

Verdi - La Battaglia di Legnano (1983)

Written by bluesever

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1. Part 1 2. Part 2 Rolando - Lajos Miller Lida - Mara Zampieri Arrigo - Nunzio Todisco
Federico Barbarossa - Maurizio Mazzieri 1° console di Milano - Giovanni Gusmeroli 2°
console di Milano - Franco Pugliese Marcovaldo - Giovanni De Angelis Imelda - Maria
Gabriella Onesti Un araldo - Roberto Mazzetti Il podesta - Mario Machi Orchestra e Coro
Teatro dell'Opera di Roma Gabriele Ferro - conductor Rome, 17 December 1983

This Verdi opera premiered in Roma at the Teatro Argentina, in 1849. The premise is that Italian troops are at war with the Germans, because they want to boot the invaders from their country. Rolando's wife, Lida, finds out that her ex-fiancé Arrigo wasn't killed in battle as she was told. He is alive and well. While her husband is fighting, she requests Arrigo's presence so she can confirm that he's not dead. After a misunderstanding, Arrigo dies for certain. Before he dies, he sees Lida and Rolando reunited.

The opera started well around Italy, but fell from favor in Austria because of censors. It was revived in Milan and renamed The Siege of Haarlem. In 1869 it was renamed again to The Defeat of the Austrians and it then played in Parma. Restyled in French in the 1880s, and renamed once again as Pour La Patrie, it was to be put on at the Theatre Chateau-d'Eau in Paris. However, the performances were moved to the French provinces instead.

This is a rarely performed opera today. Venice and Florence in 1959 held performances to remember the Second Italian War of Independence. There were also performances in Trieste during 1963. La Scala mounted shows twice during the past hundred years – in 1916 & 1961. The latter performance was recorded. --- giuseppe-verdi.net

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