



THE ROYAL OPERA

Music Director Designate JAKUB HRŮŠA
Director of Opera OLIVER MEARS

Il trovatore

DRAMMA IN FOUR PARTS

Music GIUSEPPE VERDI
Libretto SALVADORE CAMMARANO
(with additions by LEONE EMANUELE BARDARE) after
ANTONIO GARCÍA GUTIÉRREZ's play *El Trovador*

Conductor CARLO RIZZI

Director ADELE THOMAS
Revival Director SIMON IORIO
Designer ANNEMARIE WOODS
Lighting Designer FRANCK EVIN
Choreographer EMMA WOODS
Revival Choreographer GARETH MOLE
Dramaturg BEATE BREIDENBACH

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS
Chorus Director WILLIAM SPAULDING

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
Concert Master MAGNUS JOHNSTON

A co-production with OPERNHAUS ZÜRICH

Exceptional philanthropic support from
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Generous philanthropic support from
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Cast sheets generously supported by the
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Approximate Timings

The performance lasts approximately 2 hours and 55 minutes,
including one interval

ACTS I AND II: 1 hour 15 minutes
INTERVAL: 25 minutes
ACTS III AND IV: 1 hour 15 minutes

Language

Sung in Italian with English surtitles

Guidance

Suitable for ages 8+

This production contains themes of murder, suicide and
reference to an infant death.

Cast

Manrico RICCARDO MASSI
Leonora ELENA STIKHINA
Count di Luna ÉTIENNE DUPUIS
Azucena CLÉMENTINE MARGAINE
Ferrando ROBERTO TAGLIAVINI
Ines VEENA AKAMA-MAKIA*
Ruiz RYAN VAUGHAN DAVIES*
An Old Gypsy DOMINIC BARRAND
Messenger ANDREW O'CONNOR

*Jette Parker Artist

Extra Chorus
Sopranos CELESTE GATTAI, KATHRYN JENKIN,
BERNADETTE LORD, ELIZABETH ROBERTS,
ROSALIND WATERS, VANESSA WOODFINE
Mezzo-sopranos JEANETTE AGER, MARIA BROWN,
SIOBHAIN GIBSON, MARIA JONES, CLARE MCCALDIN,
JENNIFER WESTWOOD
Tenors PHILLIP BELL, SIMON BIAZECK, ANDREW
BUSH, JONATHAN ENGLISH, ANDREW FRIEDHOFF,
JAMES GEER
Basses OLIVER GIBBS, GABRIEL GOTTLIEB,
GAVIN HORSLEY, SIMON PREECE, MARK SABERTON,
JONATHAN WOOD

Dancers BRUNO AVERSA, MATTHEW COTTON,
CAMERON EVERITT, LOUIS GLADMAN, JORDAN JEWELL,
GARETH MOLE, DANIEL PERIE

SATURDAY 5 JULY 2025 AT 5PM
General rehearsal

Synopsis

PART I: THE DUEL

SCENE 1: COUNT DI LUNA'S CAMP

Count di Luna's officer Ferrando orders his men to watch for the mysterious troubadour who Luna believes is his rival for the love of Leonora. While they wait, Ferrando tells the story of how the Count's infant brother Garzia mysteriously disappeared.

One day, an old gypsy woman was discovered by Garzia's cradle. The child became sickly soon after, so the gypsy was arrested for witchcraft, and burned at the stake. On the day of the execution Garzia disappeared, and the charred remains of a baby were found in the gypsy's funeral pyre. The gypsy's daughter was suspected, but could not be found. Ferrando reminds his men that the old Count di Luna's last request was for his elder son to find Garzia, whom he believed had survived. Ferrando claims the ghost of the old gypsy woman still roams at night. As midnight chimes, the men disperse.

SCENE 2: THE PALACE GARDENS

Leonora tells her companion Ines about the mysterious man she met before the war. He serenades her each night as her troubadour. Ines suggests it would be safer for Leonora to forget him, but Leonora declares she would rather die.

As Count di Luna searches for Leonora, he hears the voice of the troubadour – Manrico – singing a serenade. Leonora hurries to meet Manrico, and is confronted by Luna. Manrico mistakenly suspects that Leonora has betrayed him. The Count and Manrico agree to fight a duel.

PART II: THE GYPSY

SCENE 1: THE GYPSY CAMP

In the gypsy camp, Azucena recalls the horror of her mother's death, and her vow to avenge her. Azucena tells Manrico about what happened to the old Count di Luna's younger son: she had intended to burn him on her mother's funeral pyre, but in her disturbed state of mind killed her own child instead. Manrico asks if this means that he is not Azucena's son. Azucena feigns confusion, but assures Manrico of her love for him. Manrico tells Azucena about his duel with Luna: he was victorious but felt irresistibly compelled to spare his rival. Manrico's comrade Ruiz arrives with the news that Leonora, believing Manrico to be dead, is about to become a nun. Manrico determines to find Leonora.

SCENE 2: A CONVENT

Count di Luna is still very much in love with Leonora and plans to kidnap her from the convent. He and his men prepare to strike. Leonora enters with the nuns to take her vows. Before Luna can intervene, Manrico's men surround him and his soldiers, and Manrico and Leonora escape.

INTERVAL

PART III: THE GYPSY'S SON

SCENE 1: THE COUNT'S CAMP

The Count's men prepare for the next day's battle. Ferrando drags in Azucena, who was found wandering near the camp. Azucena pleads her innocence, but Ferrando recognizes her as the suspected murderer of the Count's infant brother. Luna condemns her to death by fire.

SCENE 2: AN ARMY CAMP, COMMANDED BY THE COUNT'S ENEMIES

Leonora and Manrico are about to be married. Leonora is anxious for Manrico's safety in the forthcoming battle, and he

attempts to calm her. Ruiz comes to inform Manrico that Count di Luna has condemned Azucena to be burnt to death. Manrico gathers his men and prepares to attack the Count's army.

PART IV: THE EXECUTION

SCENE 1: OUTSIDE MANRICO'S PRISON

Manrico's attack has failed and now he and Azucena are the Count's prisoners. Leonora has Ruiz conduct her to where Manrico is being held. The suffering of the prisoners moves her and awakens her courage. Manrico calls to Leonora, bidding her farewell.

Leonora attempts to bargain with Luna, but he wants revenge. At last, he agrees that if Leonora will give herself to him, he will free Manrico. Leonora surreptitiously swallows poison, concealed in a ring, to ensure that she will never be the Count's mistress.

SCENE 2: MANRICO'S PRISON

Azucena is terrified of death, and Manrico soothes her by reminding her of their happy past life in the mountains. Azucena falls asleep. Leonora arrives to free Manrico, but refuses to accompany him. Manrico accuses her of betraying him, and Leonora explains her bargain with the Count, and what she has done to avoid it. She collapses as the Count arrives. As Leonora dies, the Count orders that Manrico be killed at once, and forces Azucena to watch. Azucena begs him to stop and listen to her, but Luna refuses. As Manrico is killed, Azucena announces that Count di Luna has murdered his own brother, and her mother is at last avenged.

Production

Music preparation PATRICK MILNE,
CHRISTOPHER WILLIS, NICK FLETCHER,
NICHOLAS ANSDELL-EVANS
Assistant Director DEBORAH COHEN
Fight Director PHILIP D'ORLÉANS
Video Effects TIENI BURKHALTER
Language Coach EMMA ABBATE

The Royal Opera

Patron HM THE KING
Music Director Designate JAKUB HRŮŠA
Director of Opera OLIVER MEARS
Director of Casting PETER MARIO KATONA
Associate Director NETIA JONES
Administrative Director CORMAC SIMMS

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