Orpheus in the Underworld

Music by Jacques Offenbach, French Libretto by Cremieux & Halevy
English adaptation by Snoo Wilson & David Pountney

THE CAST

Orpheus (a musician) ................................................................. Mikal J. Kraklio
Eurydice (his wife) ................................................................. Jen Christianson
Ann Michels (April 1 & 9)
Aristaeus / Pluto (a shepherd / the god of the underworld) ............James Hamilton
Juno (his wife) ...................................................................... Judith McClain
Venus ......................................................................................
Mikal J. Kraklio
Eurydice .................................................................................. Jen Christianson
Ann Michels (April 1 & 9)
Jupiter (King of the gods) ....................................................... Waldyn J. Benbenek
Minos (one of the Triple Judges of Hades) ................................. Richard Rames
Minos (April 1 & 9) ..................................................................
Jupiter ......................................................................................
Juno .........................................................................................
Jupiter ......................................................................................
Mercury .....................................................................................
Rhadamanthys (one of the Triple Judges of Hades) ..................... Randy Lebsock
Aeacus (one of the Triple Judges of Hades) ................................. Kristefor Lysne
Rhadamanthys (one of the Triple Judges of Hades) ..................... Richard Rames
Cerberus (three-headed dog of Hades) ...................................... Ernest Brody, Stephanie Brody
Charlotte Morrison
Love Police (Cupid’s assistants) ................................................. Kathy Hering (1), Emily Coates (2)
Carol Nelson (3), Holly MacDonald, Julie Seykora
Imps ............................................................ Ivar Hendrickson, Sophie Benbenek, Alison Van Heel, Cary Van Heel
Bacchus (god of wine) ............................................................... Daniel E. Szymczak

Chorus of Nymphs & Shepherds, Violin Pupils, Gods, Goddesses, and
denizens of Hades:

Jeremy Bierlein Dean Laurance Eric Pasternack
Ernest Brody Randy Lebsock Richard Rames
Stephanie Brody Alyssa Lingor Sandy Schoenecker
Emily Coates Warren Loud Julie Seykora
Melanie Cooperman Kristefor Lysne Rhea Sullivan
Todd Coulter Holly MacDonald Daniel E. Szymczak
Ethan Edwards Mary Mescher Benbenek Susan Volkmer
Peter Erickson Charlotte Morrison Holly Windle
Roger Evans Carol Nelson
Kathy Hering Tim Nelson

Understudies: Jeremy Bierlein, Emily Coates, Todd Coulter, Sara Gustafson,
Kathy Hering, Dean Laurance, Alyssa Lingor, Kristefor Lysne, Ann Michels,
Carol Nelson, Sandy Schoenecker, Daniel E. Szymczak, Rhea Sullivan

Act I: Hotel Lobby (Earth)

10-minute intermission

Act II: Penthouse Suite (Mount Olympus)

15-minute intermission

Acts III & IV: Café Enfers (Hades)

Turn off all cell phones & pagers
No eating or drinking is allowed in the theatre
No smoking is permitted in the building
The use of flash cameras is strictly forbidden
SYNOPSIS

Welcome to the Grand Hotel du Monde, where the gods live up in the penthouse and Public Opinion makes the servants toe the line down at lobby level. But the real action is down in the basement, where Pluto keeps the champagne flowing at the Cafe Enfants and love is served á la carte.

In **Act I**, Eurydice is wooed away from her philandering husband, Orpheus, by an attractive stranger who turns out to be Pluto, Lord of the Dead. Orpheus is delighted when the two run off together, but Public Opinion is outraged. She insists that Orpheus must put up a front of moral respectability and get his wife back. She will personally escort him up to Mount Olympus to ask Jupiter to intervene.

**Act II** finds the Olympian gods and goddesses snoozing as Dr. Morpheus spreads his poppy dust — and the last few deities sneak back in after a night on the town. Dawn reveals that all is not serene up here, either. When news of Eurydice’s abduction reaches Olympus, Juno can only assume that Jupiter has been chasing mortal girls again. Mercury has evidence to point the finger at Pluto, however, so he is summoned to explain himself. When Orpheus and Public Opinion finally arrive, Jupiter promises Orpheus that he will descend to Hades to look for the girl himself and agrees to take the whole pantheon with him for a little holiday.

Pluto manages to keep Eurydice hidden away, so **Act III** finds her bored and Jupiter increasingly annoyed. Convening an Infernal Court (with three blind justices and evidence from the three-headed dog, Cerberus) fails to bring satisfaction. Cupid is ready to help, though, and summons the Love Police to find Eurydice for Jupiter. Jupiter then assumes an unusual disguise to slip through the keyhole and woo Eurydice for himself. In **Act IV**, Jupiter tries to escape with Eurydice but finds himself running smack into the celebration Pluto has thrown for the Olympians. The party is just starting to get interesting when Public Opinion barges in, spoils the fun and puts everyone back on track to reunite Orpheus with Eurydice. Jupiter can’t let that happen. But who gets the girl? Well, Eurydice has her own ideas.

HISTORICAL NOTE

*Orpheus in the Underworld* was first performed in 1858, and reached London in 1865. Its success was one of the inspirations for the creation of a home-grown English operetta, and for Richard D’Oyly Carte’s pairing of Gilbert and Sullivan to accomplish it. *Orpheus* was revised in 1874 to the full 4-act version with chorus, and achieved even greater popularity. The English adaptation we are using was created for the 1985 English National Opera production.

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PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Director and Choreographer .........................Lesley Hendrickson
Music Director ..................................................Steven Michael Utzig
Artistic Director ..................................................Wendy Evans

Stage Manager ..................................................Lisa Horton
Assistant Stage Managers ...............Peggie Kennedy, Jennifer Anne McDermott
..................................................Shawnna Werner

Set Designer ............................................................Michael Hoover
Set & Prop Construction & Painting ..........Terry Brooks, David Bush, Matt Dolph,
Herb Holzschuh, Lisa Horton, Bob Hunter, Peggie Kennedy,
Hellen Kriesel, Scott Lillehaug, Jennifer Anne McDermott
with Ernest Brody, Dean Laurance, and other cast members

Costume Designer ..................................................Kristin Hawbaker
Wardrobe Mistress .............................................Janine Juergens, Jo Pasternack
Costume Workers .............Adena Bruner, Wendy Evans, Martha Floerchinger
Kristin Hawbaker, Jacqui Heie, Ellen Holzschuh
Janine Juergens, Stacy Melehter, Jo Pasternack
Kate Schroeder, Diana Schwartz, Brianna Sullivan, & cast members

Lighting Designer ..................................................Thomas Mendenhall
Lighting Crew ........................................................John Cuff, Nicole Simoneau
Light Board Operator ........................................Bob Hunter
Spotlight Operators .................Liz Haworth, Hellen Kriesel, Brianna Sullivan
Special Effects ..................................................Mark Ellenberger
Audio-Visual Engineer ..........Bob Johanneck, Pat Johanneck, Carl Nelson
Poster Graphic Design .........Jason Ulrich & 7-30 Creative
Lobby Display & Photography ......Roger Evans, Stephen Hage, Rhea Sullivan
Group Photos by .................Daniels Studio
House Managers ...............Carol Kollander, Kathy Mitchell, Mary Kay Murray
House Staff Recruiter .................Charlotte Morrison
Ticket Sales ..................................................Katie Lowry
Ticket Assistants ..................Ruth Erickson, Carol Kollander
..................................................Dean Laurance, Fred Morrison, Chris Rusin

The Board:

Producer ...............................................................Julie Seykora
Labour Pool Coordinator ........................................Ernest Brody
Publicity ..............................................................Jeremy Bierlein
Treasurer ..............................................................Richard Rames
Secretary .............................................................Susan Volkmar
Cast Representatives ......................Kristefor Lysne. Ann Michels
Orchestra Representative ..................Barb Hovey

ORCHESTRA

Conductor ..................................................Steven Michael Utzig
Violin ..............................................................Greg Bastien, Michael Compton, Debbie Feinwachs, Brenden Fortune,
Mahrit Johson, Sharon Munkwitz, Agnes Wolf, Milton Wright, Eva Zorn
Viola ...............................................................Dianna Garvey, Tom Rognsvoog, Aija Ronis
Cello .................................................Coral Bastien, Amy Carlson, John Litch, Wendy Lukaszewski
Bass .................................................................Ron Rasmussen
Flute ..............................................................Ruth Erickson, Julie Lindstrom, Katie Lowry
Clarinet ..........................................................Barb Hovey, Julie Piper
Oboe ..............................................................Jean Beyer, John Hunt
Bassoon ..........................................................Holly Leighton, Rebecca Totzke
Horn .................................................Mike Engh, Judy Heimerman, Ellen Sorenson, Bob Spector
Trumpet ..................................................Bob Hirte, Andrew Shellenbarger
Trombone ..............................................Brian Carlson, Greg Michnay, Greg Onstad
Percussion .............................................Jane Hogan, Julie Schmid, Jim Streich
Rehearsal Pianists .........................Lawrence Henry, Sally Reynolds, Jean Rybold
..................................................Darin Tysdal, Jean Van Heel
Orpheus was so gifted a musician that wild beasts gathered around him entranced when he played his lyre. Shortly after marrying him, Eurydice was walking in a meadow when she was bitten by a viper and died. Grief-stricken, he resolved to rescue her from Hades (where all dead people go). His music charmed the three-headed dog Cerberus, and when he sang of his woes, even the god Pluto listened. Eurydice was restored to him on the condition that he would not look back at her as they climbed up out of the darkness to earth. Just as they neared the upper world, Orpheus turned back in a moment of forgetfulness. As she disappeared behind him, all he heard was her faint “Farewell.” He returned to the earth in utter desolation, where he played his lyre constantly until he was killed by a band of frenzied Baccantes. Where his remains are buried, the nightingale sings more sweetly than anywhere else. Reunited with his beloved Eurydice in the Elysian Fields, Orpheus may gaze at her to his heart’s content.
CONTRIBUTORS

Olympians ($100 and over)
Patricia & Mark Bauer • Mark R. Ellenberger • Virgil T. Fallon • Land O’Lakes • John Litch • Thor Lyford • Shirley Moore • John & Dianne Orbison • R. N. Quiche • Marvin & Martha Rogers • Tom & Beverly Rogers • James Schwarz • David Seykora / MediaOne • Terrapin Technologies, Inc. • Margaret Raymonde Thomas • Connie Waterous

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Nymphs and Shepherds (up to $50)
Dirk Ferlen & Jane Baird • George Barany • Patricia Baribeau • Sandie & Anthony Beltran • Gerald Benson • Phillip & Katherine Bergem • Ronald Bonnickson • Armine Boyadjian • Beth, Laurie & Terry Brooks • Rose Marie Bryan • Robert R. Burns • Ruth Cardinal • Hatim Carim • Peter Coffey • Mary J. Cole • Pearl Cole • Bob & Betty Dassett • Mary Theresa Downing • Dawn M. Ehlmann • Elizabeth B. Erickson • Leonard & Karen Erickson • Robert Erikson • John E. Evans • Donald Fabian • Rich & Judith Fine • David & Anna Lou Ford • Gayle Gaskill • Bruce Gottsche • Ed Grant • Robert Gravrok • Greg S. Gross • Barbara Gudmanson • Marianne D. Hageman • Florence Halverston • Madeline Hamermesh • Linda Dexter Hancher • Kay Hawbaker • Mary M. Heiman • David & Kris Henderson • Bob & Marge Hennesy • Del Holmes • Tom & Margaret Holzinger • C. Joseph & Katherine Howard • Mary Ann Huelsing • Alice Hughes • John & Nancy Hughes • John S. Huizinga • Evelyn H. Jackson • George Francis Kane • Marita Karlisch • Kenneth Kauffman • Roxie & Eric King-Smith • Jake Koller • Grey D. Krieger • Joan Lorman • Beverly Lutz • Roderick & Joanne MacDonald • Dr. Merle Mark • C. Paul Martin • Jack & Vivian Mason • Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Maxton • Jean McCampbell • Pat McGuire • Don Mittelstadt • David G. Morrison • Karl M. Nelson • Colleen Stucker Netzell • Ralph B. North • Riley Owens • Dan & Pat Panshin • George Peer • Elsa Peterson • Garry & Mary Ann Peterson • Catherine M. Pitz • John & Marge Pollack • Betsy Raasch-Gilman • Bobbie Recht • Miriam Reibold • Charles Frisch & Marilyn Reichman • Bob & Elie Reid • Shirley Retter • Jack Ross • Elaine Savick • William Sell • Judith Shalaby • Stacey & David Smith • Jackie Soucek • Peggy Spurgeon • Arthur Sternberg • Mike Stone • Matthew Streater • Janet & Craig Swan • Kitty Taylor • Thomas E. Trisko • Brett D. Wagner • Lillian Wallis • Richard Woellner • Lorraine Zauf

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The Gilbert & Sullivan Very Light Opera Company presents

ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD

by Jacques Offenbach

at

The Howard Conn Fine Arts Center
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