Josh Groban "Story Of Chess"

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Arbiter:

Each game of chess means there's one less Variation left to be played Each day got through means one or two Less mistakes remain to be made

Ensemble:

Not much is known

Of early days of chess beyond a fairly vague report

Male Solo:

That fifteen hundred years ago two princes fought Though brothers, for a Hindu throne

Female Solo:

Their mother cried

For no-one really likes their offspring fighting to the

She begged them stop the slaughter with her every breath

But sure enough one brother died

Female Ensemble:

Sad beyond belief She told her winning son

Female Solo:

You have caused such grief I can't forgive this evil thing you've done

Male Ensemble:

He tried to explain

How things had really been

Male Solo:

But he tried in vain

No words of his could mollify the queen

Female Solo:

And so he asked the wisest men he knew The way to lessen her distress Arbiter:

They told him he'd be pretty certain to impress By using model soldiers on A chequered board to show it was his brother's fault

All:

They thus invented chess

Male ensemble: Chess displayed no inertia Soon spread to Persia, then west

Female ensemble: Next the Arabs refined it, Thus redesigned, it progressed

Male Solo: Still further yet And when Constantinople fell in 1453 One would have noticed every other refugee Included in his bags a set

Female Solo: Once in the hands And in the minds of leading figures of the Renaissance

Male Solo:

The spirit and the speed of chess made swift advance Through all of Europe's vital lands

Ensemble:

Where we must record
The game was further changed
Right across the board
The western touch upon the pieces ranged

King and queen and rook
And bishop, knight and pawn
All took on the look
We know today, the modern game was born

Arbiter:

And in the end

We see a game that started by mistake in Hindustan And boosted in the main by what is now Iran Become the simplest and most obligating pleasure Yet defies what just the kind of mind who would appreciate

This well researched and fascinating yarn

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