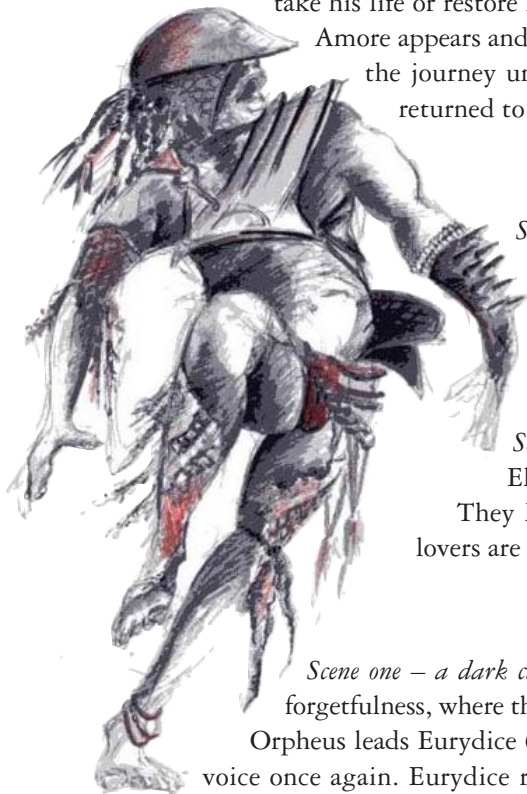


ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE – SYNOPSIS

ACT I

The tomb of Eurydice Orpheus and mourners lament the death of Eurydice. Orpheus pleads to the gods to either take his life or restore his love. He proclaims his intention to go to Hades to take her back. Amore appears and declares that Jupiter has been moved by his tears and will allow him the journey under one condition – he must not look at Eurydice until they have returned to the mortal world. Orpheus is ecstatic – hope has returned.



ACT II

Scene one – a terrifying cave beyond the Cocytus At the gates of Hades near the river of lamentation, Orpheus encounters incensed shades and furies, who denounce his brazen plan to seize a soul from their clutches. Orpheus soothes their anger with the sound of his beautiful voice and they allow him to pass.

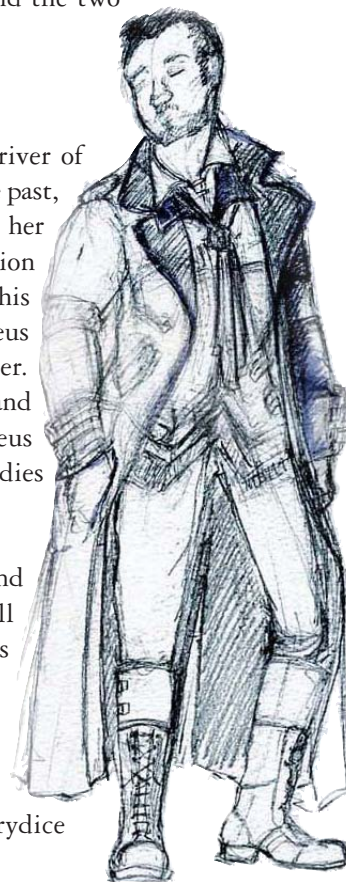
Scene two – the Elysian Fields Orpheus marvels at the beauty of the Elysian Fields and gazes among the fallen heroes for the face of Eurydice. They lead her forward out of his view and the two lovers are blindly reunited.

ACT III

Scene one – a dark cavern on the banks of Lethe At the river of forgetfulness, where the dead drink the waters to forget the past, Orpheus leads Eurydice (still obscured from view) and hears her voice once again. Eurydice rejoices in her impending reincarnation while Orpheus coolly hurries her along. She is confused by his icy efficiency and begs him to look at her. When Orpheus doesn't, she hesitates, fearing he no longer loves her. Eurydice refuses to go further, preferring to remain dead and tormented. Tortured by his secret mission, Orpheus absentmindedly turns to look at her and Eurydice dies once again.

Scene two – the same Orpheus laments his fate, and still wishing to join his soul mate, tries to kill himself. Seeing his deep anguish, Amore returns and restores Euridice to life.

Scene three – a magnificent temple dedicated to love Shepherds celebrate the return of Eurydice. Orpheus exclaims the triumph of love over death, and Eurydice realizes the power of fidelity.



costumes sketches by Adrian Linford