



## Pocket Opera

### 'Rigoletto'

Sunday, 28  
July, 2024

20.00h  
Palau de Maricel

#### Act I

A party is held in the palace of the Duke of Mantua. The Duke boasts of his libertine conception of love while trying to conquer the wife of the Count of Ceprano. The hunchbacked court jester, Rigoletto, mocks the latter. The party is interrupted by the appearance of Count Monterone, determined to defend the honor of his daughter, who has also been seduced by the Duke. Rigoletto's tongue does not hold back in his presence and Monterone, as he is arrested and led out of the room, curses the Duke and Rigoletto, who is left speechless.

At night, in an alley, Rigoletto, thinking about the curse of Monterone, meets Sparafucile, a hitman who offers him his services: his sister is in charge of luring the victims to a tavern where he murders them.

At home, Rigoletto is met by the only person he can love after the death of his wife: his daughter Gilda, whom he has imprisoned for fear that the courtiers may harm her. Gilda asks him to explain things about his mother and Rigoletto becomes emotional when remembering his deceased wife and leaves his daughter at home reminding her that she should never go out.

When Gilda is left alone, the duke sneaks in, dressed in clothes that hide his true identity. Before Gilda he pretends to be Gualtier Maldé, a poor student. It is about the young man who had approached her in the Church and who now declares his love for her. Gilda hears a noise outside and urges the duke to flee, fearing that her father will arrive and discover them. Gilda is ecstatic after her meeting with the student.

At that moment the courtiers appear, seeking revenge on Rigoletto, they have planned to kidnap Gilda, believing that she was their lover instead of their daughter. Rigoletto returns home and when he meets them, they tell him that they want to kidnap the Countess of Ceprano, whose Palace is right next door. The jester is delighted to participate in the kidnapping and suggests that they mask him so as not to be recognized. The courtiers choose to simply blindfold him. Rigoletto personally holds the staircase by which the alleged countess is descended. When he realizes that Gilda has disappeared it is already too late: he then understands that he has actually kidnapped his own daughter and that the curse is being fulfilled.

#### Act II

At the palace, the duke is very nervous because he has not found anyone at Rigoletto's house and he is convinced that Gilda has been kidnapped. The courtiers arrive shortly after, confirming their suspicions. The duke recognizes Gilda and is extremely happy that she is safe and sound in his palace. Rigoletto discovers the situation and realizes that his daughter is with the duke, so he immediately claims her. The courtiers then discover the relationship between the two, and the jester begs for their help, in vain. Finally they free Gilda, who throws herself into her father's arms and confesses that she has lost honor. Rigoletto plans revenge.

#### Act III

An inn on the outskirts of Mantua, next to the Mincio River. It's night.

Rigoletto has managed to take the duke to the inn where, according to his plan, he will be murdered by Sparafucile. Furthermore, she has brought her daughter Gilda with her so that she can see for herself the low nature of the duke, with whom Gilda is still in love. The duke is drinking and singing. Then Maddalena, the hitman's sister, arrives, who avoids the duke's attempts at seduction with impudence and sarcasm while Gilda and Rigoletto watch everything through the window. The jester urges his daughter to leave for Verona disguised as a man and wait for him there. Gilda walks away and Rigoletto gives Sparafucile ten gold coins as an advance; The remaining ten will be given to him when he delivers the duke's body to him.

A storm is coming. The duke goes to sleep and Maddalena, who realizes that she is falling in love with him, tries to convince her brother Sparafucile not to kill the young man. He refuses at first but finally, in order not to lose the money, they decide that they will murder the first one who knocks on the door that night. Gilda, who has heard the entire conversation, decides to sacrifice herself by giving her life to save the duke, and enters the inn pretending to be a beggar.

After midnight, Rigoletto returns to the inn and Sparafucile gives him a sack with the presumed corpse of the Duke of Mantua. He offers to throw it into the river with him, but the jester prefers to do it alone. When he goes to throw it, he hears the duke singing in the distance, in disbelief. When he opens the sack he discovers his daughter on the verge of death. Gilda asks for forgiveness and Rigoletto laments that the curse has come true.



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