

Ravel: *L'enfant et les sortilèges*

Concept and animator: Grégoire Pont

Director: James Bonas

Stage and costume designer: Thibault Van Craenenbroeck

*My wish is to use animation as a living matter. Not to project video sequences on a screen as so often happens in concert, but that the animation turns up where one least expects it: taking over a body, escaping from a mouth or dancing like an animated motif on a dress. This semi-staged version of *L'enfant et les sortilèges* is a marvellous opportunity for me to play with my graphic universe.*

One has the very strong feeling that Ravel uses this opera to demonstrate the amplitude of his musical palette. This is how I conceive the animations – with the development of a variety of stage pictures to create a multitude of visual effects. Grégoire Pont

This light and innovative semi-staged production brings to life the magical world of one of the most enchanting pieces of the operatic repertoire.

Created by the inspirational new team of animator Grégoire Pont and director James Bonas, this staging uses advanced projection techniques to capture the fantasy and poetry of the piece. Highly versatile, it is conceived to be equally impactful on the opera stage or in the concert hall, where it can form one half of a programme.

In *L'enfant et les sortilèges*, Ravel captures the world of the child. A boy is scolded by his mother and left alone in his room. Rebellious and fractious, he causes mischief. The objects of his tantrum - the armchair, grandfather clock, teapot and teacup, fireplace, even the characters in the torn wallpaper and his Arithmetic homework - come to life and turn against him.

Outside in the garden, the tree and animals - dragonfly, frog, bat and nightingale- complain of his behaviour towards them. After a tussle, the boy bandages a squirrel's wounded paw with a ribbon. Seeing his new kindness, the creatures lead him back to the house. The magic of the garden turns to moonlight enchantment - the child has learned his lesson.

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