

Rusalka

A Mermaid's Tale

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Use this handbook to get ready to perform
Rusalka: A Mermaid's Tale with Opera for the Young

READY, SET, OPERA!

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For Practice Videos and Rehearsal Tracks, visit

OFTY.ORG/TMS

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Illustrations by Ingrid Kallick; design concept and costumes by Karen Brown-Larimore

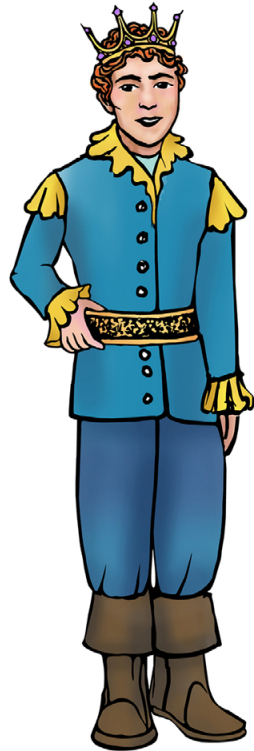
Rusalka



Sea King/Prime Minister



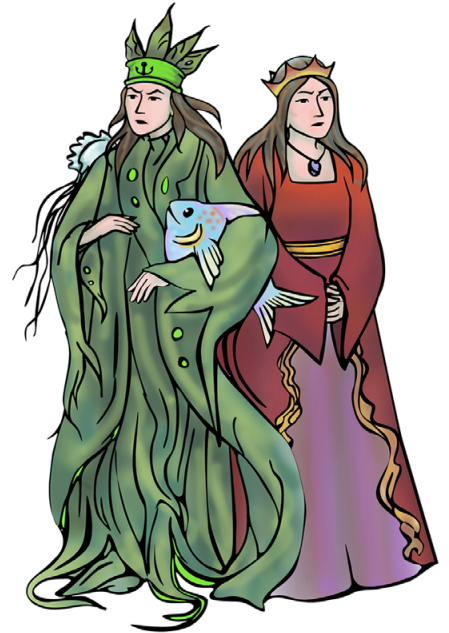
Creatures of the Reef/
Foreign Dignitaries



The Prince



Rusalka



Jezibaba/Foreign Princess



Spiny Urchins

Rusalka

Prince

Jezibaba / Foreign Princess

Sea King / Prime Minister

Creatures of the Reef / Foreign Dignitaries

Spiny Urchins

OFTY Artist

OFTY Artist

OFTY Artist

OFTY Artist

Student Chorus

Student*

*Your teacher will select these individuals ahead of time

PLOT SYNOPSIS

OVERTURE The Prince arrives at the seashore, searching for a mermaid (Rusalka) he has seen playing in the ocean. He becomes trapped by a huge blob of kelp and – as he's struggling to escape – the mermaid rescues him!

ACT ONE The good-hearted Creatures of the Coral Reef report this news to Rusalka's father, the Sea King. Rusalka admits that she's in love with a human and insists she will only be happy if she becomes human, too. The King warns her that she is making a bad decision and is in great danger. But, Rusalka asks Jezibaba, the Sea Witch, to turn her into a woman. Jezibaba makes a magic potion and gives it to the mermaid. The witch adds a curse to the magic spell: the Prince won't be able to hear anything Rusalka says up on land. Also, if the romance doesn't work out, Rusalka must come back to the ocean and become Jezibaba's kelp (seaweed) slave! Rusalka agrees and drinks the potion. The Prince returns to the seashore and finds the silent girl stepping out of the ocean. He takes her away to his castle.

SCENE CHANGE Jezibaba changes into the costume of a Foreign Princess and goes up on shore so she can wreck Rusalka's chances with the Prince. The Sea King changes into the costume of a Foreign Minister and follows the evil witch so he can keep an eye on her!

ACT TWO At the castle, the Foreign Dignitaries and Foreign Minister (Sea King in disguise) attend a party in honor of the Prince and his silent girl friend. The Foreign Princess (Jezibaba in disguise) causes all sorts of trouble for Rusalka who finally runs away, heartbroken. She knows she must now return to the sea and serve Jezibaba! The Prince follows her down to the shore, confused by his feelings. Rusalka appears covered in seaweed and the Prince is frightened and turns away.

Underwater once again, Rusalka begs Jezibaba for help. The Creatures of the Coral Reef convince the witch to give their friend one last chance. Jezibaba agrees but warns that the Prince must love Rusalka for her inner beauty (since she's an ugly seaweed slave) and then give up his life on land. The Prince appears and frees Rusalka from the seaweed and the two live happily ever after in the ocean!

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENT CHORUS & ROLES

Here are some tips that will help you read the script.

- The green bubbles “set the scene” and provide a brief description of what is happening onstage.

Once upon a time...

- Stage directions will be in blue and inside parentheses. All movement will be simple and led by the OFTY artists.

(OFTY Artists then seat **CHORUS**)

- All **CHORUS** words are **bold**, sung **CHORUS** words (lyrics) *are also italicized*.
- Visit our website (with adult permission) and follow along with the Video Tutorials to rehearse at home!

ofty.org/tms

- NOTE: The **REEF** is the area near the pianist where the **CHORUS** sits during the show when they are not involved in the onstage action.
- NOTE:  Click on the play buttons in the instructions to practice with the Tutorial Videos. Get started with  **#1 MEET THE CAST!**

RUSALKA: A MERMAID’S TALE

When the show begins, the **CHORUS** is in the **REEF**. During the piano overture, the Prince gets tangled in seaweed and Rusalka rescues him. The audience and **CHORUS** will react to the scene with a few sound effects (gasp, “Oh no!”, “Aww!”). Once the Prince is safe, the Sea King will lead the **CHORUS** onstage for their first song.

#2 OVERTURE AND “HO, HO, HO”

CHORUS: *Ho, ho, ho*
Ho, ho, ho
We have a secret you don’t know!

Sea King: You do?

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENT CHORUS & ROLES continued

CHORUS: Yes!

Dear Rusalka, mermaid daughter, she loves one above the water.

Now, she's rescued him who sought her!

Ho, ho, ho, try to catch us – off we go!

(6-measure dance break)

½ CHORUS: *Ho, ho, ho (etcetera...)*

Group One

½ CHORUS: *Ho, ho, ho (etcetera...)*

Group Two

CHORUS: *Ho, ho, ho*

Ho, ho, ho

We have a secret you don't know!

Sea King: You do?

CHORUS: Yes!

Every evening we could see her,

Hoping somehow love would free her.

Then a man came down to meet her,

But the Sea Witch trapped him in the undertow!

(4-measure dance break)

Ho, ho, ho

Ho, ho, ho

Ho, ho, ho

Ho, ho, ho

Ho, ho, ho, ho, ho!

(The **CHORUS** remains in place while the Sea King sings until he sends them back to the **REEF**)

After the Sea King's aria, he will call for the **SPINY URCHINS** to step forward and tell him about his daughter, Rusalka.

#3 SPINY URCHIN LINES (Part 1 with Sea King)

Sea King: You, urchins! What's this I hear about Rusalka?

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENT CHORUS & ROLES continued

URCHINS: Help the mermaid! Yes, you must!
Be a father wise and just.
Give advice, agree to guide her.
She would like a world that's wider

(The **SEA URCHINS** poke their spines (fingers) at the Sea King, who shoos them back to the **REEF**)

In a while, Rusalka goes to Jezibaba, the Sea Witch, and asks for a potion so she can become human. In the middle of Jezibaba's aria, the **CHORUS** will sing two identical musical phrases on "ooo" along with the Sea King (who'll be singing the same notes in falsetto, his super high range).

#4 "OOO"

Jezibaba: *Magic potion do not dread, drink it up now, do not dread!*

CHORUS: Ooo... (sing while the next two lines are spoken)

Jezibaba: If you fail to find happiness as a human, do you swear to return to the sea and serve me as a kelp slave?

Rusalka: Yes, yes!

(... then a few moments later)

Jezibaba: *Sauce is thin but will reduce, quite delicious slimy juice!*

CHORUS: Ooo... (sing while Jezibaba sings her last line)

Jezibaba: Moozshie, goozshie muck, moozshie, goozshie muck
Little human on your way
With a curse, with a curse: He won't hear a single word you say!

(**CHORUS** will be directed back to the **REEF** by the OFTY cast, who will help the **CHORUS** quickly remove their Coral Reef costumes to reveal Foreign Dignitary sashes.)

Act Two begins with a party at the Prince's palace. The Foreign Princess and Rusalka are both trying to get the Prince's attention. The **CHORUS** of Foreign Dignitaries is gossiping ("ps, ps, ps") and pointing towards the trio, then explains the scene to the Prime Minister and to the audience.

#5 "SUCH A RUMPUS"

Sea King: *Now what? Now what? What is happening?
Tell me, tell me, all of you! Tell me now! Tell me now!*

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENT CHORUS & ROLES continued

(**CHORUS** walks onstage, gossiping - “ps, ps, ps” - with their neighbors and pointing at the Foreign Princess, the Prince, and Rusalka as they walk.)

CHORUS: *Such a rumpus, what a party!*
 But to stare is not polite!
 First, the Prince is so charming,
 Don't look now – it's alarming,
 How that Foreign Princess tries to break up romance here tonight!
 First, the Prince is so charming,
 Don't look now – it's alarming,
 How that Foreign Princess tries to break up romance,
 break up romance here tonight!
 This one starts to flirt now, that one looks so hurt now,
 Scandal might become a brawl soon –
 What is happ'ning in the ballroom?

(In a while, the **CHORUS** performs a march led by the OFTY cast, and then marches backstage to put their Coral Reef costumes back on before returning to the **REEF**.)

After the Sea King sings to Rusalka, they have some dialogue and the **CHORUS** makes a few sound effects from the **REEF**.

#6 CREATURE SOUNDS

Rusalka: Oh, Father, it is true: my heart is breaking. But, returning to the sea will not bring me happiness.

Sea King: And, why not? The creatures of the reef do nothing but laugh

(**CHORUS** laughs heartily – but, briefly)

and sing

(**CHORUS** sings happily – but, briefly)

and eat

(**CHORUS** makes smacking and munching noises loudly – but, briefly)

all day long!

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENT CHORUS & ROLES continued

Later in the opera, the **SPINY URCHINS** try to convince Jezibaba to let Rusalka and the Prince have one last chance to find happiness together..

#3 SPINY URCHIN LINES (Part 2 with Jezibaba)

Rusalka: Help, friends! Urchins!

URCHINS: Hail to you, oh magic one!
 You have had your evil fun.
 Here's a chance to do some good:
 Let that Prince try as he would to see her beauty beneath the surface...
 Now that will serve a better purpose!

(The **SEA URCHINS** poke their spines (fingers) at Jezibaba, who shoos them back in line with the rest of the **CHORUS**.)

The **CHORUS** sings their final song directly following the **SPINY URCHIN** lines, using their most beautiful voices to warm Jezibaba's heart. Jezibaba listens - and even joins in a little - as the music changes her mind.

#7 "AH WHAT A LOVELY NIGHT"

CHORUS: Ah, what a lovely night!
 Ah, let their dream take flight!
 Like the silver flying fish gliding over each wave,
 If they can but have one wish,
 We know they will be brave!
 Ah, what a lovely night!
 Ah, let their dream take flight!

(As Jezibaba swims past the **CHORUS**, who nibble and poke at her kelp (wiggle fingers) before shoos the **CHORUS** back to the **REEF**.)

Jezibaba: All right, all right! Urchins, if you will stop this infernal tickling and pestering, I will make a proclamation! Hear ye, hear ye, Rusalka has one last chance to win her prince!

(**CHORUS** cheers)

(The **CHORUS** remains seated in the **REEF** until the end of the opera when an OFTY cast member will instruct them to rise and join in a little celebratory dance during the final song and bows during the curtain call.)

#8 FULL RUNS WITH THE CAST

CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT? Page 1 of 2

Create your own musical story! Decide WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN and HOW. You choose which brainstorm comes first. When you finish, if you like, you can 'tell' your story by putting together all of your ideas – by yourself or with classmates, friends or family!

WHO

Sample Story:

Octopus
Jellyfish
Starfish
Sea Horse

Imagine your characters. Draw ideas and write about your picture.

WHAT

Sample Story:

Octopus goes fast, doing something different with each arm.

Starfish likes to go slow.

Starfish and Octopus are assigned to work together in school, can't agree on pace.

Starfish and Jellyfish help their friends see the good in each other.

This is your plan or action. Draw ideas and write about your picture.

CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT? Page 2 of 2

This is your location. Draw ideas and write about your picture.

WHERE

Sample Story:

Fish school in a
Coral Reef

WHEN

This is the time. Draw ideas and write about your picture.

Sample Story:

Current time

In what way will events unfold? Draw ideas and write about your picture.

HOW

Sample Story:

Create paper arms and
tentacles.

Color pictures of each
creature and pin it to your
shirt.

GLOSSARY OF WORDS FROM *RUSALKA: A MERMAID'S TALE*

(In order of occurrence and what they mean in the libretto)

<i>undertow</i>	waves break onshore and then strongly pull things back out to sea
<i>coral reef</i>	stony-looking formations of coral (accumulation over thousands of years of tiny animals' skeletons) rising near or to the surface of warm seas
<i>black tip shark</i>	fast-swimming shark often found in shallow water
<i>angel fish</i>	brightly-colored reef fish with blunt snout and vertical, Frisbee-shaped body
<i>urchins</i>	ball-shaped sea animal covered with long, movable spines (related to star fish)
<i>merman</i>	male mermaid
<i>delirious</i>	uncontrollably excited
<i>sever</i>	cut, break off
<i>mortal</i>	human
<i>fleeting</i>	passing quickly
<i>mystic</i>	mysterious and wonderful
<i>sea kelp</i>	large, sturdy seaweed
<i>rumble</i>	fragments or bits and pieces
<i>implore</i>	beg, plead
<i>gullet</i>	throat
<i>saline</i>	containing salt
<i>moozshie goozshie muck</i>	made-up words describing yucky potion
<i>tentacle</i>	long wiggly armlike appendage (squid, octopus and jelly fish all have them)
<i>spotted moray</i>	large, hungry eel
<i>squid ink</i>	murky liquid squirted out by angry or frightened squids
<i>earthly foray</i>	first trip onto land

GLOSSARY OF WORDS FROM *RUSALKA* continued

<i>hammerhead</i>	shark with eyes on either end of oddly-shaped head
<i>granulated</i>	ground up
<i>sturgeon</i>	large fish with spiky ridge on back
<i>sucker</i>	suction cups on octopus tentacles
<i>reverie</i>	a daydream
<i>rhapsody</i>	poetic expression of great enthusiasm
<i>lunar tide</i>	gravitational pull, or, attraction of moon
<i>nymph</i>	a female spirit
<i>amphibious</i>	able to live on land and in water
<i>rumpus</i>	noisy disturbance
<i>brawl</i>	fight
<i>enhance</i>	make better
<i>deplorable, measly</i>	very bad, pathetic
<i>gallant</i>	polite
<i>smoldering</i>	burning
<i>bondage</i>	held as servant
<i>discord hearken</i>	be aware of tension
<i>sorrow, woe</i>	deep sadness, trouble
<i>forsaken</i>	deserted or given up
<i>warm-blooded</i>	keeping constant, warm body temperature
<i>transform</i>	change into something/someone else
<i>wedded bliss</i>	happiness in marriage
<i>serve a greater purpose</i>	be more valuable
<i>flying fish</i>	fish with large side fins that propel them over surface of the sea
<i>captive</i>	captured
<i>brine</i>	salt water

RUSALKA: A MERMAID'S TALE WORD SEARCH



undertow
urchins
mystic
gullet
squid ink
sturgeon
lunar tide
brawl
smoldering
sorrow
transform
brine

coral reef
delirious
sea kelp
saline
earthly foray
sucker
nymph
enhance
bondage
woe
wedded bliss

black tip shark
mortal
rubble
tentacle
hammerhead
reverie
amphibious
deplorable
discord
forsaken
flying fish

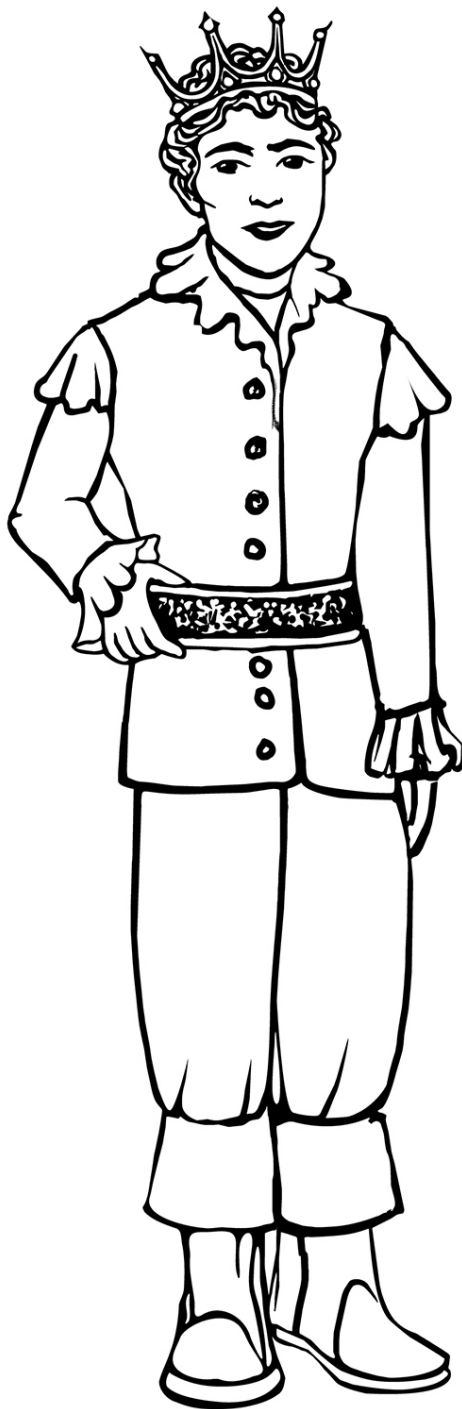
angel fish
fleeting
implore
spotted moray
granulated
rhapsody
rumpus
gallant
hearken
warm blooded
captive

RUSALKA



Character drawings by Ingrid Kallick

PRINCE



Character drawings by Ingrid Kallick

JEZIBABA / FOREIGN PRINCESS



Character drawings by Ingrid Kallick

SEA KING / PRIME MINISTER



Character drawings by Ingrid Kallick

CREATURES OF THE CORAL REEF / FOREIGN DIGNITARIES



Character drawings by Ingrid Kallick

SPINY URCHINS



Character drawings by Ingrid Kallick

Rusalka

A Mermaid's Tale

Score adapted and arranged by Jeffrey Sykes
Original libretto by Diane Garton Edie

Source music by Antonín Dvořák's
Czech libretto by Jaroslav Kvapil

STUDENT CHORUS MUSIC WORDS AND MELODY

<i>Ho, Ho, Ho</i>	Page 21
<i>Ooo</i>	Page 23
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Visit Opera for the Young's website for
Practice Videos and Rehearsal Tracks

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HO, HO, HO MELODY PAGE 1 of 2

(Pno.)

All *fz* *rit.* *f* Ho, Ho, Ho, Ho, Ho, Ho!

5 *rit.* **SEA KING: You do?**
CREATURES: Yes!

All We have a se - cret you don't know!

9 *mf mezza voce*

All Dear Ru - sal - ka, mer - maid daugh-ter she loves one a - bove the wa - ter!

13

All Now she's res - cued him who sought her! Ho, Ho, Ho,

16 *f* 6

All Try to catch us off we go!

23 *fz* *fz*

Grp. I Ho, Ho, Ho! Ho, Ho, Ho!

Grp. II *fz* *fz*

Ho, Ho, Ho! Ho, Ho, Ho!

27

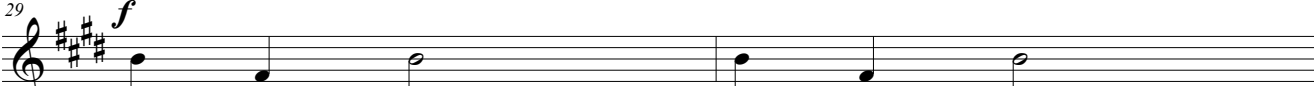
Grp. I *>* Ho, Ho, Ho, Ho,

Grp. II *>* Ho, Ho, Ho, Ho,

HO, HO, HO MELODY PAGE 2 of 2

29 *f*

All

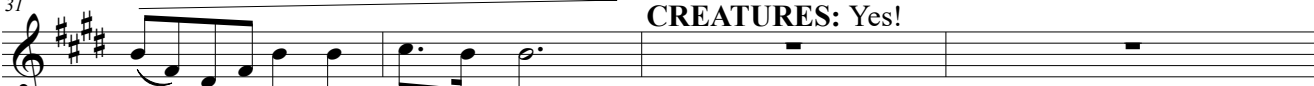


Ho, Ho, Ho, Ho, Ho, Ho!

31

All

Tempo I
SEA KING: You do?
CREATURES: Yes!



We have a se - cret you don't know!

35 *p*

All



Ev' - ry eve - ning we could see her, hop - ing some - how love would free her.

39 *p* *mf* *f*

All



Then a man came down to meet her, but the Sea Witch trapped him in the un - der-tow!

43 *mf*

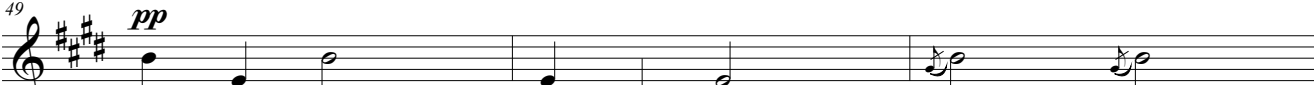
All



Ho, Ho, Ho! Ho, Ho, Ho!

49 *pp*

All



Ho, Ho, Ho! Ho, Ho, Ho! Ho, Ho,

52 *sffz*

All



Ho, Ho, Ho!

OOO MELODY

Jezibaba

Ma - gic po - tion do not dread, drink it up now do not dread!

7 CHORUS and SEA KING (offstage falsetto):

Oo

15

21

Jezibaba

Sauce is

39

rit. in tempo

thin but will re - duce, quite de - li - cious sli - my juice

44

rit.

Moo - shie goo - shie muck,

CHORUS and SEA KING (offstage falsetto):

Oo

47

moo - shie goo - shie muck Lit - tle hu - man on your way

SUCH A RUMPUS MELODY

(Pno.)

Chorus

5

C

Such a rum - pus, what a par - ty! But to stare is not po - lite!

10

C

First, the Prince is so charm - ing, don't look now, it's a-larm - ing, how that for - eign Prin-cess tries to

16

C

break up ro-mance here to-night! First the Prince is so charm - ing, don't look now, it's a-larm - ing,

22

C

how that for - eign Prin-cess tries to break up ro - mance, break up ro - mance here to-night!

27

C

p mezza voce

This one starts to flirt now, that one looks so

33

C

hurt now, scan - dal might be - come a brawl soon! What is happ' - ning

37

C

in the ball - room?

rit.

AH WHAT A LOVELY NIGHT MELODY

Chorus

(Pno.) *pp* *ppp* **Larghetto** Ah, — What a love - ly night! Ah, —

Larghetto

6 *pp* Let their dream take flight! Like the sil - ver fly - ing fish glid - ing ov - er each wave.

11 *p* If they can but have one wish, we — know they will be brave! Ah! —

16 *mf* — What a love - ly night! Ah! —

21 Let — their — dream take flight! 6