



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

THE ROYAL OPERA

MUSIC DIRECTOR SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO
DIRECTOR OF OPERA OLIVER MEARS

Approximate timings

Live cinema relay begins at 6.45pm; opera begins at 7pm

Act I and Act II scene 1 95 minutes

Interval 30 minutes

Act II scene 2 and Act III 75 minutes

Please note that *The Queen of Spades* contains scenes
portraying brief, discreet sexual activity.

Please note that there will be strobe lighting in both parts of the opera,
and a gunshot in the final scene.

The performance will end at approximately 10.20pm

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

THE QUEEN OF SPADES

OPERA IN THREE ACTS

MUSIC PYOTR IL'YICH TCHAIKOVSKY

LIBRETTO MODEST IL'YICH TCHAIKOVSKY AND PYOTR IL'YICH TCHAIKOVSKY
AFTER ALEXANDER SERGEYEVICH PUSHKIN'S NOVELLA PIKOVAYA DAMA

CONDUCTOR ANTONIO PAPPANO

DIRECTOR STEFAN HERHEIM

DESIGNER PHILIPP FÜRHOFFER

LIGHTING DESIGNER BERND PURKRABEK

DRAMATURG ALEXANDER MEIER-DÖRZENBACH

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS

CHORUS DIRECTOR WILLIAM SPAULDING

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

CONCERT MASTER SERGEY LEVITIN

DIRECTED FOR THE SCREEN BY FRANCESCA KEMP

LIVE FROM THE
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
TUESDAY 22 JANUARY 2019, 7PM

2018/19 Live Cinema Season

LA TRAVIATA WEDNESDAY 30 JANUARY 2019 (ENCORE SUNDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2019)

DON QUIXOTE TUESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2019 (ENCORE SUNDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2019)

LA FORZA DEL DESTINO TUESDAY 2 APRIL 2019 (ENCORE SUNDAY 7 APRIL 2019)

FAUST TUESDAY 30 APRIL 2019 (ENCORE SUNDAY 5 MAY 2019)

WITHIN THE GOLDEN HOUR/NEW SIDI LARBI CHERKAOUI/FLIGHT PATTERN

THURSDAY 16 MAY 2019 (ENCORE SUNDAY 19 MAY 2019)

ROMEO AND JULIET TUESDAY 11 JUNE 2019 (ENCORE SUNDAY 16 JUNE 2019)

roh.org.uk/cinema

Synopsis

By marrying, the composer Tchaikovsky tried 'to redeem his soul from the moral sufferings that have so plagued him throughout recent years' – as his brother Modest acknowledged. This was a euphemistic reference to the homosexuality of both brothers, which they had admitted to each other at this time. The composer's marriage was a fiasco, but a brief one from which he fled in desperation. At the same time, he began an intense, long-distance friendship with an older woman who became his patron. Tchaikovsky saw his salvation in music: 'One could lose one's senses if music didn't exist. It's the most beautiful gift of heaven for a man who errs in the darkness... it is worth living for music's sake!' His life was cut short in 1893 when he drank a glass of water infected by cholera – supposedly a conscious act.

Act I

The soldier Gherman is unhappy; he has fallen in love with a wealthy girl, and is too poor to court her. His mood worsens when he sees the girl, Liza, and learns that she is engaged to his friend Prince Yeletsky. Count Tomsky tells Gherman about Liza's grandmother the Countess, who, many years previously, learnt a 'three-card' formula that enabled her to win spectacularly at the gambling tables. Gherman vows he will learn this secret to win Liza from Yeletsky.

Liza's friends entertain her with singing and dancing. When they leave, Liza wonders why she is so sad, and broods on the mysterious man she has seen watching her. It is Gherman, who now arrives to tell Liza that he loves her. At first she is hesitant, but finally admits that she loves him too.

Act II Scene 1

At a ball, Yeletsky tells Liza how much he cares for her. Meanwhile Tomsky and others tease Gherman about his obsession with cards. Paulina and her friends stage a play about two young lovers. When it ends, Liza gives Gherman the key to the Countess's room, which will allow him access to Liza's own apartment; she hopes to meet him there the next day. The crowd hail the arrival of the Empress Catherine the Great.

Interval

Act II Scene 2

Gherman hides in the Countess's room. When she returns to prepare for bed, he confronts her and begs to know the secret of the three cards. When Gherman pulls out his pistol the Countess dies of fright. Liza arrives and is horrified by what she sees.

Act III

After the Countess's funeral, Gherman obsessively recalls her appearance in her coffin, and how he thought her corpse winked at him. Gherman hallucinates that he can see the ghost of the Countess. She tells him the secret of the three cards – Three, Seven, Ace – and commands him to marry Liza. Gherman and Liza meet. They are briefly reconciled, but Gherman's obsession with the three cards terrifies Liza. When he rushes off to the gambling house, Liza commits suicide. Gamblers gather, including Yeletsky, unhappy at his broken engagement, and Tomsky. Gherman arrives. He plays the first two secret cards and wins huge sums of money. But when Yeletsky challenges him to a third game, the card Gherman receives is not the expected Ace, but the Queen of Spades. Gherman imagines that he sees the ghost of the Countess again, and commits suicide. As he dies, he sees a vision of Liza as a consoling angel. The men pray for him.

Cast

GERMAN	ALEKSANDRS ANTONENKO
CHEKALINSKY	ALEXANDER KRAVETS
SURIN	TIGRAN MARTIROSIAN
COUNT TOMSKY/ZLATOGOR	JOHN LUNDGREN
TCHAIKOVSKY/PRINCE YELETSKY	VLADIMIR STOYANOV
COUNTESS	FELICITY PALMER
LIZA	EVA-MARIA WESTBROEK
PAULINA/MILOVZOR	ANNA GORYACHOVA
MASHA	RENATA SKARELYTE
GOVERNESS	LOUISE WINTER
PRILEPA	JACQUELYN STUCKER [†]
MASTER OF CEREMONIES	HARRY NICOLL
CHAPLITSKY	KONU KIM [†]
NARUMOV	MICHAEL MOFIDIAN [†]

[†]KONU KIM, MICHAEL MOFIDIAN AND JACQUELYN STUCKER ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE JETTE PARKER YOUNG ARTISTS PROGRAMME