

YOUR TEXT-ONLY PROGRAM

The Nightingale & Other Fables

By Igor Stravinsky

Directed by Robert Lepage

Conducted by Alejo Pérez

1 – 6 March 2024 / Festival Theatre

A co-production of Opera national de Lyon, Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, Canadian Opera Company and Dutch National Opera in collaboration with Ex Machina (Canada)

More information about The Nightingale & Other Fables is available in the souvenir program available for purchase at the Festival Theatre.

Composer Igor Stravinsky

Director Robert Lepage

Assistant Director Sybille Wilson

Conductor Alejo Pérez

Adelaide Symphony Orchestra

Set Designer Carl Fillion

Costume, Wig and Makeup Designer Mara Gottler

Puppet Designer Michael Curry

Lighting Designer Etienne Boucher

Puppet Choreographer Martin Genest

Chorus Master Anthony Hunt

With Jud Arthur, Pelham Andrews, Meredith Arwady, Taras Berezhansky, Andrew Goodwin, Norbert Hohl, Robert Macfarlane, Owen McCausland, Yuliya Pogrebnyak, Nabil Suliman and Yuliia Zasimova

State Opera South Australia Chorus

Performed in Russian with English surtitles

Duration 2hrs 10mins, incl. interval

Program & Synopses

***Ragtime* (1918)**

***Three Pieces for Solo Clarinet: No. 1* (1919)**

***Pribaoutki* (1914)**

***Two Poems of Konstantin Balmont* (1911)**

***Berceuses du chat* (1916)**

***Three Pieces for Solo Clarinet: No. 2* (1919)**

***Four Russian Peasant Songs* (1914-1917)**

***Three Pieces for Solo Clarinet: No. 3* (1919)**

***The Fox (Renard)* (1916)**

Farmyard burlesque in one scene. Libretto by the composer after the *Russian Folk Tales* by Aleksandr Afanasyev.

***The Nightingale (Le Rossignol)* (1914)**

Conte lyrique in three acts.

Libretto by Stepan Mitussov, after the story

The Emperor's Nightingale by Hans Christian Andersen.

The performances of *Ragtime*, *Trois pièces pour clarinette solo: N° 1*, *Pribaoutki* (4 chansons plaisantes pour mezzo et 8 instruments), *Berceuses du chat* (4 berceuses pour mezzo et clarinettes), *Trois pièces pour clarinette solo: N° 2*, *Quatre chansons paysannes* (pour chœur de femmes et cors), *Trois pièces pour clarinette solo: N° 3* and *Renard* by Igor Stravinsky are given by kind permission of Wise Music Group, published by Chester Music Ltd.

The performances of *Le Rossignol* and *Two Poems of Balmont*, by Igor Stravinsky are given by permission of Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd, exclusive agents for Boosey & Hawkes Music Publishers Ltd of London.

SYNOPSSES

The Fox

This moralising farmyard tale begins with the Cock boasting of his prowess with his hens. The hungry Fox initially deceives the Cock, twice enticing him down from his perch but each time the Cock is rescued by his friends the Ram and the Cat. After the Cock's second rescue, the Cat and the Ram strangle the Fox, and the three friends celebrate in dance and song.

Intermission

The Nightingale

At the seashore just before sunrise, a Fisherman hears the song of the Nightingale, which causes him to forget his troubles. The fame of the bird's song has reached the Emperor who sends his Chamberlain, the Cook and courtiers to the forest to invite her to sing at court. The Nightingale accepts the invitation, but says that her sweetest song is heard in the forest.

At the Emperor's palace, the Nightingale's singing touches the ruler deeply. However, when Japanese Envoys arrive with a gift of a mechanical nightingale, the real bird flies away. Angered, the Emperor banishes the real Nightingale from his realm and names the mechanical bird First Singer of the Bedside Table on the Left.

The Emperor, ill and near death, is attended by the figure of Death herself. The genuine Nightingale reappears, and in defiance of the imperial edict, begins to sing.

Death is greatly moved by the Nightingale's song, urging it to continue. The bird agrees, on the condition that Death gives back the Emperor his life.

Death agrees; the Emperor slowly regains his strength and, on seeing the Nightingale, offers it the post of First Singer. The Nightingale says that the Emperor's tears are reward enough, and promises to sing for him each night from dusk until dawn.

Cast

CLARINET SOLO 1,2,3

Dean Newcomb

PRIBAOUTKI

Meredith Arwady (contralto)

THE TWO POEMS OF KONSTANTIN BALMONT

Yuliya Pogrebnyak (soprano)

BERCEUSES DU CHAT

Meredith Arwady (contralto)

FOUR RUSSIAN PEASANT SONGS

Meran Bow, Eleanor Brasted, Victoria Coxhill, Gianna Guttilla, Kirsten Hardy, Sara Lambert, Fiona McArdle, Jessica Mills, Bronwyn Palmer, Courtney Turner, Emma Woehle

THE FOX (RENARD)

Andrew Goodwin (tenor 1)
Owen McCausland (tenor 2)
Taras Berezhansky (bass 1)
Nabil Suliman (baritone 2)

THE NIGHTINGALE (LE ROSSIGNOL)

Nightingale Yuliia Zasimova (soprano)
Fisherman Owen McCausland (tenor)
Emperor Taras Berezhansky (bass)
Death Meredith Arwady (contralto)
Cook Yuliya Pogrebnyak (soprano)
Chamberlain Nabil Suliman (baritone)
Bonze Jud Arthur (bass)

Japanese Envoy 1 Robert MacFarlane (tenor)

Japanese Envoy 2 Pelham Andrews (bass)

Japanese Envoy 3 Norbert Hohl (tenor)

Spectres Catherine Campbell, Rosie Hosking, Elizabeth McCall, Rachel McCall, Bronwyn Palmer, Courtney Turner

ACROBATS/PUPPETEERS

Martin Vaillancourt (Captain)
Andréanne Joubert
Desmond Osborne
Vincent Poliquin-Simms
Andrea Ciacci
Noam Markus

COVERS

Pribaoutki/Berceuses du Chat Emma Woehle

The Two Poems of Konstantin Balmont
Fiona McArdle

Renard (tenor 1) Robert MacFarlane

Renard (tenor 2) Norbert Hohl

Renard (bass 1) Christopher Hillier

Renard (baritone 2) Adrian Tamburini

Nightingale Kathryn Radcliffe

Fisherman Andrew Goodwin

Death Emma Woehle

Emperor Adrian Tamburini

Bonze / Chamberlain Christopher Hillier

Cook Fiona McArdle

Chorus Master

Anthony Hunt

STATE OPERA SOUTH AUSTRALIA CHORUS

Sopranos

Eleanor Brasted
Deborah Caddy
Lisa Cannizzaro

Victoria Coxhill
Jana DeBiasi
Gianna Guttilla
Kristen Hardy
Emma Kavanagh
Sara Lambert
Jessica Mills
Danielle Ruggiero-Prior

Mezzos

Meran Bow
Catherine Campbell Rosie Hosking
Fiona McArdle
Elizabeth McCall
Rachel McCall
Bronwyn Palmer
Stella Panozzo
Courtney Turner
Emma Woehle

Tenors

Matthew Byrne
Michael Denholm
Jiacheng Ding
Reece Keane
Callum McGing
James Nicholson
Brock Roberts
Andrew Turner
Christopher Webb
Kim Worley

Basses

Macintyre Howie-Reeves
Jamie Moffatt
Alex Roose
Jeremy Tatchell

Conductor Alejo Pérez

Director Robert Lepage

Assistant Director Sybille Wilson

Lighting Designer Etienne Boucher

Puppet Designer Martin Genest

Costume/ Makeup Designer Mara Gottler

Set Designer Carl Fillion

Assistant Conductor Joshua van
Konkelenberg

Repetiteurs Michael Ierace, Jamie Cock

Language Coach Maria Timofeeva

Assistant Technical Director Josselin Sciôt

Stage technical Frédéric Torres

Pool Technician and Maintenance Julien
Sampy

Pool Stagehand Baptiste Tournemine

Stage Manager Elsa Ragon

Stage Manager Julie Serré

Props Manager Ondine Ocien

FOR ADELAIDE FESTIVAL

Producer Janelle McKenzie

Program Assistant (State Opera) Elisabet
Cada

Production Manager Bruce Bolton

Stage Manager Jess Nash

Assistant Stage Manager Charlotte Welden

Rehearsal Assistant Stage Manager Brock
Roberts

Production Secondment (NIDA) Claire
Edmonds-Wilson

Props Ashley Ng

Sound Consultant Adam Budgen

Head of Wardrobe (State Opera) Tracey
Richardson

**Wardrobe Assistants and Maintenance
(State Opera)** Denise Strawhan, Ai Tanaka

Dressers Damien Pignotti, Sue Nicola,
Tammy Wheeler, David Adams, Wendy Todd,
Kent Green, Anna Perry, Nadejda Levings

Head of Wigs & Make Up Jana DeBiasi

Wigs & Make Up Dina Giaccio, Adam
Leesong, Beverley Freeman, Teresa Scriva,
Natasha Stone, Bonnie Charles

Surtitle Operator Vanessa Shirley

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

State Opera South Australia