The Temple Dancer

Operas in One Act

Libretto by
JUTTA BELL-RANSKE

Music
by
JOHN ADAM HUGO

Vocal and Piano score
BY THE COMPOSER.

PRICE $3.00 NETTO

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JOHN ADAM HUGO
THE TEMPLE DANCER

CHARACTERS OF THE DRAMA:

Temple Dancer .................................................. Soprano
Guard ................................................................. Tenor
Yoga ................................................................. Bass

The scene is in the Mahadeos Temple, India.

CHORUS of NUNS, PRIESTS and PEASANTS.

SYNOPSIS

of

THE TEMPLE DANCER

THE STORY UPON WHICH THE OPERA IS FOUNDED:

The leading dancer in the temple of Mahadeo, who has fallen in love with one who is not of her faith, she has through her lover's suffering realized the unjust and immoral demands made upon the dancers of the temple. In her awakening she decides to help her lover, who is in great want, by claiming from the great Mahadeo the jewels that were purchased with the money the temple received through the selling of her virtue; the custom of the temple being to obtain precious jewels for their gods through the beauty of the Temple-dancers who give themselves to the sacred service of the gods.

THE LIBRETTO

The opera opens with a service in the temple where the Great Mahadeo sits blazing in his jewels. After the service the Temple Dancer enters disguised; praying for courage to approach the God. She pleads for a token from him in answer to her prayers and receiving none she threatens the temple and decides to steal the jewels she considers belong to her. The Guard of the Temple hears her and returns; he threatens
Her with death and to protect herself from him she takes the snake from Mahadeo circling it round herself; this making her “sakti” or sacred. She then pleads with the Guard to be permitted to pray before she is killed; and in her seductive dancing, which represents her prayer, she fascinates the Guard whose passion is roused. He promises her his protection and she pretends to respond to his love. In the great love scene he loosens the bans of her outer robe, which falls off and occasions the discovery of a letter which tells of her plans to meet her lover with the stolen jewels. Furious at her treason he curses her, and plans to make her suffer ten-fold. Again she dances, as a last prayer, and pretends to swoon, pleading for a drop of water. This the Guard gives her; she pretends to drink and poisons the water. Then she pleads with the Guard to drink to her courage to meet death, and laughingly he empties the cup. Then follows the scene of the Guard’s death struggles, and curses against her laughter and mocking dance.

As the Guard dies, the dancer defies him and the gods, calling curses upon the temple. A great thunder-storm peals out in answer; the lightning rends the temple walls, and as the Temple-dancer puts her hand on Mahadeo’s Jewel, lightning strikes her and she falls dead by the Guard.

The nuns and priests come in terror, calling upon the protection of the gods, as they see the dancer and the Guard. They close the opera by the singing of the hymn of redemption, praying for the forgiveness of the erring spirit of the dead.

Jutta Bell-Ranske.

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PIANO-VOCAL SCORE

THE TEMPLE DANCER

(Libretto by Jutta Bell-Ranske)

Opera in One Act

by

JOHN ADAM HUGO

Op.37

Copyright 1918 by John Adam Hugo.
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Andante MENS CHORUS mf (Sustaining 80 men)

Ma-ha-de-o! Ma-ha-de-o!

I-II TENORS

Guide us from the paths of sin. Lead us through the troubled

I-II BASSES

wa-ters, To realms where truths begin.

The Tempting Dancer - 68
God of power. Mahadeo! God of grace,

Let thy love in light descending, Dawn upon the human

The Temple Dancer - 67
(The Nuns go and salaam, the first Nun carries a snake which she places upon the steps of the Altar.)

Moderato

NUNS CHORUS (33)

In the hour of temptation. U-shas,

U-shas spread thy light, U-shas, U-shas
NUNS

spread thy light. Till all bow in true sub-

WOMEN'S VOICES (humming)

MENS VOICES (humming)

mis
gion. To thy endless reign and might.
To thy endless reign and might.
(The two dancers and all in the temple exit, except the Yoga and the Guard.)

(The Yoga takes the snake from the Altar)

YOGA

Sost. molto

Ma-ha-de-o! Ma-ha-de-o! Lead all sinners to thy goal,

Sost. molto

Tvashtar, watching o-ver them.

The Temple Dancer - 64
(He raises the snake)

Sak-ti! Sak-ti! Save! Fore-stall!

Then when death at last de-scend-eth, And they burn up-on the pyre, They may

rise in ra-di-ant beau-ty From the cleans-ing ho-ly

(replaces snake on God)

fire. Ma-ha-de-el

The Temple Dancer - 64
(He exits slowly)

Ma-ha-de-o!

GUARD
Moderato
(The Guard fastens all the doors and extinguishes the lights)

(He gradually exits)

(The Temple Dancer comes forward stealthily and listens)

TEMPLE DANCER
Gone at last! Their weary prayers Robbing me of life and strength,

Tempo giusto

The Temple Dancer - 61
How I watched! And how I waited! To be left alone at length.

(laughingly)

Ha! How they prate of saint and sinner, How they point the human goal,

Yet they have in heartless fashion sold my virtue! forced my fall!
Death they sing of! How they stifle Human love and true desire, Grant that I may taste life's sweetness, Ever I burn upon the pyre. Ushas, Ushas, hear my prayers,

In the dust to thee I kneel. See the suffering of a woman Broken

The Temple Dancer - 64
heart-ed I appeal.

(A voice outside) (The Temple Dancer hears a voice and hides)

(\textit{Guard (humming)})

Strange, I thought I heard some voices

Sung as from a praying heart—Is there someone in the temple?

The Temple Dancer - 64
(Be listens then searches) (mystified)

Speak! before the Priests depart.

No one Yet I heard some footsteps,

No one—Yet I heard a prayer,

Sobs, as of a soul in anguish,

(He sees a flower, he picks it up)

Floating through the silent air.
(A cunning passes over his face, with an air of understanding)

(To dispel the listeners' fear)

All was fancy-

Sounds are simply From the cloisters floating

over, Let me close the Yogi's

(He glances curiously around, hides the flower and closes the door)

passage, And secure the temple door.

*The Temple Dancer* - 61
Moderato (poco agitato)

Now is my chance!

Ma-ha-de-o! De-vine!
Grant me one gem,

From the sacred shrine.
My virtue was sold
To enrich thy great store,

Give back but one stone
I ask thee no more.
ROMANZA
Andante

But one of thy jew - els, Ma - ha - de - o! De -

-vine! Means more than my Life. And

means noth - ing in thine. All I hold
Sacred, I gave unto thee.

Listen to my pleading, My virtue I gave. Yield of thy plenty, My lover to save. My lover to save.
Drooping in sickness, in want he may die.

In justice thou canst not my pleading deny,

And see my deep
not! Then I'll take it the same, To save my belovèd I will

(The Guard comes in cautiously and watches her. The Temple Dancer goes and puts her hand on the God)

suffer all shame.

GUARD (He flashes his torch straight at the shrine and stops in terror) (Goes towards her with sword raised)

A thief in the temple Who dares to disgrace Ma-ha-de-o's altar?

Stand up! Show thy face. Throw thy mantle a—
(In an unguarded moment he seizes her)

aside,   Thy disguise is in vain.

(He tears the cloak from her shoulders, and steps back aghast, while she uses this opportunity to mount the Altar and take the snake from the God)

GUARD

maid of the temple, Her God didst profane.   Know thou the curse that will

rest on thy head:   Thou art lost amongst the living, Thou art lost amongst the
poco animato

He raises his whip

dead! Doomed to damnation, Thou shalt die on the

poco animato

(She takes the snake and puts it around herself)

rack!

In the name of what is sacred, I command thee,

p Sosten.

step back. The snake shall protect me, I will dance to my

Sostenuto

God And pray that he spareth his wrath and the rod.

The Temple Dancer - 68
Moderato  SNAKE DANCE

The Temple Dancer - 61
TEMPEL DANCER

Gentle keep er show thy pi ty, Help me in my state of woe, Untold is the pain I suffer, I im

(He draws her closer, but she draws away again)

pler e thee let me go

GUARD

Forget the harsh words I uttered, Love
new-born doth beat in my breast,

Soothe with thy love the sweet longing
With which my heart is oppressed. Like fragrance from star blossomed

Champa, Flows perfume from thy lips and hair. Thy kisses

would still all my longings, Like rain in the thirsty air. Thy
GUARD

breath like the waving Lotus, Wafts incense that kindles my

love, Come let us go, from the temple and hide in the sweet scented

And there in the shadows, That
grove. And hide in the sweet scented grove. There in the

The Temple Dancer - 64
play midst the moon-light gleam. Steal a-way through the ten-derleaved lil-lies,
shad-ows, play midst the moon-light gleam.

Steal a-way through the ten-derleaved lil-lies. With the
Watch with the ten-derleaved lil-lies. The
only love of my dream.

We with all
dawn of a new-born dream: Then why should we not with all na-ture

The Temple Dancer - 68
nature, Love she doth give! All the world and its sorrow,

Taste of the love she doth give! Forget all the world and its sorrow,

its sorrow, And learn in sweet love to live. And

(He embraces her gently, then lifts her face to his)

learn in sweet love to live.
CHORUS OF NUNS
SOPRANOS I-II  (This Chorus is sung behind the scenes)

ALTOS
As the sun sinks over the

TEMPLE DANCER
(in terror)

GUARD
They are coming here to the temple. I

mountains,

TEMPLE DANCER
pray thee tell not of my deed. My spirit is broken in anguish,

In glory of wondrous
light.

So grant that Mahadeo's

GUARD

Stand by in the hour of need. Fear not, my love shall protect thee, For to

spirit

May descend o'er the coming

me thou art dearer still Than all of Mahadeo's jewels, I shall
night. We come to receive of his live but to grant thy will. But hide thee, the Nuna are nearing, I will bless ing, And in humble spirit to o pen the sacred shrine. There thou art doubly guarded, Both with
pray,
That the light of his Holy Presence May

(He unlocks the large shrine to the left, and the Dancer goes in; he locks the door and goes to the altar, lighting the lamps)

keys and the spir-its De-vine.

(The nuns enter, ringing bells very softly and slowly whispering Mahadeo's name)

bless our new-born day. Mahade-o!

(They salaam to the God and kneel)
Ma-ha-de-o! Merciful God, Thy spirit doth quicken The Life in our clod. Like grains of the dust.
We call unto Thee; Open our
eyes That thy ways we may see. Help us!

Lift us! Up to thy grace, Till in love we are standing

face unto face. (They rise, bow their heads, salaam and exs, singing Mahadeof softly)
(The Guard blows out the altar lamps, locks the doors and hastens to open the shrine. The Dancer comes out white and trembling)

Ma - ha-de-o! Ma - ha-de-o

**GUARD**

White thou art looking, my Lotus, Yet so wondrous sweet in thy fear,

I love thy daring spirit, To fight for those thou hold dear,

**TEMPLE DANCER**

No, no, not here in the temple.

Come let me loosen thy girdle Of thy heavy be-jeweled dress, And

*The Temple Dancer* - 64
GUARD

lift' thy band that is binding
Thy soft flowing, silken

That freed of its many burdens
Thy

TEMPLE DANCER

The wrath of the God may descend.
The wrath of the God

rest in my arms like a lily, in the tender-est,
ritard

may  descend.  (He stoops over her passionately and unclasps her girdle)

lov - ing  em - brace.

ritard  a tempo

As the heavy stall falls, a paper flutters to the ground)
It is mine!

suspiciously

Agitato

Why art thou so anxious Does it

GUARD

riten.

hide some secret tale? Why dost thou look so frightened? Why turnest thou so pale? I in

riten.

Agitato

plore thee give me the letter, Its contents were en-trust-ed to me.
GUARD

If to thee, Then I, as thy lover, shall claim its contents to see.

But I warn thee, if thou liest, If deception is hid there-in,

(He glances at the letter)

Three-fold shall I make thee suffer For thy falsehood and baseless sin.

(He gives a brutal laugh)

Ha! Ha! Traitress! Contemptible wanton, Thy
Weeds in the grove. Thou hadst planned with Mahadeo's
jewels To escape tonight with thy love.
Curse on thy tongue of falsehood, Smooth and sweeter than silk,
Curse on thy breasts of honey. Where venom has poisoned the

The Temple Dancer - 69
TEMPLE DANCER

milk.

Stay thy curses and in mercy,

credo

Listen to my human plea,

Love alone guides all my actions;

molto rit

Help, oh help, I plead with thee._

Help me, help me, I imp._

piu mosso

(He pushes her away with a coarse laugh)

piu mosso

plor._

thee That to-night we may depart.

The Temple Dancer - 64
Guard

Help thee to embrace another, let another

Animato
taste thy kiss, suffer pangs of burning passion to secure another's bliss!

(She stretches her arms towards him)

Doubly shall I make thee suffer, all thy pleading is in vain, thou hast
dared to tempt my honor, and the temple to profane.

The Temple Dancer - 61
Adagio

Be as thou say-est,

(Places the snake on the shrine)

gentle keeper, To thy orders I submit. See my emblem I surrender,

Do with me as thou seest fit. But I pray thee let in dancing, My

last hours here be spent, That I may in humble prayers Show that my deeds re-

The Temple Dancer -64
The Temple Dancer - 64
TEMPLE DANCER

I feel my senses swooning,
My throat is hot and dry.
I pray thee give me water

(She falls into his arms, feigning unconsciousness)
(He lays her down and gets a cup of water)

Or I will faint or die.
TEMPEL DANCER

I feel my life returning, soon will I dance again.

For in the circling motion

The Temple Dancer - 64
follow where you lead. Empty the cup in prayers

(He empties the cup)

That I may rise above this world and its temptation, To seek a greater love.

Allegr
t
tto

And now once more in dancing My pulse with life shall thrill; For new-born hopes and

The Temple Dancer - 64
longings
My soul and heart to fill.

(She dances triumphantly, mocking his longing gestures)

The Temple Dancer - 61
GUARD (She keeps on dancing)

Temptress and evil spirit. What

hast thou done unto me? Fire in my blood is raging, I

(Hes struggles) neither can hear nor see. I am dying,

You have poisoned the water, You dared even this to slight,

The Temple Dancer - 61
(He lifts the cup, then hurst it at her)

But the wrath of the God shall re-venge me, You will

(He hurts his spear blindly at her, and falls struggling)
(She circles around him clashing cymbals)

fall before Ma-ha-de-o's might.

TEMPLE DANCER (Placing her foot on the keeper triumphantly)
Moderato energico

-fy both you and the pow'rs. You think are reign-ing a-

Moderato energico


-bove,

With the jew-els of the great Ma-ha-do-o, I shall

(turning to the God)

flee to-night with my love.

From thy

dim.

shrine and thy price-less treasures, I shall take all my hands can hold, I am

The Temple Dancer - 61
She mounts to the shrine

free my own life to govern. Thy jewels I will change to gold!

Allegro
(Thunder crashes)

Terrified she hastens down the steps

(A streak of lightning strikes her)

The Temple Dancer - 64
(She stags, till she falls by the keeper)

(A sudden darkness sets in)

Moderato con moto (Shuffling of feet and cries are heard)

(Nuns, Yogis and Hindoos come rushing in in terror)

The Temple Dancer - 64
YOGA (Priest)

Dead lies the Guard and Dancer.

See her upturned ghastly face,
Foul play has entered the temple, Profaning the Holy Place.

Bury incense around their
Maestoso religioso

WOMEN'S VOICES

Ra - ma! Ra - ma! Call their err - ing

MENS VOICES

Ra - ma! Ra - ma! Call their err - ing

YOGA PRIESTS

heads.

Ra - ma! Call their err - ing

Maestoso religioso

feet. Call loud - ly up - on Ra - ma!

feet. Call loud - ly up - on Ra - ma!

feet. Call loud - ly up - on Ra - ma!

The Temple Dancer - 64
(Curtain drops slowly)

Bowed head

Rama!

Rama!

(Horn)

The Temple Dancer - 64