

JACQUES OFFENBACH

LES CONTES D'HOFFMANN

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The Met
ropolitan
Opera **HD**
LIVE

CONDUCTOR

Marco Armiliato

PRODUCTION

Bartlett Sher

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ANTONIA / STELLA

Pretty Yende

GIULIETTA

Clémentine Margaine

NICKLAUSSE / MUSE

Vasilisa Berzhanskaya

HOFFMANN

Benjamin Bernheim

FOUR SERVANTS

Aaron Blake

FOUR VILLAINS

Christian Van Horn

PROLOGUE In a tavern, the poet E. T. A. Hoffmann, unhappily in love with the celebrated singer Stella, tells the stories of his three past loves ...

ACT I The inventor Spalanzani has created a mechanical doll named Olympia. Hoffmann, who thinks she is Spalanzani's daughter, has fallen in love with her. At a ball, Olympia captivates the guests with a dazzling aria and dances with the enchanted Hoffmann. When Spalanzani's former partner, Coppélius, destroys the doll in a rage, Hoffmann is shocked to realize he has fallen in love with a machine.

INTERMISSION

ACT II Antonia, whose mother was a famous singer, has a weak heart and knows that singing will endanger her life. Hoffmann, who loves her, begs her to give it up, but when the charlatan Dr. Miracle conjures up the voice of her mother, Antonia can't resist—she sings until she falls dead.

INTERMISSION

ACT III The sinister Dapertutto bribes the Venetian courtesan Giulietta to steal Hoffmann's reflection for him. She seduces Hoffmann into confessing his love and leads him on with promises of a rendezvous. After killing Giulietta's previous lover in a duel, Hoffmann finds her in the arms of another man.

EPILOGUE Stella arrives in the tavern and, finding Hoffmann drunk, leaves with his rival, the wealthy Lindorf. Hoffmann's Muse tells the poet to find consolation in his creative genius.

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