

# Synopsis

## Act I

### *THE LAKESIDE*

Princess Odette is gathering flowers by the lake one day when the sorcerer Von Rothbart appears and transforms her into a swan.

### *THE COURTYARD AND CASTLE*

Festivities are underway to celebrate the coming of age of Prince Siegfried. His mother, the Queen, enters and drinks a toast to her son, reminding him that he will soon be King. The Prince is dismayed by the thought of the responsibilities being forced upon him. The Queen presents him with the gift of a crossbow which excites him greatly. As he is left alone to contemplate his future, he suddenly sees white swans soaring overhead, and taking his crossbow, the Prince follows them into the night.

### *THE LAKESIDE BY MOONLIGHT*

Discovering the swans by a lake, the Prince watches with amazement as one swan approaches and is transformed into a beautiful maiden. The maiden tells him that she is Princess Odette, and the spell cast upon her by Von Rothbart can only be broken by someone who swears his love for her. Von Rothbart suddenly appears, and Siegfried attempts to shoot the sorcerer. Odette explains that if he succeeds, the sorcerer's spell can never be broken. Siegfried swears his vow of eternal love to Odette. She warns him that if he breaks his vow, she is doomed to remain a swan forever. At dawn, Odette returns to the lake and becomes a swan again.

– *Intermission* –

## Act II

### *THE BALLROOM OF THE CASTLE*

As the Prince dances with princesses from countries around the world at the ball, his mind is filled with thoughts of Odette. Two uninvited guests arrive: Von Rothbart and his daughter Odile, disguised as Odette. Siegfried believes Odile to be his swan princess, and Von Rothbart forces him to swear that Odile is his chosen love. As Von Rothbart and Odile return to their true forms, the

Prince realizes he has been deceived. Odette and her maidens appear as Von Rothbart destroys the castle.

### *THE LAKESIDE*

Odette forgives Siegfried for his unwitting betrayal, and they agree to remain together until death. In his rage, Von Rothbart raises a storm, but the love of Odette and Prince Siegfried proves stronger than his magic. As the couple throw themselves into the lake, Von Rothbart too is destroyed.

*This performance is approximately two and a half hours, including one 20-minute intermission.*