



ROMÉO ET JULIETTE

Charles Gounod

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Logos for this production: **Rising Alternative + Gran Teatre del Liceu + CNC + Jack Febus + Mezzo**

Libretto by Jules Barbier and Michel Carré, based on *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare

Opera in a prologue and five acts

Sung in French

LIVE February 27, 2018 at 8pm (Barcelona time)

From the Gran Teatre del Liceu, Barcelona

Approximately 3h

CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor	Josep Pons
Director	Stephen Lawless
Set & Costume Design	Ashley Martin Davis
Lighting	Mimi Jordan Sherin
Choreography	Nicola Bowie
Chorus Master	Conxita García

ARTISTIC TEAM

Juliette	Aida Garifullina
Stéphano	Tara Erraught
Gertrude	Susanne Resmark
Roméo	Saimir Pirgu
Tybalt	David Alegret
Benvolio	Beñat Egiarte
Mercutio	Gabriel Bermúdez
Pàris	Isaac Galán
Gregorio	Germán Olvera
Capulete	Ruben Amoretti
Frère Laurent	Nicola Ulivieri
The Duke	Stefano Palatchi

Symphony Orchestra and Chorus of the Gran Teatre del Liceu

PRESENTATION

Charles Gounod's adaptation of Shakespeare's timeless tragedy returns to the stage of the Gran Teatre del Liceu after an absence of over three decades.

Co-produced with the Santa Fe Opera, this production is conducted by Josep Pons and directed by Stephen Lawless. The action is moved to the context of the American Civil War (1861-1865), providing clear context for the insurmountable divisions between the Capulets and the Montagues. The lovers live in a classic mortuary, foreshadowing their fatal destiny from the very start of their infatuation.

Hailed by Plácido Domingo as "one of the most exciting opera divas of today and tomorrow", Aida Garifullina stars as Juliet alongside Saimir Pirgu, who has been described by *Opera Today* as "one of the world's most important interpreters of lyric tenor roles".

SYNOPSIS

PROLOGUE

A chorus tells the story of the long-running hostility between the Montague and Capulet families, and of the love between their children, Roméo and Juliette.

ACT I

At a masked ball in the Capulets' palace, Juliette, the host's vivacious daughter, and Roméo meet each other for the first time, instantly falling in love. But Roméo is the son of the Montague family, long-time enemies of the Capulets. Roméo and Juliette know that their love must remain secret.

ACT II

Later that night, Roméo looks for Juliette in the Capulets' garden. When Juliette appears on her balcony, Roméo declares his love and they vow to marry.

ACT III

Roméo, Juliette and her nurse Gertrude arrive at Friar Laurence's cell at daybreak. Friar Laurence marries the two, hoping that the strength of their love can overcome the hatred between their families. But the rift between the Capulets and the Montagues becomes insurmountable on the very same day of the wedding, when Juliette's cousin Tybalt kills Roméo's best friend Mercutio, and Roméo takes revenge by killing Tybalt. The Duke of Verona arrives, and both factions cry for justice. Roméo is banished from Verona.

ACT IV

Roméo secretly spends his wedding night with Juliette. She forgives him for killing Tybalt and they reassure one another of their love before Roméo is forced to leave for exile. Lord Capulet enters: Juliette must marry Count Paris that day. In order to reunite the lovers and to prevent the forced marriage, Friar Laurence gives Juliette a potion to make her appear dead. When she wakes up, the Friar says, she will have her Roméo next to her. Juliette takes the potion. Her father and the guests arrive to lead her to the chapel. Juliette collapses, appearing dead.

ACT V

In the Capulet family crypt, Roméo visits Juliette, who is laid out there. Since Laurence's explanatory letter has not reached him, he too believes her to be dead and drinks poison out of desperation. Juliette awakens, and they share a final dream of future together. When Juliette realizes that Roméo is about to die, she stabs herself. The lovers die together, asking God for forgiveness.