THE MUSIC MASTER

COMI OPERA IN ONE ACT

Music by Giovanni Pergolesi • Book and Lyrics by Thomas Petiet

CHARM IN A SMALL PACKAGE

Unlike most operas from the 18th century, this little gem contains dialog rather than recitative. It is a tender spoof about a voice student and her teacher. Lauretta has been studying with Lamberto for three years and doesn't think she is getting anywhere. Lamberto keeps trying to convince her that she's not yet ready for the big time, but he really wants to keep her close because he's in love with her. Temptation comes calling, however, when the opera impresario Collagianni comes over, looking for a lead soprano. Like Lamberto, he falls for Lauretta regardless of voice and offers her the role.

The take on the music business in the 18th century isn't much different from the pop music business today, which makes this little show relevant to today's audience.

CAST REQUIREMENTS

Lauretta, a voice student (soprano) Lamberto, the music master (tenor) Collagianni, the impresario (bass)

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Scene I—The Music Master's Studio

No. 1	Aria "Where's Your Facility?"	Lamberto
No. 2	Study Aria	Lauretta
No. 3	Aria "If You've a Fever"	Lamberto
No. 4	Aria "To be a Prima Donna"	Lauretta
No. 5	Aria "Why Waste Your Youth"	Collagianni
No. 6	Aria "I'm Such a Helpless Creature"	Lauretta
No. 7	Aria "Lovely Sparrow"	Collagianni
No. 8	Terzett "This Appalling Revelation"	Lauretta,
		Lamberto, Collagianni

Scene 2 – The Opera Rehearsal Hall

No. 9 Scene Music	. Orchestra
No. 10 Aria "Listen to the Echo's Laughter"	. Lauretta
No. 11 Duet "My Rehearsal"	Lamberto, Lauretta
No. 12 Aria "You've Done Your Best"	. Lauretta
No. 13 Duet "Now Make a Full Confession"	Lamberto, Lauretta
No. 14 Finale	Lauretta Lamberto Collagianni

ORCHESTRATION Chamber orchestration available for rent

Recording available for purchase

IL MAESTRO DI MUSICA

COMEDY IN ONE ACT and TWO SCENES

Musica di GIOV. BATT. PERGOLESI (1731)

English translation by Thomas W. Petiet

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NO. 1 ARIA







LOR; But, Maestro Lamberto, my time isn't up yet.

LAM: Yes, but my time is, my dear Loretta! One more minute of your infernal giggling while I'm trying to teach you the art of Bel Canto and I will explode!

LOR; But it's all so silly...

LAM: It is not silly. It is the highest expression of vocal art.

LOR: But all I ever do are scales and arpeggios, arpeggios and scales!

LAM: And not very well, I may add. Now if you....

LOR: Oh, I'm tired of exercises, up and down, up and down. Teach me passion... teach me love...teach me OPERA!

LAM; (embarrassed) Opera? Why, you're barely ready for a tune, much less an aria...

LOR: I know a tune!

LAM: Indeed. And what is this tune?

LOR: I don't know. It's in English. But I can sing it.

LAM: Well, that's very nice. Maybe in a week or two...

LOR: Please, Maestro, let me sing it for you? Please...

LAM: Oh, very well...just one verse...

#2 (she begins to sing, but slides up to a note. He imitates Her)

LAM: Oh, dulce cielo, and to think this is my best student!

Don't slide like a trombone! Intonation! Perfect attack! Now, again.....

No. 2 STUDY ARIA



LAMB. "And to think this is my best student! Don't slide like a trombone! Intonation! Perfect attack! Now, again..."





LAM; Well, not bad for a beginner. Who knows? With continued study, you may have a career after all.

LOR: And when can I make my debut at the opera?

LAM: Debut? How can you even think of a debut at your stage of development? First we must conquer scales and arpeggios, my dear. After that, we may add some extended phrases. Then, perhaps, we will study the light art song...then easy arias for a few years and finally, when your voice has filled out a bit...

LOR: When <u>I've</u> filled out a bit, you mean? I'll be old and fat by then!

LAM: A little extra weight helps the support, my dear. And you're still so slender (he holds her waist).

LOR: But I don't want to be fat! Would you like me if I was fat?

LAM: (pulling his hands away) It is immaterial to me what you look like, my dear. I am only concerned with your voice.

LOR: Only my voice? (flirting)

LAM: Yes, of course. I am a professional... and as such, it is your instrument that I must look after and... develop. You must have patience, Loretta. You have only been with me for three years. Continue to follow my system, the Lamberto method, and you will achieve success. It is slow, perhaps, but absolutely guaranteed. With it, even the least talented can earn money by singing.

No. 3
ARIA DI LAMBERTO













LOR; And when I've mastered all of that, THEN I can make my debut at the Opera?

LAM; Oh, my dear, it's not as simple as that. You need connections... influence. And it just happens that I...

LOR: Oh, that's easy. My uncle has a friend who knows somebody who has a wife.

LAM: Yes, go on...

LOR: Well, his wife used to clean the house of a man who has the box next to Signor Collagianni...

LAM: Signor Collagianni?

LOR: Yes, the impresario of the Opera. So I will use my influence over my uncle who will use his influence over his friend to use his influence over somebody who will convince his wife to ask the man who she used to clean the floor for to ask Signor Collagianni to hear me sing. I think I'll ask him today, before I forget who everyone is.

LAM: But you are not yet an artist!

LOR; Artist? 1 don't want to be an artist. I want to be a prima donna.

No. 4
ARIA DI LAURETTA











LAM; You may as well stop dreaming, my dear. I'm afraid my old friend Signor Collagianni will have no interest in a beginner, especially one who neglects her arpeggios and scales. He takes only the best singers from the best schools.

LOR; How many has he taken from this school, maestro Lamberto?

LAM: From this school? Well, counting thes year... uh... none. But my students are universally regarded as the finest non-opera singers in the country.

LOR: But I want to sing opera!

LAM; Yes, I know, my dear. And if you continue to study my system, the Lamberto method, (puts his arm around her), I can assure you that you will some day be trained.

LOR: Well, perhaps another year...

LAM: Of course you must trust me implicitly...

LOR; Yes, maestro...

LAM: Put yourself into my hands entirely...

LOR: Of course, maestro...

A KNOCK AT THE DOOR

LAM:- Who the devil is that? That fat tenor isn't due until two o'clock. I told him not to come early again...(opens door) Mama mia! Signor Collagianni!

COL: Maestro Lamberto, I presume?

LAM: Yes, sir! Inventor of the Lamberto method, (so Loretta can hear) Well, well. How nice of you J:o stop by and talk about old times. How are things at the shop, Ha ha.

COL: (somewhat taken aback) Not very well, I'm afraid. I need a singer for my new opera, *Ariadne Meets Hercules*. You have heard of it?

LAM; I'm afraid not, sir.

COL; I see. Well, I have tried at all the better schools with no luck, and so as a last resort, I have come to you.

LAM; I'm sure 1 can help you, Signor. What kind of a singer do you need? A tenor, perhaps?

COL; No, no... a lead soprano. A prima donna, (Lamberto stands between Collagianni and Loretta, trying to hide her). I don't suppose that you would have a ... no, no—it is impossible, (trying to see what Lamberto is hiding) You could not possibly have a... have a... Hello, what's this?

LAM; Just a beginning student... a baritone!

COLs Delightful! What eyes, what hair, what... Oh, yes... she's perfect! Ariadne!

LOR: I know an aria!

COL: Ariadne, my dear... Ariadne. Oh, my, but she is charming... so naive. You have outdone yourself this time, Maestro. Allow me to introduce myself...Collagianni-Impresario of the Opera.

LOR; Signor Collagianni!

(Collagianni looks her over carefully)

LAM: Yes, he has come here to see me about...

COL: (interrupting) I see that you are very talented.

LOR: Thank you sir. Did Maestro Lamberto tell you about me?

LAM: Well, not exactly, Loretta. Why don't you go and let Signer Collagianni and I...

LOR: Oh, of course. You must have talked to the man whose house cleaner has a husband who knows someone who knows my uncle.

COL; Why yes, of course! How is your uncle?

LOR: Very well, sir.

COL: Splendid. I'm surprised I hadn't thought of you for the part in my opera.

LOR: Permit me to audition for you, sir.

LAM: Ha, ha! You must excuse her, sir. Loretta! Signor Collagianni is not interested in hearing you sing.

COL: Quite right. I'm not.

LOR: (disappointed) Oh!

COL: The part is yours! You are Ariadne! Such eyes... such hair... such...

LAM: (concerned) I'm sorry sir, but Loretta is not yet ready. Perhaps in a year or two...

COL; I think she has everything she needs right now.

LAM: I'm sure that one of my more advanced pupils, trained in my method...

COL; Tut, tut, Maestro. Do not concern yourself. She does not need your method to succeed at the opera.

LAM: What?

COLs Not at all. She needs nothing but her present appearance and the perfection of such skills as charm, capriciousness, scandal and an excellent display of temper to be a prima donna.

NO. 5 Aria, Colagianni









LOR: Oh signor, your method sounds very interesting.

COL; Yes. I call it the Collagianni method.

LORs How long will it take?

COL; Oh, just a few days. I'm a very fast worker.

LAM; I believe that!

LOR; When can I begin?

LAM; Loretta! I forbid it!

LOR: Oh pleeeeeease, Maestro.

LAM; No! I will not see one of my pupils destroyed by ambition.

COL: Oh, by the way, I have a commission for you as well, Maestro. You must rehearse the orchestra for my opera.

LAM; I? Well...

COL; I will hear no refusals. The musicians asked for you by name. Give us Maestro... uh... uh... what was your... uh... Ahem! Give us the Music Master, they cried. The pay is 500 lire.

LAM: Oh! Very generous. Well, in that case... by name, you say?

CQLs The rehearsal is in ten minutes at the opera house. Quickly, you have just enough time!

LAM; But...

COL: Quickly!

LAM: Loretta!

LOR: Maestro!

COL: Hurry! (pushes him out) Now, my dear, we must begin our lessons.

LOR: Oh, signor. Not in Lamberto's... I mean, not in the Maestro's studio!

COL; These lessons are portable, my dear, and may be taught anywhere.

LORs But if he should return... I would not want him to think... after all he has done....

COL; You have a new teacher now, my dear. I will make you a prima donna. But only on one condition.

LOR: And that is?

COL; That you entrust your heart as well as your voice to my teaching.

Then I will lay the whole world at your feet For 10% commission, of course.

LOR; Oh, sir! This is too much!

COL; Well, 5% then.

LOR: Oh, what a decision. I've never made a decision...

No. 6
ARIA DI LAURETTA



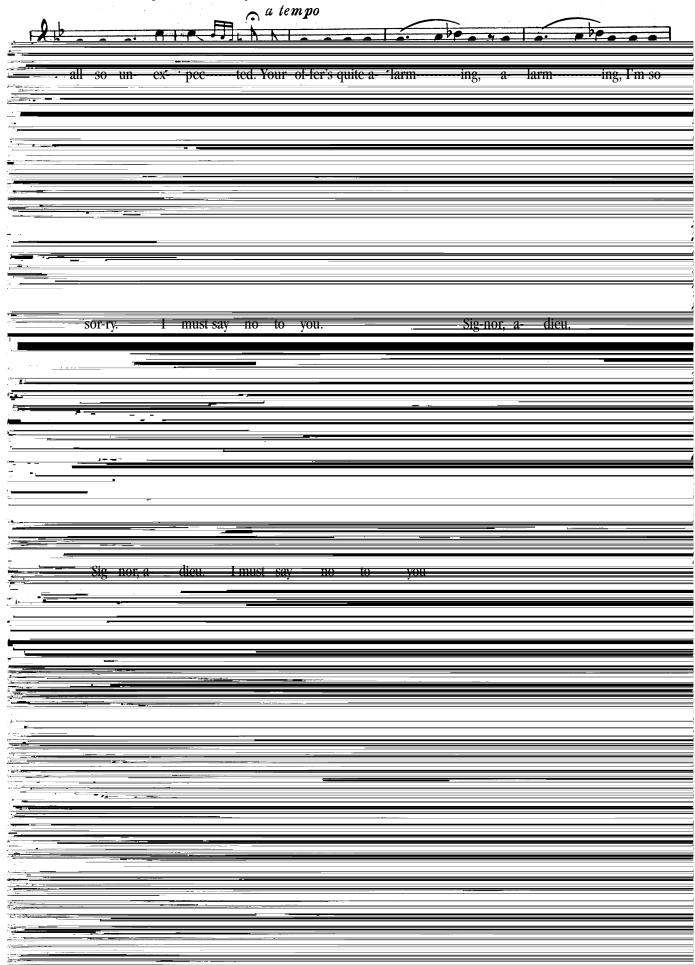








thinks better of it, turns away



COL: Oh, bewitching creature! Despite what you say, I am sure that you are attracted to me.

For words are made by men, and may be false, but a woman's eyes never lie.

Yours are saying "Yes Collagianni, yes!"

LOR; My goodness, signor, you have remarkable powers of observation.

COL; My powers do not stop there, my dear, as I hope you will soon discover.

LOR; I hope not, signor!

COL; You do not wish to be the primissima prima donna of the world?

LOR; Oh, yes, signor!

COL: And be my wife?

LOR; (aside) Oh no signor!

No. 7
ARIA DI COLAGIANNI









No. 8 TERZETTO FINALE

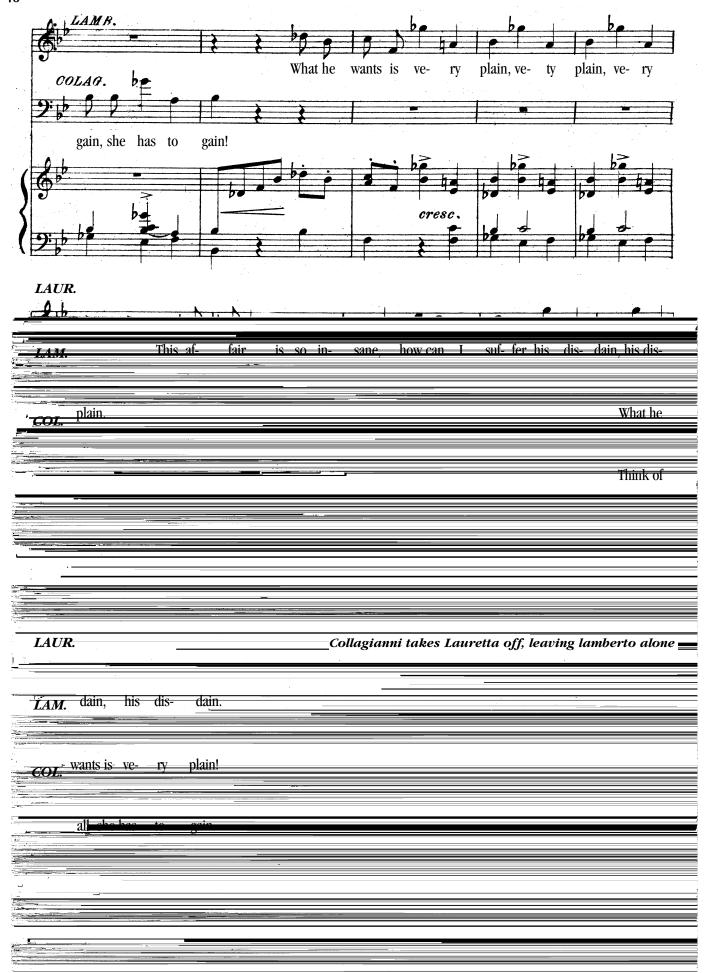












ACT 11

Scene» Lamberto preparing to rehearse the opera.

LAM; All right, people. Let's do the entr'act again. This time try not to sound like scullery maids at mealtime. Now here, at measure twenty-nine, it says piano. That's Italian. It means quiet. QUIET!! I'm not doing this for fun, you know. (aside) If I had known Collagiani only wanted me to rehearse the opera... In fact, for three cents, I'd take Collanianni's opera and...No! Lamberto, you are a professional! Which is to say, you need the money, (aloud) Fine, everyone. . .now we'll begin: one, two, three...

No. 9 musica di scena





LAM: Much better, orchestra, much better. Now, let's see... ah yes, the ECHO ARIA. (calling) Loretta!

LOR; (offstage) Coming! I must go, signor Collagianni.

LAM; Oh, that man's behavior makes me furious! For two cents, I'd... no... unprofessional. I must control my emotions.

LOR; Yes, Maestro.

LAM: If you .can force yourself to rehearse, Loretta, we will go over the ECHO ARIA.

LOR; I am ready, Maestro.

LAM: Are you? Then we will begin.

No. 10 ARIA DI LAURETTA





LAM; Not bad. That will do for now. Where is the tenor?

LOR; Lamberto, you haven't said two words to me since that day in the studio. We can't work together like this. I....

LAM; Where is that stupid tenor?

LOR; Lamberto, I think you're being silly.

LAM; Tenors are all alike.

LOR; You're not being professional.

(music begins)

LAM; What? Not professional! How dare you say that to me. Why, for one... Oh, if you only knew...

LOR; Why are you so angry?

LAM; I'm not angry.

LOR; I've never seen you so mad before.

LAM; Nonsense! I've always been mad!

No. 11 CONFRONTATION DUETTO









LOR; How can I convince you that I am innocent?

LAM; You can't. Next!

LOR; Very well, you can be that way if you like. I'm going!

LAM: Oh yes, to Collagianni, I suppose. All he has to do is wave a contract before you

and you come running.

LOR; At least he is not rude and callous to me.

LAM; Give him time...he will be.

(music #12 begins)

LOR; I'm sorry, I cannot listen to this any longer. I don't need to be insulted!

And to think I studied with you so long, so closely, and never knew you were like this.

No. 12 ARIA DI LAURETTA













LAM: Loretta, forgive me. I didn't mean to hurt you. It's just that I feel very strongly...

for my students, of course...

LOR: Yes, Lamberto?

LAM; Well, when that Collagianni came in, I felt..so...

LOR; Yes, Lamberto, how did you feel?

LAM; I felt... you know?

LOR; No, Lamberto, tell me.

LAM; I felt...um...very disturbed that he should have come in.

LOR: And that's all?

LAM; Well, not entirely. I felt...

LOR: What?

LAM; I felt...in love.

LOR; In What?

LAM; ...in LOVE! I love you, Loretta! I love everything about you.

(music to No. 13 begins)

LOR; You do? Even my singing?

LAM; Even your singing.

No. 13
DUETTO
LAURETTA e LAMBERTO













LOR: At last. Dear Lamberto. How long I've been hoping you felt this way.

You are so stubborn.

LAM: Stubborn? I'm not stubborn...

LOR; Lamberto...

LAM; You're right. I'm stubborn. And I've been a fool... but I love you.

COL: (entering) Loretta! Loretta! Ah, there you are. Come along. I want you to meet some

influential prople who may invest considerable money in me... I mean in you.

They will melt before my prima donna. Come!

LOR; Yes, I'll come, but Lamberto must come, too.

COL: Lamberto? No, no, my dear, that will not do at all.

LOR: Then I cannot come either. Lamberto and I are engaged.

COL; Engaged?

LAM; Yes, it's the Lamberto method.

COL; I see. But what about us, my dear? What about your career? What about my 15%?

LOR: Your 5% is perfectly safe, sir. If you make Lamberto a partner in your agency.

Otherwise I think you will lose much more.

COL: You dare to hold that over my head? After all I've done for you?

LOR; Yes, my dear. You mustn't be too angry. It's only the Loretta method.

COL; Well, you're right. I need you and you know it. All right. Lamberto can be

a partner in your career.

LAM; You will not be sorry, sir.

LOR: We will all be happy. You will be like my father.

COL; Oh, please, not that!

(music to No. 14 begins)

LOR; We will live as harmoniously as the instruments of the orchestra.

No. 14 FINALE

















