

APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

Live cinema relay begins at 6.45pm

Introduced by Bryn Terfel

Acts I and II 84 minutes

Interval

Acts III and IV 56 minutes

The live relay will end at approximately 10.00pm



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

THE ROYAL OPERA

MUSIC DIRECTOR SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO
DIRECTOR OF OPERA KASPER HOLTEN

MANON LESCAUT

DRAMMA LIRICO IN FOUR ACTS

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

2014/15 LIVE CINEMA SEASON

MANON THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER 2014

I DUE FOSCARI MONDAY 27 OCTOBER 2014

L'ELISIR D'AMORE WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2014

ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2014

ANDREA CHÉNIER THURSDAY 29 JANUARY 2015

DER FLIEGENDE HOLLÄNDER TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2015

SWAN LAKE TUESDAY 17 MARCH 2015

RISE AND FALL OF THE CITY OF MAHAGONNY WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL 2015

LA FILLE MAL GARDÉE TUESDAY 5 MAY 2015

LA BOHÈME WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE 2015

GUILLAUME TELL SUNDAY 5 JULY 2015

MUSIC **GIACOMO PUCCINI**
LIBRETTO **DOMENICO OLIVA** AND **LUIGI ILLICA**
AFTER **ANTOINE-FRANÇOIS PRÉVOST'S** NOVEL
L'HISTOIRE DU CHEVALIER DES GRIEUX ET DE MANON LESCAUT

CONDUCTOR **ANTONIO PAPPANO**

DIRECTOR **JONATHAN KENT**
DESIGNS **PAUL BROWN**
LIGHTING DESIGN **MARK HENDERSON**
MOVEMENT **DENNI SAYERS**

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS
CHORUS DIRECTOR **RENATO BALSADONNA**
CHORUS DIRECTOR FOR **MANON LESCAUT** **STEPHEN WESTROP**

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
CONCERT MASTER **VASKO VASSILEV**

DIRECTED FOR THE SCREEN BY
JONATHAN HASWELL

LIVE FROM THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
TUESDAY 24 JUNE 2014
AT 6.45PM

MANON LESCAUT DIGITAL PROGRAMME

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THE STORY

ACT I

Among the crowds on a summer night are Edmondo and his friends. They are joined by Des Grieux, who flirts with some of the girls (*Tra voi belle, brune o bionde*). More travellers arrive: the rich and elderly Geronte, Lescaut and his sister Manon, who is being taken to a convent. While the two men arrange accommodation, Des Grieux strikes up a conversation with Manon and asks her to meet him later that evening – she says she will, then rejoins her brother. Des Grieux has been utterly captivated by Manon (*Donna non vidi mai*).

Edmondo hears Geronte and Lescaut planning for Manon to live with Geronte. He warns Des Grieux. When Manon returns, Des Grieux tells her how he feels about her (*Vedete? Io son fedele*) and asks her to run away with him. Manon agrees, and they escape together. Geronte is furious, but Lescaut reassures him that Manon will soon be back – Des Grieux will not be able to support her weakness for glamour and excitement.

ACT II

Manon has left Des Grieux to become Geronte's mistress. Lescaut visits her, and notes the contrast between her new surroundings and the humble home she shared with Des Grieux. Manon is eager for any news of Des Grieux, as she still loves him (*In quelle trine morbide*). Lescaut tells Manon that Des Grieux – now a good friend of his – is gambling heavily to win money he'll need to keep Manon in luxury. Geronte arrives with a group of musicians, who perform for Manon (*Sulla vetta tu del monte*), then a dancing master gives her a lesson. Meanwhile, Lescaut leaves to fetch Des Grieux. Manon dismisses the musicians (*L'ora, o Tirsi, è vaga e bella*) and orders Geronte to go and arrange her transport for their evening's entertainment.

Des Grieux arrives and Manon greets him with passion (*Tu, tu amore*). He is angry, but when she begs for forgiveness, he is unable to resist. Geronte returns and finds them together. When Manon mocks Geronte he goes, uttering threats. Des Grieux urges Manon to leave with him, but she is reluctant to give up the indulgent comforts of her lifestyle. Des Grieux despairs of her capriciousness (*Ah, Manon, mi tradisce il tuo folle pensiero*).

Lescaut hurries in to warn that Geronte plans to have Manon arrested. They start to leave, but Manon insists on gathering up her jewellery first. Geronte arrives with the police. Manon drops the jewellery and is arrested for theft and prostitution.

Interval

ACT III

Manon and other prostitutes are to be deported and Lescaut plans to help her escape by bribing a guard. Des Grieux manages to speak to Manon, keeping hidden while a lamplighter passes on his rounds. The rescue plan fails. Lescaut leaves, but Des Grieux stays. He sees the prostitutes called up one by one and implores the Captain supervising the deportation to let him travel with them (*Guardate, pazzo son*). The Captain agrees.

ACT IV

Manon has escaped with Des Grieux. She is very ill and weak and they have to find shelter. Manon begs Des Grieux to find water. Left alone, she is terrified of death and bitterly regrets her past (*Sola, perduta, abbandonata*). Des Grieux returns and realizes that Manon is dying. She tells him how much she loves him. She dies. Des Grieux is left alone.

CAST

EDMONDO
A STUDENT

BENJAMIN HULETT

CHEVALIER DES GRIEUX

JONAS KAUFMANN

LESCAUT
MANON'S BROTHER

SERGEANT OF THE ROYAL GUARDS

CHRISTOPHER MALTMAN

INNKEEPER

NIGEL CLIFFE

GERONTE DE REVOIR
TREASURER GENERAL

MAURIZIO MURARO

MANON LESCAUT

KRISTĪNE OPOLAIS

MUSICIAN

NADEZHDA KARYAZINA

DANCING MASTER

ROBERT BURT

SERGEANT

JIHOON KIM

LAMPLIGHTER

LUIS GOMES

A NAVAL CAPTAIN

JEREMY WHITE

HOTEL GUESTS, TRAVELLERS, MUSICIANS AND DANCERS,
GERONTE'S GUESTS, TOWNSPEOPLE