

VICTORIAN OPERA

Engelbert Humperdinck

Hansel and Gretel

Friday 27 October 2017

John Leslie Theatre, Sale



SYNOPSIS

Hansel and Gretel

Hansel and Gretel are playing in their house in the woods, waiting for their Mother and Father to come home. They should be making brooms, but are playing games instead. Hansel is hungry, so Gretel tries to distract him by teaching him a fun dance. She also shows him a surprise hidden away for later – a jug of milk.

Their Mother comes home and is cross because they have been playing instead of working. In her anger she accidentally knocks over the jug of milk, so she sends the children out into the woods with a basket to gather strawberries to eat. The poor Mother is upset that she doesn't have any food for her family.

Father comes home, very happy that he has sold lots of broomsticks and managed to buy the family a basket full of good food. Mother tells Father that she has sent them to the woods to gather strawberries as punishment for their bad behaviour. Father is worried because the woods are the home of the 'Evil One'.

This 'Evil One' is a Witch, who lives in a crispy, crunchy house of sugar and spice. She magically entices children into her house, puts them in her oven and turns them into Gingerbread Children.

Out in the woods, Hansel and Gretel are gathering lots of strawberries in their baskets. They hear a cuckoo and are scared by the whispering of the leaves in the trees.

A mysterious man appears, the Sandman, who reassures the children and sprinkles magic sand in their eyes to help them sleep. Hansel and Gretel together sing their evening prayer before falling asleep. As they sleep, fourteen angels appear in their dreams to watch over them, keeping them safe.

Morning comes, and the Dew Fairy wakes the sleeping children with dewdrops. As the morning mist clears, they see a house made of delicious sweet treats. Hansel breaks off a piece of the house and the children begin to eat. The Witch startles them and entices the children into the house.

The Witch tries to cast a spell on the children with her magic wand, but Hansel and Gretel are too clever to be tricked by the magic. The Witch tries to make Gretel get into the oven, but together the children trick the Witch and push her into the oven, closing the door behind her.

The Witch's Gingerbread Children appear, and can now open their eyes. The children thank Hansel and Gretel for breaking the Witch's spell, and everyone dances and sings together.

PRODUCTION

Hansel and Gretel

Composer

Engelbert Humperdinck

Librettist

Adelheid Wette

Chamber Orchestra Arrangement

Julian Langdon

Running time is approximately 55 minutes with no interval.

Creative Team

Conductor Richard Mills

Director Elizabeth Hill

Set and Costume Design Ross Hall

Lighting Design Peter Darby

Production Manager Peter Darby and Luke Hales

Stage Manager Laura Hansford

Assistant Stage Manager Katharine Timms

Repetiteur Phillipa Safey



Dew Fairy Illustration © Ross Hall

Cast

Hansel Shakira Dugan

Gretel Cleo Lee-McGowan

Mother/Angel/Child Olivia Cranwell

Father/Angel/Child Nathan Lay

Sandman Timothy Reynolds

Dew Fairy Michelle McCarthy

Witch Carlos E. Bárcenas

Angel/Child Stephen Marsh

Orchestra

1st Violin Susannah Ng

2nd Violin Ioana Tache

3rd Violin Josef Hanna

Viola William Clark

Cello Mee Na Lojewski

Double Bass Robert Nicholls

Flute Dominique Chaseling

Oboe Jessica Foot

1st Clarinet Andrew Fong

2nd Clarinet Cameron Smith

Bassoon Christopher Martin

1st French Horn Alexander Morton

2nd French Horn Melissa Shirley

Keyboard Phillipa Safey

Acknowledgements

Victorian Opera would like to thank Resolution X.

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Hansel and Gretel to go into the draw to win a
double pass to your local cinema.

Visit www.bit.ly/VOHanselGretel to complete our short survey.

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