



## STREAMING THE FIRST CENTURY

### SESSION 1: Slavic Sensibilities

#### FEATURED CAST AND LIBRETTO EXCERPTS: *Boris Godunov*, 1945

San Francisco Opera premiere

### **BORIS GODUNOV**

(in Italian)

Music and libretto by Modest Mussorgsky

War Memorial Opera House

October 12, 1945 (Broadcast)

#### CAST

Marina	Vivian Della Chiesa
Dimitri	Frederick Jagel
The Simpleton	John Garris
Boris Godunov	Ezio Pinza
Fyodor	Herta Glaz

Conductor	Georges Sebastian
Director	Armando Agnini

**Clip 1:** Act III. “Dimitri,” pretender to the Russian throne, pursues the wealthy Marina in her garden in Poland. [Mussorgsky added the “Polish Act” for his 1872 revised version of the opera]

MARINA Credi a me ... ti seguirò Io t'amo! O, mio prode, Marina fedel ti sarà! Ma pensa ... pensa a te ... Il tron t'attende già ... Correr tu dei laggiù nel tuo Kremlin!	MARINA Believe me ... I shall follow you ... I love you! Oh, my warrior, Marina shall be true to you! But think ... think of yourself ... The throne awaits you; Run quickly to your Kremlin!
DIMITRI Marina! Cessa di fingere il santo amor ... Strazi indicibili mi fai soffrir!	DIMITRI Marina! Stop pretending to love me ... You cause me unspeakable torments!
MARINA Oh, t'amo, prode guerrier, Il mio signor sei tu!	MARINA Oh, I love you, brave warrior. You are my sovereign!

<p>DIMITRI Oh, ripetimi, Marina, Deh, ripeti quegli accenti! Solo il tuo fascino mi può inebbriar!</p>	<p>DIMITRI. Oh, say it again, Marina, Say those words again! I am intoxicated by your charms!</p>
<p>MARINA O, mio Zar!</p>	<p>MARINA Oh, my Tzar!</p>
<p>DIMITRI Vien, Marina, il mio perdono ricevi, Fra le braccia del tuo sposo! Egli t'attende.</p>	<p>DIMITRI Come, Marina, receive forgiveness In the arms of your spouse. I await you.</p>
<p>MARINA Mio signor, tu mi rendi la speme! Son tua! conquistator!</p>	<p>MARINA My Lord, you give me hope again! I am yours! O conqueror!</p>

**Clip 2:** Act IV, Scene 1. As Dimitri arrives in Moscow threatening to destabilize the Tsar's rule, the Simpleton sings a mournful song. [This scene often ends the opera, but San Francisco Opera chose to end with the death of Boris.]

<p>L'INNOCENTE Scorga l'amaro pianto! Piangi ... piangi ... alma infelice! Il nemico vien, Sangue colerà ... Ed il fuoco struggerà! Oh, terror! oh ... terror! Lascia sgorgar il pianto, Infelice plebe!</p>	<p>THE SIMPLETON Let bitter tears flow. Weep ... weep ... unhappy soul! The enemy is coming, Blood shall flow, And the fire shall destroy ... Oh, terror! Oh ... terror! Let your tears flow, Wretched people!</p>
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**Clip 3:** Act IV, Scene 2. Boris Godunov's health is failing. He instructs his son, Fyodor, on how to be Tsar.

<p>BORIS Lasciateci ... uscite tutti! Addio, mio figlio, io muoio ... E tu, ben presto, regnerai. Non cercar come il trono acquistai ... Non sei responsabil ... tu sei lo Zar legittimo ... Erede mio, il mio primogenito. Figlio! Caro figlio amato! Diffidai de' consigli dei boiardi ribelli, Segui accertamente il lor complotto in Lituania I traditor devi punir! punir senza pietà! Rendi con probità giustizia al popol tuo ... Difendi sempre la nostra religion, E onora tutti i santi protettor. Protegi Xenia, sorellina tua! L'aiuto suo devi essere tu sol! Ama Xenia, colomba pura ... O, Signor, o mio Dio! Ved'il mio pianto. O, grazia, grazia! ... pel figlio del gran peccator!</p>	<p>BORIS Leave us ... All of you, get out! Goodbye my son, I am dying... And you will soon begin your reign. Do not try to learn how I obtained the throne ... You are not accountable ... You are the rightful Tzar ... My heir, my firstborn. Son! My beloved son! Do not trust the advice of the rebel Boyars, Keep a careful watch on their dealings with Lithuania. You must punish traitors! Punish them without mercy! Render strict justice to your people... Always defend our holy religion, And honor all our patron saints. Protect Xenia, your little sister! You are her only protector! Love Xenia, my pure dove ... Oh Lord, oh my God! Behold my tears. Oh, mercy, mercy! ... to the son of the great sinner.</p>
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La tua clemenza implore.

I beg for your clemency.

**Clip 4:** As a bell rings outside of the Kremlin, Boris senses that it signals his death. With his last breaths he prays to God and collapses on the ground dead.

<p>CORO Deh! lagrimate tutti ... Egli si spegne! Son chiuse le sue labbra. Lo spirito s'invole Piangete ... Alleluja!</p> <p>BORIS Qual triste canto! Frate, un umil frate! Nel chiostro va lo <b>Zar</b>.</p> <p>FYODOR Padre mio, ti calma! ... Il Ciel t'aiuterà ...</p> <p>BORIS No, l'ora mia suona già ...</p> <p>CORO Innanzi gli occhi miei, muore un fanciul ... Io singhiozzo ... piango ... Ei sussulta ... si dibatte ... Ed invoca il mio soccorso! Per lui non c'è più speme!</p> <p>BORIS Dio! Dio ... abbi pietà Pietà! oblia la colpa mia ... O, tetra morte, gli artigli tuoi son aspri! ... Ah, fermatevi! son Zar ancor ... Io son lo Zar! Oh, muoio! ... Dio ... perdona me!</p>	<p>CHORUS Alas! we all weep ... His life is passing! His lips are closed. The spirit departs Weep ... Hallelujah!</p> <p>BORIS What a sad song! A monk, a humble monk! The Tsar goes to the cloister.</p> <p>FYODOR My father, calm yourself! ... Heaven will come to your aid ...</p> <p>BORIS No, already my hour strikes ...</p> <p>CHORUS Before my eyes a boy is dying! ... I sob ... I weep ... He shudders ... he quivers ... And calls for my help! There is no longer hope for him!</p> <p>BORIS Lord! Lord ... have mercy! Mercy! forgive my sins ... O, grim death, your claws are sharp! ... Ah, stop! I am still Tzar ... I am the Tzar! Oh, I die! ... God ... forgive me!</p>
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