

THE SIRENS

A FOYER OPERA

CRISPIN GURHOLT

CAST

The Siren of Greece [RESTAURANT FOYER]
MEZZOSOPRANO Désirée Baraula

The Sirens of Europe [MAIN STAGE]
SOPRANOS
Karen Auåstad Christensen
Ingvild Farestveit Hov

ALTOS
Silje Indrebø
Birgitte Sandve

TENORS
Thomas Ringen
Hauk J. Røsten

BASSOS
Erik Hedmo
Martin Røsok
Eivind Støylen

CONDUCTOR
Ida Cecilie Holm

THE SIRENS
LIBRETTO

EUROPE

We are the sirens, our song, though irresistibly sweet, is no less sad than sweet, and licks both body and soul in a fatal lethargy. We are the forerunners of death and corruption.

One of our sirens has lost track of the group, trapped in the space separating her from us. Fighting, not to die. If she dies, we die. We need to lure her back.

GREECE

Hello, hello can you hear me?
Hello, hello can you hear me?

For all their concerns with global competitiveness, migration and terrorism, only one prospect truly terrifies the Powers of Europe: Democracy! They speak in democracy's name but only to deny, exorcise and suppress it in practice. They seek to co-opt, evade, corrupt, mystify, usurp and manipulate democracy in order to break its energy and arrest its possibilities.

EUROPE

The European Union could be proverbial Beacon on the Hill, showing the world how peace and solidarity may be snatched from the jaws of centuries-long conflict and bigotry.

National politicians were rewarded handsomely for their acquiescence to turning the Commission, the Council, the Ecofin, the Eurogroup and the ECB, into politics-free zones. Anyone opposing this process of de-politicisation will be labelled un-European and treated as a jarring dissonance.

We are Europe, we are Europe. We are Europe, we are Europe.

Liberalism, democracy, freedom, solidarity. Liberalism, democracy, freedom, solidarity. Liberalism, democracy, freedom, solidarity. Liberalism, democracy, freedom, solidarity.

GREECE

I can't hear you, can't hear you, I can't see you, can't see you.

EUROPE

Liberalism, democracy, freedom, solidarity. Liberalism, democracy,
freedom, solidarity. Liberalism, democracy, freedom, solidarity.
Liberalism, democracy, freedom, solidarity.

GREECE

I can't hear you, can't hear you, I can't see you, can't see you.

EUROPE

Liberalism, democracy, freedom, solidarity. Liberalism, democracy,
freedom, solidarity. Liberalism, democracy, freedom, solidarity.
Liberalism, democracy, freedom, solidarity.

Stay, give us drink, Greece, this pearl is thine.
Here's to thy health.

Stay, give us drink, Greece, this pearl is thine.
Here's to thy health.

GREECE

Give me your pardon, sir. I've done you wrong.
But pardon, as you are a gentleman.
This presence knows.
And you must needs have heard how I am punished.
With sore distraction. What I have done,
That might your nature, honour, and exception
Roughly awake, I here proclaim was madness.
Was it Greece wronged Europe? Never Greece.
If Greece from itself be taken away,
And when he's not himself does wrong Europe,
Then Greece does it not. Greece denies it.
Who does it, then? His madness. If it be so,
Greece is of the faction that is wronged.
Its madness is poor Greece's enemy.
Sir, in this audience, let my disclaiming from a purposed evil
Free me so far in your most generous thoughts
That I have shot mine arrow over the house
And hurt my brother.

EUROPE AND GREECE

Dies irae, dies irae, dies irae.
How much tremor there will be
When the judge will come,
Investigating everything strictly!

Death and nature will marvel,
When the creatures arise,
To respond to the judge.

GREECE

Oh Europe, I can feel the soil falling over my head.
And as I climb into an empty bed
Oh well, enough said.
I know it's over, still I cling
I don't know where else I can go, Europe.

Oh Europe, I can feel the soil falling over my head.
See, the sea wants to take me
The knife wants to slit me
Do you think you can help me?

And I know it's over
Still I cling
I don't know where else I can go
It's over, it's over, it's over

I know it's over
And it never really began.
But in my heart it was so real
And you even spoke to me and said:

EUROPE

Dies irae, dies irae, solvet saeculum, in favilla.
Dies irae, dies irae, solvet saeculum, in favilla, teste David cum Sybilla.
Dies irae.

GREECE

It's over, it's over, over
It's over, it's over, over.

Mimesis, mimesis, where are you?
You lie, you lie
Where are you?

EUROPE

We are leaving, we are leaving, we are leaving you.
We are leaving, we are leaving, we are leaving you.
We are leaving, we are leaving, we are leaving you.

GREECE

Where are you going, where are you going?
Where are you going, where are you going?

Boarders are washing out, violence is becoming real. I am dying, you are dying, we are dying, God is dying. We die, I disappear. I am just a copy, a copy, I die. I want to be you, be me, be me, imitation, imitation. Where am I, I have lost what I imitate, where are they, who am I to imitate. Help me, help me, I am alone without you, I disappear, I die, see me, see me, see me. Come closer, please come closer, I want to see you, imitate you, I want to live, not die, live through you. Sorrow is taking me, the last that is left of you, I am losing you, I am losing you. Sorrow is disappearing, I am losing my voice, I die, I am dying.

Listen to me, please listen to me, I don't want to die, I don't want to die.
Where are the others, repeat, repeat, mimesis, see me, see me. Democracy take me, take me democracy. Share me, share my sorrow, democracy. I am losing my voice, I am losing my voice. It's over.

EUROPE

You will die, disappear. You will die, disappear. You will die, disappear.

GREECE

Sing me to sleep
Sing me to sleep

I'm tired and I
I want to go to bed.

Sing me to sleep
Sing me to sleep
I don't want to wake up
On my own anymore.

Sing to me
Sing to me
I don't want to wake up
On my own anymore.

EUROPE

Come into our boat
A storm is rising and night is falling.
Where are you going?
All alone you're drifting off
Who's going to hold your hand
When it's pulling you down under?

Where are you going?
The cold sea is shoreless.
Come into our boat
The autumn wind keeps the sails taut.

Now you're standing there by the lantern
With tears in your face.
Daylight falls aside.
The autumn wind sweeps the street empty.

Come into our boat
Time's standing still and autumn's falling.
In the end you stay alone
Time's standing still
And you are cold
Cold... cold...

EUROPE

With drooping wings you cupids come, to scatter roses on her tomb.

GREECE

I am poisoned, I die, they die, I die, we die, democracy!

I am poisoned, I die, they die, I die, we die, democracy!

EUROPE

Walk in silence

Don't walk away, in silence

See the danger

Always danger.

Endless talking

Life rebuilding

Don't walk away

Walk in silence

Don't turn away, in silence

Your confusion

My illusion.

Worn like a mask of self-hate

Confronts and then dies

Don't walk away

Don't walk away

Don't walk away, in silence

Silence.

Liberalism, democracy, freedom, solidarity. Liberalism, democracy,

freedom, solidarity. Liberalism, democracy, freedom, solidarity.

Liberalism, democracy, freedom, solidarity.

THE END

LIBRETTO

Crispin Gurholt

INCLUDES TEXT AND TEXT FRAGMENTS BY

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