

# **RUSALKA: THE LITTLEST MERMAID**

Based on the opera *Rusalka* by Antonín Dvořák and  
*The Little Mermaid* by Hans Christian Andersen

Music by Antonín Dvořák Libretto by  
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Originally written for Florida State University Opera Outreach in 2013  
Revised for Arizona Opera 2016  
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**[Brief summary of Act 2 & 3:**

It is the Prince's birthday party, and the Prince had a choice to make: dance with Rusalka—who is mute, or dance with the mysterious Princess—the Sea Witch in disguise and the voice of Rusalka. The Prince chose the voice he recognizes, the voice that saved him from the sea. He danced with the Sea Witch.

Rusalka returned to the water, heartbroken.

However, after realizing his mistake, the Prince returns to the shore looking for Rusalka. She hears him and swims to the surface. They don't know how to be together, but they offer to do anything to help the other. They kiss. With these words of selflessness and an act of love, Rusalka transforms into a human. They are who they are supposed to be.]

### **Act 3, Scene 2 (Continued)**

*Suddenly, from the back of the audience, the Sea Witch appears. She is her old, true self.*

**SEA WITCH**

Rusalka!!!

*The Sea Witch runs towards the stage.*

**PRINCE**

It's the evil Sea Witch! Quick! Back to the water!

*Rusalka returns to the water. Her sisters swim out to comfort her. The Prince stands in front of Rusalka ready to take on the Sea Witch.*

**SEA WITCH**

HERE I AM!

*The Sea Witch magically throws the Prince to the side.*

I WILL NOT LET YOU GET AWAY!

*To audience* I MUST END THESE LITTLE GAMES.

*The Sea Witch magically separates Rusalka from her sisters. Rusalka is alone.*

*To Rusalka* HOW COULD YOU RUIN MY DIGUISE, TO ANGER ME WAS NOT SO WISE.

*The Sea Witch magically picks the Prince off the floor. She has him in her magical grasp. She draws the Prince towards her.*

ALTHOUGH THIS WAS A BIG SETBACK, AT LEAST MY PLAN IS STILL ON TRACK.  
HE CHOSE ME! I RULE FOR ETERNITY!

*The Sea Witch magically throws him again. She is like a cat playing with her food.*

**RUSALKA**

HOW CAN YOU STILL THINK YOU'VE WON, YOU EVIL WITCH?  
HOW CAN YOU THINK YOUR SPELLS ARE GREATER THAN TRUE LOVE?

*Rusalka stands, revealing her human form for the first time. She steps out of the water, defiantly.*

**SEA WITCH**

WHAT IS THIS NEW MAGIC I FIND?  
IT'S NOT IN THE CONTRACT YOU SIGNED.  
*Threatening* HOW YOU'RE HUMAN YOU MUST TELL!  
DID YOU STEAL ONE OF MY SPELLS?

I KNOW HOW TO MAKE YOU TALK!

*The Sea Witch turns to the Prince and "shocks" him with her magical powers. As the Sea Witch sings her next line, Rusalka tries to run and help the Prince, but the Sea Witch stops her with her magic and throws Rusalka to the side of the stage opposite of the Prince.*

DO YOU STILL THINK IT WAS YOUR "PUPPY LOVE"  
THAT LET YOU REJOIN US IN THE WORLD ABOVE?

SORRY TO SAY YOU'RE WRONG.  
LOVE IS NOT THAT STRONG!

*The Sea Witch laughs.*

*To the Prince* YOU CHOSE ME TONIGHT.  
MIGHT IS ALWAYS RIGHT!

*The Sea Witch thinks she's won. As she laughs, she turns and relaxes her magical control on the Prince and Rusalka.*

*Rusalka—momentarily freed of the Witch's spells—runs to the Prince to protect him. She helps the Prince to his feet, and together they stand in defiance.*

**RUSALKA**

Getting the Sea Witch's attention BECAUSE WE SAID THAT WE WOULD GIVE UP ANYTHING  
FOR THE LOVE WE SHARE, WE HAVE WON THE DAY!

**SEA WITCH**

DO YOU THINK THAT WAS THE PRICE?  
YOU JUST HAD TO "SACRIFICE?"

*Crossing to the Prince and Rusalka.*

NO, MY SILLY GIRL, NO.  
NOW, SWIM AWAY OR FACE MY EVIL WRATH!

*The Sea Witch throws Rusalka to the opposite side of the stage, away from the Prince. The Sea Witch holds both the Prince and Rusalka in her magical grasp.*

YOU NOW HAVE MADE YOUR CHOICE.  
*To Rusalka* SAY GOODBYE SWEET VOICE.

*The Sea Witch turns to the Prince.* PRINCEY, DO YOU WISH TO SAY ANYTHING?

*The Prince starts to say something, but the Sea Witch cuts him off with her magical gesture.*

I AM SORRY, BUT THIS WILL PROBABLY STING!

*The Sea Witch starts to cast a spell as she says the following. She thinks she is at the height of her powers.*

I DO NOT SACRIFICE ANYTHING FOR ANYONE!

**PRINCE/RUSALKA**

*Quickly, from opposite sides of the stage I love you!*

*Rusalka and the Prince run to center and embrace.*

*The Sea Witch casts her spell, but Rusalka and the Prince don't respond to the magic spell. They can't be separated.*

*The Sea Witch does a double take. She ad libs reactions to her magic no longer working.*

WHAT IS GOING ON?

*The Sea Witch tries to cast more spells. She tries to bewitch the audience, but it doesn't work.*

ALL MY POW'R IS GONE!

I'm turning back into the Witch! A horrible creature of the sea! I don't know this stronger magic... But, I never thought that being cruel and selfish would *destroy* my powers! And love would overrule my will! *To Rusalka and the Prince, sarcastically* I hope you're happy!

*The Sea Witch exits upstage and disappears into the water.*

*Rusalka, the Prince, and Rusalka's Sister reunite.*

**RUSALKA/SISTER**

IT IS DONE, SISTER DEAR, IT IS DONE! HAPPILY EVER AFTER!

**RUSALKA/SISTER/PRINCE**

NOW THAT WITCH IS BACK IN THE SEA, WE (THEY) CAN BE HAPPY TOGETHER.  
NOW WE (THEY) BEGIN OUR (THEIR) NEW FAMILY SINCE WE (THEY) BOTH LOVE EACH OTHER.

**RUSALKA/PRINCE**

NOW, WE DON'T NEED TO GO RUN AWAY.  
ROYALTY WE REMAIN.

**SISTER**

RUSALKA AND THE PRINCE BOTH WILL STAY.  
NONE OF OUR LIVES WILL BE THE SAME.

*All sing to the audience.*

**ALL**

UNITED NOW ARE BOTH LAND AND SEA.  
LOVE MAKES THE WORLD SEEM SMALLER.  
LONG MAY WE (THEY) RULE THE LAND REGALLY.  
LONG MAY WE (THEY) RULE THE WATER.

*To audience* BRING THE CORAL FROM THE SEA AND THE FLOWERS FROM THE TREES.

CALLING ALL GREAT FISH AND MAN  
TO SEE THE PRINCE TAKE HER HAND.

HAPPINESS TO THE EXTREME,  
ALL BEYOND OUR WILDEST DREAMS.

IT IS THROUGH GREAT SELFLESS DEEDS  
WE ATTAIN WHAT WE MOST NEED.

ONLY WHEN WE CHANGE AND GROW  
CAN WE LEARN WHAT WE ALL NOW KNOW:

GO AND FIND YOUR HEART'S TRUE LOVE.  
STRIVE TO ALWAYS RISE ABOVE  
JUST LIKE YOU HAVE SEEN TODAY  
FROM LITTLE MERMAIDS!

*Rusalka and the Prince wave goodbye to the audience and close the book, bookending the show.*

**End of Opera**

**Contact Opera Classroom for full perusal script/score!**