

L'AMOUR DE LOIN

CONDUCTOR

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THE PILGRIM

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JAUFRE RUEL

ERIC OWENS

ACT I Aquitaine, 12th century. Jaufré Rudel, Prince of Blaye, yearns for a distant love but is convinced he will never find it. A Pilgrim from overseas asserts that the woman he seeks does exist. Jaufré can no longer think of anything but her.

ACT II Back in the East, the Pilgrim meets the Countess of Tripoli, Clémence, and tells her that a prince-troubadour celebrates her in his songs as his “love from afar.” Offended at first, she later begins to dream of this strange and distant lover.

ACT III When the Pilgrim tells Jaufré that the lady now knows of him, Jaufré resolves to visit her in person. Clémence, for her part, seems to prefer that their relationship remain distant.

INTERMISSION

ACT IV Having embarked across the sea, Jaufré is impatient to find his “love from afar,” but also dreads their meeting. His anguish is such that he falls ill and arrives in Tripoli dying.

ACT V Jaufré is carried before Clémence unconscious, but in her presence revives little by little. The two lovers throw caution to the winds and declare their passion. When Jaufré dies in her arms, Clémence rails against Heaven, then blames herself and decides to enter a convent. Her last words are ambiguous, and we do not know to whom she prays—her distant God, or her “love from afar.”

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