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Acknowledgements:

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Nancy Rey & Nancy Provence

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THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SCHOOLS OF MUSIC AND DRAMA, AND THE OFFICE OF LECTURES AND CONCERTS PRESENT

THE NORTHWEST PREMIERE

Antonin Dvořák's Great Opera



Rusalka

A Lyric Fairytale

Conducted by Michel Singher

Directed by Robert DeSimone

Set Design by Bill Bartelt

299
1979
5-19

RUSALKA

Meany Theater

May 17 & 19, 1979

8:00 PM

ACT I

In a glade by the side of a lake a group of wood sprites appear for their nightly singing & dancing and to wake the Merman from the water's depth. They vanish into the wood and the mournful voice of Rusalka, the water nymph, is heard rising from the lake. She has fallen in love with a handsome Prince, who comes to bathe in the lake, and now she longs to become a human being with a human soul so that she may feel the warmth of his embraces. The Merman, her father, on hearing her confession, is filled with sad forebodings, but his warnings fall upon deaf ears. He then advises Rusalka to seek the counsel of Jezibaba, the Witch. Rusalka is left alone and sends on the rays of the silvery moon an ardent message of love to her far-off beloved. Ignoring the Merman's warning, Rusalka calls to Jezibaba who is willing to do as she asks and turn Rusalka into a human being with a human soul, but only on certain conditions. Rusalka, as a human being, will be mute, and if the man she loves proves faithless, she will be accursed and return to the depths of the lake, while her lover also will suffer damnation. Rusalka is so sure of her love that she agrees to everything. While Jezibaba is performing her magic on Rusalka in her hut, the warning voice of the Merman rises from the bed of the lake. The faint light of dawn pervades the wood and the flourish of a huntsman's horn is heard in the distance. The Prince, following a silver doe, finds himself in the glade. He feels strangely attracted to the place and even the call of the huntsman fails to draw him away. Meanwhile, Rusalka, transformed into a lovely maiden, steps out of the hut and the Prince is entranced by her beauty. The warning voices of the water-nymphs and of the Merman are unheeded by Rusalka. The Prince, deeply enamoured, carries her off to his castle, all thought of the silver doe he had been following quite forgotten.

School of Music Production Staff:

Musical Director and Conductor.....Michel Singher
Devised and Directed by.....Robert DeSimone***
Choreographer.....Eve Green
Chorus Master.....Richard Koenig
Chorus Accompanist.....Rose Mauro
Rehearsal Accompanist.....Ray Brannon
Assistant Stage Managers.....Theodore Deacon
J. Carole Matthews

School of Drama Production Staff:

Set Designer.....Bill Bartelt
Costume Designer.....Robert Dahlstrom
Lighting Designer.....Richard Moore
Technical Director.....Richard Moore
Stage Manager.....Teresa L. Davidson
Assistant Designer.....Vicki Smith
Master Carpenter.....Richard Rogers
Master Electrician.....Dee Torrey
Properties.....Robert N. Mays
Board Operator.....Linda Jordan
Technical Crew.....Gordon Gray,
Paul Justice, Peter Molitor, Jim Bailey
Pamela Miori, Mark Olds, Kass Hildebrand

***In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts

ACT III

The same setting as for Act I. Rusalka, on whom the curse has fallen in punishment for her desire for human love, mournfully sits beside the waters of the lake and laments her fate. Not even Jezibaba can do anything to help her. By her undiminished love, she refuses Jezibaba's demand to kill the Prince as a release from her curse. Filled with pain and grief, she descends into the water. The gamekeeper and kitchen-boy appear to ask Jezibaba to help the Prince. The Merman, hearing their plea, drives them away and swears vengeance on man and his kin. Meanwhile the wood-nymphs have gathered in the glade for their festivities. The Merman tells them of Rusalka's fate and, with tears in their eyes, the wood-nymphs disappear into the shadows. The Prince, wild and distraught, appears at the lake-side and, his soul burdened by his deep sense of guilt, he calls in anguish for Rusalka. Rusalka emerges from the waters of the lake and reproaches the Prince for betraying her. And, though she warns him of the power of her embrace, he gladly atones for his guilt by receiving her embrace, dying in her arms. Rusalka, freed from the curse of unhappy love, kisses her dead lover for the last time and, united, she takes him to the water's depth for all eternity.

CAST (in order of appearance)

First Wood Sprite.....Maurita Rogers
Second Wood Sprite.....Cheryl Sheehan
Third Wood Sprite.....Lynne Sederholm
The Merman.....Paul Berkolds
Rusalka.....Louise Deal-Pluymen
Jezibaba, the Witch.....Margaret Russell
Hunter.....David Iwane
Prince.....John Obourn
Gamekeeper.....Christopher Kerr
Kitchen-boy.....Barbara Prowse
Foreign Princess.....Judith Page

Understudies: Kyra Clefton (Jezibaba), Laurie Haney (Second Wood Sprite), Louise Marley (Third Wood Sprite), Marjorie Sackett (First Wood Sprite), Donald Walkup (Gamekeeper).

Chorus: Soprano: Linda Anderson, Ginny Byrnes, Elisa Dakin, Beth Eaton, Adele Hagan, Laurie Haney, Esther Jordan. Alto (Mezzo): Theresa Adams, Linda Combellick, Morgan McCurdy, Kyoung-Ah Oh, Janet Reed. Tenor: Keith Eisenbrui, John Gordon, Jim Hook, David Iwane, David Justad, Brian Wines. Bass: Robert Bavis, Tim Chong, Theodore Deacon, Max Gerspacher, Jeff Keith, Peter Maurer.

Wood Sprites: Debra Estrem, Melanie Holland, Karin Holmberg, Barbara Luedeking, Jennifer Miller, Marie Wilson.

Dancers in Act II: Melanie Holland, Karin Holmberg, Robert Horton, Barbara Luedeking, Manuel Keita, Kimberley Magden, Jennifer Miller, Joseph Nassi, James Nightingale, Steven Phlegar, Diane Puetz, Ramon Talens.

Orchestra

Violin I

Carolyn Canfield,
Concertmistress
Karl Kawahara
Beverly Meng
Brigitta Grossrieder
Wendy Lee
Barbara Rood
Nicholas Yokan
Christopher Mehrens
Ron Pyke

Violin II

May Zia,
Principal
Kee Soon Ahn
Eileen Hsu
Jackie Abbott
Antonio Alcantara
Cindy Burgess
Tam Osborne
Inge Tangborn

Viola

Ingrid Buschmann,
Principal

Lisa Rensberger
Carolyn Wyman
Kathryn Shaw
Susan Koelle
Diane Grayson
Ann Schnaidt
Beth Hassler
Cello
Pamela Roberts,
Principal
Anna Clift
Rachel Abbey
Carolyn Fulkerson
Wendy McChesney
Connie Radke
Patrice Young
Annette Kruzic
Bass
Constance van Winkle
Ron Fordice
Adam Creighton
Flute
Laurel Richardson
Nancy Haugerud

Susan Steil,
piccolo
Oboe
Benith Richardson
Catherine Ledbetter
Laurel Uhlig,
English horn
Clarinet
Julie Oster
Andrew Tangborn
David Jones,
bass clarinet
Bassoon
Gary Claunch
Frank Kenney
Horn
Diane Eaton
Gus Sebring
Michael Graef
David Cottrell
Joseph Catterson
Jeffrey Winter

Trumpet

Roy Cummings
Robert Fletcher
Warren Johnson
Robert Murray

Trombone

Jon Lellelid
Tim Anderson
Monique Buzzarte

Tuba

Roger Brakefield

Timpani

Paul Hansen

Percussion

Michael Clark
James Kovach
Terry Pollard

Harp

Susan Stillion

ACT II

On the grounds of the Prince's castle, the gamekeeper and the kitchen-boy are deep in gossip about the Prince's affair, which they find all very mysterious. But they have also observed that the Prince's passion for the lovely Rusalka seems to be waning and that he is not indifferent to the seductions of the foreign Princess. They are interrupted by the arrival of the Prince and Rusalka. The Prince has not found his passion returned in the way he longed for, but has tried to understand the mystery of Rusalka. He turns from her to welcome with great courtesy the foreign Princess, who has suddenly appeared in the garden. Telling Rusalka to go and dress herself for the festivities, he disappears into the castle with the Princess. Torches flash in the garden and to a triumphant flourish of trumpets, the brilliant retinue of the Prince pours into the castle grounds. Dancing follows. While the company strolls in the gardens, the Merman rises to the surface and bitterly laments the cruel fate of Rusalka. Rusalka, seeing the Merman, regains her power of speech and tells him of her sadness. The appearance of the Prince and Princess confirms her apprehensions. The Prince confesses that his love for the Princess has made him forgetful of Rusalka. The sight of Rusalka fails to recall him to his senses. At that moment the Merman rises and warns the Prince that he will not escape the curse of Rusalka's embraces and drags the water nymph down with him to the bottom of the lake. The Prince entreats the Princess to protect him from these evil spells. She, having lured his affections away from Rusalka, curses him and leaves.