

WOLF TRAP OPERA

BASTIANELLO

Bastianello is an opera about marriage; every episode shows us different stages of married life, mostly in tatters.

The story begins with narration by a young man in a tree, outside of Luciano's farmhouse. He tells of a wedding, 20 years earlier, when the bride Amadora goes downstairs to bring up more wine for her celebratory dinner. Once she has opened the cask, her elation turns to depression as she realizes that this is the happiest moment of her life – and that everything will henceforth go downhill. Soon the whole family is in tears; when her new husband Luciano finds them, he explodes in rage and deserts his wife on their wedding night.

Luciano vows that he will only return after he finds six people as foolish as his family. He visits a hapless couple in another small farmhouse, another bride and groom outside the gate of a nearby village, and an elderly man near a lake. As he racks up his tally of fools and the comedy escalates, he is led to a surprising conclusion.

THE JUNIPER TREE

This famous Grimm fairy tale tells of a wicked stepmother who murders her stepson. The boy's sister buries her brother's bones under a juniper tree, and the child's spirit returns as a singing bird who wreaks vengeance on the stepmother before being restored to life with his father and sister.