



Vagabond Skies

16 songs from the Van Gogh Musical

1. *Underground*

Opens with Vincent's miserable life as a preacher in the minefields of southern Belgium.

2. *Brother of Mine*

As always, Vincent turns to his loyal brother Theo, who sponsors his new life as an artist.

3. *No Never Never*

Vincent is living with his parents as he develops his new craft. His recently widowed cousin Kee comes to stay. Vincent falls in love and makes a clumsy pass at her.

Kee is horrified and hurries back to her parents in Amsterdam, but Vincent follows.

A dramatic clash ensues before Vincent realises what a fool he has been.

4. *Strawberries in the Spring*

Later Vincent walks in the late night streets and sings of his failure to find true love.

5. ***The Seven Seas***

Vincent moves to the Hague on the Dutch coast. Down by the docks a group of boisterous sailors sing a bawdy song with the ladies of the night. Vincent approaches a prostitute called Sien who is heavily pregnant and arranges to spend the night with her.

6. ***Born To Lose***

Vincent falls in love with Sien, but he can't sell his paintings and they live in abject poverty with her two small children. After an argument on Christmas Eve, Sien walks out and sings this song of lost hope. She really cares about Vincent, but knows their love is doomed to failure.

7. ***Argument # 2***

Vincent moves to Paris and lives with his brother for two years. During this time he makes Theo's life hell and blames him for not selling any of his paintings. This leads to a drunken late night argument. Vincent says Theo has betrayed him. Johanna, Theo's fiancé, jumps to his defence and tells Vincent he should be ashamed of the way he treats his brother

8. ***You Burn Like A Fire***

The next day, wracked with remorse, Vincent goes to see his secret lover Agostina at her music bar, *Le Tambourin*. Agostina says he has stayed in Paris too long and should follow his dream of painting in Provence. Vincent is excited by the idea and catches a train south that same night.

9. ***Vagabond Skies***

A few days later Agostina walks at sunset on the edge of the city. It is only now we see how unselfish she has been. Agostina still loves Vincent but now he has taken her advice and moved to Provence she knows his new life will be all-consuming. One thing is certain: she will never forget him. "I'll miss the lonely child I saw in you each morning. I know we may never meet again, but you're in my heart forever."

10. Provence

Vincent is painting in the golden harvest fields outside Arles, where a group of young labourers work cheerfully in the summer sun. Van Gogh's friend Roulin, a local postman, says Vincent seems to be in a frenzy when he is painting. Vincent tells him not to worry. He explains he is happy and driven by a rich vein of inspiration. "*I must strike while the iron is hot...*"

11. Gauguin's Song

Vincent has been sharing the Yellow House in Arles with Paul Gauguin but tension has risen between the artists and just before Christmas an argument ends with Vincent throwing a glass. Gauguin arrives at the local brothel and, as gypsy musicians play, tells the working girls Vincent is a madman. Vincent arrives towards the end of the song and hears Gauguin and the prostitutes mocking him, as he stands outside in the froze moonlit garden.

12. Into The Darkness # 3

Vincent is having a breakdown. He rushes back to the Yellow House. Intense music and wailing voices swirl around him as he stares into a mirror. He looks crazed and talks to himself. "It must be done! It must be done!" As the music reaches a climax, Vincent slashes a razor down across his left ear. Blood spurts through his fingers.

13. Our Own Lives

After the bloody incident, Theo rushes south to see his brother. When he returns to Paris he is haunted by worry. He knows many people in Arles see Vincent as a madman and are determined to drive him out of the city. Johanna tells Theo Vincent could come and stay with them and she'd make him welcome. After all the trouble Vincent caused last time he was in Paris, Theo is touched by her kindness. Theo and Johanna agree that whatever happens they must live their own lives too, but in their hearts they both know how difficult this will be.

14. *Where Do I Go Now?*

Vincent asks to be moved to an asylum in nearby St Remy. It is run by nuns who sing a song of hope as this poignant ballad opens. Light then rises on Vincent who is alone at night in his humble cell. He is at his lowest ebb and asks the ultimate question. *Where do I go now?*

15. *Don't Waste Your Time on Him*

After two years at the asylum, Vincent returns to Paris. Theo is keen to help him and organises a private exhibition of Vincent's finest paintings for the city's elite art critics. Theo's sure they will be impressed, but he is wrong. "*Vincent's work is beneath derision.*" Theo is angered by their words. "I fear for my brother tonight, so much sorrow in his life. Drowning in a sea of fools. Why can't they see?" After 10 years of rejection, Vincent can take no more. We hear a short section of chaotic music then a clap of thunder followed by a loud shot. Vincent has turned a gun on himself. He dies two days later with Theo by his side. Just six months later Theo dies of a broken heart.

16. *Johanna's Song*

Johanna walks at the cemetery where, thanks to her efforts, Vincent and Theo are buried side-by-side. "I think of Vincent and my love, Theo my love. He is gone, nothing I could do or say. The loss of Vincent broke his heart, I think I always knew it would end this way." Johanna vows the Van Gogh name will be remembered. "I know I'll find the strength to carry on, though deep inside me my heart is breaking. My quest is clear, their story must shine on, shine on now and forever." The orchestration builds in strength and emotion as the full ensemble sing in praise of Vincent and Theo whose voices are heard as the show reaches its climax. "Oh brother of mine you are always true... always and forever brother of mine."