



THE MAGIC FLUTE

MOZART'S MASTERPIECE OPERA ON DVD

NEW DVD RELEASE

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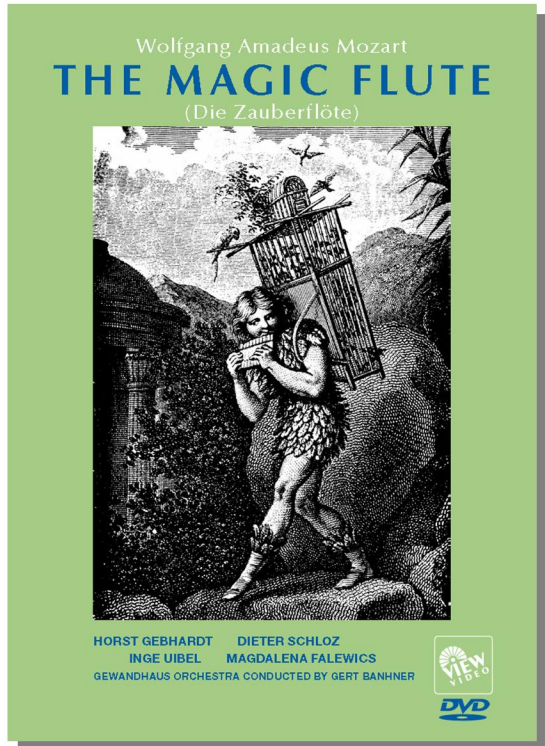
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart The Magic Flute (Die Zauberflöte)

The Magic Flute, written by Mozart shortly before his death at the age of 35, is often considered to be his finest opera. The glorious score combines simple German folk songs and classical operatic writing with brilliant effect

The Magic Flute is what the Germans call a "Singspiel" (a song play); which is a play with a great deal of singing similar to an operetta or musical comedy. Mixing German folk elements with subtle French orchestrations, and raucous Italian wit with spoken dialogue and cosmopolitan style, this opera showcases Mozart's curious blend of sophistication and earthy humor.

Mozart and Schikaneder, who wrote the libretto, were both members of the same Masonic Lodge at a time when Freemasonry was officially frowned upon in Austria, as it was considered hostile to the Roman Catholic Church and even the state itself. With *The Magic Flute*, they saw their chance to showcase, on stage, the forbidden rituals, symbols and meaning of the Masonic movement.

The story begins as a romantic fairy tale and though it later takes on serious religious significance, its intent was really only popular entertainment with songs and gags. It is a love story, highly moral, with good and evil personified on stage. With the Magic Flute itself able to help ward off wild animals, raging fires, and torrential waters, it suggests the workings of the supernatural amongst ordinary human beings.



HORST GEBHARDT DIETER SCHLOZ
INGE UIBEL MAGDALENA FALEWICS
GEWANDHAUS ORCHESTRA CONDUCTED BY GERT BAHNER



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An Opera in two acts

Libretto by Emanuel Schikaneder

World premiere: Vienna, Theater auf der Wieden, September 30, 1791

U.S. Premiere: New York, Park Theater, April 17, 1833

The Gewandhaus Orchester of Leipzig conducted by Gert Bahner

Choreographed by Marion Schurath

156 minutes plus additional Bonus Features, Color,
VIEW DVD #2408 \$19.98

Sung in Original German

DVD BONUS FEATURES

- The Magic Flute Synopsis
- Cast & Characters
- Interesting Facts
- DVD Recommendations
- Remastered Dolby Stereo Audio
- Instant Access to the Arias
- Digitally Mastered Audio & Video

Time: About the period of Pharaoh Ramses I

Place: Egypt

Cast in order of singing:

Tamino , an Egyptian prince	Horst Gebhardt, tenor
Papageno , a bird-catcher	Dieter Schloz, baritone
The Queen of the Night	Inge Uibel, soprano
Pamina , daughter of The Queen of the Night	Magdalena Falewicz, soprano
Speaker of the temple of Isis, a priest	Rainer Ludeke, bass
Sarastro , High Priest of Isis and Osiris	Hermann Christian Polster, bass
Papagena	Heidrun Halx, soprano



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