th century

Act I

Scene 1: The Palace

Capellio and Tebaldo address their followers advising rejection of an offer of peace to be brought by an envoy from Romeo, the man who had killed Capellio's son. Tebaldo states that he will avenge the killing to celebrate his marriage to Giulietta and he urges Capellio to hasten the moment when he may marry Giulietta and then avenge Capellio, who wants the marriage to take place immediately, brushing aside the objections of Lorenzo that Giulietta is ill with a fever. Tebaldo proclaims his love for Giulietta. Capellio's men urge him on and arrangements are made to have the wedding take place that day.

While the men proclaim their hatred of the Montagues, Romeo enters in the guise of a Montague envoy, offering peace to be guaranteed by the marriage of Romeo and Giulietta. He explains that Romeo regrets the death of Capellio's and offers to take his place as a second son for the old man. Capellio indicates that Tebaldo has already taken on that role and—together with all his men—rejects all idea of peace: "War! War", the men proclaim. Romeo accepts their challenge of war.

Scene 2: Giulietta's room

Giulietta enters proclaiming her frustration against all the wedding preparations which she sees about her. Recitative: "I burn, a fire consumes me wholly. In vain do I seek solace from the winds... Lorenzo enters, explaining that he has arranged for Romeo to come to her by a secret door and, when Romeo enters, he tries to persuade Giulietta to escape with him; but she resists in the name of duty, law, and honor, declaring that she would prefer to die of a broken heart. Romeo is distraught, then, in a duet finale in which each expresses his/her conflicting emotions, the situation becoming more and more impossible for them both.

The sounds of wedding preparations are heard: she urges him to flee; he declares that he will stay but Giulietta continues to resist. Each leaves.

Scene 3: Another part of the palace

The Capuleti are celebrating the forthcoming marriage. All those assembled join in. Romeo enters in disguise and tells Lorenzo, who immediately recognises him, that he is awaiting the support of his soldiers, one thousands of whom are assembled dressed as Ghibelines and who are intent on preventing the wedding. Lorenzo remonstrates with her, but suddenly, the armed attack by the Montecchi take place as they surge into the palace, Romeo with them. Giulietta is alone, lamenting the state of affairs. Then she sees Romeo, who has appeared, and again he urges her to run away with him. Capellio, Tebaldo and the Ghibelines discover them, and believe that Romeo is still the Montecchi envoy. As Giulietta tries to shield him from her father, he proudly tells them his true name. The Montagues enter to protect him and, in a concerted finale involving all from both factions, the lovers are separated by their family

members. Capellio, Tebaldo, and Lorenzo become part of the quintet finale, as the ranks of the supporters of both sides join in the swell.

ACT II

Scene 1: Another part of the Palace

Introduced by an arioso for cello, Giulietta awaits news of the fighting. Lorenzo enters and immediately tells her that Romeo lives, but she will soon be taken away to Tebaldo's castle. He offers a solution: that she must take a sleeping potion which will make it appear that she has died. She will then be taken to her family's tomb where he will arrange for Romeo and himself to be present when she awakes. In a state of indecision, she contemplates her options and she expresses doubts while Lorenzo urges to take the potion, given that her father is about to come into the room.

With his followers, Capellio comes to order her to leave with Tebaldo at dawn. Her ladies beg her father to be kinder towards her. Proclaiming that she is close to death, she begs her father's forgiveness but Capellio rejects her and orders her to her room. He then instructs his men to keep watch on Lorenzo of whom he is suspicious; they are ordered not to allow Lorenzo to have contact with anyone.

Scene 2: The grounds of the palace

Romeo laments Lorenzo's apparent forgetfulness in failing to meet him as planned. He then hears the noise of someone entering, Tebaldo. As they are about to begin fighting, the sound of a funeral procession is heard. They stop and listen, only then realizing that it is a procession for Giulietta. In a duet finale, the rivals are united in remorse, asking each other for death as they continue to fight.

Scene 3: The tombs of the Capuleti

Along with his Montecchi followers, Romeo enters the tomb of the Capuleti. The followers mourn Giulietta's death. At her tomb and in order to bid her farewell, Romeo asks for it to be opened. He also asks that the Montecchi leave him alone with Giulietta. Realising his only course of action will be death, he swallows poison and, lying down beside her, he hears a sigh, then the sound of her voice. Giulietta wakes up to find that Romeo knew nothing of her simulated death and had been unaware of Lorenzo's plan. Urging him to leave with her, Giulietta gets up but Romeo states that he must remain there forever, explaining that he has already acted to end his life. In a final duet, the couple clings to each other. Then he dies and Giulietta, unable to live on without him, falls dead onto his body. The Capuleti and Montecchi rush in to discover the dead lovers, with Capellio demanding who is responsible.