***Rusalka****-***Antonín** (Leopold) **Dvořák** (*b* Sept 8,1841; *d* Prague, May 1, 1904).



Lyric fairy-tale in three acts composed by [Antonín Dvořák](https://www.oxfordmusiconline.com/grovemusic/documentId/omo-9781561592630-e-5000008450) to a libretto by [Jaroslav Kvapil](https://www.oxfordmusiconline.com/grovemusic/documentId/omo-9781561592630-e-5000006393) after Friedrich de la Motte Fouquée’s *Undine* (1811), and Hans Christian Andersen’s tale

*The Little Mermaid* (1836) Prague, National Theatre, 31 March 1901.

.

An **opera** is created using all art forms – 1) story (libretto), 2) music, 3) singing, 4) acting,

5) dance, 6) costume, 7) painting/scenery, 8) machinery/special effects, 9) lighting…

the famous German composer Richard Wagner called opera a **Gesamtkunstwerk**.

(all/entire-art-work)

**YOUR ASSIGNMENT:**

The purpose of this essay is to research and to analyse the opera *Rusalka* with specific regard to the three states and two metamorphoses that the protagonist experiences. Primary resource materials are the **libretto** (the drama; the play) by Jaroslav Kvapil, and the **music** composed by Antonín Dvořák.Some useful secondary resource materials such as *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* are suggested in the *Rusalka* folder at **earlhaig.ca**. You will also compare and contrast two productions of *Rusalka*: a critically acclaimed Czech film directed by Petr Weigl in 1977, and the live production of the Canadian Opera Company (COC) which we will see during the evening of Thursday October 10th.Your thoughts on the drama and the music will be submitted in essay form to **turnitin.com**.

Your background research should lead you to identify **one** of several scenes in the opera in which the naiad Rusalka interacts with another character during her polymorphic journey. The scene that you choose will become the focal point for a collaboration between you as Gr 10 Music Majors and several Gr 10 members of the Drama department. In small groups of three you will create the music and the actions which will give life to the scene that you have chosen and ultimately to the story of the fairy-tale. As part of your essay you will submit a written description of your scene and how you intend to recreate it:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **RUSALKA** |  |
| **ACT I** |  |
| WOOD NYMPHS DANCE AND THE WATER SPRITE APPEARS | (Playful Taunting) |
| **1. RUSALKA EXPLAINS WHY SHE IS SO SAD (10:28)** | **1. Unrequited Love (Alexis, Michelle, Wendy)** |
| **RUSALKA SINGS TO THE MOON (19:12)** |  |
|  |  |
| **2. RUSALKA GOES TO JEŽIBABA FOR HELP (23:23)** | **2. Transformation (Jason, Liliana, Ariadne)** |
|  |  |
| **3. THE PRINCE COMES TO THE LAKE (37:00)** | **3. Bewitched by love (Eun Gu, Michelle, Tetiana)** |
| **THE PRINCE SEES RUSALKA—BUT SHE CANNOT SPEAK!** |  |
|  |  |
| **ACT II** |  |
| THE KITCHEN BOY AND HUNTSMAN GOSSIP ABOUT RUSALKA | (Concerned Gossip) |
|  |  |
| **4. THE PRINCE ASKS RUSALKA WHY SHE WON’T SPEAK (51:30)** |  |
| **THE FOREIGN PRINCESS APPEARS (55:30)** | **4. Rivalry (Angela, Jennifer, Sophie)** |
| **THE ROYAL BALL** |  |
|  |  |
| **5. THE WATER SPRITE APPEARS IN THE GARDEN (1:02:20)** |  |
| **RUSALKA ASKS HER FATHER FOR HELP** | **5. Despair (Joey, Jamie, Joseph)** |
|  |  |
| **6. THE PRINCE DECLARES HIS LOVE FOR THE FOREIGN PRINCESS** | **6. Rejection (Matthew, Brian, Christian, Ryan)** |
| **RUSALKA RETURNS TO THE LAKE (1:02:10)** |  |
|  |  |
| **ACT III** |  |
| **7. RUSALKA BEGS JEŽIBABA FOR MERCY: an impossible offer (1:21:40)** | **7. Outrage (Katherine, Emily, Rebecca)** |
| **RUSALKA LAMENTS HER FATE AND THE NYMPHS REJECT HER** |  |
|  |  |
| **8. THE WATER SPRITE APPEARS IN THE LAKE (1:32:41)** | **8. Sadness**(at Rusalka’s fate) **(Julien, James S, JamesL)** |
|  |  |
| **9. THE PRINCE ARRIVES, SEARCHING FOR RUSALKA (1:40:55)** | **9. Resignation (Thomas, Adrian)** |
| **THE FINAL LOVE DUET: a dying kiss** |  |

* Provide a **TITLE PAGE** for each Part of your assignment. The template is at earlhaig.ca.
* Do **not** **use subtitles** before your paragraphs
* Write using essay form: **DOUBLE SPACE** your writing.
* Write using essay form: **INDENT** the first line of each paragraph**.**
* Use **ITALICS** for the names of published work: *Rusalka.*
* Be sure to identify the point of each paragraph in the **topic sentence** (first sentence) of each paragraph.
* **Be sure to provide concrete examples or information from reliable sources to support your ideas.**
* Write your paragraphs in the order shown in this assignment description:

**Part 1: Friday October 14th 2019**

**Introduction** (Do **not** use as a subtitle above your paragraphs)

**20% [MECHANICS]** **[KNOWLEDGE]: [THINKING]: [APPLICATION]: [COMMUNICATION]:**

**title page double space indentation *italics for titles***

**20% [KNOWLEDGE]: \* Identify the purpose of this essay: “**The purpose of this essay is to…”

**20% [THINKING]: \*** share your thoughts about “Opera” before you see the Film and the COC production?

**20% [APPLICATION]: \* When was the** **Prague National Theatre** **built?** **(include a small picture).**

**\* Write one or two sentences about the history of the Prague National Theatre.**

**\* When was the Four Seasons Theater built? (include a small picture).**

**\* Write one or two sentences about the history of the Four Seasons Theater.**

**20% [COMMUNICATION]: \* Describe your impressions of the first Rusalka. (include a small picture).**

**\* What impression of Rusalka do you think that the premiere was communicating?**

<https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/zgLSbmMxCiGrKw>

**Part 2: Friday November 14th 2019**

**20% [MECHANICS]** **[KNOWLEDGE]: [THINKING]: [APPLICATION]: [COMMUNICATION]:**

**title page double space indentation *italics for titles***

**The Story** (Do **not** use as a subtitle above your paragraph)

**20% [KNOWLEDGE]: -** the storyis contained in the script or play called the ***libretto*** (Ital.) *livret* (Fr.)

- who wrote the libretto for ***Rusalka***; provide a few details about the librettist.

- when was the libretto written? why was the opera created?

**20% [THINKING]: -** which principal sources did the librettist use for his version of the ***Rusalka*** fairy tale?

- when were the earlier sources of the story written?

**-** what are essential differences between the three versions of the story?

**20% [APPLICATION]:**  - describe the three states of being that Rusalka experiences?

- describe each of the two metamorphoses that bring the naiad to a different state.

- what is the librettist saying about Rusalka’s polymorphic journey?

**20% [COMMUNICATION]:** - what do you think about the story of Rusalka*?*

- is there an emotional or psychological thread to Rusalka’s journey?

- explain your response in several sentences supported by specific details.

**Part 3: Friday December 20th 2019**

**20% [MECHANICS]** **[KNOWLEDGE]: [THINKING]: [APPLICATION]: [COMMUNICATION]:**

**title page double space indentation *italics for titles***

**The Scenes** (Do **not** use as a subtitle above your paragraphs)

**20% [KNOWLEDGE]:** - After reading a synopsis of the libretto, identify the scene that is of interest to you.

- What is it about this scene that interested you?

**20% [THINKING]:**  - Describe the interest you are developing in the scene you have ended up with.

**20% [APPLICATION]: -** What dramatic action (blocking) will you use in the scene you have ended up with?

**20% [COMMUNICATION]:**- What specific musical features do you envision using to complement the action?

**Part 4: Thursday March 5th 2020**

**20% [MECHANICS]** **[KNOWLEDGE]: [THINKING]: [APPLICATION]: [COMMUNICATION]:**

**title page double space indentation *italics for titles***

**The Music** (Do **not** use as a subtitle above your paragraphs)

**20% [KNOWLEDGE]:** - Which composer’s music had a major influence on Dvořák’s music in ***Rusalka*?**

- What is the meaning of ***leitmotif*** ?

- How does Dvořák’s use ***leitmotif*** in Rusalka?

**20% [THINKING]:** - Explain the difference between ***recitative*** and ***arias***

- Is Dvořák’s vocal music composed according to recitative and aria structure?

- What do you think or feel about Dvořák’s music in ***Rusalka*?**

**20% [APPLICATION]:** - Dvořák wrote the music for the singers.

**-** Which characters have high voices? Which characters have low voices?

- What do you think is the reason for giving different characters their voice ranges?

**20% [COMMUNICATION]: -** Did you observe any different conceptions of character between the Film and COC?

**-** Compare/Contrast the singer/actors in the Film and in the COC productions?

**PART 5: THE MOVIE: Monday May 25th 2020**

**20% [MECHANICS]** **[KNOWLEDGE]: [THINKING]: [APPLICATION]: [COMMUNICATION]:**

**title page double space indentation *italics for titles***

**20% [KNOWLEDGE]:** 1.Successfully upload your video to Google Drive and share with Mr K

2. Identify in your writing here all the members of your group

**3. How did you communicate with your group at a distance to complete project**

**20% [THINKING]:** 1. Identify the section of the movie that your group worked on: use movie time line

2. Explain your role in the group work.

3. Describe the % of work that **you** (not the other members) made to the project.

**20% [APPLICATION]:** 1.Identify the emotion you worked on and explain its context in the story

2. Describe a specific contribution that you made in the music or to the project.

3. Explain why you feel that your music did or did not succeed with this emotion

**20% [COMMUNICATION]:** 1. Explain how you could adapt your music to Drama’s Shakespearean scenes.

2. Explain why you feel this collaboration would be or might not be successful