

GOUNOD

ROMÉO ET JULIETTE

ORIGINALLY TRANSMITTED ON JANUARY 21, 2017

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STÉPHANO
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ROMÉO
Vittorio Grigolo

MERCUTIO
Elliot Madore

FRÈRE LAURENT
Mikhail Petrenko

ACT I *Verona, 18th century.* A feud has been raging for generations between the Capulets and Montagues. Juliette, Capulet's daughter, has been promised to Count Pâris, but she is not interested in marriage. At a masked ball at her father's house, she meets Roméo, a Montague, and the two fall instantly in love.

ACT II That night, Roméo comes to Juliette's balcony, and they reassure each other of their love.

ACT III Roméo meets Juliette at Frère Laurent's cell. Hoping their love might reconcile their families, he marries them.

INTERMISSION

ACT III, CONTINUED Later, a street fight breaks out. Juliette's cousin Tybalt challenges Mercutio, Roméo's friend, to a duel. Roméo steps between them, but when Tybalt kills Mercutio, he stabs Tybalt to death in revenge. The Duke of Verona exiles Roméo from the city.

ACT IV After spending a secret wedding night with Juliette, Roméo leaves Verona. When Capulet declares that Juliette is to marry Pâris that same day, Frère Laurent gives her a potion to make her appear dead. He promises that she will wake with Roméo beside her. On the way to the chapel, Juliette collapses.

ACT V Roméo breaks into the Capulet's crypt and, faced with Juliette's seemingly dead body, takes poison. At that moment, Juliette awakens, and they share a final dream of happiness. Then, she decides to follow him. The lovers die asking God for forgiveness.

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