

MSC: Opera Exotica, Session 2 Synopsis

SYNOPSIS: Rossini's *L'Italiana in Algeri*

Mustapha, the Bey of Algeria, has grown tired of his wife Elvira and instructs his captain of the guard to find an Italian wife for him. Isabella, 'L'Italiana' of the title, while sailing the seas in search of her lover Lindoro, has been shipwrecked and she arrives at the court accompanied by her wealthy admirer Taddeo, whom she passes off as her uncle. Immediately, she discovers that Lindoro is now a captive slave of Mustapha. When the Bey falls in love with her, Isabella agrees to marry him but only after he participates in a silly initiation ceremony, the order of the 'Pappatacci'. The most important rule of the order is to eat, be silent and be a model husband. When Mustapha realizes that he has been hoodwinked, he orders Isabella and Lindoro clemency and they are able to sail away as the Bey returns to his neglected wife.