

Dmitri Kabalevsky (1904-1987)

COLAS BREUGNON, Op. 24/90 [1936-1938/1972]

Opera in 3 acts (eight scenes) and a prologue by W. Bragin and Dmitri Kabalevsky

Based on the novel of the same name by Romain Rolland

Russian – German version in preparation

full eve

Colas Breugnon	baritone
Selina	mezzo soprano
Jacqueline.	soprano
Jean Giffard, a miller	baritone
Curé Chamaille, priest of Brèves	tenor
Robinet, Colas Breugnon's apprentice	tenor
Herzog d'Asnois	tenor
Mademoiselle de Termes	soprano
Caller	tenor
Glodie, Breugnon's granddaughter	silent role
Two church-goers.	tenor, bass
Two voices behind the stage	(child) alto, bass
Citizens of Clamency, guests of the Duke, soldiers	choir

3(picc).3.3.3(db bn) – 4.3.3.1 – perc (timp, tgl, tamb, side dr, bas dr, cym, xyl). harp. strings – stage music:
2 vl. 2 ob. side dr. tam-t. horns. fanfares. bells

At the end of his life, the sculptor Colas Breugnon looks back on his life.

As a young man he loves Selina, also adored by Giffard. While Colas, called by Duke d'Asnois, stays at the latter's castle, Giffard speaks badly of him to Selina, who now marries Giffard out of jealousy. The desperate Colas then marries Jacqueline, who has loved him in vain for a long time. He cannot forget Selina, however.

Brought in by the soldiers of the Duke, the Plague has now broken out in Clamency. Colas is among those who are ill, but he stays alive, while his wife Jacqueline dies. Shortly before her death she confesses to him that she had always known of his love for Selina. Giffard and the Duke's troops now plunder and set fire in Clamency. When Colas wishes to file a lawsuit with the Duke against Giffard, the latter accuses him of turning the citizens against the Duke. Enraged, the Duke has all the sculptures by the master destroyed. Colas is furious but promises the Duke to create a statue of the latter showing him in full armour, as a sign of his penance. When this sculpture is unveiled in front of the castle, the residents of Clamency see the Duke in a majestic pose sitting backwards on a donkey. Their laughter drives the Duke back into his castle.