

VERDI

RIGOLETTO

TRANSMITTED LIVE ON FEBRUARY 16, 2013

The Met
ropolitan
Opera **HD LIVE
ENCORE**

CONDUCTOR

Michele Mariotti

PRODUCTION

Michael Mayer

SET DESIGNER

Christine Jones

COSTUME DESIGNER

Susan Hilferty

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Kevin Adams

CHOREOGRAPHER

Steven Hoggett

LIVE IN HD DIRECTOR

Matthew Diamond

GILDA

Diana Damrau

MADDALENA

Oksana Volkova

DUKE

Piotr Beczała

RIGOLETTO

Željko Lučić

SPARAFUCILE

Štefan Kocán

ACT I *Las Vegas, 1960.* The cynical Rigoletto serves as sidekick and comedian to the licentious Duke, a singer and casino owner. His sole joy in life is his daughter, Gilda, whom he has brought up in seclusion from the world. When Rigoletto mocks the rich Monterone, whose daughter has been seduced by the Duke, Monterone curses him. The Duke, incognito, has flirted with Gilda at church. He arrives at Rigoletto's apartment, and she confesses her love to him. The Duke's entourage, thinking Gilda is Rigoletto's mistress, decide to play a prank on Rigoletto and trick him into assisting in the abduction of his own daughter.

INTERMISSION

ACT II Gilda has been brought to the Duke's casino where she becomes another of his conquests. When Rigoletto witnesses Monterone being shot by one of the Duke's entourage, he swears that both he and Monterone will be avenged. Gilda begs her father to forgive the Duke.

ACT III Rigoletto hires the hit man Sparafucile to kill the Duke, who has come to a seedy club on the outskirts of town to see Sparafucile's sister. Gilda, still in love with the Duke, overhears the plan and decides to sacrifice herself to save the Duke's life. When Rigoletto comes to collect the victim's body, he finds not the Duke but his dying daughter.

Production a gift of the Hermione Foundation, Laura Sloate, Trustee; and Mr. and Mrs. Paul M. Montrone



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