

# Der fliegende Holländer

**RICHARD WAGNER** / 1843

**SUNG IN GERMAN**  
**APPROXIMATE RUNNING TIME : 135 minutes**

The Flying Dutchman is one of the first Strauss'opera to gain broad succes and shows roughly all topics the famous composer was so fond of, including that of the impossible love. This majestic piece of art owes its success to the intense score composed for orchestras, choirs and soloist parts, which, more often than not, makes it the best way into the colourful universe of this one massively talented composer.

Known in English as The Flying Dutchman, Der Fliegende Holländer marks the end of a typically 19<sup>th</sup> century style and the opening of a more original and contemporary one that Wagner was longing for. Introducing the leitmotiv as well as preceding the revolutionary Tristan und Isold, it undoubtedly represents a first step toward a stylistic innovation.



Deborah Voigt - Senta  
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## MAIN CHARACTERS

**The Dutch** (baritone)  
**Daland**, norwegian merchant(bass)  
**Senta**, his daughter (soprano)  
**Erik**, Senta's fiance (tenore)

## THE PLOT

The tormented love story told in this opera is framed within the legend of the Flying Dutch, the famous cursed phantom vessel straying through the seven seas looking for the young virgin that will redeem him through true love. Torn between the her feelings for Erik and those for the Vessel captain, Senta will eventually take her own life.

### Act 1

While captain Daland's merchant ship is anchored in a bay, a mysterious vessel appears. Its captain whinges about a curse that has been casted on his vessel and that will break only when a woman will truly love him. Daland meets the captain and the latter tries very hard to bribe him into giving him his daughter Senta. After coming to a deal, they eventually sail off to meet the girl.

### Act 2

At the Harbour of the Village, women are waiting for their men to return and Senta hums the sad Dutch man tune. She dreams to give herself to the Dutchman rescuing him from his sad fate. Nevertheless, her fiancé Erik tries to make her come to reason telling her about the dream he had; his father will return with a mysterious man that will take her away causing the young girl to die. Then, Daland returns with the Dutchman and, after learning the story of the curse, the young girl decides to forever love the captain.

### Act 3

Finally back home, Daland's men are celebrating and invite the Dutchman crew. However, they are terrified to see a bunch of ghosts standing in front of them. Erik tries to talk Senta into reconsidering her oath in order to save her from eternal damnation and the Dutchman, suspicious of the young lady's being unfaithful, begs her to leave and sail off. Senta will ultimately jump off the cliff. By dying she breaks the spell and they both ascend to heaven.

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