

Cast

SOLOMON, the SON OF DAVID, KING OF ISRAEL:	Baritone	<i>Compass</i> <i>f #</i> <i>p</i>
BALKIS, QUEEN OF SHEBA—best beloved of SOLOMON:	Mezzo-Soprano or Mezzo-Contralto	<i>f #</i> <i>(br)</i>
The BUTTERFLY:	Tenor	<i>b</i> <i>#</i>
The BUTTERFLY'S WIFE:	Soprano	<i>f</i>
EGYPTIAN QUEEN:	Soprano	<i>b</i> <i>#</i>
The QUEENS of ABYSSINIA, ETHIOPIA, MESOPOTAMIA, PERSIA, INDIA, CHINA, etc., representing the nine hundred and ninety-nine Wives of SOLOMON:		<i>Sopranos</i> <i>f</i>
Four DJINNS—who neither sing nor speak		<i>Altos</i> <i>f</i>

Scene

High noon in the garden of SOLOMON'S Palace. Painted warm yellow on a backdrop, or on connecting portable screens, the Palace is at center, with center door hung with closed curtains, and approached by steps. Down stage right: a large Camphor Tree shading a massive, low-backed throne on a dais. Down stage left: a cluster of tall irises, red lilies, and spotted bamboos.

When the Palace disappears, a backdrop shows dead trees against a stormy sky, with lurid red streak near horizon. Lightning and thunderclaps accompany the transformation.

If the Palace is painted on a backdrop, it can be raised and lowered at the proper times. If connecting portable screens are used, the DJINNS can carry them off in darkness and bring them back as sunlight returns.

Costumes

SOLOMON: Long, plain, red robe; golden crown and belt; short, square, blue-black beard; on right forefinger, a conspicuously large ring.

BALKIS: Long, plain, white robe; white, gauzy, veil; golden crown, girdle and slippers.

BUTTERFLY: Bright blue tights, and jersey top to match; spotted blue wings; scullcap with antennæ.

BUTTERFLY'S WIFE: Bright blue traditional ballet costume and tights; spotted wings; antennæ headdress.

EGYPTIAN QUEEN: Nile-green costume of her country; long veil.

Other QUEENS: Either uniformly robed in white, or each in the costume of her country; long veils.

DJINNS: As NUBIANS, bare to the waist; harem trousers and turbans.

All directions are given from the singer's Right and Left.