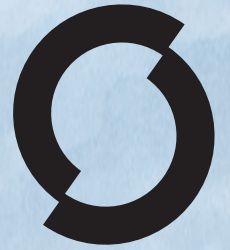


Performance Script



Scottish
Opera

VIKINGS!

The Quest for the Dragon's Treasure



Music by Alan Penman

Lyrics by Natalie Arle-Toyne

Illustrations by Iain Piercy

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Vikings!

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Book: Natalie Arle-Toyne

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A. Character Descriptions:

Vikings Group:

The boisterous, over-the-top, swashbuckling Vikings are avid storytellers, and always up for a battle or a quest. However, they dive in headfirst without thinking of the consequences.

The Queen: (played by Scottish Opera Teaching Artist)

The people's Queen! She is a fearless axe-throwing champion. Like her gung-ho Vikings, she hungers after adventure, no matter the cost, until her actions nearly destroy her beloved Kingdom.

Sorcerer Supreme: (played by Scottish Opera Teaching Artist)

The Sorcerer Supreme is the Queen's advisor but has been planning to overthrow her for an age. Obsessed with power, he is manipulative, sly, and as it turns out, too clever for his own good.

Sorcerers Group:

As power-hungry as their Supreme, the conniving Sorcerers trick the Vikings into doing their bidding, but ultimately repent and join the Viking workforce for the good of the Kingdom.

The Farmer: (played by Scottish Opera Teaching Artist)

The wise Farmer foresees the danger in upsetting the Earth's natural balance. He and his group save the day, and he takes over the role of Queen's advisor.

Villagers Group:

The steadfast and humble heroes of the day. They are the blacksmiths, cooks, farmers and healers of the Viking Kingdom. They defend the earth and its creatures and teach the other groups that together is always stronger.

The Dragon:

Viking Dragons are not inherently bad or good. They are a symbol of balance in Norse Mythology. Our fierce dragon wants her treasure back!

B. Libretto

RECIT 1: Prophecy of Power

All: Make way for the Viking Queen!

All: Fiercest of us all!

Queen: And yer axe-throwing champion,
This year, and every year before! Whoopa!

The Queen throws an imaginary axe at the Sorcerer's head. He ducks!

So, my trusted advisor, Sorcerer Supreme,
You've gathered us together, time you spilt the beans.
What have you there?

Sorcerer Supreme: We found an ancient rune in a riddle all in rhyme –
It's been under our noses all this time!

Queen (spoken): What does it say?

Sorcerer Supreme: Listen!
Deep within Fire Mountain, Ice Dragon sleeps and snores.
Crack the dragon's gemstones, then true power will be MINE!

Queen: Eh?

Sorcerer Supreme: I mean YOURS, my Queen!

Queen: By Odin! True power?

Sorcerer Supreme: All you have to do is snatch the monster's jewels.

Farmer: Woah!
Steal from a Dragon, do you think us fools?
We've been peaceful for an age.
Why steal the gems and risk a dragon's rage?
Perhaps this prophecy is not all that it seems?

Sorcerer Supreme: Simple Farmer, let's not question the Queen.

Queen: It's a dangerous request but a necessary measure.
Sound the horns! Prepare to quest...
For the dragon's treasure!

SONG 1: Prepare! (All Groups)

All Groups: Prepare, Vikings, prepare!
We will succeed,
To this we swear!
For the kingdom we will quest
To steal a dragon's treasure chest.
So don't delay,
Point the way,
To the dragon's lair.
Prepare, Vikings, prepare!
We will prevail,
Do not despair!
To add a Viking victory
To history
We must prepare!

Viking Verse: A pirate raid of Vikings
Are not afraid to fool a dragon.
We'll show the beast what warriors we are!

We're battle brave, we're Vikings!
Valhalla calls, we answer with a Viking glare of Viking dare.
Ragnarök into the hall of fame cause we're all stars!

All Groups: Prepare, Vikings, prepare!
We will succeed,
To this we swear!
For the kingdom we will quest
To steal a dragon's treasure chest.
So don't delay,
Point the way,
To the dragon's lair.
Prepare, Vikings, prepare!
We will prevail,
Do not despair!
To add a Viking victory
To history
We must prepare!

Sorcerer Verse: Behind their precious Queen
We have stood unseen.
She's the Kingdom's pride,
We are pushed aside.

Little do they know,
We run this show,
Our plan to overthrow cannot be stopped.
We will prepare...
To take our rightful place on top!

Read the ancient runes,
And find the spell

That breaks apart
A dragon's heart
For soon we start.

Villager Verse: Heave ho, smelt the iron ore,
Heat and hammer sword and shield,
Heave ho, hear the fire roar.
Vikings,
Need an axe to wield.

Kulning, call the herd home,
No time now to sow or seed,
But it's baffling, why they loot and steal?
Surely, we have all we need.

Queen: Adventure calls, my Vikings!
So beat the drum and raise our banner.
A quest like this will mark the century...
Now pick up yer swords, follow me!

All Groups: Farewell, Vikings, farewell!
When you return
The tales we'll tell!
We'll add a Viking victory
To history,
Vikings, farewell!

The Viking Group exits, waved off by the other two groups.

RECIT 2: We've Got The Spell

The Sorcerer Supreme paces impatiently until...

Sorcerer Supreme: The sun has set and risen again,
Finally here they come!
We've got the spell, they've got the gems.
We'll crack them open, I'll tell you when,
And then we'll have some fun!
Power will be mine, and we'll have won!
Now welcome parties,
And remember to stay mum!

Horns sound! Vikings enter.

Queen: We return victorious,
Dragon's treasure in hand.
Oh, what an adventure!
It went exactly as planned...

Viking Kid (spoken): We'll tell you all about it!

SONG 2: When you're a Viking! (Vikings Group)

Queen: We crept into the crypt and started to explore...
And there she was!
The ice dragon of lore!
And beneath the scaly tail lay a treasure chest supreme
With jewels and gems aplenty, all glitter and a-gleam
I could feel the power pulsing from this one gigantic stone...

She takes the one giant gem from the bursting swag bag and holds it up like a trophy before passing it and the bag to the Sorcerer.

(Spoken) Time to put the plan in action and get the swag bag home.
(Sung) And how you ask? Easy! If you're a Viking! Argh!
You do the...

Viking Group: Bash and smash with style and panache when you're a Viking!
There's death and despair with flourish and flair when you're a Viking!
There're lashings of gashings, we pillage and steal,
Then whack you on the head with a club!
We love to hear you shout and squeal
When we chop you up!
You stalk and slash with a clink and a flash when you're a Viking!
It's doom and decay, then sashay away when you're a Viking!
With muscles and physique that would make Odin weep,
We're the heroes you all adore
'Cause we're the Vikings! Hear us ROOOAAAARRR!

Kids whistle while the Queen tap dances:

Tap dance/whistle...when you're a Viking!

Tap dance/whistle...when you're a Viking!

There's no fun in fleeing, let's play hide and seek!
We'll batter down your door with an axe!
We love to hear you shout and shriek when it finally cracks!
You squish and squash, it's bish, bash, bosh when you're a Viking!
You squoosh and squeeze, then off at the knees when you're a Viking!
It's glorious and glamorous, the guts and the gore,
You'll be screaming for more!
'Cause we're the Vikings! Hear us ROOOAAAARRR!

You bash and smash with style and panache when you're a Viking!
It's death and despair with flourish and flair when you're a Viking!
It's glorious and glamorous, the guts and the gore,
You'll be screaming for more!
'Cause we're the Vikings! Hear us rrrrrrrrrrrrr...ROOOAAAARRR!! ROAR!!

RECIT 3: Frozen

Queen: A Viking saga for the books! But now it's time to celebrate – call the cooks!

Farmer rushes in...

Farmer: My Queen! I hate to intervene...but there will be no feast.

Queen: Eh?

Farmer: I was afraid that this would happen if we disturbed the beast.

Queen: Stop blethering in Norse code! What do you mean?

Farmer: Have you not seen?

The Queen looks out...

Queen: Jings!

Farmer: What was once lush and green is now an ice rink!
Spring has come and gone in a blink.
The birds have flown South, the bears are to their slumber.
It's as we warned... to steal from the dragon was a mighty blunder!

Villager Kid (spoken): If only you'd listen to us! We know the land. We respect the balance.

SONG 3: Defenders of the Earth (Villagers Groups)

We plough,
We plant,
We gather,

We bash,
We bend,
We hammer.

Every sword,
Every shield
Comes from services we yield

From the forge to the field.

Why steal,
And hoard,
And plunder?

Destroy our world of wonder?

Do not fail
To take heed:
There's a price for want and greed.
Only use what you need!

Chorus: We're defenders of the Earth,
Proud protectors of all Mother Nature's worth.
We're defenders of the Earth,
We understand that balance must come first.

We mix
And brew,
To heal you.

We roast
And stew,
To feed you.

While you spar
And you fight,
You ignore the planet's plight
There are wrongs, we must right!

Chorus: We're defenders of the Earth,
Proud protectors of all Mother Nature's worth.
We're defenders of the Earth,
We understand that balance must come first.

Farmer: To save our kingdom, we pray
The gods will guide us, show a way.

All: To tame a dragon
Ignite a flame of harmony today.

Chorus: Will you listen, hear her sing.
Goddess Fjörgyn will turn Winter into Spring.
We can change our frozen fate.
We must return the gems, it's not too late!

Farmer Countermelody: Break the curse, before things go from bad to worse, reverse the curse.

Chorus: We're defenders of the Earth,
Proud protectors of all Mother Nature's worth.
We're defenders of the Earth,
We understand..
To counter the chaos,
We give back what's not ours,
The land and its creatures come first!
We are proud to be defenders of the earth!

RECIT 4: Sorcerer's Surprise!

Queen: It's settled then!
We give back the gems.
We'll soon raise a flagon to our new friend, the Dragon!

Farmer: Thank Odin! But wait, where is the treasure?

Sorcerer Supreme: With its powerful new master!

Queen: Wit?

Sorcerer Supreme: Ha ha ha! Yes!
We're in control of this epic disaster!
So Queenie, it's time to step down, hand over your crown.

Queen: Never!

Sorcerer Supreme: Then remain in Winter forever!

SONG 4: We Have The Power! (Sorcerers Group)

Chorus: We have the power, we have the power,
Your turn to bow and scrape and cower!
We've waited an age to take centre-stage,
Finally, now is the hour!
We have the power, we have the power,
Our turn to ravage, ruin, devour,
Our game, our rules, we have the jewels, we have the power!

Like Loki, we tricked you.
What a surprise.
Hook, line, and sinker, fell for our lies.
Let a brand-new shiny era begin,
Don't fight it, it's time to give in.
If you don't, you know that we will win!

Chorus: We have the power, we have the power,
Your turn to bow and scrape and cower!
We've waited an age to take centre-stage,
Finally, now is the hour!
We have the power, we have the power,
Our turn to ravage, ruin, devour,
Our game, our rules, we have the jewels, we have the power!

The Sorcerer Supreme holds up the giant gem in front of his group.

Turquoise and silver, glittering gold.
What lies within it?
Secrets untold.
Crack it open, and we'll see what's inside.
Quickly, we will not be denied.
Watch in awe as we are magnified!

Chant over the gems: Sorcerers ready, hold your wands steady.
Say the spell to splinter the shell.
Fizzle and fracture, shiver and shatter,
Show us the heart of the dragon's treasure For then...
We'll have the power!
The power!

(Over the tremolo):

They wait in anticipation...but nothing happens.

Sorcerer Supreme

(spoken): Why's it not working?
Bring out the Viking hammers!
Smash 'em up, Sorcerers!

Farmer (spoken) : Wait! Listen to me, I beg! What if this gem is a dragon's...(egg)

Suddenly, the monstrous sound of the approaching dragon!

Sorcerer Supreme

(spoken): Is that what I think it is?

SONG 4: A Dragon Attack!

Panic ensues!

Sorcerer Supreme: The dragon!

Queen: Prepare!

Sorcerer Supreme: The dragon!

Queen: Prepare!

Sorcerer Supreme: The dragon wants its treasure back!

Queen: Prepare, Vikings, prepare!

Farmer: We warned you! We warned you, Vikings prepare!

Sorcerer Supreme: The dragon!

Queen: Prepare!

Sorcerer Supreme: The dragon!

Queen: Prepare!

Sorcerer Supreme: The dragon wants its treasure back!

Queen: Prepare, Vikings, prepare!

Villager Group: Look out! Aaargh! Dra-gon! *They duck as the dragon swoops.*

Viking Group: Look out! Aaargh! *They duck as the dragon swoops.*

Sorcerer Group: Look out! Aaargh! *They duck as the dragon swoops.*

Note: A large flag with the Ice Dragon painted on it is waved over the groups each time they duck, to represent the beast.

Farmer: Stop!

The giant gem has started to shake and crack...

Farmer: It's just as we thought. This gem is hatching...

(The sound of a baby dragon hatching. The Farmer, Queen and Sorcerer Supreme melt, transfixed by the sweet little dragon that has popped out. They lean in over the egg to coo.)

The group leaders sing together:

Farmer: It's a girl! A dragon baby girl! Look at her wings unfurl.
Look at her tuft of hair, that curl
Of her baby tail,
Listen to the sound of her baby wail.

Queen: Look at her wings unfurl.
Look at her tuft of hair, that curl
Of her baby tail,
Listen to the sound of her baby wail.

Sorcerer Supreme: A baby!
Look at her tuft of hair, that curl of her tail,
The sound of her baby wail.

Cute first roar of the baby dragon.

Queen: Get her to her mother.
Don't just stare!
Reunite the pair.
Carry her out yonder into the great ice tundra
And take cover!

Farmer (spoken): We saved the Kingdom!

Queen (spoken): And we did it together, cause we're...

All groups (shouted): Vikings!

They all do a victorious Viking roar into...

SONG 5: Vikings Forever (All Groups)

Chorus: Viking hearts beat as one.
Side by side, we are tall and strong.
Winter's past, spring has sprung,
We unite with the rising sun.
There's new tales to tell you
And new songs to be sung,
We'll be Vikings forever as one.

Viking hearts beat as one.
Celebrate! Look how far we've come.
Dragon's curse is undone,
Future's bright and we've just begun.
There's new tales to tell you
And new songs to be sung,
We'll be Vikings forever as one.

Viking Verse: Come and see the Vikings!
We have changed and for the better,
Once again, the heroes you adore.
Count on us, we're Vikings!
If you call, we'll rescue you
Cause we're the Vikings, hear us roar!

Chorus: Viking hearts beat as one
Side by side, we are tall and strong
Winter's past, spring has sprung
We unite with the rising sun
There's new tales to tell you
And new songs to be sung
We'll be Vikings forever as one

Villager Verse: Yo Ho, teach the village way
Working with the soil and sea
Yo ho, all will have a say
Raise your hand if you agree!

Other groups raise their hands and shout 'aye'!

Sorcerers, learnt their lesson well
All are equal in our clan
We are advisors to the Queen
While they learn to farm the land

Sorcerer Verse: Now we can see the power
In stem and leaf and flower
Every root, every seed
Holds more magic than we need
No more schemes, guaranteed

All Groups: Now we're all defenders of the Earth
Proud protectors of all Mother Nature's worth
We're defenders of the Earth
Together we will put the planet first

Chorus: Viking hearts beat as one.
Side by side, we are tall and strong.
Winter's past, spring has sprung,
We unite with the rising sun.
There's new tales to tell you
And new songs to be sung.
We'll be Vikings forever as one.
Vikings forever as one!
Vikings forever as one!
A humongous dragon roar sounds out.

Queen: I recognise that roar but it's bigger than before...

Farmer: That's cause it's the dad!

They all turn to the Sorcerer...

Sorcerer Supreme

(spoken): Ah, now don't get mad...

Sorcerer Supreme: I may have kept a souvenir, it's such a little gem...

Closer roaring as the gem starts to shiver and crack.

Queen: Oh no! Here we go again! Look out!

All: AAAARRRRGGGHHHH!

Everyone makes a run for it before coming back for the bow.

THE END!

C. NOTES:

1. **Viking** means 'a pirate raid'.
2. A **kulning** is a Scandinavian herding call to summon the livestock down from the high mountains they graze.
3. **Thor** is the hammer-wielding god associated with lightning and thunder.
4. **Loki** is a chaos god, a trickster.
5. **Odin** is the ruler of Asgard and Thor's father.
6. The goddess **Fjörgyn** is a personification of earth.
7. In Norse mythology, **Ragnarök** includes a great battle that ends the world of men and gods.
8. **Valhalla** is Viking heaven, and you can only get there if you die in battle.
9. **Viking dragons** are not inherently bad or good. They are a symbol of balance in Norse mythology.