

MLADA (1890)

Magical opera-ballet in four acts

Music by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

Libretto by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, Stepan Gedeonov, Viktor Krylov

Time: the ninth or tenth century

Place: the Slavic lands of the Baltic sea-coast, in the city of Retra, near the Laba (Elbe) river

Characters and performers:

Mstivoy, prince of Retra – Alexey Korolev, bass

Voyslava, his daughter – Tatiana Tugarinova, soprano

Yaromir, prince of Arkona – Vladimir Makhov, tenor

High Priest of Radegast – Alexey Bolshakov, baritone

Lumir, Czech singer – Valentina Klipatskaya, alto

Morena, goddess of the underworld, appearing in the first act in the form of the old woman Svyatokhna – Nina Kulagina, mezzo-soprano

Chernobog – chorus

Kashchey the Immortal – chorus

Characters and performers in the market scene in the second act:

The Novgorodian – Yuri Yelnikov, tenor

His wife – Tamara Yerofeyeva, mezzo-soprano

A Varangian – Alexey Tikhonov, baritone

Tiun – Anatoli Blagov, bass

Moor from the Caliphate – Vladimir Tsarsky, tenor

1st market man – skins – Ivan Kartavenko, tenor

2nd market man – arms – Yevgeny Pervyshev, bass

1st market woman – beads and idols – Lidia Kazanskaya, soprano

2nd market woman – yarn – Tamara Antipova, mezzo-soprano

3rd market woman – fish – Nina Kulagina, alto

Shade of Princess Mlada (silent role)
Shade of Queen Cleopatra (silent role)
Cherv (Worm), god of the destruction of grasses (silent role)
Topelets, god of floods and sinkings (silent role)

Maidens, armor-bearers and retinue of Mstivoy, merchants, supplicators, people of various Slavic lands, priests and priestesses of Radegast, trumpeters, Chuma, wood-sprites, werewolves, kikimoras, witches, ghosts of the deceased, ghosts of dancers, of black male and female slaves of Queen Cleopatra, spectres of bogatirs, Slavic gods

Great Choir of the All-Union Radio, artistic director – K. Ptitsa
Male group of the Choir of the State Academic Bolshoi Theatre
Great Symphony Orchestra
Conductor – Evgeny Svetlanov
Recording from 1962
Sound engineer – S. Pazukhin

Bonus on the 3rd CD:
Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov
Sinfonietta on Russian Themes in A minor, Op. 31
1. Allegretto pastorale
2. Adagio
3. Scherzo. Final. Vivo

State Academic Symphony Orchestra USSR
Conductor – Evgeny Svetlanov
Recording from 1984
Sound engineer – M. Kozuhova