

TIMING: 41:00

ON THE DNIPRO

Choreography by Alexei Ratmansky

Original Libretto by Sergei Prokofiev and Serge Lifar

Music by Sergei Prokofiev

Scenery by Simon Pastukh

Costumes by Galina Solovyeva

Lighting by Brad Fields

Projections by Wendall K. Harrington

On the banks of the mighty Ukrainian river, the Dnipro, the young soldier Sergiy arrives home from the battlefields of war. Upon his return, Sergiy realizes he no longer loves his fiancée, Natalia, but is attracted to Olga, a village beauty who is betrothed to another man. After a brief encounter, the lovely Olga finds she, too, is completely charmed by Sergiy and begins to doubt she loves her fiancé.

At a celebration of Olga's betrothal, the villagers enjoy lively dancing and boisterous cheer. Filled with jealousy, Sergiy interrupts the festivities to challenge his rival, Olga's groom, and a brawl ensues. The guests disperse as the fight comes to a close, leaving Sergiy and Natalia alone. Grief-stricken yet noble, Natalia unselfishly helps the young lovers, Sergiy and Olga, escape together to a life of happiness. Natalia is alone, heartbroken.

Alexei Ratmansky's all-new production of Sergei Prokofiev's *On the Dnipro* received its World Premiere on June 1, 2009 at the Metropolitan Opera House, under the title *On the Dnieper*, danced by Veronika Part (Natalia), Marcelo Gomes (Sergiy), Paloma Herrera (Olga) and David Hallberg (Olga's Fiancé).

Prokofiev's score was originally commissioned by the Paris Opera, and the ballet received its World Premiere in 1932 by the Paris Opera Ballet.

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