Mascagni's

Lamico Fritz

The Gist of the Story

Act 1: The residence of Fritz Kobus, the dining room
Fritz Kobus, a wealthy landowner and sworn bachelor is speaking with his friend David, the local rabbi. It is his birthday, and his friends join him for a celebration where he first meets Suzel, the daughter of one of his tenants. Suzel presents him with flowers as the gypsy Beppe enters, playing the violin. David remarks on what a beautiful bride she would make, while Fritz argues she is too young for marriage. As they argue, Fritz bets David one of his vineyards that he will never marry.

Act 2: The courtyard of a farm
As the farmers are headed out to the fields, Suzel prepares to pick cherries. Fritz approaches her and offers to help, thus beginning one of the most famous pieces from the opera, the Cherry Duet. When Fritz leaves, David approaches Suzel and suggests she could be a bride; she is embarrassed and flees. When Fritz returns and David tells him of a match for Suzel, Fritz becomes upset and realizes he is in love with her.

Act 3: The residence of Fritz Kobus, the dining room
Fritz is depressed at the thought of Suzel marrying another. David arrives and tells Fritz that Suzel is engaged to a young man. Fritz is enraged and leaves, but little does he know that David has set his own plan in motion. Suzel enters, alone, and admits her love for Fritz, and is soon confronted by him about her engagement. When he realizes she does not love her betrothed, Fritz reveals his feelings to her and the two sing of their love. David enters and declares he has won the wager with Fritz, telling them he is going to give his winnings (Fritz's vineyards) to the couple as a wedding present.

The Characters

FRITZ KOBUS
a wealthy landowner and sworn bachelor

SUZEL
the daughter of a tenant of Fritz

DAVID
a rabbi, Fritz's friend

CATERINA
Fritz's housekeeper

BEPPE
Fritz's friend, a gypsy and violinist

FEDERICO
Fritz's friend

HANEZO
Fritz's friend

Who?
Composer: Pietro Mascagni (1863-1945)
Librettist: Nicola Daspuro (1853-1941)

What?
Comedy, with stylistic elements of opera buffa & verismo

When?
Premiered on October 31st, 1891

Where?
First performance at the Teatro Costanzi in Rome

Baltimore Concert Opera
11 W. Mount Vernon Pl.
Baltimore MD, 21201

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Did you know, they knew each other from childhood?

Mirella Freni stated, “Yes, our mothers worked at the same tobacco factory, they worked all day so they took us there. I was a few months older than Luciano but he was my big brother, my fratellone: I love him at first sight, we truly grew up together.