Christoph Willibald Von Gluck's

Orpheus and Euridice

Tuesday, March 3, 1959

Wednesday, March 4, 1959

Meany Hall 8:00 p.m.

University of Washington

Opera Theatre
Orpheus and Euridice
by
Christoph Willibald Von Gluck

CAST, in order of appearance

Orpheus . . . . Emilie Berendsen, Contralto
Amor . . . . Dena Lampropulos, Soprano
A Blessed Spirit . . . . Vera Neufeld, Soprano
Euridice . . . . Iris Jones, Soprano

with

The University Singers
Gerald Kechley, Director

The Dancing Chorus of Mourners, Furies, Blessed Spirits, Courtiers:

Marjorie Carrigan  Marcia Sakamoto
Marguerite Dodds Belanger  Phyllis Silver
Miriam Feldman
Mickey Gustin  John Crumplar
Ann Herring  Frank Ordway
Barbara Lacy  Louie Roedel
Jane Micklesen  Dave Sannerud

The action takes place in legendary Greece.
The Story...

Act I

Orpheus and his friends lament the death of his bride, the beautiful Euridice, at her tomb. Touched by his grief, Amor, the God of Love, proposes to allow Orpheus to descend into the underworld to seek Euridice. There is one condition, however, if Orpheus is to have his wife back again in the realm of the living. If he is able to enter into the underworld and find Euridice, he must not look at her face or offer any explanation for his actions until they have recrossed the river Styx. If he should turn back to look upon her, she must return at once to the underworld. Imploring the aid of the Gods, Orpheus sets out after his wife.

Act II

At the entrance to the underworld the furies attempt to frighten Orpheus, but soon they are moved by the beauty of his song to pity his grief. Completely subdued, they open the gates and allow Orpheus to continue his journey into the underworld.

INTERMISSION

Act III

In the Elysian fields where the blessed spirits seek rest and contentment, Orpheus finds his bride. Taking her by the hand, but careful not to look upon her face, he gently leads her from the valley.

INTERMISSION

Act IV

Scene I

As they approach the upper world, Euridice’s wonder and unhappiness increase. She believes Orpheus no longer loves her because he has not looked at her. Orpheus begs her to follow without question but Euridice unhappily declares that she would prefer to remain among the dead than live without the love of her husband. She cries out in such sorrow that Orpheus, forgetting his promise, looks back upon her. Immediately she falls lifeless. Despairing, Orpheus is about to kill himself when Amor hears his song of pathos and is so deeply moved that he permits the two lovers to return together to the world above.

Scene II

Fore the temple of Amor, friends of Orpheus and Euridice rejoice over the return of the lovers and all sing the praises of the God of Love.
THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC
OPERA THEATRE STAFF

Conductor and Director . . . . Stanley Chapple
Stage Director . . . . . . . . Ralph Rosinbun
Choreographer . . . . . . . . Martha Nishitani
Repétiteur . . . . . . . . . . . Bill Clarke
Stage Manager . . . . . . . . Howard Nelson

THE SCHOOL OF DRAMA
PRODUCTION STAFF

Courtesy of Glenn Hughes, Executive Director

Art Director and Technical Supervisor . . John Ashby Conway
Assistant Art Director . . . . . . Alanson Davis
Technical Director . . . . . . . . Warren C. Lounsbury
Costumier . . . . . . . . . . . . . James Crider
Scenery Construction . . . . . . Tom Cook
Scene Painting . . . . . . . . . John Custer
Electrician . . . . . . . . . . . . Nolan Dehner
Properties . . . . . . . . . . . . . Rolf Lystad

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