

July 2019 operettas

13 July 2019: 3 p.m.

Guridi, J. El caserío. Zarzuela in three acts. Libretto by Federico Romero and Guillermo Fernández-Shaw. First performed Madrid, 1926.

Santi lives in the homestead, Sasibill, with his orphaned niece and nephew, the dutiful Ana Mari and her cousin, the irresponsible José Miguel. Santi's secret is that he loved Ana Mari's mother, Marichu, but kept his feelings to himself when she married his brother Martín. Santi regards Ana Mari as his daughter and wishes Sasibill could be hers in future, even though it should be José Miguel's by right as he is older. He is convinced that his nephew is only staying on at Sasibill until he gets his inheritance. Don Leoncio, the priest, suggests that the two cousins should marry or that Santi should announce plans to marry, without yet having chosen a bride, to see how José Miguel reacts. In all likelihood he will leave Sasibill and not come back, and Ana Mari can then inherit. Santi likes the idea and announces his plans to marry. As expected José Miguel is angry and goes away but Ana Mari sees no difficulties in the plan.

José Miguel returns after a month and is told that Santi has not yet chosen a wife. When he sees Ana Mari again, he realises that he loves her. Unaware of José Miguel's feelings, Ana Mari tells her uncle that she will marry him and give him a son to inherit Sasibill. When José Miguel learns that Santi is to marry Ana Mari, he tells her of his love but she has given her word to her uncle. José Miguel leaves Sasibill again.

Santi is sure that Ana Mari really cares for José Miguel and that her offer to marry him was induced by a sense of sacrifice and despair that her cousin did not love her in return. He tells her that if José Miguel really loved her, he would have come back to claim her. Ana Mari leaves and in bursts José Miguel. José Miguel warns Santi to stand aside as he doesn't know how far he will go in the name of love. Santi does not believe him but José Miguel says that if he knew that Ana Mari loved Santi, he would accept the situation. Santi accuses José Miguel of loving Ana Mari because she will inherit Sasibill. This offends the young man who says he truly loves her for herself. They call on Ana Mari to come and resolve the dispute. Everyone's true feelings become clear and Santi gives them his blessing, hoping they will stay at the farm.

27 July 2019: 3 p.m.

Strauss, J. II A night in Venice. Operetta in three acts. Libretto by Friedrich Zell and Richard Genée. First performed Berlin, 1883.

Guido, Duke of Urbino, is arranging a lavish reception for senators and their wives at the Ducal Palace in Venice. The senators are anxious about the Duke's amorous intentions towards their wives. The ageing senator, Delaqua, arranges for his beautiful young wife, Barbara, to visit her aunt in Murano. He will take his cook, Ciboletta, to the reception. The plan is overheard by Caramello, who knows that the Duke is particularly keen to meet Barbara. He bribes the gondolier who is to take Barbara to Murano. Having secured use of the gondola, he plans to take her to the Ducal Palace. Barbara also plans to miss the visit to her aunt and instead to attend the masked carnival with her lover, Enrico. She arranges for a friend, Annina, to take her place in the gondola.

Annina is annoyed to find that her own sweetheart, Caramello, is part of the plot so she decides that she will enjoy herself at the reception. When Delaqua arrives with his make-believe wife, Caramello tells the Duke that she really is the cook, Ciboletta. The Duke decides to keep up the pretence and acts seductively towards both women while Caramello and Pappacoda, Ciboletta's sweetheart, have to watch as they wait at table.

At midnight the Duke and his guests go into St. Mark's Square to watch the carnival. The Duke is making great progress with Annina while Ciboletta slips away to console Pappadoca. Delaqua now discovers Barbara with Enrico. She tells her husband that she was kidnapped by an unknown gondolier and was rescued by Enrico. The Duke restores Annina to Caramello, urges him to marry her, and appoints him as the steward of his household. In that way, he will have Annina around to admire and to indulge in some flirtation. The Duke goes off in search of more amorous adventures while everyone else enjoys the carnival.