MUMADONA

Opera in 3 Acts

Libretto by Carlos Tê
Music by Carlos Azevedo
MUMADONA
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The opera Mumadona was written as a commission for the closing ceremonies of Guimarães European Capital of Culture 2012.
First performed on 14th December 2012 at Centro Cultural Vila Flor - Guimarães

Characters

Dórdio ...................... Tenor
Chun Lee ................. Soprano
Huang Lee ............. Baritone
Dirceu .................... Tenor
Doroteia ................. Mezzo-soprano
Marçal ................. Bass
Mumadona ............... Contralto
Alcino .................... Tenor (from the choir)
Valdir .................... Baritone (from the choir)
Choir
TV presenter .......... Actor

Orchestra

2 Flutes (2nd doubles Piccolo)
2 Oboes (2nd doubles E. Horn)
2 Bb Clarinets (2nd doubles Bass Clarinet)
2 Bassoons
4 Horns
2 Bb Trumpets
Trombone
Bass Trombone

2 Percussionists:
1 Perc. Timpani, Triangle, Splash Cymbal, Low Tam, 4 Toms (High, Mid, Low-Mid & Low), Snare Drum, Bass Drum
2 Perc. Vibraphone, Tubular Bells, Splash Cymbal, Ride Cymbal, Low Tam, Snare Drum, 3 Toms (Mid, Low-Mid & Low)

Strings
In a time of economic crisis and global recession, the story begins in Guimarães, where a passionate meeting takes place between Dórdio, the son of a textile industry businessman, and Chun Lee, the daughter of a Chinese shop owner, who was born in Portugal and is well adapted to western culture. This encounter between the two young people is foretold at the beginning by the fortune-teller Mumadona1, at a party tent, during the Saint Gualter festivities2. Mumadona also cautions Dórdio that in order to be worthy of love he will first be tested. To help him overcome his trial, she sells Dórdio a magical charm that he should trigger in case of need. The young man is completely oblivious of his family’s bankruptcy. His love for Chun Lee will prove to be the trial foretold by Mumadona for it involves racial prejudice and resentment, resulting from the economic crisis and is intensified by the origins of Chun Lee, who symbolizes the power of the Tigrotaurus – the monster that sets the pace for the global economy.

In the meantime, Dirceu and Doroteia, Dórdio’s parents, try to entice him to marry the daughter of a wealthy contractor, in a desperate effort to save their own company. Despite that, Dórdio rejects the idea of pledging his happiness in a marriage of convenience. To make matters worse, China starts acquiring the Portuguese national sovereign debt. The patriotic souls cry out against such humiliation, among them Marçal, the family accountant and the lover of Doroteia, whom he tries to persuade to run away with him to Brazil. Meanwhile, a G5 meeting is taking place to halt the increasing power of China in the global economy. Newsflashes emerge of Chinese interests being attacked both in Portugal and abroad. The choir sings warnings that nothing less than universal love may appease the Tigrotaurus. Doroteia proposes hosting a dinner for the rich contractor Teixeira Mendes, in an ultimate effort to secure an alliance of consequence and prevent bankruptcy. However, Dórdio confesses his love for Chun Lee and suggests that the dinner party be held to honor the Lee. Doroteia and Dirceu have no choice but to comply, if only because they realize that the money of the Lee might be their only chance to save their company. At the same time, Huang Lee, brother to Chun Lee, an older bitter Chinese who strives to prevent his sister’s westernization, is trapped in the riots when heading for the dinner party. Back at the home of Doroteia, Marçal confesses to her that he has embezzled funds from the family company. It becomes clear that it is he who should be held accountable for the financial predicament of the family and not the Chinese competitors. Marçal threatens to disclose their affair to her husband unless Doroteia agrees to follow him to Brazil. Halfway through dinner, Doroteia lures Marçal to the cellar and kills him. Dórdio takes the magical charm given to him by the fortune teller Mumadona in an attempt to stop financial chaos but he cannot remember how to make the charm work. At this point we witness a miracle. The G5 meeting ends with the report of the easing of the international crisis. The air of concord returns and it is never clear whether chance or the charm had a hand in it. Doroteia emerges from the cellar and Huang Lee, who had managed to escape from a lynch mob, is seen wrapped in a robe, sitting in a high chair at the center of the stage, which is slowly elevated as if it were a throne.

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1 Mumadona Diaz – Countess of the County of Portugal, the territory that would later become Portugal as an independent nation. Mumadona was the most powerful, educated and influential woman of the 10th century in the Iberian Peninsula, according to local historians, and ruled alone for years upon her husband’s passing. A local heroine.

2 Saint Gualter festivities have been celebrated since 1906 as a tribute to the patron Saint Gualter. Every year, thousands gather for the Linen Parade, the battle of the flowers, the Saint Gualter procession, to drink, dance and be merry.
Scene 1. The Choir pronounces an omen under the grim light

Adagio \( \text{\textcopyright 65} \)

Flute 1
Flute 2
Oboe 1
Oboe 2
Clarinet in B
Clarinet in B
Horn in F 2/4
Horn in F 1/3
Double Bass
Flute 2
Flute 1
I Perc.
II Perc.
Piano
Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Cello
Double Bass

Music by Carlos Azevedo
Libretto by Carlos T
The light changes. Saint Gaulter festivities. Dórdio, Valdir and Alcino, dance with the choir, swaying as in a typical folk festival choreography.
Mumadona Act I
Mumadona Act I

Meno mosso $= 90$

1. Flute
2. Flute
1. Oboe
2. Oboe
1. Soprano Clarinet
2. Soprano Clarinet
1. Bassoon
2. Bassoon
1. Horn
2. Horn
1. Bassoon
2. Bassoon
1. I Percussion
2. I Percussion
1. II Percussion
2. II Percussion
1. Piano
2. Piano
1. Soprano
2. Soprano
1. Alto
2. Alto
1. Tenor
2. Tenor
1. Baritone
2. Baritone
1. Soprano Violin
2. Soprano Violin
1. Violin
2. Violin
1. Viola
2. Viola
1. Viola da Gamba
2. Viola da Gamba
1. Double Bass
2. Double Bass
A tempo = 112

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

B. Cl. 1

B. Cl. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Hn. 1/3

Hn. 2/4

B. Tpt. 1/2

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

I Perc.

II Perc.

Pno.

Choir
Mumadona Act I
Mumadona Act I

poco a poco Allargando
Scene 2. Dórdio enters and is received by a cloaked figure in the shadow.
Mumadona Act I
F. Tudo seria mais simples se acreditasse nessa fábula...
Mumadona Act I
Ah...tem direito a ladainha e tudo!
Mumadona Act I
The three dance until they fall to the floor, hangover. The light changes to a mysterious dawn atmosphere. Chun Lee enters, wrapped in a Chinese shadow effect.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
S-Cl. 1
S-Cl. 2
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1d
Hn. 2d
B- Tfl. 1d
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Hn. 3d
Hn. 4d
I Pers.
II Pers.
Pno.
I Perc.
II Perc.
Perc.

Meno mosso 4 = 80

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
Pno.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
I Perc.
II Perc.

ritenuto
a tempo

Mumadona Act I
**Scene 3.** At Dódílo's house, Doroteia lies in bed. The TV set shows Bloomberg graphics on market evolution. Dirceu, in his robe, paces to and fro, holding his mobile phone.

\[ \text{Scene 3. At Dódílo's house. Doroteia lies in bed. The TV set shows Bloomberg graphics on market evolution. Dirceu, in his robe, paces to and fro, holding his mobile phone.} \]

\[ \text{Fl. 1} \]

\[ \text{Fl. 2} \]

\[ \text{Ob. 1} \]

\[ \text{Ob. 2} \]

\[ \text{B. Cl. 1} \]

\[ \text{B. Cl. 2} \]

\[ \text{Bsn. 1} \]

\[ \text{Bsn. 2} \]

\[ \text{Hn. 1/2} \]

\[ \text{Hn. 2/4} \]

\[ \text{B. Tpt. 1/2} \]

\[ \text{Tbn.} \]

\[ \text{B. Tbn.} \]

\[ \text{I Perc.} \]

\[ \text{II Perc.} \]

\[ \text{I Perc.} \]

\[ \text{II Perc.} \]

\[ \text{Vln. 1} \]

\[ \text{Vln. 2} \]

\[ \text{Vla.} \]

\[ \text{Vc.} \]

\[ \text{D.B.} \]
Mumadona Act I
Mumadona Act I
Mumadona Act I
Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Br. Cl. 1

Br. Cl. 2

Ban. 1

Ban. 2

Hn. 1/3

Hn. 2/4

Br. Tpt. 1/2

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

I Perc.

II Perc.

Pro.

Doroteia

Divino

Vn. 1

Vn. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

D.s.
Mumadona Act I
Mama mosso $q = 100$
Largo \( \frac{\text{q}}{\text{= 56}} \)

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

B. Cl. 1

B. Cl. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Hn. 1/3

Hn. 2/4

Tpt. 1/2

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

I Perc.

II Perc.

Pno.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Divisi

Mumadona Act I
Mumadona Act I
Mumadona Act I
Scene 1. A TV news presenter speaks before a video camera broadcasting to a screen somewhere on stage.
Scene 2. A Chinese shopkeeper, his wife, their son, Huang Lee, and their daughter, Chun Lee, arrange boxes on the shelves.
A tempo $= 65$

poco accel.
Scene 3. Valdir and Alcino meet Dorio.
Mumadona Act II

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Bb Cl. 1

Bb Cl. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Hn. 1/3

Hn. 2/4

Tpt. 1/2

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

I Perc.

II Perc.

Pre.

Choir

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

ritenuto

a tempo
Scene 4. At the home of Dirceu and Doroteia, an atmosphere of anxiety. Marçal enters.
Mumadona Act II
Mumadona Act II
Mumadona Act II
Mumadona Act II
Scene 5. Chun Lee is studying in a cafe. The choir poses as clientele, seating at the tables.
ritardando

Adagio \( \text{q} = 60 \)
Davos recebe hoje a cimeira do G8!

Locutor
O mundo está perdido num labirinto sistémico!
Scene 6. At the home of Díceu and Doroteia. Dórdio enters.

Meno mosso \( \text{\textit{q}} = 70 \)
Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Br. Cl. 1

Br. Cl. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Hn. 1/3

Hn. 2/4

Tpt. 1/2

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

I Perc.

II Perc.

Pno.

Dirceu

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Mumadona Act II
Scene 1. At Doroteia’s. The dinner party in honour of the Lee’s. The Lees, father and mother, smile and bow. The TV is heard updating the news.
Marçal

Dirceu

Bsn. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 1

Ob. 2

Pno.

Tbn.

D.B.

Fl. 2

Vla.

Vc.
Adagio \( \text{q} = 65 \)

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Obo. 1

Obo. 2

Bb-Cl. 1

Bb-Cl. 2

Bass. 1

Bass. 2

Hn. 1/3

Hn. 2/4

Bb-Tpt. 1/2

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc.

Mar. 1

Mar. 2

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.
Scene 2. Huang Lee, standing in the street, looking at his wristwatch
Mumadona Act III
Scene 3. Huang Lee is caught in a riot. The choir holds torches and acts as if in a pogrom. In counterpoint, in the cellar, Doroteia kills Marçal with an axe.
Scene 4. Dining room. There is a knock on the door. Huang Lee enters, battered and bruised and in rags. The others help him to undress and hand him a robe. He is sat on an armchair. Chun Lee dries his head and leaves the towel on, shaped as an imperial turban.
O G8 não dá sinal de si! Ardeu uma loja chinesa no Bombarral!
Mumadona Act III
Scene 5. Dórdio goes down to the cellar and gets the amulet from his pocket.
Scene 6. Doroteia enters with the champagne
Mumadona Act III

Locutor: O G8 obrigou a China a aceitar novas regras aduaneiras! A paz parece voltar aos mercados...

[Music notation with various instrument lines and instructions]
Mumadona Act III
Mmeno mosso  \( q = 60 \)