

## **L'ETOILE DU NORD**

Music by Giacomo Meyerbeer

Libretto by Eugène Scribe

First Performance: Opéra-Comique, Paris, February 16, 1854

**Act I.** The czar, Peter the Great, is disguised as a carpenter, and as such he meets and loves Catherine, who is on the point of donning male attire to serve in the army in place of her brother George.

**Act II.** At the Russian camp. Catherine, now a recruit in a dragoon regiment, discovers a plot to murder the czar. She betrays the secret and thus enables the czar to spoil the plot and seize the conspirators.

**Act III.** This happens at the palace of the czar. Peter longs for Catherine whom he has not met of late and thinks she must be dead, for his inquiries have been in vain. But at last he has news that she is alive but insane. The czar sends for her. To please her he has his garden laid out so as to resemble the one he tended in Viborg, Finland, where he first met her. He also puts on his carpenter's costume, and as she sees him she falls into his arms. He makes her his wife.