

## **LA STRANIERA**

Bellini

Story of the opera:

14th century, Brittany. Arturo is engaged to Isoletta, but falls in love with the stranger Alaide, whom some believe to be a witch: She is always veiled, and is seen constantly weeping in desolate places..

Seeing her at a secret meeting with Valdeburgo (who is, in fact, her brother), Arturo challenges Valdeburgo to a duel during which the latter appears to slip, and drown in a lake. Although Arturo attempts to take the blame, Alaide is accused of murder. However, Valdeburgo turns out to be alive, and, at his insistence, Arturo agrees to go ahead with the marriage to Isoletta. In the last scene Arturo is seen going to church with Isoletta: Alaide, who gave up her love for him, is seen praying outside. Suddenly Arturo rushes out of the church and declares that he will have her, dead or alive. A prior stops him, and declares to all that she is the unlawfully wedded wife of the king of France, and that, the wife of the king having died that very day, Alaide is the official Queen of France now. Arturo, desperate cries: "Return to your country, over my dead body" - and stabs himself. She swoons, and the opera ends.