

# LIGHT CAVALRY

Operetta by Franz von Suppe (1866) • Lyrics and Dialog by Thomas Petiet (2012)

## ONLY AVAILABLE FROM COMIC OPERA GUILD

It has been a mystery for many years that the show bearing a world-famous overture could be unknown. Now unearthed, it became clear that it has an unjustly neglected, sophisticated and tuneful musical score. The original story was likely not strong enough to keep the show on the boards. Mr. Petiet recreated the dialog and lyrics in English, and strengthened the framework of the operetta in order to make a new performing version. This is one of the first operettas to employ Hungarian Gypsy themes.

The show features beautiful arias for Wilma and Hermann and standout moments for supporting players such as Regina, Janos and Stephan. Comic turns abound for Eulalia, Apolonia, Groner and Pancraze, the greedy leaders of the town.

## CAST REQUIREMENTS

WILMA: Soprano	HERMANN: Tenor
REGINA: Soprano	JANOS: Baritone
DOROTHEE: Mezzo-soprano	STEPHAN: Tenor
EULALIA: Comic mezzo-soprano	KARL: Baritone
APOLONIA: Actress	GRONER: Comic baritone
FELICIA: Actress, chorus singer, Townswoman	PANCRAZE: Comic tenor
GISELLA: Actress, chorus singer, Townswoman	SCRAPEN, LOFER: Comic baritones
CHORUS OF TOWNSPEOPLE, DANCERS	

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

- OVERTURE — Orchestra
- No. 1 Chorus: Citizens
  - No. 2 Duet & Chorus: "When Music is in the Air" — Wilma, Hermann, Felicia, Gisella & Youngsters
  - No. 3 Quartet: "As Merchants We Are Highly Skilled" — Groner, Pancraze, Lofer and Scrapen
  - No. 4 Song with Chorus: "Just Like Noisy Chickens" — Wilma, Hermann and chorus
  - No. 5 Ensemble: "We Have Ridden Over Rugged Country" — Hussars and Townspeople
  - No. 6 Quintet: "Our Hospitality Demands" — Regina, Dorothee, Eulalia, Stephan & Karl
  - No. 7 FINALE I — Janos, Stephan and Ensemble
  - No. 8a Entr'Acte — Orchestra
  - No. 8b Ballet — Dancers
  - No. 9 Aria: "Tormented I by Aimless Thought" — Hermann
  - No. 10 Song with chorus: "In Quiet Times the Young Recruit" — Stephan, Karl, Hussars and Girls
  - No. 11 March (instrumental) — Stephan, Karl and Hussars
  - No. 12a Song: "Far From Its Forests" — Wilma
  - No. 12b Duet: "If Only Now My Lover I Were Meeting" — Wilma & Janos
  - No. 13 Duet: "Ever Since I've Known You" — Wilma & Hermann
  - No. 14 Ensemble: "Flowers For My Beauty" — Stephan, Regina, Karl, Dorothee, Groner, Pancraze, Eulalia, Apolonia, Janos, Wilma, Hermann
  - No. 15 FINALE II — Stephan, Janos & Ensemble

## ORCHESTRATION

Full orchestration available for rent

## RECORDING AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

## ACT 1

*Scene: A square in the village of Furstenfeld. Citizens are decorating.*

### NO. 1 OPENING CHORUS

YOUNG MEN

*Come, one and all, our festival*

*Will begin tomorrow morn.*

*Ring the bell and blow the horn!*

*Ev'ry maid we're inviting, It will be most exciting!*

*Very friendly we'll find them, when we wine them and dine them.*

*These revels come but once a year; most other days are dull and drear.*

*Raise your glass to your lass!*

*We will laugh and we will drink! Glasses we'll clink!*

*Toast your darling's eyes and you'll gain the prize.*

*Loving her man much as she can,*

*She'll give a night of love!*

*We will be two by two, doing what lovers do,*

*'Til the waking day drives our dreams away,*

*And we forget who we have met*

*Yet no one's to blame when festival is in your head!*

YOUNG LADIES

*Gentlemen, we're all young ladies, so your planning, I'm afraid, is*

*Based upon a false conclusion and the indiscreet illusion*

*That you would so cheer and charm us (with a drink or two disarm us)*

*That we'd join in osculation, but restrain your exultation;*

*Ev'ry word you may be saying we will carefully be weighing*

*And we'll certainly remember liberties we may surrender.*

*So we warn you, mind your manners underneath the festive banners,*

*Uncontrolled inebriation doesn't license violation*

*Of a lady's reputation. Thus, with that clear explanation,*

*We'll accept your invitation now!*

YOUNG MEN

*Ladies, do give us a chance. All we hope for is a dance.*

2.

*YOUNG LADIES*

*If to dance is all you press, then we say, happily yes!*

*Ha, ha, ha, light as a feather,  
We shall go dancing together.*

*MEN*

*I hear the beat, come take my hand!*

*WOMEN*

*Already I can hear the band!*

*BOTH*

*I'll be fine with a stein, we shall dance and we shall  
Drink, drink, drink!  
Glasses we'll clink, clink, clink!  
Throw our cares away  
As we spin and sway.  
There is no harm, harm, harm  
Taking your/my arm, arm, arm,  
For it is only play.  
We will be two by two  
Doing what dancers do  
'Til the dawning day  
Closes the soiree.  
Then we will try saying good-bye, maybe we'll cry  
'Til we can meet again. Again.  
It will be hard, how can I wait 'til then? 'Til then?  
So let us say live for today,  
Tomorrow may be cold and gray,  
No care or worry we'll betray!*

*GRONER*

*Citizens! As you know, our lovely Furstenfeld has been the gateway between Austria and Hungary for countless years. Well, we have just counted them, and they number 200 as of tomorrow, so this year's festival must be the best ever!*

*CITIZENS*

*Hurrah!*

*GRONER*

*By tradition, we must elect a festival queen. Are there any...*

3.

*(REGINE, DOROTHEE, FELICIA, GISELLA, rush up)*

... candidates?

APOLONIA

I nominate my beautiful daughter Regina!

GRONER

My lovely Regina. A good choice, wife. *(aside)* Where is Wilma?

EULALIA

And I nominate my beautiful daughter Dorothee!

PANCRAZE

Our beautiful daughter. *(aside)* Where is Wilma?

LOFER

I nominate...

GISELLA

Gisella!

FELICIA

Felicia!

LOFER

Wilma!

ALL MEN

Wilma!

WILMA

*(entering with broom)* Did someone call me?

GRONER

Wilma. Come here, child.

WILMA

What do you want me to clean?

GRONER

*(embarrassed)* Tut, tut, my dear. Nothing like that... at least not here, not now. How would you like to be the queen?

WILMA

*(suspicious)* Queen? I don't know. What do I have to do?

4.

GRONER

Why nothing. Why would you ask? Just be yourself, your very pretty self. You have been nominated for Queen of the Festival.

WILMA

The Festival? You mean I can go to the Festival?

GRONER

Of course...

APOLONIA

*(slapping him)* No, dear, I don't think so. *(to Groner)* What are you doing? *(to crowd)* Wilma has work to do. Let's get this done. All in favor of Regina?

*(Regina steps forward. Apolonia and some women raise their hands)*

EULALIA

All in favor of Dorothee?

*(Dorothee steps up and giggles. Eulalia and some women raise their hands)*

FELICIA and GISELLA

*(jostling for attention)* All in favor of...

LOFER

All in favor of Wilma?

*(all men raise their hands, girls swat their partners)*

GRONER

Well there it is. Wilma is queen!

APOLONIA

What? You didn't even count.

GRONER

My dear... you know as well as I do that women's votes don't count. Come, my child, let's see to your gown and tiara.

*(all men gather around Wilma)*

APOLONIA

This is appalling! That little flirt!

EULALIA

It's not right that she's so pretty.

APOLONIA

The girl has been nothing but trouble since we took her in. Not my idea, I'm sure.

5.

EULALIA

Where did she come from?

APOLONIA

I don't know... she's an orphan. She was wandering the streets like a common beggar. We gave her a place to live... and some useful things to do... around the house, you know. Now that she's cleaned up... and lately grown up... my husband can't seem to take his eyes off her.

EULALIA

Thank heavens my husband doesn't do that.

APOLONIA

Your husband? Believe me, he could use some watching himself.

EULALIA

Pancraze? He's the least romantic man I know.

APOLONIA

That you know, dear. Be a good wife, as I am, and spy on your husband once in a while. You'll see. Look at them over there.

EULALIA

*(looking)* Oh, dear...

APOLONIA

Come with me. *(taking her over)* Husband! It is time we were going.

GRONER

What time is it?

APOLONIA

High time!

*(pulls him away, shoos others away and out; Eulalia does the same with Pancraze)*

REGINA

So, little Wilma, you are the Queen.

WILMA

I'm sorry.

REGINA

Oh, don't be. I didn't want to be anyway.

DOROTHEE

All the old men after you all the time *(shivers)*. Yuk! I want a nice young man. *(giggles)*

6.

REGINA

*(dreamily)* A soldier...

DOROTHEE

A soldier...

GISELLA

With a big sword...

FELICIA

With gold braid... a whole chestful...

REGINA

With a horse...

DOROTHEE

Erect and mounted... on a horse... *(giggles)*

REGINA

What about you, Wilma?

DOROTHEE

Don't you want to meet a soldier?

WILMA

I don't know. I never met one. But there is one boy...

REGINA

Not Andras, the sailor?

DOROTHEE

Gyorgi, the butcher?

FELICIA

Not Laszlo? I'll kill him...

GISELLA

Ferenc? I knew it...

WILMA

No, he is a farmer, I think. He doesn't say much. *(sees him coming)* But you can ask him yourselves, for here he is.

*(Enter HERMANN, poorly dressed in work clothes)*

REGINA

This is your lover?

WILMA

Shhh! He's very shy. You'll embarrass him.

7.

DOROTHEE

Then we'll leave you two together so you can make him less shy. *(giggles)*  
*(to Regina)* Can you believe it?

REGINA

Of all the men she could have.

GISELLA

What do you think of that?

FELICIA

Girls like her have to stay in their own class.

*(they exit)*

HERMANN

Hello, Wilma.

WILMA

Hello, Hermann. Have you come to see me?

HERMANN

Yes! *(turns away)* Uh... no... *(steels himself)* That is... uh... yes.

WILMA

Is there anything you wanted... specially... to say to me? *(long pause, as he is frozen)* Anything?

HERMANN

Uh... no... not specially...

WILMA

At all?

HERMANN

*(pulls out a crumpled piece of paper)* Okay... maybe...

WILMA

Tell me. *(comes closer)*

HERMANN

Uh... *(sees that she is closer, backs up)* Wilma...

WILMA

Yes?

HERMANN

You and I... have... known each other a long time.

8.

WILMA

*(impatiently)* Yes?

HERMANN

And... and... *(turns and looks at his paper, turns back oratorically)* As the dawn bathes the expectant earth with... uh... damn! *(turns and studies the paper; turns back)* ...your face... no that's not it! *(turns away, studies, turns back)* ...your face grazes upon the meadow... *(she looks stunned)* No, wait... *(turns to study again)*

WILMA

I can't wait. *(sees other girls and boys with instruments; goes to them and whispers while he studies his notes)*

HERMANN

*(turns back, expecting to see her)* Your face... your...

WILMA

*(coming to him, puts hand over his mouth)* Don't speak! Listen. *(music begins)* The music will speak for you.

## **NO. 2 DUET WITH CHORUS – Wilma and Hermann**

WILMA

*When music is in the air, oh, how it frees your tongue—  
Lending a silent soul songs to be sung.*

HERMANN

*All at once I've a voice where before I had none,  
And it fills me with joy like the heat of the sun.  
Come sing, ev'ryone sing! Come dance, ev'ryone dance!  
Now I'm happy around you.  
Lucky I, to have found you.  
So at last you can hear:  
"I'm in love with you, dear!"  
Much better than the words I might have said.  
How the music stirs the heart young lovers discover.  
Oh, take care, be mindful of its power.  
La, la, la, etc.*

WILMA

*Emotions are pouring out in ev'ry note that's played,  
Marching to rhythm's call like a parade.*

9.

HERMANN

*What a wealth of expression the measures provide.  
Ev'ry secret obsession I now cannot hide.  
Come sing, ev'ryone sing! Come dance, ev'ryone dance!  
Arms that longed to embrace you, eyes that never could face you,  
All can suddenly say: "I'm in love with you, dear!"  
Which never might before have been betrayed.  
How the music stirs the heart young lovers discover.  
Oh, take care, be mindful of its power.  
La, la, la, etc.*

*(at end of song, they are dancing together; once it's over, he once again becomes shy)*

HERMANN

Wilma, I...

WILMA

Yes?

HERMANN

I... uh... well...

WILMA

*(aside) It's the music! (takes an instrument from Gisella) Come Hermann... let's make some more music together. (she leads him off)*

*(Groner enters, followed by the council members, carrying stools; male chorus members remain)*

GRONER

*(ringing a bell) Council members! Please convene for a meeting. (they seat themselves center)*  
The festival begins tomorrow and we must finalize our plans. I have word that a large group of people are approaching the town. The border is a wonderful invention; people will either pay to cross it or pay to protect it. Either way, since we are a border town, this means business! Are we all ready?

#### **NO. 4 ENSEMBLE – Council members**

GRONER

*As merchants we are highly skilled; "it's bus'ness" is our creed.  
Tho' visitors are never killed, we always make them bleed.*

LOFER

*I make a motion to raise prices by a hundred percent.*

10.

*ALL*

*Yes! Yes!*

*PANCRAZE*

*In addition, my advice is that we double rent.*

*ALL*

*Yes! Yes!*

*GRONER*

*For bus'ness lies on a diff'rent plane from ordinary sin.  
A hunter can't enjoy the prey that he's unwilling to skin.*

*ALL*

*That's right! Well said! We all agree!  
We have our own morality!*

*GRONER*

*In politics the only rule is "money makes the man."  
So civic duty then must be to make it while we can.*

*LOFER*

*In this fair city there's no pity when it comes to graft.*

*ALL*

*No! No!*

*PANCRAZE*

*When people cry about "corruption!" we just have to laugh.*

*ALL*

*Ha! Ha!*

*GRONER*

*The cavalry is on their way, we'll feed them very well.  
Then find some way to make them pay while claiming "war is hell!"*

*ALL*

*That's right! Well said! We all agree!  
We have our own morality!*

11.

GRONER

Excellent, gentlemen. The Festival will be a great and profitable success, I'm sure. To conclude: make sure that all your prices are marked up. If there are no more items...

APOLONIA

I have one!

GRONER

Apolonia?

APOLONIA

Wilma must be disqualified as Festival queen.

GRONER

But, my dear, she was openly elected...

APOLONIA

A bit too openly, if you ask me. Anyway, she is a servant.

GRONER

My dear... we are a progressive town. We must set an example of equanimity.

PANCRAZE

Yes, we decided last month to become progressive toward servants, and that it was only polite to begin with female servants.

APOLONIA

I see. Well, I have it on good authority that Wilma is not the innocent child you take her for, but that she has received the attentions of a married man!

GRONER

Oh, God!

PANCRAZE

Oh, God!

APOLONIA

She has received gifts. Last week she appeared with a new bracelet.

*(Groner reacts)*

Then she seems to have gotten a large bouquet.

*(Lofer reacts)*

APOLONIA

Yesterday I saw her trying on a new dress!

*(Pancraze reacts)*

12.

GRONER

But there may be a perfectly innocent explanation for all this.

*(all men nod)*

APOLONIA

Innocent? Not so. We have further proof. Eulalia!

*(Eulalia enters with an envelope in one hand, pulling Wilma with the other)*

Tell the council what you have there.

EULALIA

We have intercepted notes that were left by her door, asking her to meet the writer in the arbor.

*(all members react)*

They were not signed.

*(all members relax)*

Would you like to hear what they say?

MEMBERS

No!

GRONER

That is not necessary. Am I right? *(members nod)*

SCRAPEN

I wouldn't mind...

GEONER

No, no... we must trust these two respected wives. Wilma will be reprimanded. A good spanking...

APOLONIE

That will not do. She must be stripped of the crown of the Festival Queen.

GRONER

Oh. *(pause)* Well, that seems fair.

WILMA

But Grony... I mean, your honor... I never went to the arbor. Never! I never saw any of these notes. And as for the presents...

13.

GRONER

*(interrupting)* No more protesting! All in favor of taking the crown from Wilma?  
*(all raise hands)* All opposed *(none do)* There, that's it. *(Wilma breaks into tears and goes off to the side)* Thank you for bringing this to our attention, ladies. Who would have thought... our own little Wi... I mean, will that satisfy, ladies?

APOLONIA

For the moment. *(to Groner alone)* However, you must get rid of her. I won't have her in the house.

GRONER

Oh, my dear... how will she eat? Where will she sleep?

PANCRAZE

I could take her off your hands.

EULALIA

No, you couldn't.

PANCRAZE

I forgot. I couldn't.

*(as conversation continues, he and the rest of the men go over to Wilma, and all offer hankies)*

APOLONIA

You must marry her off to someone; and hopefully get some money for her.

GRONER

Isn't she too young?

APOLONIA

No!

GRONER

Well, you certainly know better than I, my dear. I wouldn't know when girls... *(sees her look, changes)* Yes, well I'll certainly do my best. But who shall be the new queen?

APOLONIA

Why, Regina, of course.

EULALIA

What about Dorothee?

APOLONIA

Dorothee? *(laughs)*

EULALIA

And why not?

14.

GRONER

We could put it to a council vote...

APOLONIA

Fine. *(to Groner)* Bring them all to our house, and make sure you give them plenty of treats. I think we have enough wine.

GRONER

Gentlemen! We will adjourn to my home, since I'm sure the length of this session has worked up a thirst in you all. Come for some refreshment! *(they're still busy consoling Wilma)*.

APOLONIA

And bring your wives!

*(they all run off, followed by Groner, Eulalia and Apolonia; Wilma remains)*

HERMANN

*(entering)* Wilma! What's wrong? What has happened?

WILMA

They lied about me. Mostly. Wicked, nasty lies! They took my crown!

HERMANN

Who?

WILMA

The cackling hens and the randy roosters!

### **NO. 3 CHANSON RAILLEUSE – Wilma, Hermann and chorus**

1.

WILMA

*Just like the noisy chickens cackling endlessly in din undying  
The nasty women of the town tell tales about me and they're lying.  
They squawk! They squawk! They squawk!  
And then they spread their seeds about with evil talk.  
I would like to sneak up on them while they peck...*

CHOR

*Peck, peck, peck!*

WILMA

*Grab their neck...*

CHOR

*Neck, neck, neck!*

15.

*WILMA*

*Then I'd shake...*

*CHOR*

*Shake, shake, shake, shake, shake, shake, shake!*

*WILMA*

*Oh, what pleasure I'd take, shake, shake, shake, shake, shake, shake!*

*CHOR*

*Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!*

*She would like to sneak up on them while they peck...*

*Peck, peck, peck!*

*Grab their neck...*

*Neck, neck, neck!*

*Then she'd shake...*

*Shake, shake, shake, shake, shake, shake, shake!*

*Oh, what pleasure she'd take,*

*WILMA*

*Foolish hens of them to make!*

*CHOR*

*Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!*

2.

*WILMA*

*And there's no doubt at all whose fault it is that women seem to hate me.*

*Their randy roosters hunt me down and always try to woo and date me.*

*They crow! They crow! They crow!*

*Oh, no! Then off behind the shed with me they'd go!*

*When their wife's at home, up to me they would hint,*

*CHOR*

*Hint, hint, hint!*

*WILMA*

*Then they'd wink!*

16.

*CHOR*

*Wink, wink, wink!*

*WILMA*

*And then some... "have a drink!"*

*CHOR*

*Drink, drink, drink, drink, drink, drink, drink!*

*WILMA*

*If they knew what I think: they just stink, stink, stink, stink, stink!*

*CHOR*

*Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!*

*When their wife's at home, up to me they would hint,*

*Hint, hint, hint!*

*Then they'd wink!*

*Wink, wink, wink!*

*And then some... "have a drink!"*

*Drink, drink, drink, drink, drink, drink, drink!*

*Of such roosters we think:*

*WILMA*

*I'd behead them in a blink!*

*CHOR*

*Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!*

*(there is a FANFARE; Dorothee and Regina run in)*

*REGINA*

*The Hussars! The Hussars!*

*DOROTHEE*

*They are coming here! Mounted! On horses!*

*ALL*

*Hussars! Hussars! Hoorah! Hoorah!*

*Gallant Hussars, sars, sars, minions of Mars, Mars, Mars!*

*Handsome ev'ry one, shining in the sun!*

*Riding a horse, horse horse,*

*Hungary's force, force, force!*

17.

*We salute you!  
If there's a foe, foe, foe,  
we'd like to know, know, know.  
We will run away.  
Let you fight today.  
Heroes you are,  
valiant Hussars!  
Battlefield's stars!  
We see the profit too, from you.  
We must pre-*pare*, there is so much to do... for you.  
We are aware you're coming thru.  
Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah!*

*(both girls jump with excitement; townspeople filter on to greet them; Janos leads Stephan, Karl and the remaining Hussars into town)*

#### **NO. 5 ENTRANCE OF THE HUSSARS**

*(the following dialog occurs during the introduction; score page 38)*

APOLONIE The soldiers are coming! Have you made all the preparations?

GRONER Yes, the council has met.

APOLONIA No! I mean did you hide the silver?

*HUSSARS*

*We have ridden over rugged country, soldiers of the cavalry,  
to defend against whatever comes, we are the force of Hungary.  
Enemies despair upon the sight of such as we; they run and do not fight.*

*CITIZENS*

*Hooray! Hooray! Our soldiers fill their hearts with fright!*

*Soldiers, hear our greeting, you thrill us to the very ground.  
Drums, we love the beating, yes, and the trumpet's martial sound.*

*ALL*

*When they hear the call to war, the horses know; Hi-yo! Hi-yo!  
They are ready long before we saddle up. They want to go.  
Hoofbeats pounding, cries resounding, blades toward the sky,  
Sabers bright delight the eye.*

18.

*Stallions rearing, women cheering,  
Holla-ho!  
Onward we ride 'til death shall stamp our Slavic pride.  
Thru shot and shell we're yelling  
Ha-ya-hey! Ha-ya-hey! Don't get in our way!  
Ha-ya-hey! or you we'll slay!*

GRONER

Colonel, we welcome you to Furstenfeld. You, the true heroes of Hungary!

ALL

Hurrah!

JANOS

I thank you, Herr Mayor. I'm sorry to report, however, that war may be coming to your town. The Prince of Croatia insulted the wife of ... who was that duke, Stephan?

STEPHAN

Which duke?

JANOS

The one whose wife was insulted.

STEPHAN

Oh... No, that was his daughter.

JANOS

Whose?

STEPHAN

The duke's. You're thinking about last year.

JANOS

Last year?

STEPHAN

Don't you remember? The Prince of Croatia insulted the wife of the Duke of Schwanenheim/Tiefenfeld and we fought for four months before they realized it was actually a compliment?

KARL

That wasn't the Prince of Croatia.

STEPHAN

What?

19.

KARL

It was the Prince of Bohemia. The Prince of Croatia insulted the wife of the first cousin of the Preceptor of Moravia, and we lost 200 men until the Preceptor fell out with the cousin over a croquet match and called it off.

JANOS

*(getting irritated)* Then who was it this year?

KARL

Oh, that's easy. The Prince of Transylvania shot the Duke of Komadi after mistaking him for a hog.

JANOS

Well, that's a better one at least.

STEPHAN

Are you sure?

KARL

Absolutely. I kept track by writing it down on the inside of my belt. I've got eight years worth I could show you...

JANOS

No... never mind. The reasons for bloodshed aren't that important. All you have to know is, the armies are assembling, and we have been sent here to protect the border, or make incursions, whichever is easier.

GRONER

Ah. I trust that will require much in the way of supplies and so forth, eh?

JANOS

Yes, and our troops will need to be billeted here for the next few weeks at least. Oh, and you may as well expect some camp followers.

PANCRAZE

*(enthusiastically)* Camp followers! *(rubs his hands together)*

DOROTHEE

*(to Regine)* Did you hear? Handsome soldiers staying here.

REGINA

With us! *(both jump for joy)* Daddy... can we pick the soldiers we want?

GRONER

No! Quiet down! Don't embarrass me.

REGINA

Well, there's no harm looking. *(the girls inspect the soldiers)*

20.

APOLONIA

Captain, as the first family of Furstenfeld, we'd be honored to have you stay with us. Our "billet" is very "douce." *(laughs)*

JANOS

Many thanks, dear lady. *(Apolonia continues to engage him)*

PANCRAZE

Groner! This will bring hundreds of men to the town! And camp followers! Think of the profits.

GRONER

*(confidentially)* Think of the girls! *(he looks dense)* Camp followers... eh? *(nudges him)* What a windfall! A hussar and his money are soon parted, especially if they return from battle with spoils.

PANCRAZE

*(worried)* What if the enemy wins and takes the spoils from us?

GRONER

Then we go to Plan B: "How to Profit from Defeat." I have a Belgian booklet on it.

REGINA

*(flirting with Stephan)* Is this real gold braid? Do you have medals?

DOROTHEE

*(flirting with Karl)* I imagine you're very brave. Do you have any wounds? Does riding a horse make you sore?

## **NO. 6 BILLET ENSEMBLE**

*REGINA AND DOROTHEE*

*Our hospitality demands we take you  
Along with us and at home we'll make you.  
We'll feed you well and with the finest wines we'll slake you.  
We hope you'll spend your time in town with us.*

*STEPHAN AND KARL*

*We thank you for your lovely invitation.  
Far better than our standard ration.  
And in return perhaps a small flirtation would be a matter we might discuss.*

*REGINA AND DOROTHEE*

*(aside)* They are very handsome, suave and then some; it should be all right.

21.

*STEPHAN AND KARL*

*(aside) This pretty pair is aware we are soldiers  
And knows what they may expect tonight.*

*REGINA AND DOROTHEE*

*(aside) If we bring them home to mother,  
Later we shall set them free.*

*STEPHAN AND KARL*

*(aside) I'll take one and you the other; yes, on this we do agree.*

*REGINA AND DOROTHEE*

*So do accept our lovely invitation,  
Which goes beyond your expectations.  
And tho' it causes us some minor trepidation,  
You must accept, it really is no fuss.*

*EULALIA*

*Soldiers, we welcome you to our village.  
All that we have we're glad to share.  
We lay a tax on farmers' tillage  
So that we'll have plenty to spare.*

*STEPHAN AND KARL*

*You are most kind, as well as charming.  
To you we bow and kiss your hand.  
With your demeanor most disarming,  
We have become yours to command.*

*ALL*

*And so we're equal in our admiration  
As we all honor our noble nation.  
We are so glad you'll join us with no hesitation,  
For that's the sort of soldiers that you are.  
You'll be our guests whatever the duration.  
You/we are the Forty-ninth Hussars!*

*APOLONIA*

*Husband! Look at your daughter.*

22.

GRONER

Yes. Very cute.

APOLONIA

No, no. She is missing the best catch. Take her and introduce her to the colonel.

GRONER

What? Oh, yes... good idea. Regina... Regina! Come here! Colonel, allow me to introduce my daughter Regina.

JANOS

Charmed. (*kisses her hand*)

REGINA

(*curtsies*) Colonel.

APOLONIA

I imagine the duties of a colonel must be very overwhelming. Are you married, colonel?

JANOS

I was, madame, but my wife was taken by the enemy while I was on maneuvers in Austria. I had a daughter, too. She...

APOLONIA

Oh, how sad. Probably dead. And you have not remarried?

JANOS

No. Somehow I never...

APOLONIA

My daughter would make a wonderful wife for a colonel, don't you think?

REGINA

Mother! Honestly...

APOLONIA

She is so beautiful. Look at that face. And so accomplished. She can say a lot of things in two languages.

JANOS

(*unenthusiastically*) Is that so?

EULALIA

(*bringing Dorothee over*) Well, hello, everyone. Oh, colonel, how lovely to have you here with us. Have you met my daughter Dorothee?

JANOS

No, but I'm sure I will soon.

23.

EULALIA  
Say hello, dear.

DOROTHEE  
Hello. *(giggles)*

JANOS  
*(kisses her hand)* A pleasure.

ELULALIA  
I imagine the duties of a colonel must be overwhelming. Are you married, colonel?

APOLONIA  
*(angily)* He's not.

EULALIA  
*(ignoring the vitriol)* Oh, really? Well, my daughter would make an excellent wife for a colonel. She...

APOLONIA  
... doesn't say much, do you dear? Such a quiet thing, aren't you? *(Dorothee giggles)*

EULALIA  
... which is so important for an important man. He wouldn't want to be embarrassed by his wife, now would he?

APOLONIA  
...especially if she didn't know how to talk to generals.

*(Wilma walks in with a broom; council members go to her)*

EULALIA  
Exactly. Can you imagine how annoying that incessant prattling...

APOLONIA  
Or she could be a stupid little twit like... *(realizes she has gone too far, then sees Wilma)* ... like her!

JANOS  
Who is that?

APOLONIA  
Who?

EULALIA  
Dorothee? *(pushes her forward)*

24.

JANOS

No... that! (*indicates Wilma*)

APOLONIA

Oh, that. A stupid little twit.

JANOS

Introduce me.

GRONER

Wilma! Come here! (*Apolonia and Eulalia slap each other on the arms*) This is our... uh...  
Wilma. Say hello to the colonel. (*waves men away from her*)

WILMA

Colonel...

APOLONIA

That's fine. Now get along... (*men become expectant*)

JANOS

(*kissing her hand slowly*) A great pleasure, my dear. (*stands looking at her for a bit*) This is your daughter as well, mayor?

GRONER

Well, yes... in a way.

JANOS

(*takes him downstage*) Such a darling. It is almost as though I know her. Would you allow me to call on her?

APOLONIA

On her? I hardly think...

GRONER

Wife! A moment. (*takes her aside*) Think a moment. You wanted me to get rid of her. All right, what better way? Since she is an orphan, there need be no dowry. I would be able, instead, to get a price for her hand... upkeep for all those years... do you see?

APOLONIA

Well, that is true.

GRONER

Colonel, if you would like to pay court to Wilma, I have no objection. (*men sag*)

WILMA

What? But...

APOLONIA

Come here, you! The colonel is interested in you, and you will be nice to him.

25.

WILMA

Why?

APOLONIA

Because I said so. It's for your own good. If you're very lucky, he may even want to marry you.

WILMA

Marry? No! I don't love him.

APOLONIA

Of course not.

WILMA

I love someone else.

APOLONIA

Nonsense. That's ridiculous. You're far too young to know about things like that.

WILMA

Then if I'm too young, how can I marry him?

APOLONIA

Too young to make wise decisions. I, on the other hand, am mature enough to make that decision for you. You can love him later, if you want.

WILMA

I won't! I love Hermann.

APOLONIA

Don't give me such nonsense. That silly farmer? He doesn't have nearly enough money to pay us back for all we've done for you. Forget him! You be nice to the colonel or when we get you back...

JANOS

*(entering with Stephan and Karl)* Will you permit me to walk with you, Wilma?

APOLONIA

Of course she will, won't you?

*(Hermann walks in)*

GRONER

Yes, yes, of course she will. Won't you? *(no response)* Won't you? *(shakes her attention back; Wilma nods; he hands her to the colonel)*

26.

JANOS

Don't be shy, my dear. I know it can be daunting to be with a hussar. But, after all, we are just men too, you know. *(pause)* Heroic men, perhaps, but I hope to show you, in time, the man beneath the uniform.

**NO. 7 FINALE, ACT 1**

JANOS

*"So what is it like to be a soldier?"*

*people ask as I grow older.*

*"Is it gay?" "Does it pay?"*

*And to ev'ryone I say,*

*"Duty calls me, death appalls me,*

*Yet there's far more fun than fray."*

*As a member of the corps,*

*Tho' we may be called to war,*

*Yet our places really are in a tavern or a bar,*

*Since the glamor is by far*

*What we stand for as Hussars.*

*We stand as symbols of our nation's might*

*And so we must be careful who we fight.*

*For to lose would not be right!*

*That's the cause we all serve,*

*Our traditions to preserve.*

CHOR

*That's the cause they vow to serve,*

*Their traditions to preserve.*

*Our reputation's intimidation*

*Foes affright; our delight is to be a splendid sight!*

STEPHAN *(to Regina)*

*A soldier's life's a fine profession,*

*Whether bold Hussar or Hessian,*

*Wives must stay home and pray*

*That her man returns one day.*

*Tho' downcastly, she steadfastly*

*Never would her man betray.*

*For we always come back home*

*When there's no more need to roam,*

27.

*And return with our fair share  
Of the booty rich and rare  
From the foes we did defeat.  
Then we lay them at her feet.*

*Our ladies always live a life supreme.  
What else could satisfy a maiden's dream?  
There is nothing it would seem.  
That's the way it can be if a soldier's wife you'd be.*

**CHOR**

*That's the way that life can be:  
Married in the cavalry!  
The thing's he'd get her, there's nothing better...  
Far from strife she'd live life as a soldier's loving wife.*

*Hoorah!  
Hoofbeats pounding, cries resounding, blades toward the sky,  
Sabers bright delight the eye.  
Stallions rearing, women cheering,  
Holla-ho!  
Valiant Hussars!*

## **ACT 2, SCENE 1**

The square is now decorated for the festival. The new queen, Regina, is in her court, and dancers are rehearsing. The soldiers are watching and are eventually drawn into the gaiety.

### **NO. 8 ENTR'ACTE**

#### **NO. 8b BALLET**

*At end, Karl and Dorothee move to the back together, along with other couples and groups.  
Stephan escorts Regina to the front)*

**STEPHAN**

Brava, Queen Regina... queen by name, queen by nature!

**REGINA**

Thank you, kind subject. You may kiss my hand.

**STEPHAN**

I'll start there, milady, but I may not end there! *(kisses her on the lips)*

28.

REGINA

Sir! You are too bold!

STEPHAN

I'm a soldier. Bold is what I do. Would you like me to show you another maneuver?

REGINA

In front of the entire court?

STEPHAN

You're right, of course, demure lady. *(starts to back away, and bows)* Your Highness...

REGINA

*(coming after him)* But I'm only queen during the day.

*(people begin naturally to filter out)*

STEPHAN

Oh. And what are you at night, pray?

REGINA

At night I'm just a common girl. Quite common. Quite.

STEPHAN

Ah. Then perhaps tonight we could be common together.

REGINA

But not too common. You must always wear your uniform.

STEPHAN

Your will is my command.

*(they begin to go out hand in hand, along with any others; they stop to notice Hermann coming in dejectedly, but then continue out)*

### **NO. 9 SONG – Hermann**

*Tormented I by aimless thought and deep despair to wander  
I've lost the woman I love when I thought that I had found her.  
But now a soldier seeks her hand,  
My chance has passed me by,  
There is nothing but to die.*

*Love, like a dart,  
Shot through my heart.  
But now the wound is bleeding,*

29.

*And death will soon be speeding,  
Without my Wilma there is nothing left but pain.*

*If I had only bared my soul in phrases soft and tender.  
I might have had my bride and the voice to tell of her splendor.  
Her face, her eyes, her form so rare,  
No wonder on the earth with her can compare.*

*Yet she is gone,  
Hope there is none.  
In anguish I'm careening  
For life has lost all meaning  
Without my Wilma I'm certain I will go insane.*

HERMANN

I've lost her forever. Why couldn't I tell her how I felt about her? Now she is courted by the colonel and I have no chance. What is left? I could either kill myself or be miserable forever. I don't know which is better...

STEPHAN

*(returning)* Young fellow... why so sad?

HERMANN

What? Oh, uh, nothing. I must go.

STEPHAN

...must be a woman.

HERMANN

How did you know?

STEPHAN

I'm a Hussar. Women are what we do.

HERMANN

Then that is lucky for you. Not for me. *(starts to go)*

STEPHAN

That's not true. You can be lucky too.

HERMANN

I? How?

STEPHAN

You can become one of us.

30.

HERMANN

Me? A Hussar? No, I have a farm to think of.

STEPHAN

Ah, but the enemy is approaching. You may not have a farm tomorrow. If you join us, you will have women from now on. A smart man thinks of the future.

HERMANN

*(alarmed)* My farm!

STEPHAN

It is practically gone already. Listen, you won't miss it. All that plowing and sweating... dirty grubby clothes. Look at yourself, then look at me. Here's you... in the same old grind day after day... it could go on for thirty or forty years. Here's me. *(preening)* Believe me, the life of a hussar is to die for.

### **NO. 10 HUSSAR SONG – Stephan**

*STEPHAN*

*I.*

*In quiet times the young recruit  
Is keen to join our forces,*

*CHOR*

*Clip, clop, clip, clop!*

*He thinks it would be such a hoot  
To ride around on horses.*

*CHOR*

*Clip, clop, clip, clop, clip, clop, clip!*

*STEPHAN*

*Although he's got it right,  
There's much more to it quite.  
His uniform is very chic,  
It complements a man's physique,  
And masks the fact he might be weak.  
He's become a man unique.*

*So it's time, come and sign,  
Be a member of the line.*

31.

*Take a moment to consider  
Just what have you got to lose?  
Else away your life you'll fritter...  
Why on earth would you refuse?*

*A farmer's life is very hard,  
You get up ev'ry day and bale some hay  
Then work from dawn to past sundown.  
And walk ten miles behind a plow.*

*STEPHAN AND CHORUS  
Or rather with us you'd gather  
Upon your gallant steed and never need  
To sweat and strain to be a hero...  
To be a gay cavalier.  
Oh, don't delay, come join today!*

2.  
*When you've been with us for a while,  
You'll find there's other courses*

*CHOR  
Clip, clop, clip, clop!*

*STEPHAN  
That benefit a man of style  
Than simply riding horses.*

*CHOR  
Clip, clop, clip, clop, clip, clop, clip!*

*STEPHAN  
You're now a very knight  
The ladies to delight  
You're looked upon as their ideal,  
And often they are heard to squeal  
If in their way your mount you'd wheel,  
And a smile or two reveal.*

32.

*For the corps they adore,  
Our attention they implore.*

*Would you be a lady killer  
Or a man who kills himself?  
Of society a pillar  
Or a loser on the shelf?*

*Today with women you're a dud;  
tomorrow could bring you ecstasy  
with women there on ev'ry hand  
their favors bestowing on command.*

*STEPHAN AND CHORUS*

*So rather with us you'd gather  
Upon your gallant steed and never need  
To sweat and strain to be a hero...  
To be a gay cavalier.  
Oh, don't delay, come join today!*

3.

*STEPHAN*

*And after years within the corps,  
A soldier has resources.*

*CHOR*

*Clip, clop, clip, clop!*

*STEPHAN*

*For there are bounties found in war  
And many other sources.*

*CHOR*

*Clip, clop, clip, clop, clip, clop, clip!*

*STEPHAN*

*Promotions bring a man  
Some standing in the clan.*

*A captain you may well become,*

33.

*A colonel if you're not too dumb,  
With generals the minimum  
Is a very tidy sum.*

*You will learn that a turn  
In the corps brings a return.*

*All the ladies love the power  
That a leader can provide  
Many maidens you'll deflower  
If on us you do decide.*

*How can your life today compare?  
You're all alone, you mope and groan  
Your girl is gone, your life is dull  
Of suicide your mind is full.*

*STEPHAN AND CHORUS  
Or rather with us you'd gather  
Upon your gallant steed and never need  
To sweat and strain to be a hero...  
To be a gay cavalier.  
Oh, don't delay, come join today!*

HERMANN  
I guess it all sounds better than being miserable or dead.

STEPHAN  
Well, you could still become dead, but until then, you won't be miserable.

HERMANN  
And you think I could be a Hussar?

STEPHAN  
You can ride a horse, can't you?

HERMANN  
A farm horse.

STEPHAN  
It's the same thing, except you'll look a lot better doing it, and the only thing following along behind you will be a flock of girls.

34.

*(Karl and the soldiers enter)*

HERMANN

Not behind me. You don't know... I'm not good with girls.

STEPHAN

Don't worry, that's all part of basic training. You will be transformed into a handsome young man in a splendid uniform, with a sword by your side and a swagger to match. We're Hussars. We are irresistible, are we not, Karl?

KARL

Well, at least I am.

STEPHAN

You see? You will be like Karl. We do arrogant.

HERMANN

It sounds very good. What do I have to do?

STEPHAN

Come now and drink the recruiting wine. Then you are one of us!

HERMANN

But what if the enemy doesn't take my farm?

STEPHAN

We take care of that too. We requisition it.

HERMANN

You would do that for me?

STEPHAN

Why sure. We'll be brothers.

HERMANN

Then I'll do it!

STEPHAN

Excellent! Hussars... forward, march!

## **NO. 11 MARCH**

*(Hermann is taught to march and moves off with the soldiers; Karl holds Stephan back)*

KARL

Stephan. It is all arranged.

STEPHAN

I know. Another soldier from the village.

35.

KARL

No... the girls. I have set it all up with Regina and Dorothee. We will meet them both in the arbor after dark.

STEPHAN

Aha! The royal Regina and the darling Dorothee must prepare for a frontal attack. Let the conquests begin. *(they go off)*

*(Janos enters with Groner)*

JANOS

I must tell you, Mayor, that I find your daughter Wilma exceedingly charming.

GRONER

Yes, sir, I have always found her so... as a father, I mean.

JANOS

I should like to ask for her hand in marriage.

GRONER

Nothing would please me more than to have a distinguished military man such as yourself joined in wedlock with my humble child.

JANOS

Speaking of that, why is she so humble?

GRONER

Oh... because she's so perfect, sir. We didn't want her to get a swelled head, you know. It's horrible to have a wife with a swelled head... bossy, opinionated, nagging...

APOLONIA

What was that, dear?

GRONER

Oh... I was just telling the colonel how perfect a wife Wilma would make. Like you, sweetheart.

APOLONIA

I see. Yes, colonel, she is a bargain.

JANOS

A bargain?

APOLONIA

Well, the truth is, she's an orphan. We have been her loving parents for all formative years. Whatever she has become is owing to our influence. But it has been costly: her education, her food, her clothes...

36.

JANOS

She has nicer clothes?

APOLONIA

*(dodging the question)* Her food for instance. The girl eats like a horse. That's why she has, I'm afraid, a reverse dowry.

JANOS

A reverse dowry?

APOLONIA

Yes, you see, since she is adopted, we must receive rather than give a dowry. I'm sure you understand...

JANOS

I'm beginning to...

GRONER

*(interrupting)* We've know you wanted to meet with her tonight, and so we've instructed her. We will leave you so you may finalize the de... uh, pose the tender question. Come, darling. *(they leave)*

JANOS

I hope the apple of my eye falls a significant distance from that tree. *(music begins)* Who is that singing?

### **NO. 12a SOLO – WILMA**

*(Janos listens to her opening notes, sung a capella offstage)*

JANOS

Zinka? That's Zinka's song! Can it be, after all these years, that my beloved wife is still alive, and living in this village? It must be! Who would know that song in this part of the country?

*(he listens to the next section)*

JANOS

Do I dare to hope? I won't approach her until I'm sure.

*(Wilma enters singing the main theme as she sits despondently)*

### **NO. 12b DUET – Wilma and Janos**

*WILMA*

*Far from its forests, my homeland calls to me:*

*"Come back to us, we love you so well.*

*'Tho' long from our band, you sons of Romany,*

*You must return, the ancients foretell."*

37.

*I sigh and ache to see my friends once again.  
And yet I know my longing is all in vain.  
My time is past, for I did choose from home to stray  
So long and far away.*

*Then Wilma changes to her own situation, her longing for Hermann...*

*If only now my lover I were meeting  
For him and him alone my heart is beating  
We'd kiss and this would bind us two forever  
We'd live as man and wife and never  
Be apart.  
Sweetheart!*

*...while Janos begins to think he is hearing the voice of his long lost wife.*

*JANOS*

*That song! That voice!  
That is Zinka ... it is she  
There is no question.  
She's come to me and...*

*BOTH*

*Loving pair as one combined  
In each other's arms entwined  
Could a love as this there be,  
Or is it nothing more than fantasy?*

*JANOS*

*Zinka, my love! (takes her in his arms)*

*WILMA*

*(shocked) Colonel Janos! I did not see you.*

*JANOS*

*Wilma?*

*WILMA*

*You scared me.*

38.

JANOS

I'm sorry. I thought you were... *(long pause, as he thinks about it)* Never mind.

WILMA

I'm happy to see you, too.

JANOS

Oh... Yes. *(lets her go)* Excuse my enthusiasm. *(kisses her hand)* I was entranced by your beautiful singing. And I have heard your song before. Where did you learn it?

WILMA

I've known it always. My mother used to sing it to me.

JANOS

Your mother sang it? Where did she come from?

WILMA

I don't know. She never said.

JANOS

I was just curious. My wife Zinka used to sing that song all the time.

WILMA

Zinka? That was my mother's name.

JANOS

My God! Is it possible? What else do you know about her?

WILMA

I have her locket. She gave it to me before she died.

JANOS

She is dead? *(he pauses, sadly)* May I see it?

WILMA

I wear it so not to forget her. *(shows it to Janos)*

JANOS

It's hers. I gave her that locket. My child... you... are my daughter.

WILMA

I am?

JANOS

Yes. *(hugs her)* And to think I was so close to...

WILMA

What?

39.

JANOS

Never mind. You are too young.

WILMA

I am not too young!

JANOS

Believe me, for this you are. I would like you to forget some of the things I have said to you.

WILMA

Like, I'm the prettiest girl you ever saw?

JANOS

No, that's fine.

WILMA

Or, I'd like to take you in my arms and make you my...

JANOS

Yes, yes. Things like that. Forget that.

WILMA

My parents will be mad with me.

JANOS

Those parents are not your parents. They have no right to tell you who to marry. I'm your father now. That's my job.

WILMA

Oh. Do you have another old man you want me to marry?

JANOS

Another... *(pause)* ...no. Not another one. I'm ashamed to have been a party to their plans. I order you to marry whomever you choose, damn it!

WILMA

Hermann! Can I marry Hermann?

JANOS

Who is Hermann?

WILMA

He is a young farmer from the village. He is so shy, but I know he loves me. Some day he will tell me.

JANOS

A young shy farmer... the one who joined the Hussars? He is undergoing training.

40.

WILMA

Oh, no! He will forget about me. Where is he?

JANOS

At the camp outside the town square.

WILMA

I must find him. When we are married, the old men will not bother me any more.

JANOS

The old men bother you?

WILMA

You know... Herr Pancraze, Herr Lofer, many others... even my... even the Mayor. They are always wanting to kiss me. They give me presents and send me notes. I don't know why, but that's why the women all punish me and make me work all the time... and then they take my gifts back... oh, and my tiara too.

JANOS

They blame you for their husbands' philandering?

WILMA

Is that what they were doing? Were they philandering me?

JANOS

Something like that. But it's over now.

WILMA

So, can I have Hermann?

JANOS

Go! Go to him!

WILMA

Oh, thank you, daddy, thank you! (*runs off*)

JANOS

Those old buggers! And their wives too! I'd like to pay them all back.

EULALIA

(*entering*) Oh, Colonel! What a pleasant surprise to see you.

JANOS

Madame Pancraze. A very pleasant surprise to see you, as well.

EULALIA

Call me Eulalia.

41.

JANOS

Eulalia. (*kisses her hand; she giggles*)

EULALIA

Oh, Colonel, how gallant you are. Are you still courting that... Wilma?

JANOS

Wilma? Oh, no, she is but a child. I prefer more mature women.

EULALIA

Really?

JANOS

Yes, we soldiers are rough fellows who need more... shall we say, substantial women to satisfy our needs.

EULALIA

Oh, my...

JANOS

But I grow increasingly despondent.

EULALIA

Despondent? You?

JANOS

Yes... I meet a woman... one who is desirable... a middle-aged goddess who is so... so... (*makes a figure with his hands*) but then find she is married.

EULALIA

Married...

JANOS

If only I could find one... one adorable creature whose husband has been neglectful... and who wanted a night of passion... only one night...

EULALIA

Here!

JANOS

I beg your pardon?

EULALIA

It is I! The adorable creature.

JANOS

I could scarcely have hoped. Your husband, he has not covered you in kisses every day?

42.

EULALIA

No he hasn't. Hasn't even come close.

JANOS

You would consent to meet me tonight in the arbor?

EULALIA

Yes! Darling! (*tries to hug him*)

JANOS

Shhh! Not here. After dark. Tonight.

EULALIA

Tonight? Yes. Tonight.

JANOS

Until then...

EULALIA

Until then... (*she glides off, blowing kisses*)

JANOS

The first piece is in place. Now...

PANCRAZE

(*entering*) Oh, Colonel!

JANOS

...for the second. Herr Pancraze.

PANCRAZE

How goes the romance, Colonel?

JANOS

Romance? Oh, you mean Wilma. There is nothing to that, I'm afraid. She told me she prefers a man from the village.

PANCRAZE

Oh?

JANOS

Yes. It seems he has written her of his love.

PANCRAZE

A note?

JANOS

I suppose so. She says she goes to the arbor every night after dark, hoping to meet him there. She will know him from the words on his love note.

43.

PANCRAZE

In the arbor, you say? With the love note? After dark?

JANOS

Yes, you see, so there is no hope for me.

PANCRAZE

It's true. Some girls prefer a mellow sexiness developed over many years. There are certain men in town who exude this.

JANOS

How lucky for such men. It makes life hard for us soldiers.

PANCRAZE

Well, goodbye, colonel. I must get ready... uh... get ready for work. And I'm sorry... I can imagine how hard it is. *(runs off)*

JANOS

Actually, it's not hard at all.

APOLONIA

*(Apolonia and Groner enter)*

Oh, Colonel... we expected we might find you with our lovely Wilma.

JANOS

Oh, Herr and Frau mayor. *(takes Apolonia aside)* I must speak to you about that, madam, but I have to speak to you alone. Give me a moment with your husband, will you?

APOLONIA

Why certainly, Colonel.

*(Janos takes Groner aside and tells him in mime the same thing he told Pancraze)*

APOLONIA

What can he want to tell me? If he wants to haggle on the dowry, he'll find I'm ready. Or... did the little minx put him off? If so, I'll tan her...

*(Groner rushes off)*

JANOS

Now, Madam, I can speak freely.

APOLONIA

What on earth can it be? Where is my husband going?

JANOS

I'm afraid it is about him that we must speak, which is why I sent him off. He is having an affair.

44.

APOLONIA

Groner? What? Who? Why?

JANOS

I can't imagine why, madam, but I'm afraid there is going to be a rendezvous.

APOLONIA

I'll kill him! With who?

JANOS

I don't really know... but Wilma has not come for our meeting, so... well, I don't want to speculate. I do know when, however. After dark... in the arbor.

APOLONIA

So that's where he goes. Thank you, Colonel, for being discreet. I'll take care of this matter, believe me.

JANOS

I knew it was best to tell you. To keep it in the family...

*(Apolonia storms off)*

The fuse is lit. Nothing to do now but watch the fireworks. *(leaves)*

WILMA

*(entering with Hermann)* I still can't believe it. You... in a uniform.

HERMANN

I'm a Hussar now, Wilma. I have gold braid, a sword, and pretty soon a horse.

WILMA

But... your farm...

HERMANN

I don't need that any more. I have something else.

WILMA

You do?

HERMANN

Can I show you?

WILMA

Yes, of course.

HERMANN

Wilma... I love you. *(kisses her deeply)* Will you marry me?

45.

WILMA

Oh, my! Hermann. I've never... what has happened to you?

HERMANN

I'm a Hussar. We do love.

**NO. 13 DUET – Wilma and Hermann**

*WILMA*

*Ever since I've known you, there's never been a time like this,  
And 'tho our love has grown, you would be too scared to take a kiss.  
But now you take me in your arms and tell me things I've never heard,  
You love me and you have sold the farm.*

*HERMANN*

*I am sure it seems bizarre that someone so unsure and shy  
Should now become a bold Hussar and give up house and barn and sty,  
But when I donned this uniform a metamorphosis began.  
All at once I'm transformed into a different man!*

*WILMA*

*Ah well, I'm sure I'll never understand.*

*HERMANN*

*Ah, tell that to me you'll give your hand.*

*BOTH*

*Yes, it's true I do  
Love you through and through,  
Even tho' there may be doubt  
How your changing came about.*

*I am yours for aye,  
And so long shall stay,  
Through sadness, woe or care.  
That I swear.*

*Come, then, sing with me, dance with me.  
We'll be wild and free as can be.  
No more drudgery, cruelty,  
We'll start a family,  
We'll be three, you'll see!*

*When love comes by, no matter why,  
Refuse and you'll lose  
That which makes life seem worthwhile,  
Or all alone you'll die.*

## **END OF SCENE 1**

### **NO. 1b SCENE CHANGE MUSIC**

*(This action will take place before a curtain or scrim, as the scenery is changed)*

*During the scene change, Dorothee and Regina enter, conspiratorially discuss their upcoming smooch fest, giggle and continue across and out. Stephan and Karl enter next, act out what they're going to do and continue across and out.*

*There will be a short time with no action.*

*Eulalia, now dressed in her sexiest dress, enters and mimes the thrill of a rendezvous with Janos.*

*Following this, Pancraze enters with flowers, kisses them and turns his back to audience; Groner enters similarly, looking guiltily behind him, causing him to bump into Pancraze. The two mime that they are simply out for a stroll and exit to either side.*

*There will be a short time with no action.*

*Wilma and Hermann enter, still embracing. Janos joins them and takes them into his confidence, miming that something is going to happen. He see Apolonia offstage and hurries them off. He goes over and brings Apolonia in. She is irate, but he calms her down and gestures for her to take a stealthy position.*

## **ACT II, SCENE 2 THE ARBOR**

It is evening. There are two benches to either side of the stage, with greenery in the center, behind which people can go.

### **No. 14 RENDEZVOUS SCENE – Groner, Pancraze, Eulalia, Regina, Dorothee, Stephan, Karl, Apolonia, Janos**

*STEPHAN*

*Flowers for my beauty,*

*REGINA*

*That's me!*

47.

STEPHAN

*Loving you my duty.*

REGINA

*We'll see!*

STEPHAN

*One bloom for your hair*

REGINA

*Take care!*

STEPHAN

*Be nice, Regina and a kiss we'll share.*

REGINA

*I'll dare!*

*They go off into the bower.*

KARL

*Dorothee, I'm calling.*

DOROTHEE

*Calling...*

KARL

*For your charms I'm falling.*

DOROTHEE

*Falling...*

KARL

*Yours this fine bouquet.*

DOROTHEE

*So gay!*

KARL

*Would you within the shadows like to stray?*

48.

DOROTHEE

I may!

*Karl takes Dorothee behind a convenient tree as Groner appears, also armed with a bouquet, hoping to find Wilma.*

GRONER

*Twilight's fading, no more waiting...*

*Wilma, darling, don't be late.*

*But just then Pancraze appears, also with a bouquet.*

PANCRAZE

*This the hour in the bower...*

*She'll be here at half past eight.*

GRONER

*Now who has come to spoil my plan?*

*Thank God he'll never recognize me here at night.*

PANCRAZE

*Oh damn it all! Another man.*

*It's dark enough that he won't know me in this light.*

*There she is!*

*Come to me.*

GRONER

*It is she!*

*I am here, my fair maid.*

PANCRAZE

*What's that I hear? Has he begun a serenade?*

*If that keeps up, he'll kill the efforts I have made.*

*In the darkness, a woman's form appears.*

GRONER

*Come to me, don't be afraid.*

*Wilma darling come!*

APOLONIA (who has come to spy on her husband)

*That bum!*

49.

GRONER

*Your Grony-Wony loves you only, sugar plum!*

APOLONIA

*Achoo!*

GRONER

*Gesundheit!*

PANCRAZE

*Wilma, darling, over here!*

GRONER

*Who is this most annoying, randy chanticleer?*

PANCRAZE

*It is I your cavalier!*

GRONER

*His singing aggravates and grates my tender ear.*

APOLONIA

*Achoo!*

*spoken*

PAN:

Stop that god-awful sneezing

GRONER:

I didn't sneeze.

PAN:

You didn't?

GRONER:

No.

PAN:

Oh. Pardon me.

50.

*EULALIA*

*I can't believe that I said yes.  
I hope he likes my latest dress.  
Now that I'm here, I can't undo  
What happens at this rendezvous.*

*GRONER*

*Ah, there she is, my pretty child...*

*PANCRAZE*

*Ah, there she is, I'm growing wild...*

*GRONER*

*Psst, psst!*

*PANCRAZE*

*Psst, psst!  
One night of love is surely not a crime.*

*GRONER*

*Oh night sublime!*

*APOLONIA*

*Traitor!*

*The following are sung in ensemble*

*HERMANN (sneaking in with Wilma and Janos)*

*Soon we'll be mated.  
To marry we were fated.  
Long have we waited,  
But now our time has come.  
And those who have kept us apart  
Will find that their scheme we'll outsmart.  
No, they cannot keep us apart!  
Now, no more anguish, an end to all our pain.  
Joy evermore over us shall reign.  
Darling, you and I will keep a farm.  
You and I, living far from terrors and alarms.*

51.

*Happy 'til we perish,  
Nothing can harm us,  
You and I together arm in arm.*

*WILMA*

*From evil aspirations I at last am free.  
And now my vindication I at last can see.  
That I will see.  
Ah! Yes, Happiness with Hermann shortly will be mine.  
The mayor and his wife, oh how they'll wail and whine.  
They can't keep us apart.  
Joy evermore over us, yes, over us will reign.  
Darling, you and I will keep a farm.  
We'll do it, you and I.  
We shall be so happy 'til we perish,  
Nothing can harm us,  
You and I together arm in arm.  
Ah!*

*PANCRAZE*

*So like a dream is she, and yet  
I almost seem to recognize that silhouette.  
Oh, honey don't be so cool.  
You'll love me if you try.  
Don't listen to that fool.  
He's just a passer-by.  
Pay no attention  
To his pretension  
Or lewd attention.  
Oh, damn that man, he wants to beat my time  
But Pancraze will prevail. It's time to act.  
Such a kiss, all divine.  
I fall at your feet, you have made me your slave.  
You must give me the kiss that I crave.  
Just one kiss (better by far than thousand from my wife)  
You beguiling thing!  
I've longed for years for such a fling.*

*GRONER*

*One night of love is all I may get.*

52.

*My darling, don't be shy.  
Come, kiss me or I die!  
That man you must ignore  
And kiss me, I implore.  
Oh, damn that man, he wants to beat my time  
But Groner wins the day. That's a fact.  
One kiss, oh, rapture all divine.  
A taste that beats the sweetest wine.  
Charming maiden, yours the power to be mistress of my life.  
I'll make it worth your while.  
Let me see you smile.*

JANOS

*This should be lots of fun.  
Two old men,  
Two old hens,  
They'll get what they're due.  
For they don't have a clue.  
What they did, it ought to be a crime,  
But in the end, they'll serve their time.  
Their own greed  
Is all I really need,  
For it will surely lead to their demise.  
Wilma, your pain now is past.  
What you have gone through now is over.  
Joy has come to you at last.  
Thru storms of life you will wing.  
In your heart there's a song for you to sing.*

EULALIA

*How I quake my vow to break.  
But I am yearning,  
With passion burning,  
All conscience spurning.  
All this attention from two such charming men.  
If I have been so wooed, I don't know when.  
I know it's wrong their touch to allow.  
But somehow I don't care right now.  
For caution to the winds I threw  
For this rendezvous.*

53.

DOROTHEE AND REGINA

*What you've been doing, pray do again.  
I don't care if there is no marriage vow.  
Ah! I just care about here and now.  
It's not important if your words are true.  
Oh, do again that thing that you do.  
I love this rendezvous.*

STEPHAN AND KARL

*What I've been doing, I'll do again.  
I must take care there is no marriage vow.  
Ah! I just care about here and now.  
It's not important what I say to you  
Ah, so you'll let me do what I do.  
I love this rendezvous.*

APOLONIA

*Bastard!  
Cuckold!  
I'll get you!  
You rat, you!*

PANCRAZE

*Wima, I am yours! (rushes to Eulalia, tries to kiss her, sees who she is and faints)*

GRONER

*Darling girl, it is I! (turns her to him, sees who it is, faints in Eulalia's arms)*

*(Eulalia recognizes the men, panics and tries to run off, but runs into Apolonia)*

APOLONIA

*Eulalia! This is disgraceful— you... not Wilma...in a liaison with my husband!*

EULALIA

*(drops him) But... I didn't... Your husband? Your husband? Wait! That one is my husband! And you, I suppose, came here to do some hanky-panky with him?*

APOLONIA

*Don't be ridiculous. Pancraze? Ha!*

EULALIA

*Then don't you be ridiculous. Groner?... (changing) What's wrong with Pancraze?*

54.

DOROTHEE

*(having seen all this)* Mama? What were you doing with... Mr....?

EULALIA

Oh God!

REGINA

*(going over to the prostrate Groner)* Daddy... and Frau Pancraze?

APOLONIA

Oh no! This is not good.

REGINA

Mama?

EULALIA

I'm going to die.

APOLONIA

Pull yourself together. We have to bury this scandal. Girls! Pick your fathers up. They are not well. We'll take them home and give them some strong medicine.

*(the girls each start to pick up their fathers)*

GRONER AND PANCRAZE

Wilma!

*(each embraces his daughter, then recognizes her and faints again; the girls run to their soldiers; Apolonia and Eulalia pick their husbands up by the ears)*

*(Townpeople gather as Janos, Wilma and Hermann come downstage)*

JANOS

Well, what have we here? An evening of misadventure for the first families of Furstenfeld? This could certainly set the festivities back.

APOLONIA

You! You did this to us!

JANOS

No, you did it to yourselves. Townpeople! I would like you to meet the young lady who has now been properly identified as my daughter Wilma, and her fiancée, Hermann. Go ahead... kiss your future bride.

*(Wilma and Hermann kiss; the townsfolk applaud)*

Your mayor and his close friends have agreed to give them a nice wedding, haven't you?

55.

APOLONIA AND EULALIA

What?

JANOS

Haven't you? Oh, is this a note for Wilma? And another one! (*grabs the notes from the two men and holds them up*)

GRONER

Yes, yes! A nice wedding!

JANOS

And expensive.

PANCRAZE

(*grimly*) And expensive.

JANOS

I think I'll hold on to these until the bill is paid. Oh, cheer up...you can ask the other members of the council to chip in. I'm sure they'll help out. (*to Eulalia*) And, I think, madam, that our rendezvous will have to wait. Tomorrow is the wedding and you're all invited!

CHORUS

Hurrah!

REGINA AND DOROTHEE

Let's all get married!

STEPHAN

No, no, darlings. Hermann is setting a bad example, but you must forgive him. He doesn't know that the Hussars do romance, not marriage.

**NO. 15 FINALE – COMPANY**

*STEPHAN*

*For you a happy wedding day, domestic life is starting,*

*WILMA*

*La, la, la etc.*

*CHORUS*

*Clip, clop, clip, clop, clip!*

*STEPHAN*

*But for the rest, it's safe to say, the cavalry's departing.*

56.

*WILMA*

*La, la, la etc.*

*CHORUS*

*Clip, clop, clip, clop, clip*

*The way of the Hussar*

*Is love, and then depart.*

*JANOS*

*That's true.*

*But since my daughter I have found,*

*I'll quit the corps and stay in town.*

*ALL*

*The colonel will retire his sword*

*And go to war no more.*

*At this musical point, the famous theme from the overture returns, sung by Janos and he entire company.*

*JANOS*

*What I have done, ere a war's begun*

*Is clear the town of corruption.*

*Soldiers now may want to save its citizens from an invader.*

*WILMA, HERMANN, REGINA, DOROTHEE, JANOS, STEPHAN, KARL*

*So we'll celebrate our city's date*

*Without a further disruption.*

*Gone the smell, it all ends well*

*The cavalry saves the day.*

*ALL*

*What he has done, ere a war's begun*

*Is clear the town of corruption.*

*Now they're willing to defend its citizens from an invader.*

*So we'll celebrate our city's date*

*Without a further disruption.*

*Gone the smell, it all ends well*

*The cavalry saves the day.*

57.

*Hip-hoorah for the colonel Janos and his pretty daughter!*

*They will stay, so raise a glass and wish them well!*

*Yuche! Yuche!*

*Drink to the handsome men and brave!*

*Yuche! Yuche!*

*As they ride off, wildly wave!*

*As the final notes rise from the orchestra, the citizens wave farewell to the Hussars, the old curmudgeons are left to grumble, Colonel remains with the happy lovers, and Regina and Dorothee can now only envy Wilma.*