

“Living people can dance, the dying cannot”, Prokofiev wrote to explain the problems he faced when writing music for the ballet *Romeo and Juliet*. His original score was rejected as ‘undanceable’ by the Bolshoy Theatre and his initial scheme for a happy ending for the lovers was, fortunately, vetoed. The revised score, however, proved a masterpiece of expressive beauty and drama, with melting love music and huge bravura, and it remains one of the most loved ballet scores of the twentieth century.

Sergey PROKOFIEV

(1891–1953)

Romeo and Juliet, Op. 64

Ballet in Four Acts (Highlights)

Act I

- | | |
|------------------------|------|
| 1 Introduction | 2:51 |
| 2 The Street Wakens | 2:26 |
| 3 Morning Dance | 2:20 |
| 4 The Young Juliet | 3:31 |
| 5 Masks | 2:47 |
| 6 Dance of the Knights | 5:50 |
| 7 Mercutio | 2:23 |
| 8 Madrigal | 3:59 |
| 9 Gavotte | 3:47 |
| 10 Balcony Scene | 3:51 |
| 11 Romeo's Variation | 1:14 |
| 12 Love Dance | 5:44 |

Act II

- | | |
|------------------------------|------|
| 13 Dance with Mandolins | 2:07 |
| 14 Romeo at Friar Laurence's | 3:28 |
| 15 Public Merrymaking | 3:48 |
| 16 The Duel | 1:31 |
| 17 Death of Mercutio | 2:56 |
| 18 Finale | 2:12 |

Act III

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| 19 Introduction | 1:18 |
| 20 Romeo Bids Juliet Farewell | 5:42 |
| 21 Aubade | 2:31 |

Act IV

- | | |
|---------------------|------|
| 22 Juliet's Funeral | 6:21 |
| 23 Juliet's Death | 3:59 |

National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine
Andrew Mogrelia

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Producers: George Orobynsky, Alexander Hornostai • From complete recording: Naxos 8.553184–85
Booklet notes: Keith Anderson • Cover photo © Yuri Arcurs / Dreamstime.com



8.572928

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Playing Time
77:21



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Booklet notes in English