



THE EDINBURGH OPERA COMPANY
founded 1920

presents

The Bartered Bride

by Bedrich Smetana

libretto by Karl Sabina

first produced Prague 1866

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LEITH THEATRE

Thursday 13, Friday 14 and Saturday 15 May 1976

7.30 pm

programme 10p

THE BARTERED BRIDE

JENIK, a young stranger	Arthur Sutton
MARENKA, a village girl, daughter of Krusina and Ludmila	Inga Dodds
KECAL, the village marriage broker	Alastair Caldwell
KRUSINA, a farmer, father of Marenka	James McNeill
LUDMILA, his wife	Valerie Hogg
VASEK, Micha's son	Ralph Parkinson
The MANAGER of a circus troupe	Howard Whitehead
ESMERALDA, a dancer	Beth Watson and Maureen Laughlin
The INDIAN, a member of the troupe	Anthony Watson
HATA, Vasek's mother	Anna Franchi
MICHA, her husband	Ian Cunningham

VILLAGERS and CHILDREN Ernest Allen, Rosalind Ballantyne, Paul Barakat, Shirley Bargon, Marjorie Begbie, Tom Brown, James Christie, Elizabeth Davie, Gillian Davie, Marjorie Denness, Antonia Dodds, Sheila Donaldson, Margaret Dougal, Edith Dunnett, Mary Elliot, Frances Falconer, Anne Grant, Hugh Hercus, Audrey Hogg, Linda Hogg, Bruce Jennings, George McArthur, Louise McArthur, Sandra McDonald, Tom McGill, Alexander Maynard, Joyce Mitchell, Bill Paterson, Barbara Petrie, Colin Pretty, Cynthia Ross, Lottie M. Seggie, Stephen Simon, Barbara Thomson, Anthony Watson, John Wightman, Joyce Wightman.

DANCERS The Edinburgh Polish Dance Ensemble ' Ojczyzna '
Choreographer and Leader : Stefan Boron

CIRCUS completed by Theatre Workshop, Edinburgh
with Jim Kinnear-Wilson and STAGE BAND led by Lynne Walker

CONDUCTOR — Neil Mantle PRODUCER and DESIGNER — Marie Simmons
STAGE MANAGEMENT and LIGHTING — Members of the Edinburgh Scout and Guide
Gang Show assisted by Graeme Sherman and Christopher Mitchell
WARDROBE MISTRESS — Lottie M. Seggie REPETITEUR — Janet Arthur

The Edinburgh Opera Company wish to record thanks to the City of Edinburgh District Council for their support, to Lindsay Harris for designing the costumes, and to all associate members and friends for their assistance in the mounting of this production.

Prospective members should contact Miss Lottie M. Seggie, Honorary Secretary, The Edinburgh Opera Company, 12 Lockerby Cottages, Lasswade Road, Edinburgh EH16 6QU.

ACT I

THE BARTERED BRIDE

The curtain rises on a Bohemian village in early summer. The villagers are gathering to celebrate a holiday with dancing and singing. Jenik and Marenka join them, but Marenka does not enter into their happy mood. When the villagers have gone, she tells Jenik that her misery is due to the prospect of her marriage to the son of Tobias Michá, this to be arranged by Kecal. Jenik reacts to this news with apparent indifference, causing Marenka to think that he has another sweetheart in his home country. He avoids answering her question for a long time, but eventually he relents and they sing a love duet, the theme of which is to be heard frequently. Kecal soon arrives with Krusina and Ludmila. He is urging them to get their daughter to sign the marriage bond at once. It is revealed that Michá has two sons, but only Vasek, the son of his second marriage, is known and he is the prospective bridegroom. The elder son, Jenik, left home many years previously and is presumed dead. The parents agree to Kecal's arrangement and they go to the inn to celebrate. Marenka joins the group and is horrified to learn that they expect her to sign the bond at once. She refuses, tells them she has a lover, argues with Kecal and leaves angrily. The parents depart to meet Michá and Hata. Kecal dashes off to send this lover back to his home or to offer him another bride. The act ends with more dancing and singing by the villagers.

I N T E R V A L

ACT II

The villagers are again gathered by the inn. When they leave, Vasek creeps shyly out of the inn. He has been sent by his mother to woo Marenka and the prospect terrifies him. Marenka soon appears, and when she realises that this dim-witted youth is to be her husband she begins to tell him a series of lies—that Marenka will murder him, that she herself is a village girl who loves him dearly—all aimed at getting him to swear that he will never marry Marenka. A well-satisfied Marenka and a bedazzled Vasek leave. Kecal and Jenik approach: Kecal is trying to get Jenik to sign the bond relinquishing his claim to Marenka, but has to offer all sorts of bribes before Jenik finally accepts 300 crowns and agrees to sign before the villagers. Left alone he sings of his constant love for Marenka through all this apparent bargaining. All gather, and the act ends with the villagers signing as witnesses.

I N T E R V A L

ACT III

Vasek enters full of foreboding at the prospect of his marriage. He soon cheers up as the circus troupe arrives with a preview of their show, and he immediately falls in love with Esmeralda and agrees to join the troupe. Left alone he is found by his parents and Kecal, who are amazed when he refuses to sign the bond and leaves them. Marenka, who has been told of the bribe to Jenik by her parents, arrives with them, but she is furious and inconsolable and still will not sign. Vasek is summoned back and now happily agrees to sign when he sees that this girl is Marenka. Left to herself Marenka faces the fact that all is over with Jenik and she will have to do as her parents wish. Suddenly she comes face to face with Jenik. She refuses to discuss the matter and becomes very angry as he mocks her. Everyone gathers to witness the final signature on the bond. When Michá and Hata meet Jenik for the first time they realise that he is the Jenik of Michá's first marriage and therefore entitled by the bond to marry Marenka. Kecal sees that he has been fooled. Marenka now knows that Jenik has been true to her all the time. After an interruption caused by the circus bear they all gather to rejoice at the engagement of the happy couple.

THE SCOTTISH SINFONIETTA

Conductor Neil Mantle

Leader Philip Taylor

Violins

Philip Taylor
Robin Adair
Clare Almond
Lawrence Dunn
Elizabeth Fell
John Fisher
Eric Gillett
Richard Gwilt
Irene Horne
Alison Jones
Catriona McLean
Gillian Pickup
Mark Priestley
Lachlan Ross
Patrick Young

Violas

Ingrid Hooton
Patrick Criswell
Alison Dundas
Sarah Lupton
Carrick McLelland
June Smith

Cellos

Robert Stobie
Ethel Armitage
Hannah Ginsborg
Astrid Gorrie
Heather Johnston
Kathleen Mantle

Basses

Stan Rimmer
Judith Anderson
Dorothy Hunter

Flutes

Heather Guild
Barbara Tulloch

Piccolo

Peter Lunt

Oboes

Charles Dodds
Caroline Williams

Clarinets

Philip Greene
Alison Ross

Bassoons

Jane Macdonald
Rachel Estermann

Horns

Dick Rimer
Fiona Elliot
John Maynard
Helen Suckling

Trumpets

David McNaughtan
Gordon Thomson

Trombones

Bill Giles
Noel Bertram
James Bertram

Timpani

Anne Douglas

Percussion

Jerome Gregson
Martin Lovell

The next concert of the Scottish Sinfonietta will take place in the Cathedral Church of St Mary, Palmerston Place, on Sunday 5 September at 5 pm. The programme will consist of Brahms Symphony No. 4 and Strauss Tod und Verklärung.
