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The Cherry Orchard - Chekhov

The Cherry Orchard is Russian playwright Anton Chekhov's last play. It premiered at the Moscow Art Theatre 17 January 1904 in a production directed by Constantin Stanislavski. Chekhov intended this play as a comedy and it does contain some elements of farce; however, Stanislavski insisted on directing the play as a tragedy. Since this initial production, directors have had to contend with the dual nature of this play.

The play concerns an aristocratic Russian woman and her family as they return to the family's estate (which includes a large and well-known cherry orchard) just before it is auctioned to pay the mortgage. The story presents themes of cultural futility — both the futility of the aristocracy to maintain its status and the futility of the bourgeoisie to find meaning in its newfound materialism. In reflecting the socio-economic forces at work in Russia at the turn of the 20th century, including the rise of the middle class after the abolition of serfdom in the mid-19th century and the sinking of the aristocracy, the play reflects forces at work around the globe in that period. (Summary by Wikipedia, edited by Elizabeth Klett.)

Lubov Andreyevna Ranevsky read by Ruth Golding, Anya read by Arielle Lipshaw, Varya read by Elizabeth Klett, Leonid Andreyevitch Gaev read by Lars Rolander, Ermolai Alexeyevitch Lopakhin read by Andy Minter, Peter Trofimov read by mb, Boris Simeonov-Pischin read by Denny Sayers, Charlotta Ivanovna read by Anna Simon, Simeon Epikhodov read by hefyd, Dunyasha read by TriciaG, Fiers read by om123, Yasha read by Kim Stich, A Tramp read by Elizabeth Barr, Narrated by David Lawrence, Audio edited by Elizabeth Klett.

Total running time: 2:01:24

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