



The Sleeping Beauty

Featuring Tulsa Symphony Orchestra

Prologue - The Christening of Princess Aurora

King Florestan XIV and his Queen are celebrating the christening of their newborn daughter, Princess Aurora. Cattalabutte, the Master of Ceremonies has, as the King commanded, invited the fairies of the forest to be godmothers, bestowing their individual qualities on the royal infant.

The joyous occasion is suddenly interrupted by the arrival of Carabosse and her entourage. Furious at having been forgotten, she casts a spell on Aurora. Carabosse predicts that on the day of her sixteenth birthday, Aurora will prick her finger and die. The Lilac Fairy, yet to bestow her gift, decrees that Aurora, rather than die, will fall into a deep sleep and be awakened by the kiss of a handsome prince who has fallen in love with her and with whom she too, will find love and happiness. Thwarted, Carabosse leaves swearing revenge.

Intermezzo

It's the day of Aurora's sixteenth birthday. As Cattalabutte walks in the hallways of the palace, he discovers some peasants knitting. Needles of any size have been forbidden in the court for fear of Carabosse's spell. The King discovers the violation and threatens to execute the perpetrators. The Queen intervenes to save the lives of the young peasants. Moved by her plea, the King pardons them.

Act One, The Spell

It's now the celebration of Princess Aurora's sixteenth birthday. Four Princes have arrived at the castle to seek her hand in marriage. As the princess dances with her four suitors, a mysterious lady furtively appears and hands Aurora a bouquet of flowers within which is hidden a fateful spindle. Seemingly unaware that all spindles and needles had been long-since banned from the vicinity of the palace, Aurora curiously examines it. With a cry, she pricks her finger and in delirium, collapses. The mysterious lady reveals herself as Carabosse and vanishes, triumphant that her curse has been fulfilled. The Lilac Fairy then comforts the Court, announcing that Aurora is not dead, but merely sleeping.

**** INTERMISSION ****

Act Two, The Vision and The Awakening

One hundred years later, Prince Florimund and his hunting party pause for refreshment in a glade in the forest. He is disenchanted with the worldly sophistications of his court and remains alone as the chase continues. The Lilac Fairy appears and learning that the Prince has not found love, conjures a vision of the sleeping Aurora. Entranced by the apparition, the Prince implores the Lilac Fairy to lead him to Aurora. The Lilac Fairy guides the Prince through the sleeping palace where Carabosse lurks guarding her victim from any intruders. The Lilac Fairy vanquishes the evil Carabosse and Florimund awakens Aurora with a kiss.

**** PAUSE ****

Act Three, The Wedding

Having found love, Aurora and Florimund celebrate their marriage with guests of the Court.