

"The bridge of ice from England into France, it is complete at last. It didn't cost much, it cost everything.

The price was England."

The Guide, Act 1, Scene 4

Conductor Okko Kamu Producer Nicholas Hytner Designer Bob Crowley Lighting Robert Bryan

Cast includes Mikael Melbye Stafford Dean Eileen Hannan

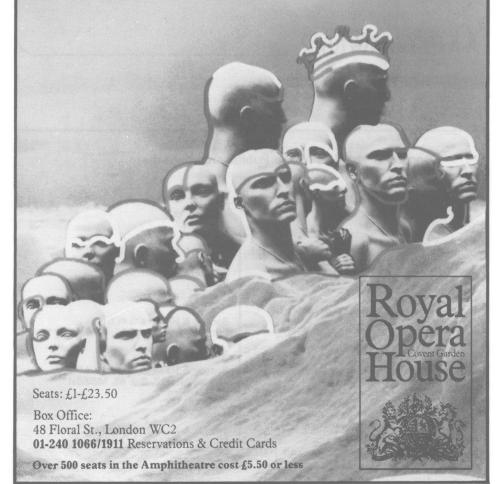
Sarah Walker Kim Begley **Donald Maxwell** Valerie Masterson Ian McDiarmid

Jointly commissioned by the Royal Opera House, Savonlinna Festival and the BBC Sponsored by The Royal Opera House Trust (1987)

April 1, 3, 6, 9, 11, 13 at 7.30pm



Royal Opera



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edited by Leo Smit

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## *Tempo*

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**EDITOR: CALUM MACDONALD** 

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### THE LAUREL IN RACKWICK

Slow and serene for centuries

Imagine those

Rackwick fishermen-crofters and their folk,

Ploughing and setting creels, bound but obedient to

Each quarter of the

Turning year; transmuting the hardship with fiddle and dance

Every Harvest-home and Hogmanay; then

Returning, that festival over, to the wheel of labour.

Many difficulties, many consolations.

And they had little to fear

**X**-cept black clouds at haytime or harvest or over the boats at sea, or

When snow cut bitterly into the March lambs.

Especially to be feared a bad

Landlord, who could sour their meaningful

Labour with ruinous rent-roll.

Delighted they'd have been,

**A**ll the Rackwick folk of old –

Very proud that one from their own valley

Is the new knight of music

Esteemed world-wide beyond the ancient "tyrants of the glebe".

Song is laurelled well, this winter, in Rackwick.

George Mackay Brown 1st January 1987

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