

ROMEO AND JULIET



An Opera in Five Acts

Music by Charles Gounod | Libretto by Jules Barbier and Michel Carré

Sung in French with projected English translation

BROWN THEATER, WORTHAM THEATER CENTER

CAST (in order of vocal appearance)

Tybalt	Carlos Enrique Santelli
Paris	Geoffrey Hahn ‡
Lord Capulet	Donnie Ray Albert
Juliet	Adriana González *
Mercutio	Thomas Glass ‡
Romeo	Michael Spyres
Benvolio	Eric Taylor † <i>Mrs. Sharon G. Ley and Mr. Robert F. Lietzow/Jill and Allyn Ristley/ Drs. Rachel and Warren A. Ellsworth IV Fellow</i>
Gertrude	Emily Treigle † <i>Mr. and Mrs. James W. Crownover/Mr. Veer Vasishtha Fellow</i>
Gregorio	Blake Denson † <i>Gloria M. Portela / Carolyn J. Levy/Liz Grimm and Jack Roth Fellow</i>
Friar Laurence	Nicholas Newton ‡
Stephano	Sun-Ly Pierce † <i>Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Nickson/John Serpe and Tracy Maddox Fellow</i>
The Duke of Verona	William Guanbo Su † <i>Anne and Albert Chao Fellow</i>

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Wings provided by Fancy Fairy Wings & Things.

English supertitles by Patricia Houk, adapted by Jeremy Johnson. Supertitles called by Emily Kern.

Performing artists, stage directors, and choreographers are represented by the American Guild of Musical Artists, the union for opera professionals in the United States.

Scenic, costume, and lighting designers and assistant designers are represented by United Scenic Artists, IATSE Local USA-829.

Orchestral musicians are represented by the Houston Professional Musicians Association, Local #65-699, American Federation of Musicians.

Stage crew personnel provided by IATSE, Local #51.

Wardrobe personnel provided by Theatrical Wardrobe Union, Local #896.

This production is being recorded for archival purposes.

CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor	Patrick Summers <i>Sarah and Ernest Butler Chair</i>
Director	Tomer Zvulun
Associate Director/Choreographer	Donald Byrd *
Set Designers	John Conklin Julia Noulin-Mérat *
Costume Designer	Gregory Gale
Lighting Designer	Thomas Hase *
Intimacy and Fight Director	Adam Noble
Chorus Director	Richard Bado ‡ <i>Sarah and Ernest Butler Chorus Director Chair</i>
Musical Preparation	Benjamin Manis Alex Munger † <i>Drs. Gary Hollingsworth and Ken Hyde/Trey Yates/ Dr. Saúl and Ursula Balagura Fellow</i>
Assistant Director	Peter Pasztor ‡ Madeline Slettedahl
Stage Manager	Bruno Baker * Brian August

* Company debut

† Houston Grand Opera Studio artist

‡ Former Houston Grand Opera Studio artist

A co-production with Atlanta Opera and The Dallas.

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* WARNING: Loud gunshot sound played in Act III.

GRAND UNDERWRITERS



UNDERWRITERS

Mr. Scott B. Ulrich and Mr. Ernest A. Trevino



SYNOPSIS

Setting: Verona

ACT I

Lord Capulet hosts a ball in honor of his daughter Juliet's birthday. Among the crowd are some uninvited guests: Romeo, the son of the rival Montague clan, and his friend Mercutio. When Romeo catches a glimpse of Juliet, he falls immediately in love with her; and when they meet, she falls in love just as instantaneously. Still unaware of each other's identity, the would-be lovers are interrupted by Juliet's cousin, Tybalt. He recognizes Romeo as a Montague, but is restrained from attacking him by Lord Capulet so as not to create a scene at the ball.

ACT II

Unbeknown to Juliet, Romeo is hiding in the garden beneath her balcony when she calls into the night for him. He reveals himself and they declare their love. They are interrupted by Gregorio and the Capulet servants, who are searching for an intruder, and again by Juliet's nurse, who calls her inside. Romeo and Juliet take their leave, promising eternal devotion

*ACT III

The next day, Romeo and Juliet meet in the cell of Friar Lawrence, who agrees to marry them in the hope that their union may bring an end to the feud between their families.

INTERMISSION

The page Stephano is waiting for his master Romeo, whom he thinks is at the Capulet home. He sings a disrespectful song which leads to a quarrel. Romeo tries to stop the fighting, but Tybalt kills Mercutio. In retaliation, Romeo kills Tybalt and is banished from the city.

ACT IV

Romeo and Juliet have spent the night together; it is dawn and Romeo must flee. Gertrude comes to warn Juliet that her father is approaching with Friar Lawrence. Lord Capulet tells Juliet that, according to the dying wish of her cousin Tybalt, she must on that very day marry Paris, the nobleman her father has selected to be her husband. No one dares tell Lord Capulet that Juliet has already married Romeo. When her father leaves, Friar Lawrence stays behind to give Juliet a sleeping potion that will cause her to appear dead for 24 hours; when she wakes up in her tomb, Romeo will be there for her.

ACT V

Romeo returns for Juliet. He has not received the message from Friar Lawrence that she is only sleeping, and, upon finding her apparently lifeless body, he swallows poison. Juliet awakens and they are reunited—but only briefly. The poison begins to work, and Juliet, desiring to be united with Romeo in death, plunges his dagger into her breast.

HGO PERFORMANCE HISTORY

Romeo and Juliet was previously staged by HGO during the 1964-65, 1972-73, 1995-96, and 2004-05 seasons.