

ROMEO & JULIET

featuring The Tulsa Symphony Orchestra

ACT I

Setting: Renaissance Verona, Italy, where the Montague and Capulet families have been feuding for years over an old grudge.

THE MARKET SQUARE: Romeo, son of Lord Montague, and his friends Mercutio and Benvolio are in the market square of Verona. Rosaline, one of the Capulets' nieces with whom Romeo is infatuated, walks by. Romeo and his friends try to get her attention and flirt with her. As the square starts to populate, the Montagues and Capulets begin their usual bickering. A fight ensues, led by the Capulets' Tybalt and the Montagues' Mercutio. The Prince of Verona steps in and commands the two families to end their feud.

JULIET'S BEDROOM IN THE CAPULET HOUSE: Juliet, the beautiful daughter of Lord and Lady Capulet, is mischievously playing with her beloved nurse. Lady Capulet enters the chambers and presents Juliet with a beautiful new dress she'll be wearing at the grand ball that same evening.

ARRIVAL OF THE GUESTS: Tybalt welcomes the guests attending the masked ball. Romeo, Mercutio and Benvolio sneak in to allow Romeo to see Rosaline again.

THE BALL: As the guests dance in the grand ballroom, Juliet appears at the festivities. She is introduced to Paris, a young nobleman who wishes to marry her. Romeo sees Juliet and is immediately spellbound by her. Juliet is mesmerized by Romeo and the two of them fall in love for each other at first sight. Tybalt recognizes Romeo and his friends. After a brief brawl, the three Montague friends flee the Capulets' house.

JULIET'S BALCONY: Juliet is on her bedroom balcony, enthralled by her encounter. Romeo appears in her courtyard and asks her to come down. The two of them declare their love for each other.

*** INTERMISSION - 15 MINUTES ***

ACT II

THE MARKETPLACE: Back in the market square, Romeo can only think about Juliet. Juliet's nurse arrives to deliver a letter for Romeo: Juliet will meet him at Friar Lawrence's chapel and they will secretly marry.

THE CHAPEL: Friar Lawrence, a Franciscan friar and Romeo's friend, marries the two lovers.

THE MARKET SQUARE: Back in the market square, another fight ensues between Tybalt and Mercutio. Romeo tries to break up the clash but instead gets his friend Mercutio killed by Tybalt. Filled with rage, Romeo kills Tybalt and is exiled from Verona.

*** INTERMISSION - 15 MINUTES ***

ACT III

JULIET'S BEDROOM: It's sunrise. Romeo and Juliet wake after their wedding night. Romeo must leave before Juliet's parents find him. Lord and Lady Capulet, still grieving the death of their nephew Tybalt, inform Juliet that she must marry Paris. Juliet, desperate about this decision, returns to Friar Lawrence and asks for his help.

THE CHAPEL: Friar Lawrence gives Juliet a potion that will give her a deathlike condition and explains the secret plan. Unbeknownst to anyone else, she will wake after a day, and only Romeo will know of this secret. He will meet her in the Capulet family crypt upon her awakening.

JULIET'S BEDROOM: Juliet returns and pretends to accept her father's wishes. She then drinks the sleeping potion and falls into a deathlike coma. The next morning, her nurse finds her lifeless body. The nurse calls Juliet's parents, who are distraught by her death.

THE CAPULET FAMILY TOMB: Romeo never receives the friar's message of the secret plan. Upon hearing of Juliet's death, he runs to her crypt only to find Paris there. Romeo, stunned with grief, kills Paris. Believing that his beloved Juliet is really dead, he takes his own life. Juliet awakes expecting to find her adoring Romeo waiting for her. When she feels his lifeless body she takes Paris's knife and stabs herself.