

CINDERELLA: A CLASSIC FAIRYTALE OPERA

Adapted from the operas *La Cenerentola* by Rossini
Cendrillon by Massenet
And the original fairytale by Charles Perrault

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Originally written for Arizona Opera, Spring 2020
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ACT 3

Cinderella has run away leaving her shoe on the palace steps. The Prince has chased after her, and everyone has left the ball.

Don Magnifico thinks that he has made a deal with the King to have their children marry and Magnifico be the real power behind the throne in exchange for financing the royal family.

The Stepsister is left alone. She is confused.

STEPSISTER

I'M ABANDONED
AND ON MY OWN HERE.
WHAT HAS HAPPENED?
IT'S NOT QUITE CLEAR!

THAT "MISS THING" JUST STOLE WHAT'S MINE.
JUST BY TALKING THE WHOLE TIME.

I WILL SCREAM AND I WILL POUT
I NEED MY DAD TO SORT THIS OUT.

I WAS SOMEHOW PUSHED ASIDE—
ALWAYS A BRIDESMAID, NEVER BRIDE.
I WAS SOMEHOW PUSHED ASIDE!

The Stepsister leaves the castle. The scene transitions to inside the house of Don Magnifico.

FATHER

Gleeful I AM FILLED WITH ANTICIPATION
BECAUSE I JUST BOUGHT OUR NATION!

AND SO, I RULE EVERYTHING.
BOUGHT BY ME FROM OUR KING.

AND MY DAUGHTER, PRINCE IN HAND,
WILL BE THE QUEEN OF THE WHOLE LAND.

THIS IS HOW THE STORY GOES
SINCE THAT DUMB PRINCE SURELY PROPOSED.
YES, THIS IS HOW THE STORY GOES.

He cannot sit still while he waits for his daughter to return from the ball. Meanwhile, the Prince runs out into the audience. During his verse and subsequent exchanges, the Prince tries the slipper on various members of the audience.

PRINCE

I AM SEARCHING FOR THAT BRIGHT GIRL
WITH IDEAS TO CHANGE THE WORLD.

ALL OUR TALK FELT OH, SO RIGHT,
FILLING MY HEART WITH DELIGHT.

I AGAIN GO DOOR TO DOOR.
SOMETIMES LOVE CAN BE A CHORE.

I MUST FIND HER WITH THIS CLUE
SINCE ALL I HAVE IS HER LEFT SHOE.
I MUST FIND HER WITH THIS CLUE.

As the Prince begins his search for Cinderella in the audience, the Stepsister enters the house. She is dejected and her Father is ecstatic.

FATHER

YOU HAVE FIN'LY MADE IT SAFELY HOME,
Taking in her mood BUT, SURPRISINGLY YOU ARE ALONE.

OH, JUST TELL ME... HOW THE EVENING WENT. TELL ME HOW IT ALL WENT!
I MUST KNOW... IF MY DEAR MONEY WAS WELL SPENT!

STEPSISTER

Over-the-top A DISASTER!

FATHER

Freaking out A DISASTER?

COME ON DAUGHTER, SING YOUR SONG.
I MUST KNOW WHAT WENT SO WRONG!

STEPSISTER

Turning away I'M ASHAMED.

PRINCE

To a teacher in the audience HEY YOU! YES YOU!
PRETTY PLEASE, TRY ON THIS SHOE!

I WILL FIND HER—MY LOVE IS TRUE—
IF IT IS THE LAST THING THAT I DO!

The Prince runs back onstage and disappears behind the set, ready to reenter into the house of Don Magnifico. Cinderella enters the house as the Father and Stepsister exit, fighting with each other and ad-libbing as they leave. Cinderella is again in her rags, but she is lost in her thoughts as she relives the adventure she just returned from.

CINDERELLA

WHAT A NIGHT!
WITH STARS BRIGHTLY SHINGING...
LIGHTING MY WAY,
MOTHER IS SMILING.

Have a deep realization... take this moment seriously.

I'VE TRANSFORMED,
AT LAST BEING ME.

FINALLY, SURE ABOUT WHO I SHOULD BE.

The Prince knocks on the door. The Father and Stepsister reenter.

CINDERELLA/FATHER/STEPSISTER

WHAT WAS THAT?

CINDERELLA

Hopeful OH, IS IT HIM?

STEPSISTER

Overwhelmed NOT THAT BEGGAR...

FATHER

OH, NOT AGAIN! *Seeing the Prince* AH!!!

PRINCE

LET ME IN!

Cinderella enters the door and the Prince enters.

FATHER

Trying to play host WOULD YOU LIKE TEA?... OR...

PRINCE

Taking charge BE QUIET and take a seat.

CINDERELLA/FATHER/STEPSISTER

WE'LL SIT HERE.

WE'RE ALL EARS.

Everyone sits down. The next section (the famous "Sextet" from "La Cenerentola") plays out in slow motion. Like a game of musical chairs, the slipper is revealed, and it is put on everyone's feet—Father included. Really overdo the slow motion and have fun with staging antics as the shoe passes from person to person.

PRINCE

I AM TRAVELING WITH THIS SLIPPER
LOOKING FOR THE ONE WHO'LL FIT HER.

ALL

HE IS TRAVELING WITH THIS SLIPPER
LOOKING FOR THE ONE WHO'LL FIT HER.

ONLY ONE CAN FIT IN THIS SHOE.
WHO'LL IT BE? I WISH I KNEW.

ALL THIS TENSION'S GETTING TO ME.
WHY CAN HE JUST QUICKLY HURRY?

I AM HANGING BY A THIN THREAD
HOPING FATE WILL BE UNKNOTTED.

The shoe makes it to the Stepsister.

STEPSISTER

OH, NO! IT WILL FIT—IT MUST—OF THIS I KNOW.
JUST GO AHEAD, CHOP OFF MY TOE!

ALL

I AM HANGING BY A THIN THREAD
HOPING FATE WILL BE UNKNOTTED.

ONLY ONE CAN FIT IN THIS SHOE.
WHO'LL IT BE? I WISH I KNEW.

Cinderella tries on the shoe.

IT'S HER SHOE!

PRINCE

It's you!

The Prince gets down on one knee.

To be continued...

Contact Opera Classroom for full perusal script/score!