

### Approximate timings

Live relay begins at 6.15pm; opera begins at 6.30pm

Prologue and Act I 75 minutes  
**Interval 30 minutes**  
Act II 30 minutes  
**Interval 25 minutes**  
Act III and Epilogue 65 minutes

The live relay will end at approximately 10.25pm

Tweet your thoughts about tonight's performance before it starts, during the interval or afterwards with **#ROHhoffmann**

### 2016/17 Live Cinema Season

**THE NUTCRACKER** THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER 2016  
**IL TROVATORE** TUESDAY 31 JANUARY 2017  
**WOOLF WORKS** WEDNESDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2017  
**THE SLEEPING BEAUTY** TUESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2017  
**MADAMA BUTTERFLY** THURSDAY 30 MARCH 2017  
**JEWELS** TUESDAY 11 APRIL 2017  
**THE DREAM/SYMPHONIC VARIATIONS/  
MARGUERITE AND ARMAND** WEDNESDAY 7 JUNE 2017  
**OTELLO** WEDNESDAY 28 JUNE 2017

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ROYAL  
OPERA  
HOUSE

THE ROYAL OPERA

MUSIC DIRECTOR SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO  
DIRECTOR OF OPERA KASPER HOLTEN

# LES CONTES D'HOFFMANN

OPERA IN THREE ACTS WITH PROLOGUE AND EPILOGUE

MUSIC **JACQUES OFFENBACH**  
LIBRETTO **JULES BARBIER AND MICHEL CARRÉ** AFTER E.T.A. HOFFMANN

CONDUCTOR **EVELINO PIDÒ**

ORIGINAL DIRECTOR **JOHN SCHLESINGER**  
REVIVAL DIRECTOR **DANIEL DOONER**  
SET DESIGNER **WILLIAM DUDLEY**  
COSTUME DESIGNER **MARIA BJÖRNSSON**  
LIGHTING DESIGNER **DAVID HERSEY**  
CHOREOGRAPHER **ELEANOR FAZAN**  
FIGHT DIRECTOR **WILLIAM HOBBS**  
REVIVAL FIGHT DIRECTOR **SIMON JOHNS**

**ROYAL OPERA CHORUS**  
CHORUS DIRECTOR **WILLIAM SPAULDING**

**ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE**  
CO-CONCERT MASTER **SERGEY LEVITIN**

DIRECTED FOR THE SCREEN BY **JONATHAN HASWELL**

LIVE FROM THE  
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE  
TUESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2016, 6.15PM

GENEROUS PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT FROM  
**MRS ALINE FORIEL-DESTEZET AND  
MR AND MRS CHRISTOPHER W.T. JOHNSTON**

# Synopsis

## Prologue

### Nuremberg: Luther's tavern

The opera singer Stella is trying to arrange a romantic rendezvous with the poet Hoffmann. Hoffmann's rival, Councillor Lindorf, bribes Stella's servant Andrès to intercept Stella's note to the poet. Students pour into the tavern for the interval of *Don Giovanni*, in which Stella is singing. Hoffmann enters with his friend Nicklausse and performs a comic song for the company, though his thoughts soon wander to Stella. Lindorf taunts Hoffmann about his drunkenness and unhappy love life, and Hoffmann declares that he will tell the story of his three great loves.

## Act I

### Paris: Spalanzani's house

The inventor Spalanzani hopes to end his financial difficulties by exhibiting his life-sized mechanical doll, Olympia, to Parisian society. However, he worries that Coppélius, who made Olympia's eyes, will want a share in his profits. Hoffmann has observed Olympia through a window and fallen in love with her. His feelings strengthen when he sees her face to face. Coppélius arrives to claim his money, and sells Hoffmann a pair of magical glasses through which Olympia appears completely human. At a party held by Spalanzani, Olympia delights everyone with her singing, and Hoffmann falls ever deeper in love. But his happiness is short-lived. Coppélius has discovered that Spalanzani is attempting to cheat him, and in revenge sabotages the doll. As Hoffmann and Olympia dance a waltz, she flies out of control, smashing the poet's magic glasses. Coppélius destroys the doll, and the party guests laugh at Hoffmann's gullibility.

## Act II

### Venice: Giulietta's palazzo

Hoffmann and Nicklausse attend a party given by the courtesan Giulietta, to whom Hoffmann is very attracted. Dappertutto, a collector of human spirits, observes this and bribes Giulietta with a diamond to steal Hoffmann's reflection. Giulietta seduces Hoffmann and carries out the magician's command. Her previous lover Schlemil finds her and Hoffmann embracing; Dappertutto interrupts their confrontation to reveal that Hoffmann no longer has a reflection. Giulietta leaves, and Hoffmann and Schlemil fight a duel in which Schlemil is killed. Hoffmann rushes off to find Giulietta, only to hear her contemptuous laugh as she glides away in her gondola.

## Act III

### Munich: Crespel's house

Hoffmann arranges a rendezvous with the frail singer Antonia, against the wishes of her protective father Crespel. When he overhears a conversation between Crespel and the sinister Doctor Miracle, Hoffmann understands that singing is destroying Antonia's health, and makes her promise to give up her music. However, Miracle tempts Antonia to disobey both Hoffmann and her father, conjuring up a spirit of the girl's dead opera singer mother, under whose influence Antonia sings herself to death. Hoffmann and Crespel are devastated.

## Epilogue

### Luther's Tavern

Stella arrives to meet Hoffmann, only to find him insensible with drink. Lindorf seizes his chance and leaves with Stella. Hoffmann's Muse pleads with the poet to dedicate himself to his art.

# Cast

HOFFMANN	VITTORIO GRIGÒLO
LINDORF/COPPÉLIUS/ DAPPERTUTTO/MIRACLE	THOMAS HAMPSON
OLYMPIA	SOFIA FOMINA
GIULIETTA	CHRISTINE RICE
ANTONIA	SONYA YONCHEVA
NICKLAUSSE	KATE LINDSEY
SPALANZANI	CHRISTOPHE MORTAGNE
CREPEL	ERIC HALFVARSON
ANDRÈS/COCHENILLE/ PITTICHINACCIO/FRANTZ	VINCENT ORDONNEAU
SPIRIT OF ANTONIA'S MOTHER	CATHERINE CARBY
NATHANAEL	DAVID JUNGHOON KIM
HERMANN	CHARLES RICE
SCHLEMIL	YURIY YURCHUK
LUTHER	JEREMY WHITE
STELLA	OLGA SABADOCH

CASTING IS CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINTING. DETAILS OF LIVE PERFORMANCE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.  
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