

The Sun and the Northern Star

ACT I

Paris 1688. A pastoral chamber opera is set up at one of the city's many theatres. In accordance with the Royal regulations, Louis XIV is celebrated, "tout comme il faut".

The Prologue from le Désespoir De Tirsis

Living French court life in the 17th century means adapting oneself into a hierarchy full of strict rules. The yearning to get away from this strictness turns into the dream of nature and "the simple life in the countryside". Dressed up as gods, goddesses, shepherds, shepherdesses, Jeux/games and Plaisirs/pleasures, some French aristocrats divert themselves. They arrange a pastoral performance to celebrate life, youth and love, and they use the victorious King Louis XIV's return from the war as the best of excuses.

Pomone, the goddess of the garden and fertility, *Annastina Malm*. Vertumne, god of farmers, *Martin Vanberg*. Agérie, spring water nymph, *Ingrid Berg*. Palémon, sea god, *Richard Lindström*. Amour, the god of love, *Niklas Fransson*. Les Jeux/The games, *Julia Bengtsson*, *Edgar Lewandowski*, *Adrian Navarro*, *Mathias Terwander Stintzing*. Les Plaisirs/The pleasures, *Matilda Larsson*, *Valerie Lauer*, *Aleksandra Pawluczuk*. Bergers/shepherds and shepherdesses, *Frida Bergquist*, *Philip Björkqvist*, *Nana Bugge Rasmussen*, *Kajsa Lindberg*, *Jakob Nilsson*.

ACT II

Stockholm 1699. A theatre group arrives from France, called upon by the king's superintendent Nicodemus Tessin. On the repertoire is the divertissement "Le Ballet des Nations".

Le Ballet des Nations from le Bourgeois gentilhomme

In the public theatre, foreigners are jostling with country people, craftsmen press shoulders with artists, old people packed together with the young. But how should they understand what they see and hear? Dance is hard to understand. A libretto is required!

- A piazza in southern Spain: Spaniards and Spanish women.
- A night in Venice: the young lovers, Harlequin, Trivelins and Scaramouches.
- A forest in the French countryside: the beautiful shepherdess, gallant Frenchmen, Residents of the province of Poitou.

Libretto Distributor, *Mathias Terwander Stintzing*. Swedish regionals, *Jakob Nilsson*, *Frida Bergquist*, *Nana Bugge Rasmussen*, *Martin Vanberg*. Audience, *Julia Bengtsson*, *Niklas Fransson*, *Adrian Navarro*. Singing Spaniards, *Philip Björkqvist*, *Jakob Nilsson*, *Martin Vanberg*. Solo-dancing Spaniards, *Valerie Lauer*, *Adrian Navarro*. Italian lovers, *Annastina Malm*, *Richard Lindström*. Harlequin, *Mathias Terwander Stintzing*. Trivelins, *Julia Bengtsson*, *Aleksandra Pawluczuk*. Scaramouches, *Niklas Fransson*, *Adrian Navarro*. Shepherdess *Matilda Larsson*. Gallant Frenchmen, *Jakob Nilsson*, *Martin Vanberg*.

PAUSE

ACT III

Stockholm February 1701. Karl XII has won an important victory against Russia at the Battle of Narva. Nicodemus Tessin stages the celebration with festivities and a newly written ballet, all in a French style.

Ballet meslé De chants héroïques/Narva Ballet

Le Carnival/Carnival is unwell. Nobody wants to greet him, no one wants to party, and nobody wants to go to the theater. Two doctors try to diagnose him without success. They get help from Esculape, the god of medicine, who announces a prophecy: King Karl will soon win glorious victories. The Carnival will recover and the partying will be resumed. Carnival regains his courage and chases away the choleric and phlegmatic bacterias which pollute the air.

La Gloire/The Glory announces the king's victory and calls for celebration. The Swedish Lords return from the war with seized banners, accompanied by the war gods Mars and Bellone. A troop of soldiers deliver plundered bootys and prisoners of war. A Russian Lord is kept as prisoner, while the captured soldiers are being released. King Karl is celebrated and the Swedish soldiers show their strenght.

Tendresse/Tenderness dances as a reminder of other values. The goddess of the war, Bellone, prays Heaven for help to unite Amor with Glory. She wishes that the King might experience happiness and not just victories of war. Bellone claims that success in war should be combined with pleasure and beautiful art. But the propaganda machinery is in full swing. Her wish remains unheard.

Le Carnival, Carnival *Richard Lindström*. Médecins/doctors, *Niklas Fransson, Mathias Terwander Stintzing*. Esculape, the god of medicine, *Martin Vanberg*. Les Colériques/coleric bacterias/ Les Flegmatiques/flegmatic bacterias, *Valerie Lauer, Aleksandra Pawluczuk, Julia Bengtsson, Matilda Larsson*. La Gloire/the Glory, *Frida Bergquist*. Mars, the god of war, *Philip Björkqvist*. Bellone, the war goddess, *Kajsa Lindberg*. Swedish Lords, *Ingrid Berg, Frida Bergquist, Nana Bugge Rasmussen, Richard Lindström, Annastina Malm, Jakob Nilsson*. Russian Lord, *Martin Vanberg*. Swedish soldiers, *Julia Bengtsson, Niklas Fransson, Valerie Lauer, Edgar Lewandowski, Adrian Navarro, Aleksandra Pawluczuk, Mathias Terwander Stintzing*. Tendresse/Tenderness, *Matilda Larsson*.