

LE ROI D'YS

Music by Édouard Lalo

Libretto by Édouard Blau

First Performance: Opéra-Comique, Paris, May 7, 1888

Act I. Margared and Rozenn, daughters of the King of Ys, a city on the Breton sea, both love the warrior Mylio who cares only for Rozenn. Margared, the Pearl Mylio who cares only for Rozenn. Margared, the Pearl of Brittany, has been betrothed by her father for political reasons to Prince Karnac. shortly after she is led away to be robed for her marriage, she learns that Mylio has returned to Ys and refuses to wed Karnac. the Prince challenges the Breton king to mortal combat and Mylio picks up Karnac's gauntlet.

Act II. Margared is torn by conflicting emotions. Seeing her sister Rozenn's tender parting with Mylio, she cries that she hopes he will never return from battle. Rozenn, believing her sister mad, tries in vain to calm her. Margared curses her and St. Corentin, patron saint of Brittany. When Mylio comes back victorious, Margared, her love turned to hatred, steals to the defeated Karnac and offers to help him conquer Ys by opening the dikes which hold back the waters of the sea.

Act III. Rozenn is wedded to Mylio according to the charming customs of ancient Brittany. As the nuptial procession returns from the chapel, Margared warns them that the flood gates are down and the waters are already filling the streets of the city. On a hill near the sea, the people of Ys kneel in prayer as the waves roll higher. Margared admits her guilt and suddenly, eager to atone for the evil she has done, she casts herself from a great rock into the raging flood. A vision of St. Corentin appears in a golden glory to accept her sacrifice and the floods retire. the city is saved.