

LIBRETTO: OPERA THE MOTHER OF FISHES

On a Popular Tale by Enric Valor

ACT I

IN A HOUSE WITH A LITTLE GARDEN

In a house with a little garden, close by the sea, in Denia, there lived a couple, Jaume and Jordina. They were neither rich nor poor. They fished and worked the land. They had a new boat, a bird dog, and an old mare, but they had no children. They both wanted children so much that one day Jordina had a dream. While Jaume was fishing, a lady dressed all in white appeared. With a touch of her wand of wishes, she turned all his fish into precious children... At dawn, Jordina woke up her husband...)

JORDINA

What a dream I had last night

That we had beautiful children
beautiful children

You went out to fish the sea

And you brought children to me

JAUME

Maybe your wishes created this
wonderful dream.

It's true, I'll go out to-day with the boat
and catch something.

JORDINA

You sailed the boat and you
brought many children to me.
(Jaume: many children to you)

You saw an elegant lady all
dressed in white

She held out a wand and then
touched your arm

and all of your fi-sh were
turned into children

JAUME

It is getting late my dear, Let's

Go back to reality

JORDINA

Reality

JAUME

You are my true love and we

Have everything that we need.

Now I must go out to
get my gear
set the sail

and maybe, I'll
catch some children

who can tell? Ha ha ha!

DUO JAUME AND MOTHER OF
FISHES (character or chorus or sound
the mother of fishes)

This part is narrated over instrumental music as well

JAUME

What's happening,
what is caught in the net?

I've never seen such a thing

What's come out of the sea?

MOTHER OF FISHES

What do you want with me?

If you do what I suggest,

You will be truly blessed!

JAUME

This magic fish!
Who was caught by my hand

When she says what to do,
I must heed her command.

MOTHER OF FISH

Cut off my three heads
your wife must eat one,
your mare and your dog the others,
Then hang my two tails
in your garden.

JAUME

The Mother of Fishes,
has said what to do,
And I will heed her command

(Jordina leaves the scene. It dawns slowly, Jaume goes to the port and he gets on his boat to go fishing)

Narrator ...

As dawn broke, Jaume went to the port and set out in his boat [to go fishing]. Morning passed, and toward midday, he sailed into a cove and cast his net. He soon felt a strong tug and pulled up a strange animal that looked like a giant striped eel of many colors.

NARRATOR: Jaume returns in the evening to Denia's port. He goes home, tells Jordina what happened, and they follow every instruction from the Mother of Fishes.

(Time has passed. Jordina and the children and husband at home...)

CHILDREN CHORUS

Nine months passed so quickly,

Happiness has found them.

The Mother of Fishes

has given her grace
she has blessed them

Underneath the lemon tree

Magic has formed

two large swords

from the tails of the fish

The little bird dog

has two little puppies

The old black mare

has two foals

and for Jordina,

beautiful twin sons!

Spoken by choir II: Jaumet and Joan

(spoken) beautiful as the spring!

SCENE II

NARRATOR: Time has passed. Jordina is at home with her two sons. Jaumet is more adventurous and works as a fisherman. Joan is calmer and works the land. At the age of 20, Jaumet is feeling restless and wants to go looking for adventure.

JORDINA

What joy for me

To be their mother

So full of life, and so brave!

Jaumet, restless brother,

But Joan, contented

My children are almost twenty

Jaumet is set on leaving

His heart longs for adventures.

And maybe he will find them.

I must let him go.

JOAN

Mama, Jaumet wants to

See the world, all on his own

He'll take the horse the dog and sword

They will-a company him-

We have swords that are magic

That will help to protect him.

If my sword stays

Under the lime tree.

And bad luck befalls him

The sword will rust

and give us warning.

Don't be afraid, do not worry,

Rust will be the signal!

(Images: Jaumet says goodbye to his parents and as he starts his journey...)

NARRATOR: It was the month of April. At first, Jaumet walked in peace through l'Alcoià, the land of Duke Frederic. But Jaumet learned that a seven-headed dragon brought terror to the lands, and that Duke Frederic, in desperation, chose one of his subjects every day in sacrifice to the Dragon to stave off its hunger.

JAUMET

I want to see the world. I want to
find my destiny.

I hope someday, that I will find my
Princess

But a seven-headed Dragon has
terrified the people!

And each day, a new child, is taken, and
eaten.

I will fight him, I will slay him, He will die
by my hand!

NARRATOR: The next day arrived with great misfortune for the Duke. His young and beautiful daughter was chosen for the dragon. The Duke offered his daughter's hand to anyone who would kill the dragon. As chance would have it, Jaumet and his horse met the Dragon when it tried to attack him. Jaumet brought out his sword and charged the dragon courageously

(Dragon scene)

JAUMET AND CHORUS OF
CHILDREN WITH SOUNDPOOL

FIGHT WITH THE SEVEN-HEADED DRAGON

JAUMET

Cursed Dragon!

You are cruel and horrible!

Now you'll see!

You are doomed!

With my magic sword

I'll kill you.

DRAGON/CHILDREN SPOKEN AND SOUNDPOOL

Where do you think you're going?

You are nothing.

Today you will die.

My anger never ends. [this line is optional; it can be omitted if the dragon speech takes too much time.]

I rule this land.

What's this? No...!

The magic sword!

JAUMET

Now you'll see!

You are doomed!

With my magic sword

I'll kill you.

NARRATOR: Jaumet cut off the seven tongues of the Dragon to record his heroic deed. He cleaned his sword and the tongues, wiped the sweat off his horse, petted the dog, and headed off to the castle.

(When he is arriving or arrives to the Castle, the Princess sings...)

PRINCESS

What knight is this who comes here?

He has killed that hungry dragon.

Such a brave young man he must be

And he seems good-hearted too

Jaumet, he is called

He is good and he's honest

He looks at me with love

and I return his gaze.

he is so good looking

Young man who yearns to love

come and be here with me

today we shall meet

and then ... eternity!

JAUMET

Oh, can I believe it?

this beautiful princess

With her I want to live

together evermore

PRINCESS

My father made a promise

To give you lands and his daughter.

The seven tongues from the dragon

leave no doubt that Jaumet has triumphed

leave no doubt that Jaumet has triumphed

Celebrate our wedding day

Today, the whole town will join in our

wedding! (with Jaumet)

Wedding scene

CHILDREN CHORUS

Elionor and Jaumet are so happy and
content

Jaumet has come in time!

Luck to both of these two lovers

who fortune brought together
But Jaumet is still adventurous,
And he wants to know his country
His curiosity and his duty as a ruler
Will lead him out into his kingdom

NARRATOR: Taking his horse, his dog and his sword, Jaumet rode over mountains, across plains and through marshlands. Riding into a forest, he followed the songs of goldfinches to a great house. There, among the sounds of the woods, he heard the charming voice of a young maiden...

Jaumet took his horse, dog and sword. He arrived at a house attracted by the songs of goldfinches. He heard the voice of a maiden that said: "Knight! Please come in and see the talking sparrow." Jaumet got off his horse, he left the dog and the sword and went into the house.

WITCH ROSELLA

Beyond the springs you will find
my palace waiting here at hand
A peaceful shelter welcomes you
after travels through the land.

JAUMET

Who lives within this castle so fair,
surrounded by birds of all kinds
Yet a stillness is everywhere

WITCH: SPELL SPEAKING, HYPNOTIC, WITH CHILDREN AND SOUND COOL EFFECTS

In my pleasant shaded garden
Grow a thousand lovely plants.
Roses and sweet smelling flowers
Catch the brave one in a trance!

[With "roses and sweet smelling flowers" a snake might appear from the rosebush and hypnotize him and/or the rose that came out smoke/fragrance that produces a disturbing effect on Jaumet. Or the rose in shadows turns into something strange by the projections ...]

JAUMET

my mind is troubled.

Whose voice is this?

WITCH

Rosella from the water

mistress of this precious place

Now I wait for someone brave and you,

you can be the one for me

JAUMET

Oh, Rosella, ah, such a name!

beautiful, exquisite and clear!

Rosella, this place puts me under a spell

WITCH

Who are you wonderful man?

What brought you here all alone?

JAUMET

I'm Jaumet the adventurer

I want to find my destiny

I have killed a dragon

but now I feel tired and I want to sleep.

WITCH

Please come in good gentleman

you can rest inside my home

you can leave your dog outside

Take off your sword and be comfortable

Come in trusting gentleman

In my home you'll see the talking bird

Ah, you'll see the talking bird, Ah

JAUMET

Dog and sword I leave outside

I am coming in, Ah

(Once Jaumet has come in, he begins to be petrified, and he finds, that he cannot move his feet, the witch laughs with wicked and mocking laughter)

WITCH

(She laughs with evil and mocking laughter, with whispering laughs of children and Soundcool effects)

Ah, such an innocent man, you have
trusted too much, you fell

under my spell, and now

You are my captive,

poor Jaumet, forever to be,

A pillar of salt, a

pillar of salt.

A pillar of salt, I've ensnared you and

Now there is nothing to do Ah ...

can you hear me?

Petrified you've become

[with Jaumet:] a pillar of salt.

[then] under my spell, innocent man

trusting soul

[with Jaumet:] ah, you were a fool

ah, you did not know. Ah

JAUMET

I'm alone and petrified,

I let a witch ensnare me, and

Now there is nothing to do

I will live without Elionor

If my brother knew

He'd come to help [me].

I wonder dear mother, can you hear me?

Petrified, I am alone

I have become a pillar of salt

I can't go on, help me Joan.

I live without Elio nor

ah, I was a fool

Ah, I did not know. Ah

AAAAAHHHHHH (together)

(Grand final with deafening sound of Jaumet's complete petrification which finally goes out as moving away as the lights go out on stage. It may be like a rock sound that is broken with low speed Mplayer, low MTranspose transposition and much reverberation with free VST reverb)

SCENE III

(Images or double scene. Meanwhile, in Denia, the mother begins to worry)

NARRATOR: *Back in Denia, a fear came over Jordina. She could feel in her heart that something had happened to Jaumet, and she could hardly bear it. Joan knew too: His sword had spoken.*

JORDINA

My heart is heavy, full of longing

He is gone so long, Jaumet.

I know he is brave and strong,

But what if he is in danger?

It is rare that my son

has not sent us news

JOAN*(has heard the concerns of his mother and goes to look for the rusted sword or appears before with the rusty sword in his hand)*

My mother is worried for Jaumet

And now my magic sword has rusted.

Something has happened to my brother.

I know that something is wrong.

The sword was to be the signal,
the signal.

JORDINA AND JOAN

Something has happened to my son.

The sword was to be the signal.
The sword was the signal.

NARRATOR: *Joan set off with his dog and the/his horse to find his brother. After a few days, he arrived in Castalla where he explained to the Duke and Princess Eleanor that he was the twin brother of Jaumet. They told Joan how Jaumet had disappeared. The next day Joan took his dog, his horse, and his sword, and galloped off, following the path of his brother towards Onil. Attracted by birds singing, he arrived at the house of the witch).*

WITCH

Oh, here beyond flowing waters.

One can find my house of stone.

With many birds and ancient trees

Shade and peace surround my home.

SPELL (SPEAKING WITH CHILDREN WHISPERINGS AND SOUND COOL EFFECTS)

Roses and fragrant flowers

Bring beautiful young men to me.

I look like a pretty young maiden

no one would ever suspect

that I am a witch of the water

older than a century!

(Evil laugh)

In the hall of my hide-away

unsuspecting young people

who I called to come into my house

Their hearts are turned into stone and

their minds are now made of marble

they can feel nothing now!

(She is interrupted by sounds that Joan is approaching – sound to be chosen by the Soundcool students: for example horse sounds or something else)

But shhh, shhh, silence! (Speaking)

another gentleman is approaching.

He seems to be cautious and
wary but he's (sings)

strong and gallant

JOAN

What a place It is so pleasant

There's a beautiful old palace

So many birds and ancient trees

give shade to this shelter

is it here that I will find

In good health my dear Jaumet?

WITCH

come gentle young man

let us be friends and let my

harmonious voice sing for you

and invite you in

Come in and see the talking bird

JOAN

such a melodious voice I hear

I hear her music in side the house

Curious sounds of the birds

Could this be where I'll find Jaumet?

WITCH

please come in, kind gentleman

you can leave your dog outside

and set down your sword.

(Spoken: HYPNOTIC, with whispers and children effects and/or Soundcool)

JOAN:(Trying to get rid of the drunkenness of enchantment)

I must be careful now!

I must see if my brother's here.

WITCH

So you are a brave man

You're cautious and vigilant

come in, you should hear
the talking bird

(she tries desperately to bewitch him)

JOAN

(not totally free from the bewitching)

No,

I think that this voice is so strange

It is so nice but I wonder

Why does my heart feel so cold?

I will remain here and watch.

My dog and horse stay here with me.

She has a wand she's a witch

I'm under a spell.

faithful dog, take the wand,

set me free!

(the dog brings the witch biting her, the witch let the magic wand fall, losing her powers – read below)

WITCH

Ah, ah,

the bird will stop talking, stop talking,
stop talking, the bird, ah ah ah

(with the choir repeating some words)

the bird, the bird (with the choir 1)

Ah, ah, ah (Joan cuts off her head)

(Images: the dog jumps and occurred it pulls the witch out. The wand of wishes fell off her hands and thus the witch lost her evil powers. Joan cut her head from his horse and the spell finished. And so he went in the Palace of the Witch, where he found a room full with some 20 statues. They were the people the witch had put a spell on. Joan thought that they were asleep and he began to slap gently the faces of all the statues. Each slap on the face broke a spell, and the statue charged to life. Slap to Jaumet. He comes to life).

NARRATOR: Joan jumped and grabbed the witch, who dropped her magic wand. As she lost her magical power, Joan cut off her head, and finally the curse was ended. Joan entered the witch's palace and saw a room full of statues, all of them people held under the witch's spell. They were in a trance, so Joan began to strike them, hoping to wake them up. With each blow, the spell was broken and the statues came alive.

JAUMET

Oh, this must be a dream

I can't believe my eyes! Dear
brother I've missed you.

Here you are at last,

The witch has no more power now

She will never harm anyone again

Now my brother dear
Let's get out of here
Someone special's waiting and
I am overdue
We will have great parties
celebrations too.
My dear wife
is waiting
I'm free now thanks to you!

(he hugged his brother in tears. Everyone went back home and the two brothers also took the way back the Castle).

PRINCESS ELIONOR

Finally my love has returned
I'm so happy he is free
home again, and in my arms.
The spell that held him is broken
Stay here with us, my brother,
you are so kind, a gentle man
Look for a girlfriend in Castalla
Beautiful, kind-hearted, she will be.
Here in the village you can live
Stay with us, you will be honored.

JOAN

Dear sister, I'm tempted to stay
But I need to go back home.
My mother and my father are so dear to me.

there's a girl there I think she is the one.
I must go and find her.

I want to raise a family and
take care of my land

It is what I dreamed of
I hope you understand.

My father's getting older, he'll re-
tire from life on the sea

The Mother of Fishes has
offered all we need.

JORDINA

Elegant lady, I

dreamed of you

all dressed in white

You have shown us your grace.

ELIONOR

Jaumet killed the dragon

JAUMET

And brought back seven tongues

JOAN

Jaumet killed the dragon

ELIONOR

celebration and our wedding

JAUMET

our wedding day

ELIONOR

our wedding day

JAUMET

our wedding day

ELIONOR

wedding day

(The spirit of the witch appears in mists.)

JORDINA

Look! The ghost of the evil witch!

WITCH (Ghost: can already appear in the projections as old and ugly, reflecting her true self, though in the scene she is beautiful)

s! Ah, foolish folk!

So innocent

I will cast upon you

a terrible curse

there is no way

to escape?

You are mine

JAUMET I JOAN

You are mine?

We will fight together

you cannot cast a spell

or bewitch any one

and as for your spirit

we'll send it to hell!

JAUMET

(Jaumet advances towards the ghost with the sword in hand)

This time, I will win!

BRUIXA

Ah, but my powers are

much more than you think

I will have my revenge

(He/she? Throws rays or similar at the projections and makes a gesture of) throwing magic to Jaumet)

ELIONOR

No!

I'm Elionor and

I will defend

the man that I love

WITCH

You'll suffer too.

ELIONOR

You think you are stronger

but I'm not afraid

WITCH

I'll strike you down

and you shall die, you shall die
(at the same time as the next phrase from Elionor)

ELIONOR

The tongues of the Dragon

with their magical fire

will defeat your power

CHOIR (speaking)

Her powers are strong

ELIONOR

and for

CHOIR (speaking)

more than be fore

ELIONOR

ever

she will be gone

CHOIR

now she will die

CHOIR

put to her death

ELIONOR, JORDINA, JAUMET, JOAN, (IN FRAGMENTS)

Now together we fight

And never again

will you cast us a spell ah ah

what's left of your spirit

will be banished to hell

Mixed with the WITCH AND CHOIRS

Talking bird, ah... the bird

ELIONOR, JORDINA, JAUMET, JOAN

destroyed, you will be des | troyed

Magic fire

CHOIR 1 Y 2, JAUMET, JOAN, JORDINA AND JAUME

(The choirs repeat these verses speaking and the singers singing in cres. and accel.)

The tongues of the dragon

with magical fire

ruin and burn

BRUIXA

With my magic

I'll strike you down and (ELIONOR joins the others here to "The dragon's tongues with their...)

you shall die

ah, ah, ah

ELIONOR (Y JORDINA)

the bird will fall

the bird will fall, ah

falling bird, falling bird, ah

JAUMET, JOAN, JAUME AND CHOIRS
(the finish alone the phrase following from
before)

ruin and burn!

BRUIXA, ELIONOR, JORDINA

Ah!

THIS TEXT IS THE HIGHEST DRAMATIC MOMENT FROM THE WHOLE
OPERA, THAT WHEN THE PHANTOM DISAPPEARS IT BECOMES
TRIUMPHANT WITH THE NEXT)

CHOIR AND ALL (without the witch)

Ah,

we are all saved

we are all saved

we are all saved

we are all saved

(IN THE MUSIC IS THE HIGHEST POSITIVE MOMENT IN ALL THE OPERA)

THE MOTHER OF FISHES, THE ELEGANT LADY

CHOIR 1

Ah

The Mother of Fishes

a gift gave to us

we go forth into life

with happiness for all

CHOIR 1, JORDINA, JAUME

The Mother of Fishes

Oh, eixa dama elegant Oh, oh in my dream one night

I saw an elegant lady

CHOIR 1, JORDINA, JAUME, ELIONOR

All dressed in white

The Mother

CHOIR 1, JORDINA, JAUME

Parents

CHOIR 1, JAUMET, JOAN, JORDINA, JAUME

and their children

CHOIR 1, JAUMET, JOAN, JORDINA, JAUME, ELIONOR

life shines upon all!

THE END