

VERDI

NABUCCO

ORIGINALLY TRANSMITTED JAN 7, 2017

CONDUCTOR

JAMES LEVINE

PRODUCTION

ELIJAH MOSHINSKY

SET DESIGNER

JOHN NAPIER

COSTUME DESIGNER

ANDREANE NEOFITOU

LIGHTING DESIGNER

HOWARD HARRISON

ABIGAILLE

LIUDMYLA
MONASTYRSKA

FENENA

JAMIE BARTON

ISMAELE

RUSSELL THOMAS

NABUCCO

PLÁCIDO DOMINGO

ZACCARIA

DMITRY BELOSSELSKIY

PART I Jerusalem, 6th century B.C. The city is under attack from Nabucco (Nebuchadnezzar II), King of Babylon. His daughter Fenena, who is being held hostage by the Israelites, has fallen in love with Ismaele, nephew of the King of Jerusalem. Fenena's half-sister Abigaille also loves Ismaele but he rejects her. The victorious Nabucco orders the destruction of the Israelites' temple.

PART II Back in Babylon, Abigaille, who has discovered that she is not the king's daughter but the child of slaves, swears vengeance against Nabucco. The High Priest of Baal offers her the throne and proposes to spread the rumor that Nabucco has died. The Babylonians proclaim Abigaille ruler. As she is about to crown herself, Nabucco appears and declares himself king and god, for which a thunderbolt strikes him down. Abigaille is triumphant.

INTERMISSION

PART III Abigaille tricks Nabucco, who is in a state of half-madness, into signing the death warrant for the captive Israelites, including the newly converted Fenena. The Israelites, meanwhile, dream of their lost homeland.

PART IV Nabucco prays to the God of Israel for forgiveness and pledges to convert himself and his people. His sanity restored, he summons his soldiers and stops the Israelites' execution at the last moment. Abigaille takes poison, and Nabucco sets the prisoners free. Israelites and Babylonians are united in praise of God.

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