DON CARLOS
TRANSMITTED LIVE ON SAT, MAR 26, 2022

Act I
Don Carlos meets Élisabeth, and they fall in love. Their happiness ends with news that Élisabeth is instead to marry King Philippe, Carlos’s father.

Act II
Carlos confesses to Rodrigue his love for the new queen, and they swear eternal friendship. Eboli entertains the ladies of the court with a song. Élisabeth enters, followed by Carlos, who declares his love. She rejects him. Philippe warns Rodrigue to beware the Inquisition and asks him to watch Élisabeth and Carlos.

Intermission

Act III
Carlos arrives to meet Élisabeth, but when he discovers that it is actually Eboli, he rejects her. She swears to expose him, and Rodrigue threatens to kill her, but Carlos prevents him. At a burning of heretics, Carlos leads a group of Flemish deputies to Philippe. The king rejects their pleas for freedom. The prince draws his sword on his father, but Rodrigue disarms him.

Intermission

Act IV
The king reflects on his life with a wife who doesn’t love him and consults the Grand Inquisitor. When Élisabeth enters, Philippe accuses her of adultery. Eboli confesses to Élisabeth that she falsely accused her of being unfaithful. Eboli swears to save Carlos. Rodrigue visits Carlos in prison. Agents of the Inquisition shoot him, and he tells Carlos that Élisabeth will meet him at St. Just.

Act V
Élisabeth and Carlos bid each other farewell, and Philippe and the Grand Inquisitor arrive. As the agents of the Inquisition move in on Carlos, Charles V materializes out of the darkness.

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