



ROMÉO ET JULIETTE

Charles Gounod

Libretto by Charles Gounod and french libretto by Jules Barbier and Michel Carré
Opera in 5 acts and a prologue
Sung in French

Recorded 22 January 2017
From Wiener Staatsoper

Approximately 2h43

CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor	Plácido Domingo
Director	Jürgen Flimm
Chorus Master	Thomas Lang
Video Director	Jasmina Eleta

ARTISTIC TEAM

Juliette	Aida Garifullina
Roméo	Juan Diego Flórez
Frère Laurent	Dan Paul Dumitrescu
Mercutio	Gabriel Bermúdez
Stéphano	Rachel Frenkel
Capulet	Wolfgang Bankl
Tybalt	Carlos Osuna
Gertrude	Rosie Aldridge
The Duke	Alexandru Moisiuc
Paris	Igor Onishchenko
Grégorio	Ayk Martirosian
Benvolio	Martin Müller

Chorus and Orchestra Wiener Staatsoper.

PRESENTATION

Romeo, a member of the Montague family, bitter enemies of the Capulets, attends celebrations in the home of the Capulets in disguise. There he meets Capulet's daughter Juliet, and falls in love with her. In the garden beneath Juliet's balcony he declares his love for her, and she returns his love. The couple resolve to marry. Friar Laurence marries the couple in secret, hoping by doing so to bring about a reconciliation between the two families. However, soon afterwards there is yet another quarrel in the streets of Verona. Juliet's cousin Tybalt challenges Romeo to a duel, which he initially declines for Juliet's sake. However, when Tybalt fatally through. The Prince of Verona banishes him for his crime. One last time, Romeo visits Juliet in secret to bid her farewell. The next morning Capulet tells his daughter in the presence of Friar Laurence that she will have to marry Paris. However, Friar Laurence gives her a sleeping potion that will make her appear dead. Juliet collapses during the wedding ceremony and is laid to rest in the family crypt. Romeo does not receive a message telling him that Juliet is not really dead. He enters the Capulet family crypt, and, believing Juliet dead, takes poison. At this moment Juliet awakens to find the dying Romeo at her side. When she realizes what has happened, she stabs herself.

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.