**Lucio Silla (i)**

(‘Lucius Sulla’).

*Dramma per musica* in three acts, K135, by [**WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART**](http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com/subscriber/article/grove/music/O007498) to a libretto by [**GIOVANNI DE GAMERRA**](http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com/subscriber/article/grove/music/O901235); Milan, Regio Ducal Teatro, 26 December 1772.

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| Lucius Sulla *dictator of Rome* | tenor |
| Giunia [Junia] *daughter of Caius Marius*, *betrothed to Cecilius* | soprano |
| Cecilio [Cecilius] *exiled Roman senator* | soprano castrato |
| Lucio [Lucius] Cinna *his friend*, *a conspirator* | soprano |
| Celia *sister of Sulla* | soprano |
| Aufidio [Aufidius] *tribune*, *friend of Sulla* | tenor |
| Guards, nobles, senators, people of Rome | |
| *Setting* Rome, 79 BC | |

Banished by the dictator Lucio Silla, Cecilio secretly returns to Rome to be reunited with his fiancée Giunia, whose father was murdered by Silla in a political coup. Cecilio learns from his friend Cinna that Silla is obsessed with Giunia and has spread a rumour that Cecilio is dead.

Silla uses his sister Celia to try to overcome Giunia’s resistance to his advances. Meanwhile, Giunia and her attendants go to visit the grave of her father. Cecilio is waiting for her among the tombs. At first Giunia mistakes him for a ghost, but then the two lovers are joyfully reunited.

Silla decides there will be a double wedding: he will force Giunia to marry while his sister Celia will marry Cinna, whom she loves. Meanwhile, Cinna dissuades Cecilio from an attempt on Silla’s life that might endanger Giunia. Cinna suggests that Giunia marry Silla and kill him in their wedding bed – a suggestion she rejects outright.

**INTERMISSION**

Silla asks the Senate to consent to his marriage with Giunia, as a sign of political reconciliation. When the request is not opposed, Giunia prepares to kill herself. At this moment Cecilio bursts into the Senate to rescue her.  Cecilio is overwhelmed by Silla’s guards and thrown into prison. Despite everything, Silla is touched and troubled by the deep love that binds Giunia and Cecilio so strongly.

Cecilio and Giunia are now prepared to die: if Cecilio is condemned to death, then Giunia will take her own life.

When Cecilio is brought to judgement, Silla experiences an extraordinary change of heart. To everyone’s amazement, he pardons Cecilio and consents to his marrying Giunia. He then pardons Cinna, who confessed to having plotted against him, and allows him to marry Celia. Finally, Silla renounces his dictatorship and restores Rome’s freedom and democracy.