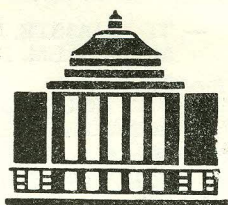


  
RAT-ESTONIA



# ATTILA

Trükikoda „Ühiselu“ Tallinn, Tell. 2145. VI 1980. Tiraaž 500.



**RAT · ESTONIA ·**

GIUSEPPE VERDI

# **ATTILA**

An opera in 2 acts.

Libretto by T. SOLERA,  
based on the play "Attila, the King of Huns" by Z. WERNER.

Estonian translation by A. MIKK.

The first performance took place on Dec. 25, 1976

Conductors:

ERI KLAS, People's Artist of the Estonian SSR  
and  
PEETER LILJE

Director:

ARNE MIKK, Merited Art Worker of the Estonian SSR

Designer:

ELDOR RENTER, Merited Art Worker of the Estonian SSR

Choir Masters:

UNO JÄRVELA, People's Artist of the Estonian SSR  
and  
ANNE DORBEEK

Concert masters:

HELJU TAUK and JAANUS JUUL

Concert master of the orchestra:

MATI UFFERT

Manager of the performance:

JÜRI KRÜS

Characters:

Attila, the king of Huns	— TEO MAISTE, People's Artist of the Estonian SSR MATI PALM, People's Artist of the Estonian SSR
Aetius, a Roman army commander	— TIIT KUUSIK, People's Artist of the Soviet Union ENNO MIKKELSAAR
Odabella, the daughter of a nobleman from Aquileia	— SOLVEIG RAJA, Merited Artist of the Latvian SSR (guest performer) JENNY ANVELT TIINA JAAKSOO
Foresto, a young warrior from Aquileia	— HENDRIK KRUMM, People's Artist of the Soviet Union KALJU KARASK, Merited Artist of the Estonian SSR
Uldino, a Breton prisoner, Attila's slave	— ENNO EESMAA, Merited Artist of the Estonian SSR MAIT ROBAS
Leo, an old Roman	— UNO KREEN ERVIN KÄRVET

Huns, Romans —  
artists of the "Estonia" choir and ballet, and singers of the boys' choir  
at the State Academic Male Choir of the ESSR

The action of the opera takes place in Italy, in mid-5th century

THE CONTENTS OF THE OPERA

Prologue

Scene 1. A square in Aquileia, a town conquered by Attila. The Huns and their allies extol their god and their king. The Breton slave Uldino brings before Attila a group of prisoners, young girls who have been helping their fathers and brothers in battle. One among them is Odabella, the daughter of a nobleman from Aquileia, who has seen her father killed in battle and believes that her beloved, Foresto, has likewise shared that fate. Attila, deeply impressed by Odabella's beauty and courage, promises generously to fulfil her wishes. Odabella wants to be given a dagger, and on getting it she vows to avenge her father's death on the enemy.

There appears an envoy of Rome, the army commander Aetius, who offers to conclude an alliance with Attila, on the condition that Italy be ceded to himself. Attila rejects the offer, being sure that he does not need any aid for conquering not only Italy, but also the entire world.

Scene 2. Foresto and some other refugees from Aquileia are sheltered by hermits. Though in despair on account of Odabella's fate and the ruin of his country, he still hopes that Italy will be free, once again.

Act I

Scene 1. A forest near Attila's camp. Thinking of her father and Foresto, Odabella cannot find any rest in sleep. Suddenly Foresto, whom she considered to have been killed, appears before her. He has been looking for Odabella, and finding her now in the enemy's camp, he accuses her of treason. Odabella explains to him that she intends to kill Attila, whose confidence she has won. She wants to repeat Judith's feat.

Scene 2. Attila's camp. Attila wakes, alarmed by a dream, in which an old Roman of giant stature had obstructed his way to Rome. Nevertheless, he pulls himself together and orders his warriors to start marching to Rome.

Distant sounds of music are heard, coming nearer and nearer. There arrives Leo, an old Roman, accompanied by chanting children and young girls. Attila is horrified, recognizing in Leo the old man of his dream. Leo warns him against attacking Rome, the holy city protected by heaven. Attila, shaken in his self-confidence, postpones the campaign.

Act II

Scene 1. Aetius' camp on the approaches to Rome. Aetius is annoyed by a letter from the young emperor Valentinian, summoning him to Rome during the armistice. The ambitious commander dreams of becoming the ruler of the country, believing himself to be able to restore the former glory of Rome.

A detachment of Huns, among whom is Foresto in the disguise of a Hun, brings Aetius an invitation from Attila. Remaining alone with Aetius, Foresto informs him that Attila will be killed on the same day, and tells Aetius to have his warriors ready to attack the enemy camp when the corresponding signal is given.

Scene 2. A feast in Attila's camp. Attila receives Aetius hospitably, disregarding his old warriors' warning that the inviting of an enemy to table will cause disaster. A sudden gust of wind extinguishes the lights. Under the cover of darkness, Foresto tells Odabella that there is poison in the goblet of wine, soon to be served Attila by Uldino. Odabella, however, having decided that Attila must die by her hand, warns Attila not to drink the wine. Enraged Foresto declares openly that it was he who poisoned the wine. Odabella begs Attila to leave the judgement on the miscreant to her. Attila agrees, announcing at the same time that Odabella will be his wife on the very next day, and after the wedding the Huns will attack Rome.

Odabella orders Foresto to take flight.

Scene 3. A forest on the approaches to Attila's camp. Foresto is informed by Uldino that the ceremony of Attila's wedding to Odabella is in progress, and believes

himself to be betrayed by his beloved. Aetius advises him to keep a cool head and think rather of the Roman forces that are ready to attack Attila. Odabella, having fled from the nuptial tent, arrives to join them. She is soon followed by Attila, who finds himself facing his three enemies. By stabbing Attila, Odabella fulfils her vow of revenge.

"Attila", the ninth opera by Verdi, was written when the composer was 33 years of age, after "Ernani" (1844) and before "Macbeth" (1847). The premiere was in Venice on March 17, 1846, and soon after that "Attila" was also performed by other opera theatres of Italy. Like nearly all the early operas by Verdi, it was enthusiastically received by the Italian public due to the patriotic plot and the dramatic music, since the country was at that time suffering under Austro-Hungarian oppression.

In the present century, the later masterpieces by Verdi being preferred, "Attila" had fallen into oblivion until it was staged once again in Switzerland, in 1960. In recent years it has been produced at several theatres, including "La Scala" of Milan (1975). The present production is the premiere of the Soviet Union.

Price 30 kop.