Mascherato: The Musical

Synopsis

We begin in a time of uncertainty, with the threat of war between the Venetians and Ottomans on the horizon.

However, while peace still reigns, the citizens proceed with their plans to hold their annual Carnival. Hoping to find his fortune and a better quality of life, Luca travels to Venice. Elena is accompanied through St Mark’s Square by her father, Attilio, whose protectiveness following her mother’s death comes into conflict with her desire to find her own value in the world.

Luca and Elena meet, and are immediately drawn to each other, quickly becoming acquainted. Soon, Attilio is cajoled away by a soldier, and the two young lovers receive a grim prophecy from the mystic Madame Domani. At Attilio’s return, they are shocked to hear ominous news – the Venetians and Ottomans have gone to war.

Attilio defends Luca on the battlefield, however, the arrival of the Ottoman general Leandros spells doom for the duo. Attilio sacrifices himself in order to buy Luca time to flee.

Act II begins roughly a year later, where is now tailor’s apprentice.

The victorious Ottomans’ parade through the square, with a resplendent Leandros at the head – but who could be on his arm but Elena? Luca is dismayed to hear that she will be marrying his enemy. Corto and Folletto, two fellow tailors, devise a plan to reconnect the two young lovers.

Elena has found a new friend in Isabella, a noble lady who seeks to support her through a trap-laden courtship with Leandros. The two discuss the upcoming masquerade ball. Elena prepares herself for the evening, but doesn’t count on three mysterious figures finding their way into the ball – it is, of course, the three tailors! Finding herself cheek-to-cheek with Luca, she is overcome with relief, as she believed that he had died alongside her father. The two agree to meet in secret as the Carnival returns to St Mark’s Square.

They revisit Madame Domani, who emphasises the danger that still hangs over them. Luca purchases a necklace for her, as a token of his lasting affection for her. They, however, are being watched by Leandros’ spy. Elena is warned by Isabella not to grow too reckless, but Elena insists that Isabella leave her. Shortly after, she is confronted by Leandros, who has been informed of her infidelity and has lost all sense in his jealous rage, brutally murdering her.

An apparition of Attilio visits grief-stricken Luca. Offering up a hypothetical situation, where Elena were not dead but had lost all memory of Luca, he is satisfied that Luca would still consider that preferable and leaves Luca to ponder over his final words, reminiscent of Domani’s prophecy.

Another year passes… One day a figure enters the shop, introducing herself as Elena. Shocked, Luca approaches her, and there is an air of familiarity about them that confuses Elena. As she leaves, she promises to visit again, ending the show on an open-ended note of hope.
Elena, a young Venetian girl, expresses her desire to see the world to Luca, a young Venetian boy, feeling that her father’s overprotectiveness has prevented her from truly living her life.

Elena:
I just want the chance to see
All that the world has to offer to me...
To fill my lungs with the air of some foreign land,
While on the brink of adventure I stand.

Starting out on a journey not knowing where I’ll go,
To tread the sand of some foreign land,
Or maybe find some snow.
I know it might be a crazy dream,
My active imagination’s scheme,
But long ago, I made a vow
That someday and somehow –

I will go and see the world,
Take in all the beauty and splendour.
Underneath crystal clear blue sky,
I would like to freely roam,
Have my way each and every day,
And make the road my home.

Luca:
Catching the glorious sunrise over the Alps at dawn,
Still nothing beats the grand melodious chimes
Of the bells of Notre Dame.
Not far behind is the Spanish coast,
And Germany has so much to boast.
Hold onto your dream, no need to distress,
When you get you chance all you need to say is yes!

Elena:
All my life I’ve been told what is best for me,
Growing bored with each passing day of familiarity.
To see what out there lies,
I would pay any price...
Because life’s too short to live the same day twice!

It’s time to find my own purpose along the road ahead,
Nothing can possibly slow me down, all doubt I plan to shed!
My destination is destiny,
I won’t let life get the best of me!
In time they’ll see all I can be,

Luca:
You’ll have your say and have your way,
Elena:    It’s time for a new start!
Luca:    If you follow your heart!

Elena:    I will go and see the world,
Luca:    (You can see the world!)
Elena:    I can hear the call of my future,
Luca:    (Hear the call of your future,)
Both:    Time for dreaming has come and gone,
         There can be no more delay.
         From this point, I will journey on.
         Tomorrow starts today!