

BIZET

LES PÊCHEURS DE PERLES

ORIGINALLY TRANSMITTED JAN 16, 2016

CONDUCTOR
GIANANDREA NOSEDA

PRODUCTION
PENNY WOOLCOCK

SET DESIGNER
DICK BIRD

COSTUME DESIGNER
KEVIN POLLARD

LIGHTING DESIGNER
JEN SCHRIEVER

PROJECTION DESIGN
59 PRODUCTIONS

MOVEMENT DIRECTOR
ANDREW DAWSON

LEÏLA
DIANA DAMRAU

NADIR
MATTHEW POLENZANI

ZURGA
MARIUSZ KWIECIEN

NOURABAD
NICOLAS TESTÉ

ACT I A village of pearl divers swears loyalty to Zurga, a local leader. The fisherman Nadir returns after a year away. He and Zurga recall how their competing love for a priestess nearly destroyed their friendship. Nadir swears that he has stayed away from her. Nourabad, the High Priest, brings a priestess to the village. Nadir realizes that she is Leïla, the priestess he still loves. Zurga imposes an oath of obedience upon her. Nadir reveals that, having met Leïla illicitly, he has followed her to the village. As she begins to pray, he calls out to her, and she answers his love.

ACT II Nourabad tells Leïla that she can now sleep but stresses the importance of her vow. She describes how she once protected a fugitive who gave her a necklace as thanks. Leïla dreams of Nadir. He arrives, but as a storm breaks out, Nourabad discovers the couple and denounces them. Zurga protects Nadir when the villagers demand his death, but when Zurga recognizes Leïla, he calls for their execution.

ACT III Zurga's anger has passed, and he reflects on Nadir's fate. Leïla intercedes for Nadir, and Zurga relents. But when he sees how much Leïla loves Nadir, he commands Nourabad to take her to be sacrificed. Leïla asks one of the divers to bring her necklace to her mother. Zurga seizes it with a cry.

The people prepare for the ritual deaths. Zurga stops them because the village is on fire, and they flee. Zurga releases Nadir and Leïla, explaining that he started the fire to rescue them. He was the fugitive whom Leïla once saved. The lovers escape, and Zurga is left behind.

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