

APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

PART 1 83 MINUTES

Feature Behind the curtain: an introduction to *Swan Lake*
Acts I and II

INTERVAL

PART 2 78 MINUTES

Feature Corps de ballet: the heart and soul of *Swan Lake*
Act III
Feature The Final Act
Act IV



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

CINEMA

THE ROYAL BALLET

DIRECTOR **KEVIN O'HARE**
FOUNDER **DAME NINETTE DE VALOIS** OM CH DBE
FOUNDER CHOREOGRAPHER
SIR FREDERICK ASHTON OM CH CBE
FOUNDER MUSIC DIRECTOR **CONSTANT LAMBERT**
PRIMA BALLERINA ASSOLUTA
DAME MARGOT FONTEYN DBE

SWAN LAKE

BALLET IN FOUR ACTS

MUSIC **PYOTR IL'YICH TCHAIKOVSKY**

CHOREOGRAPHY **MARIUS PETIPA** AND **LEV IVANOV**

ADDITIONAL CHOREOGRAPHY

FREDERICK ASHTON (ACT III NEAPOLITAN DANCE)
AND **DAVID BINTLEY** (ACT I WALTZ)

PRODUCTION **ANTHONY DOWELL**

DESIGNS **YOLANDA SONNABEND**

LIGHTING DESIGN **MARK HENDERSON**

PRODUCTION RESEARCH **ROLAND JOHN WILEY**

STAGING **CHRISTOPHER CARR**

BALLET MASTER **GARY AVIS**

BALLET MISTRESS **SAMANTHA RAINE**

PRINCIPAL COACHING **LESLEY COLLIER**, **DONALD MACLEARY**

DANCE NOTATORS **GRANT COYLE**, **ANNA TREVIEN**

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

CONDUCTOR **BORIS GRUZIN**

CONCERT MASTER **VASKO VASSILEV**

DIRECTED FOR THE SCREEN BY

ROSS MACGIBBON

IN ASSOCIATION
WITH

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Merrill Lynch

RECORDED LIVE AT THE
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE



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THE STORY

ACT I

The grounds of the palace

Outside the palace grounds, peasants are making final preparations to celebrate Prince Siegfried's coming of age. His tutor arrives to see that all is in order, followed by Benno (Siegfried's close comrade), cadets and ladies of the court. Three dancers arrive to perform a pas de trois as an entertainment for all.

Siegfried's mother learns of the unofficial party and as she approaches, hurried attempts are made to conceal evidence of drinking. She tells Siegfried he must marry and must choose a bride from eligible girls who will attend a ball the following evening. The tutor and Benno try to cheer Siegfried's anxious and pensive mood.

In the evening sky Benno sees a flock of swans, and Siegfried and the cadets decide to finish the day's festivities with a hunt. They seize crossbows from the guards and set out after the swans.

Short pause

ACT II

A lakeside at night; the ruins of a chapel stretch down to the water

Benno and the cadets arrive at the lakeside where an evil spirit lurks in the form of an owl. They move on as Siegfried arrives; he hides as a flock of swans settle in the ruins and one of them transforms into a beautiful maiden, the Swan Queen Odette. Frightened, she tells him that the evil spirit has cast a spell over her and her friends, making them swans by day. Only at night by the enchanted lake, a lake of tears shed by Odette's mother, can they return to human form. The spell can only be broken if someone who has never loved before swears to love Odette for ever.

The evil spirit appears but Odette prevents Siegfried from shooting him – if he dies the spell can never be broken.

Odette and Siegfried express their love for each other. As dawn approaches he tries to hold on to her, but the power of the spell draws her and the maidens back to the ruins to become swans again.

Interval

ACT III

A ballroom in the palace

Guests arrive in masks for a costume ball. Siegfried and Benno, disguised by masks, mix with them. The Princess enters and commands Siegfried to dance with six young princesses who have come to the ball and to choose one of them for his bride. He tells her that he does not love any of them and refuses to choose.

A fanfare announces the arrival of Von Rothbart, the evil spirit now in human form, his daughter Odile, who by magic resembles Odette, and an entourage. Siegfried cannot believe that Odette has appeared at the ball and asks Von Rothbart who she is. He tells him that she is his daughter and, before Siegfried can approach her, starts an entertainment of national dances.

Siegfried and Odile then dance, and Odette, appearing as a vision, tries in vain to warn Siegfried that he is being deceived. Captivated by the beauty of the new guest and sensing nothing wrong, Siegfried chooses Odile for his bride. Von Rothbart triumphantly takes his daughter's hand and gives it to Siegfried, who in the presence of everyone promises a vow of marriage and eternal love. Von Rothbart reveals the vision of Odette, and Siegfried realizes his error. Grief-stricken, he returns to the lake.

Interval

ACT IV

The lakeside

By the lake, the swans are looking for Odette and await her return. She appears, distraught, and tells them of Siegfried's betrayal. They try to console her, but she is resigned to death. To be free from the evil power she must perish in the waves of the lake. Siegfried's desperate search through the storm ends at the lakeside. Odette forgives him and they reaffirm their love. Von Rothbart appears and declares that Siegfried must fulfil his vow to marry Odile. If he does, Odette will become a swan for ever with the coming of dawn. Siegfried resolves instead to die with her, which will destroy Von Rothbart. The lovers run to the cliff and throw themselves into the lake below to be united in death.

Anthony Dowell

CAST

ODETTE/ODILE	ZENAIDA YANOWSKY
PRINCE SIEGFRIED	NEHEMIAH KISH
THE PRINCESS	ELIZABETH MCGORIAN
SIEGFRIED'S MOTHER	
AN EVIL SPIRIT	GARY AVIS
LATER VON ROTHBART	
THE TUTOR	ALASTAIR MARRIOTT
BENNO	VALERI HRISTOV
PAS DE TROIS (ACT I)	HELEN CRAWFORD, YUHUI CHOE, ALEXANDER CAMPBELL
CYGNETS (ACT II)	ELIZABETH HARROD, MEAGHAN GRACE HINKIS EMMA MAGUIRE, SABINA WESTCOMBE
TWO SWANS (ACTS II and IV)	HIKARU KOBAYASHI, ITZIAR MENDIZABAL