



©Photo: Andrea Messana/ONP

I Puritani

MELODRAMMA SERIO IN THREE PARTS BY VINCENZO BELLINI

OPERA 2013

HDTV

Libretto: Carlo Pepoli

Musical direction: Michele Mariotti

Staging and costumes: Laurent Pelly

FILMED AT Opéra national de Paris

IN December 2013

TV DIRECTOR François Roussillon

RUNNING TIME 1x165'



I Puritani

ARTISTIC INFORMATION

SYNOPSIS

At a time when the whole of Europe was obsessed by Romanticism, what nation did not dream of Italy? Goethe's *Mignon* sings of the Sicilian countryside where an orange tree in full bloom can be seen silhouetted against the sky; Stendhal and Heine led their readers down Florentine lanes or beside Roman fountains; Glinka, the first thoroughly Russian composer, went there to learn about singing, an art that could be nothing if not thoroughly Italian. The dilettantes agreed with him and flocked to Italy from as far afield as London and Paris, Vienna and Saint Petersburg to hear the exponents of bel canto. The only country to escape this furore was Italy itself. Its romanticism, which, like all romanticism is an expression of dissatisfaction and yearning, could hardly fly its own colours. Its artists dreamed of mist and rain and sought the dismal shores of Shakespeare and Schiller and the simple melodies written for the blue sea and the sky. At the beginning of 1835, Bellini's *I Puritani*, performed by four of the most celebrated singers of the time, La Grisi, Rubini, Tamburini and Lablache, enjoyed unprecedented success with its story of hopeless love and revenge set in 17th century England and conveyed by some of the most beautiful vocal writing ever. In Act II, Elvira appears, seized by madness and singing a melody of such heartrending purity that it might well have inspired Chopin in the writing of a nocturne. The vogue for *I Puritani* swept all before it, including Bellini himself, who died a few months later in a villa in Puteaux, in the throes of melancholia.

PERFORMERS

Maria Agresta.....*Elvira*
Dmitry Korchak *Lord Arturo Talbot*
Marius Kwiecien.....*Sir Riccardo Forth*
Michele Pertusi.....*Sir Giorgio*
Luca Lombardo..... *Sir Bruno Roberton*
Andreea Soare *Enrichetta di Francia*
Wojtek Smilek..... *Lord Gualtiero Valton*
Paris Opera Orchestra and Chorus

ARTISTIC STAFF

Musical Direction Michele Mariotti

Staging and costumes: Laurent Pelly | **Sets:** Chantal Thomas |

Lighting: Joël Adam | **Chorus master:** Patrick Marie Aubert

PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION COMPANIES Opéra de Paris Production, FRA Productions, with the participation of France Télévisions and the support of the CNC and of La Fondation Orange

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER Toni Hajal, Laurent Métivier

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION COMPANY Telmondis Distribution

7, Rue du Dôme | F – 92100 Boulogne Billancourt

Tel/Fax: + 33 1 40 74 76 20 / 09 | www.telmondis.fr

VIDEO FORMAT HDCAM, Digibeta, stereo sound and dolby 5.1

www.telmondis.fr

telmondis
DISTRIBUTION