The Magic Knight

A one act operetta

By Victor Herbert

Libretto by Edgar Smith

1906

Cast
King, bass-baritone
Herald, baritone
Frederick, baritone, Wants to be the Duke
Ortrud, mezzo, Frederick’s wife, sorceress
Elsa, coloratura soprano, Sings cadenzas
Lohengrin, tenor, The magic Knight
Godfrey, baritone, Elsa’s brother

Chorus, SATB
Musical numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>title</th>
<th>who</th>
<th>page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prelude</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At the gath’ring here</td>
<td>Chorus</td>
<td>opening chorus 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as assembled</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fanfare</td>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our King is here</td>
<td>Chorus, King, Knight</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Go on my dear</td>
<td>Ortrud, Frederick, King, Chorus, (Elsa)</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A modest operatic maiden</td>
<td>Elsa, Chorus, King</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In a strenuous grand opera</td>
<td>Elsa, Chorus</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>moment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>That seems fair enough</td>
<td>Recitative: King, Elsa, Frederick, Ortrud</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A fairy boat</td>
<td>Elsa, Ortrud, Frederick, King, Chorus</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Knight am I</td>
<td>Lohengrin, Chorus</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He is a magic knight</td>
<td>Ortrud, Frederick, Lohengrin, King, Elsa, Chorus, (Godfrey)</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alas, my dearest maiden</td>
<td>Lohengrin, Ortrud, Frederick, Elsa, Company</td>
<td>Finale 81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Revision 1.04

Note: The music plays continuously. Divisions are for convenience in rehearsal. Measure numbers correspond with the orchestra parts.

Synopsis

The chorus introduces itself, indicating that they have no regard for rhythm, beat or bar, and for lyrics, they only know “Tra-la.” The story briefly lampoons that of the legend Wagner used in Lohengrin.

The King enters and the Knight tells him that Elsa is the first case. Elsa is accused of murdering her brother, Godfrey by Frederick and his domineering wife Ortrud who want to inherit her estate. Elsa claims she is only guilty of singing cadenzas. The King calls fairyland twice, finally reaching Lohengrin. Following a lovely quartet, Lohengrin arrives riding on a swan. Ortrud admits she had changed Godfrey to the swan and Lohengrin changes him back, showing that Elsa is not guilty. But since Elsa asks Lohengrin his name, his power is broken and he must return to fairyland (singing gaily). The chorus ends the show with Elsa heartbroken, but singing a “volley of trills and a skyrocket note on “Tra la” like a human canary.
Prelude

Victor Herbert

Lento \( \frac{d}{=60} \)

Piano

Andantino \( \frac{d}{=50} \)

VI- Orchestra score suggests cut from 5 to 15

Flute

Clarinet simile

©
1. At the gath'ring here assembled

Opening chorus

Victor Herbert

Andante comodo \( \frac{d}{=120} \)

---

At the gath'-ring here as-sem-bled, Great com-
comes to vo-cal-iz-ing The Con-
pos-ers hearts have trem-bled And Lib-
ret-
tists have grown pre-
no re-gard for ry-
old.

Still they
Be it

---

©
1. At the gath'ring here assembled

all bow down before us, For the operatic chorus, On the
Faust or Rig o let to, All our knowledge of libretto, Is con-

pub lic has se cured a strang e hold, Tho' sup posed to be har mon ic, We're a
fined within the limits of "tra la." But we'll hold our sit u a tion, If for

nui sance his tri on ic, That no auth or or com pos er dare sup-
front row fasci na tion, We dis play at all times spe cial apt i-
1. At the gath'ring here assembled

press.
...tude. They would like to do with-out us. But some sub-tle charm a-bout us, Makes us...n our val-ue's not af-fect-ed, If our cos-tumes are se-lect-ed, For ap-

fig-ure in all pop-u-lar suc-cess.

par-ent use in tor-id lat-i

2. When it
1. At the gath'ring here assembled

Effigz. And so with all our tude. Allegro giocoso

fail - ings, We're not ac - count - ed bad, When due at - ten - tion's ren - dered To pow - der paint and
1. At the gath'ring here assembled

S+A

And tho' our chic demeanor or is

T+B

pad.

Pno.

34

S+A

painless to the star.

37

S+A

wholly irrelevant

40

S+A

Tra la la la la la.
1. At the gath'ring here assembled

Tempo di Schottische. $\frac{\text{d}}{\text{q}}=120$ Moderato

S+A

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{Tra la la la la la}, \\
\text{Tra la la la la la}, \\
\text{Tra la la la la la},
\end{array}
\]

T+B

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{Tra la la la la la}, \\
\text{Tra la la la la la}, \\
\text{Tra la la la la la},
\end{array}
\]

Pno.

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{Tempo di Schottische. $\frac{\text{d}}{\text{q}}=120$ Moderato} \\
\text{3rd time \textbf{pp}}
\end{array}
\]
We are the merriest operatic choruses, We carry everything before us, We personate the army of our noble King, Go marching off to battle with a
1. At the gath'ring here assembled

[Music notation]

military swing, When the trum-pets and the horns are toot-ing, And

mar-tial-ly we're ev - o - lut-ing, There's no long - er an - y doubt, If you

cut the Chor - us out, You would do a fool - ish thing, Tan ta
1. At the gath'ring here assembled

Unis.

ra, Tan ta ra, Tan ta ra ta ta ta ta Bing! Bing!

Tempo I

Tan ta ra ta ta

Tempo I

Tan ta ra ta ta
2a. Fanfare

Entrance of the King

Victor Herbert

Piano

\[\text{Allegro animato} \quad \text{q}=80\]

\[L'\text{istesso tempo}\]

\[\text{Enter Herald}\]

\[\text{Trumpets}\]

©
2b. Our King is here

King, Herald and Chorus

Victor Herbert
2b. Our King is here

Am here. And now that I am here, __________ Cut

out all those thing-um-bobs or-ches-tra! __________ And get right down to bus -

What is the first case on the dock-et?

The case of
2b. Our King is here

El - sa what?

El - sa what?

El - sa what?

El - sa what?

El - sa what?
what? Her last name is not stated.

Ah, well it does not matter. Produce the complaints.
03. Go on my dear

Ortrud, Frederick, King, Chorus, (Elsa)  

Victor Herbert

Marziale maestoso \( d = 100 \)

Enter Ortrud and Frederick

Go on my dear, and state your case.

I dare not! With fear my heart is

©
Ort

pleasant when you're out with me. You do behave so married._

Fred

harried._

Pno.

accel.

King

(business of family spat)

This

Pno. (molto accel)

Impatiently

'Tis here sire. In the

Fred

is no time nor place for marital alteration. Explain your case.

King

Pno.
03. Go on my dear

Fred

form of a recitation. I will recite it.

Pno.

Would be a profanation! You're not at Keith's or Savoy Proc-tor's. We'll stay

land you at the quiet as a doctor's mouse. If you should spring on us a comic rec-

Pno.
Back! Back! Back! If your King can stand it, you can!

Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah!

Pro-ceed, if you must do it, We'll do our best to worry through it.
Frederick (reading)
When years ago my brother died,
went off the skids

When years ago my brother died,
went off the skids

Well, time jogged on for
many happy years.

Well, time jogged on for
many happy years,

Until at last, one fatal
day,

Forgive these tears,

Elsa, by some mischance of fate
became aware that

Godfrey, her brother was his
Pa's sole heir,

(cries bitterly)

(cries bitterly)

And so one night
She lured him to our castle park,

And there where flows the
river deep and dark,

With one fell toss into the tossing tide
she tossed him.

Godfrey, her brother was his
Pa's sole heir,

(cries bitterly)

(cries bitterly)

The maid by terms of
will was destined for my
bride. But I

denounce the murderous
damned sistercide.

Her hand in holy wedlock
I refuse to
Besides, he's married elsewhere.

Very much.

A very dreadful tale.

We're thankful to the band, That spared us hearing most of it.

Bring the maid before us.

Tenor and Bass divisi

Oh, horror! Oh horror! Oh horror! Oh horror!

Allegro
03. Go on my dear

Elsa

Ort

Tenor

Pno.

Segue
04. A modest operatic maiden

Elsa, King, Chorus

Victor Herbert

Tempo di valse - Lento

Piano

Enter six maidens

Elsa

8
poco rit

Enter Elsa

A modest operatic maiden

Pno.
poco rit

13

1. With down-cast eyes of heav'n-ly blue; A blush more tender than a zephyr

With fair-est eyes that speak so true.

Pno.

17

sigh, And golden hair of sun-set hue,

With dusky hair of mid-night blue.

Pno.
scherzando
04. A modest operatic maiden

Elsa

gentle voice can shame the night in
gale, With roses fair, my lips compare, In

\[\text{\(\text{Pno.}\)}\]

fact my kind of unaffected air, Is off the stage exceeding rare.

Cadenza

Ah! Ah!

\[\text{\(\text{Pno.}\)}\]

Ah! I'm

\[\text{\(\text{Flute}\)}\]

colla voce
04. A modest operatic maiden

Elsa

such a modest little maiden; My simple heart with fear is

Elsa

laden. If some bold man should at me wink his eye, I'm

Elsa

very sure I should curl up and die. Ah!

Elsa

Ah

Ah

Ah
04. A modest operatic maiden

Elsa

Chorus

She's such a modest little maiden, Her

Pno.

Ah_

Pno.
with fear I'm laden

simply heart with fear is laden. If some bold man should at her

wink his eye, I'm very sure she would curl up and die. At her winked his eyes, I'm sure she'd curl up and die, Oh my!
04. A modest operatic maiden
04. A modest operatic maiden

Elsa

Chorus

Pno.

60

Tempo guisto

Elsa

King

Chorus

Tempo guisto

Pno.
Elisa

I know not what I'm charged with, Un- less it be ca-

kit- ten-is h For a dam- sel charged as you are.

I know not what I'm charged with, Un- less it be ca-

Ah Ah Ah

Ah Ah

'I death, have you not in- formed her of the crime she has com- mit- ted?

Ah Ah

Ah Ah
Ort

I did forget it.

King

Forget it? Forget it? Forget it!

Chorus

Yes forget it?

Pno.

Lento

Come Elsa don't be frightened. If

Chorus

Proceed to judgment.

Pno.

Lento
Elsa: I hardly know just what to do. I'll say "No" just to spite you.

King: you are guilty say so.

Then

Pno.

Fred: A knight to fight me! Gad-zooks I'm

Recit.

King: I must call up fairy-land, To send some Knight to fight you.

Pno.
Fred

diz - zy. Give me Fairyland. (Hanging up receiver) What's that? The wire's busy.

King

Chorus

Pno.

04. A modest operatic maiden

Fred

King

Chorus

Pno.

Tempo di Valse

Tempo di Valse
04. A modest operatic maiden

Chorus

```latex
\text{is he}
```

```latex
\text{where is he?}
```

Segue
05. In a strenuous grand opera moment

Elsa and chorus

Victor Herbert

Tempo di Valse

Elsa

Tempo di Valse

Piano

In a stren - u - ous grand op 'ra

mo - ment like this, When my last hope is pinned to a fai - ry;

It is quite plain to

see, That it's right up to me, To make good as a hu - man ca - na - ry.
For I've always observed that the one road to bliss, For a Con-reid or
Gilbert and

Hammerstein Star Is to air all her ills in a volley of
Sullivan

Ah

trills And a sky rocketnote on
All solos and chorus

In a strenuous grand operatic moment like this, When her last hope is

---

pinned to a fairy.

It is quite plain to see, When in trouble that

---
she must make good as a human canary, For we've always observed that the one road to bliss, For a Con-reid or Gilbert and Hammerstein Sul- li- van
05. In a strenuous operatic moment

accel.

Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah

Is to air all her ills in a volley of

pesante

rit.

Ah trills

And a sky-rock-et note on Ah

trills

And a sky-rock-et note on Tra-

pesante

rit.
05. In a strenuous operatic moment
05b. That seems fair enough

Recitative: King, Elsa, Frederick, Ortrud

Frederick: Sire!
We demand a judgement!

Ortrud: And the maiden's estates as a reward for proving her guilt.

That seems fair enough.

And I will grant it. The maid's condemned.

The maid's condemned.
Chorus

demned, And just-ly too. A dreadful deed it was to

Pno. (Gong)

Elsa

I pray you phone to fairy land a-gain, Or

do.

Chorus

Pno.
05b. That seems fair enough

Elsa

let the her-ald's trum-pet rend the sky.

Some

wand-'ring Knight may hear the war-like strain,

And

drop in here my un-cle to de-fy.

Trumpets

Listesso tempo

Segue
6. A fairy boat
Elsa, Ortrud, Frederick, King, Chorus

Andante

Elsa
Piano

pp

pp

Andante

A fairy boat up on the

Elsa
Ort.
Fred
Pno.

A fairy boat

I'm forced to

note

tide appears to float with man in

A fairy boat floats down the

©
side______ A noble Knight on rescue

tide which would denote the cards have lied.

That down the tide a fairy boat

I'm forced to

A fairy boat
06. A fairy boat

Elsa

Ort.

Fred

King

Chorus

Pno.

bent Your wicked spite 6 6 6
to circum-

The cards have lied. The cards have

with man inside. A fairy boat doth

note That down the tide a boat doth

A fairy boat up on the
Elsa

Your wicked spite to circumvent

Ort.

The cards have lied.

Fred

The magic Knight on

up on the tide, a boat.

King

boat appears to glide.

Chorus

With man inside

Pno.
06. A fairy boat

Elsa

A fairy boat now up on the tide

Ort.

flight is bent.

The magic Knight

Fred

A noble Knight on rescue

King

no - ble Knight on rescue bent,

And

marcato

Chorus

Knight.

Their

Pno.

boat now up on the tide

The magic Knight

no - ble Knight on rescue bent,

And

marcato

Knight.

Their
Appears to float with a man inside.

on flight is bent.

The dust I'll bite that's ev - i -

he looks quite a husk - y gent. A no - ble

to cir - cum - vent.

spite

If you seek fight, It's

bent

due
Elsa

'Tis a noble Knight

Ort.

on my rescue bent,

time you went,

Fred
dent.
The dust I'll

King

Knight on rescue bent, And he looks

Chorus

a boat we note

Pno.

...
06. A fairy boat

Elsa

Ort.

Fred

King

Chorus

Pno.

Knight on flight is bent.

bite, That's evident.

quite a husky, husky, husky gent.

A boat we note appears to float. A fairy boat upon the
A noble Knight

If you seek flight,
The dust I'll bite,
A husky gent

tide appears to float with man inside

That's everything

on rescue

on rescue

on rescue
Elsa

Ort.

Fred

King

Chorus

Pno.

He comes your wicked spite to
If you seek flight it's time, it's
Ah the dust I'll bite That's
A husky gentleman on

noble Knight on rescue bent their spite their wicked spite to
bent their spite their wicked spite to

bent their spite their spite
Ah,

Ah, look who's here who's here

Ah, look who's here who's here.
Ah look who's here!
7. A Knight am I
Lohengrin, Chorus

Victor Herbert

Allegro

Entrance and song

Lohengrin

Piano

A Knight am I, I'm called upon for aid by any perfect nobleman, who owes his birth to magic, A pampered pet and very debonair; And under circumstances either farcical or

©
trag-ic, A
shad-y De-
light- ed to re-
move him from
the
earth.

To
tell you all my
val-i-ant de-
eds would be a
bed-time

sto-ry, At
sight-ly, To
fair-y land I
am rath-
er pressed for
time;

The his-
try of my
ten-or stunts and
ef-forts am-
a-

The one re-
ward al-
lowed me is to
tip my hat po-
to-ry Are set forth in most books of Ger-
mend "lau-

data'-lry, sa-

lute the maiden's fin-
ger-tips and say.

dar-ling When-

ev-er dan-ger threat-

ens you, you'll find me near at

hand. Ta-ta! Ta-ta! My dain-
ty lit-
tle
7. A Knight am I

darling, A knight on ladies service I

Yours truly, to command.

Tata! Tata! My dainty little Tata! Tata!
7. A Knight am I

 darling. When- ev- er dan- ger threat- ens you, you'll find me near at

 hand. Ta ta! Ta Ta! My dain- ty lit- tle

 Ta ta! Ta ta!
A knight on ladies service

darling.

Yours truly,

Yours truly,

rit.
8. He is a magic knight

Elsa, Ortrud, Frederick, Lohengrin, King, chorus (Godfrey)  

Victor Herbert

He is a magic knight. His victory that in...
Where is the villain I'm supposed to slaughter? Fear naught I will requite you.

My wife will fight you.

Come, come begin,
8. He is a magic knight

Lov-ey I fear you're caught in a trap. Throw up the sponge.

On with the scrap!

My wife won't let me.

(Fight music)
8. He is a magic knight

Fred.

Chorus

Pno.

Stung!

Oh

joy, Oh rap-ture, Oh joy, Oh rap-ture joy and
Chorus

rap - ture, joy and rap - ture, He has killed him, killed him. killed him. killed him!

Ortrud: Enough! I will confess she did not kill her brother.
I changed him to a swan.

King: 'Sdeath! For nothing all this bother!

Did-dle de dum, de dum, de dum, de di do day!
Then I will change him back again. Mein lieber Schwann. Farewell.

(He makes several passes over the swan.)

(Godfrey appears) Hello! sis!

I wish now I had drowned him!
Perhaps it had been best.

I knew that swan had something unpleasant on his

Ah, gallant knight my brave preserver, You've won a wife and well de-

serve her. But tell

8. He is a magic knight
8. He is a magic knight

Elsa

Loh

Chorus

Pno.

Ah!

Ah! Pray your name.

Ah, my

Pray your name.

Ah! Pray your name.

brilliante

Agitato

Agitato

www # w b
Ah, my name! My name! My name!

Ah, Ah, Ah, don't ask me!

The fatal words are spoken. His magic pow'r is broken.
9. Alas my dearest maiden

Lohengrin, Elsa, Company

Victor Herbert

Allegro

wed you I had planned. But now with deep grief laden, I must duck to

Agitato

fairly land. I must be on my way; With grief I'm forced to say. Ta
9. Alas my dearest maiden

**Loh.**

Yours truly, to command.

**Pno.**

**Elsa**

**Loh.**

**Chorus**

In a strenuous grand opera moment like

**Pno.**

Grandioso
9. Alas my dearest maiden

Elsa

Chorus

Pno.

round And behave like a human canary.

Ah

For we've always observed that the one road to
9. Alas my dearest maiden

Elsa

Chorus

Pno.

bliss, For a

Is to air all her ills in a volley of

Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah

HamSul merli stein

Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah
9. Alas my dearest maiden

Elsa

Chorus

Pno.

sky rocket et note on Tra la

sky rocket et note on Tra la!

Presto
9. Alas my dearest maiden