

Carnival of Shadows

21 Songs from a Mystery Story

Music: Heikki Sarmanto

Lyrics: Kim Rich

CARNICAL OF SHADOWS

Synopsis:

Carnival of Shadows tells a story of magic and mystery, of loneliness, love and loss through the re-telling of the legend of Orpheus in a carnival setting. This is no ordinary Carnival – it offers a look into the heart and soul of those who enter in, and it has a shadow side as well. As the Barker warns, the carnival can... ”steal your breath away, steal your heart away, steal your soul away...”

A lonely woman is attracted by the Barker's flashy pattern as he proclaims all the Carnival attractions. She enters and falls in love with a handsome side-show juggler, and he with her. Together, they visit the Gandy Dancer, the Living Echo and the Fortune Teller. When they visit a Magician's tent, however, the Juggler is made to vanish during the magic show. The heartbroken woman is advised to give up and leave, but she refuses.

She is then told she can seek her love in the ”Shadow Carnival” that they will replace the ”real” one at the stroke of midnight. Like Orpheus, she seems to win through, after many challenges, including the Fun House and the House of Mirrors, and is reunited with the Juggler. But when she tries to bring her love back with her, out of the world of Carnival shadows, something goes wrong. Like Orpheus, she has fears and doubts and 'looks back' and her love vanishes, pulled back into the Carnival of Shadows. Then woman is left alone, yet the last reprise of the Carnival Waltz seems to offer the hope that she is not giving up to despair, that some spark of the magic and mystery remains, and it is up to her what she will do with that spark.

1. Carnival Waltz
2. Ballyhoo
3. Learn to Juggle
4. The Living Echo
5. Gandy Dancer
6. Fortune-Teller
7. Sweet Sorcery
8. The Magician
9. Sawdust Paradise
10. Let Your Shadow Out to Play
11. Sawdust and Shadows
12. Midnight Magic
13. -1. Lost and Found
- 2. House Rules
14. Escape Artist
15. House of Mirrors
16. Echoes in the Dark
17. A Riddle for the Sphinx
18. Lost in the Funhouse
19. Time is Running Out
20. A Heart of Stone
21. Carnival Waltz-Farewell