

# NIGHT IN VENICE

## A Newly Realized Operetta in Three Acts

Music by Johann Strauss      Book and Lyrics by Thomas Petiet

### A SHOW REVITALIZED

Overlooked for many years because of its inferior book, A NIGHT IN VENICE has a score equal to Die Fledermaus. Mr. Petiet has endeavored to restructure the plot to make sense, especially concerning the character Barbara, wife of the senator. Central to the story, she is virtually ignored in the original. In this version, reassigned music makes Barbara the lead soprano, and she goes to the Duke's palace, as well as two imposters, for a soiree. The licentious Duke has all he can handle!

The casting need for three lead sopranos, in addition to two comic women's roles, makes this a perfect vehicle for companies with an abundance of female talent. The two lead tenors each have glorious arias as well as romantic duets. The supporting roles are quite rewarding.

### CAST REQUIREMENTS

Senator Del Acqua, baritone	Agrippina, mezzo-soprano
Senator Testaccio, baritone	Vipsania, soprano
Senator Soporifico, tenor	Luigi, actor, chorus soloist
Ciboletta, soprano	Alba, actor, chorus soloist
Annina, soprano	Centurio, actor
Barbara, soprano	Girl at Ball, actor, chorus soloist
Caramello, tenor	Fortunio, child actor
The Duke of Urbino, tenor	
Chorus of vendors, senators' wives, citizens of Venice	

### MUSICAL NUMBERS

Overture.....	Orchestra
1. Venezia, Empress of the Adriatic.....	Chorus and Vendors, Del Acqua
2. Mistress is Not Enough for Me.....	Ciboletta and Del Acqua
3. Frutti di Mare.....	Annina and Chorus
4. Evviva, Caramello.....	Caramello, Chorus, and Children
5. Pellegrina, Rondinella.....	Annina and Caramello
6. Lagoon Waltz.....	Duke
7. In Masquerade.....	Barbara, Ciboletta, Duke, Del Acqua
7b. In Masquerade (reprise).....	Vipsania, Agrippina, Soporifico, Testaccio
8. Finale, Act 1.....	Ensemble
9. We're Not a Bit Concerned.....	Chorus, Senator's wives, Agrippina, Vipsania, Duke, Ciboletta
10. Oh, How I Burn Inside.....	Barbara
11. Ah, The Party's Going Fine.....	Chorus, Ciboletta, Caramello, Testaccio
12. You Told Me.....	Duke and Annina
13. Barbara, Barbara.....	Duke, Barbara, Del Acqua, Annina
14a. Finale, Act 2: Dinner For Three.....	Duke, Caramello, Annina, Ciboletta, Del Acqua, Barbara
14b. Spaghetti Song.....	Caramello
14c. We've Come ....	Agrippina, Vipsania, Senator's wives, Duke
14d. March Along, You Happy Throng.....	Ensemble
15. Carnival!.....	Ensemble
16. Come In The Gondola (reprise).....	Caramello
17. The Doves Of Old San Marco.....	Women's chorus and dancers, Barbara, Annina
18. There Was A Man Of Power.....	Barbara, Annina, women's chorus
19. Entrance march and Finale, Act 2.....	Company

### ORCHESTRATION

**Full orchestration available for rent • Recording available for purchase**

1.

## A NIGHT IN VENICE

New Book and Lyrics to the Operetta by Johann Strauss

**Scene:** A square in Venice. The balconied home of Senator Del Acqua to one side.  
Other homes and buildings and the canal upstage.

**No 1: INTRODUCTION AND CHORUS; SOLO, DEL ACQUA WITH CHOR.**

### **CHORUS**

*Gentle breezes come with the setting sun;  
Twilight nears as work ends for everyone.  
Ah! From ponte to piazza  
The belle ragazze  
Do all in their power  
To sell one more flower.  
The vendors are calling  
As darkness is falling  
Che peschi, che fiore, signore, signori.*

*It's time now to buy  
For the evening's nearly nigh.*

### **FISHWIVES**

*Peschi, Freschi!*

### **FLOWER GIRLS.**

*Qua la bella pianta!*

### **OYSTER VENDORS**

*O che bella ostriche!*

### **BEAN VENDORS**

*Favetta, favetta*

### **GRAPE VENDORS**

*Ah che bella uva*

### **WASHER WOMEN**

*Acqua dolce!*

**MELON VENDORS**

*Rosse la angurie!*

**POT & PAN SELLERS**

*Puina! Puina!*

**OTHERS**

*From ponte to piazza*

*The belle ragazze*

*Do all in their power*

*To sell one more flower.*

*The vendors are calling*

*As darkness is falling*

*So hail, oh, hail to thee, Venetia,*

*Empress of the Adriatic.*

**DEL ACQUA**

*I thank you, my dear friends, for your complete support.*

*For when you sing thus to your city,*

*Part of what you praise is me.*

*It is me, it is me, what you praise is me.*

**CHOR**

*What say you, signore?*

*Go away and be careful what you say, what you say.*

**DEL AQUA**

*Listen, pray*

*If I may...*

*When you extol your marketplace,*

*The palace of the Doges,*

*The canals of wondrous grace,*

*The Merceria and the Loges...*

*When riding with a gondolier,*

*You pass beneath the bridges*

*Please consider who has kept them here*

*With all the other riches.*

*I'm Senator DelAcqua,*

*the prime Venetian voice;*

*The man for whom you voted,*

*The serene republic's choice,*

*Tia, tia, tia...*

*Be installing my name in your praises  
It's DelAcqua, it's Del Acqua, yes, Del Acqua is my name.*

**CHOR**

*It's appalling to sing him our praises,  
For Del Aqua, For Del Aqua, For Del Aqua is our shame.*

**DEL ACQUA**

*Republican serenity  
Much more than outward beauty  
Gives us our prosperity  
And to defend it is our duty.  
The sights of Venice by themselves  
Would surely one day crumble  
Were the senate not so eloquent  
Or I not quite so humble.*

*The system is our glory  
As is the Campanile  
I'm glad to be a part of it  
And not the rank and file,  
No not the rank and file!*

*I am Senator Del Acqua  
And respected is my voice  
So when you truly love your city  
You love me, you have no choice.  
Tia, tia, tia...*

*Be installing my name in your praises  
It's DelAcqua, it's Del Acqua, yes, Del Acqua is my name.*

**CHOR**

*It's appalling to sing him our praises,  
For Del Aqua, For Del Aqua, For Del Aqua has no shame.*

**YOUTH:** *Evviva Senatore DelAcqua! Evviva Senatore DelAcqua! Evviva... (he goes on and on, obviously paid. The people pay no attention.)*

**DEL:** Zut, zut; that is enough, Fortunio. We'll try again when they are in a better humor.

**TEST:** *(entering)* Always trying to steal a few more votes, eh, DelAcqua?

- DEL:** Nonsense! I have never stolen a vote in my life. I have paid dearly for every one of them.
- SOP:** (*entering*) Yes, I'm proud of you, colleague. Your record of fiscal integrity is, in its all-inclusiveness, a shining example to all of us who fight for the republican way.
- DEL:** You certainly did fight in the session today! Why all the sudden animation? Normally you sleep through.
- SOP:** I was simply defending my bill permitting senators to accept jobs on the outside. Not all senators are wealthy, you know. We are grossly underpaid. And I haven't been able to get through any bills that would help me in the slightest.
- DEL:** As I remember, though, it wasn't a question of earning a little money cleaning windows...
- TEST:** No, he wanted to take a post with a foreign duke!
- SOP:** That was purely hypothetical...
- DEL:** Ah, yes.... conflict of interest.
- SOP:** I see no conflict in being wealthy. If I did, I wouldn't be a senator!
- DEL:** Wealthy! What do you mean? This is not hypothetical, is it? Out with it, or you may forget our support. Who is this foreign duke?
- SOP:** (*looking from one to the other*) Oh, very well. It's the Duke of Urbino. I have it from a reliable source that the manager of the Duke's Venetian estates has died, and that his very handsome post is open. It pays 1,000 ducats a year.
- BOTH:** 1,000!!
- SOP:** I would like to be free to apply for it. Do you see?
- DEL:** Oh, yes! I can quite see your argument now. Your reasoning is flawless. (to Testaccio) Don't you agree?
- TEST:** (*distracted by the thought of 1,000 ducats*) A thousand... What?... Oh, yes...
- SOP:** So I have your votes on legalizing our appointment... possible appointment to the post?
- DEL:** Oh, yes, I think so. Eh? (*Test. nods*) I think so.

- SOP:** You're not going to apply, are you?
- DEL:** Apply? Me? The senior senator?
- SOP:** Good.
- DEL:** I might.
- SOP:** What?
- DEL:** Well, I'd hate to have it said that only you could benefit from your legislation. I feel I owe you that much.
- SOP:** I see. You too?
- TEST:** *(still distracted)* What? I don't know... Yes, of course.
- DEL:** Now don't take it so hard. I only offer token resistance. I'm sure that you will impress the Duke far more than I at his ball tonight. I will however, mention the subject casually when I speak to him.
- SOP:** Ha! He won't speak to you! Or any of us! All he wants to do when he comes here to Carnival is make love to our women.
- DEL:** That's true. I had to rescue my wife from him last year.
- SOP:** Barbara is very pretty... a real temptation to him...
- DEL:** I'm aware of the danger. I tried to pass a bill forbidding wives to attend the ball, but *(looking at Testaccio)* I didn't have the votes.
- TEST:** Some have more reason to worry than others...
- DEL:** Well, I took the matter into my own hands. I'm sending Barbara to the convent at Nurano 'til he leaves. At first, she was upset to miss the carnival, but when she understood my fear for her virtue, she agreed.
- TEST:** Very wise. I would do the same, *(pause)* if I thought it necessary. *(shrugs)*
- SOP:** *(suddenly)* No, not Oh, ha, ha, ha! Not wise at all! Oh, you are outdone, DelAcqua. You who have the most beautiful wife is without the best instrument to reach the Duke's ear! He would have talked to her all night! Even about you! Ha, ha, ha! Now he will have to talk to somebody else's wife... *(changing)* I again applaud you for valuing your wife's virtue above a mere 1,000 ducats. You inspire us all!

*(suddenly calm)* Excuse me, colleagues. I must see that my good lady has an appropriate frock to wear tonight. Addio. *(exits)*

**DEL:** Shameful! The man will stop at nothing to advance himself! He does not blanch at putting his wife in that Casanova's path.

**TEST:** *(thinking again)* Yes...shameful, of course. Yes. *(thinks)* Perhaps a new dress might help... *(pause)* no... AH! It's a MASKED ball! *(suddenly in a hurry)* Yes, yes! Uh, uh, let's see... Oh, goodbye! *(runs off)*

**DEL:** The scoundrels! No wonder they sit on the RIGHT! How can they stoop to forcing their wives to flirt with the duke? It's outrageous! *(thinking as he crosses the stage)* Damn... and I'm sending Barbara away...

**CIBO:** *(entering)* QUA-QUA!

**DEL:** Ciboletta! *(looking around)* What are you doing here?

**CIBO:** I had to see you! I'm tired of waiting for you to come to see me, so I came to you!

**DEL:** But...*(looking around)* I LIVE here!

**CIBO.** I know. I asked some people where you lived and here I am!

**DEL:** You ASKED people?... *(pulls her aside)* Ciboletta, my dear, Senator's mistresses don't come to senator's homes. It's just not RIGHT!

**CIBO:** Marry me, then!

**DEL:** Marry you?...

## **No. 2 DUET-- Ciboletta And Del Acqua**

### ***CIBOLETTA***

*Married? Yes, that I must be.  
Mistress is not enough for me.*

### ***DEL ACQUA***

*You put me in an awkward spot.  
I'd make you my wife, but I cannot.  
My wife would be upset.*

**CIBOLETTA**

*Your wife?*

**DEL ACQUA**

*My wife would kill me, of course.*

**CIBOLETTA**

*Divorce!*

**DEL ACQUA**

*Divorce?*

**CIBOLETTA**

*Divorce.*

**DEL ACQUA**

*Divorce.*

**CIBOLETTA**

*I want that little ring.*

*Such a pretty thing.*

**DEL ACQUA**

*(spoken) I'm not going to like this number...*

**CIBOLETTA**

*Don't think it's guilt or sudden shame*

*That makes me want a wedding.*

*A mistress' life is not so bad*

*At least you get clean bedding.*

*But frankly, I've improved a lot*

*Since I've had your protection.*

*I'm so well dressed...*

*You know the rest...*

*I'm underpaid affection.*

*Yes, yes, it's time for a correction.*

*Ah, when I was just a miss,*

*You found no price upon my kiss,*

*But now it's come to this:*

*The ante's up or no more bliss!*

**BOTH**

*When I / she was just a miss,  
 You / I found no price upon my / her kiss,  
 But now it's come to this:  
 The ante's up or no more bliss!*

**CIBOLETTA**

*It's not for my companionship  
 In marriage that you hunger.  
 I'm sure your wife bores you to death  
 And, darling, I'm much younger.*

*So really, it's the marketplace  
 That governs my decision:  
 My dainty hand  
 Is in demand,  
 You've got some competition.  
 Yes, yes, I'm in a good position.*

*Ah, it don't reflect on you  
 A girl must do what she must do.  
 And so, without ado,  
 You marry me or we are through!*

**BOTH**

*It don't reflect on you / me  
 A girl must do what she must do! The girl demands my property  
 And so, without ado,  
 You / I marry me / you or we are through!*

**DEL:** But we've had such good times...

**CIBO:** Not that good...

**DEL:** But I've always given you everything...

**CIBO:** Not everything...

**DEL:** Oh, why does every woman think it's so important to get married?

**CIBO:** It's NATURAL... it's LEGAL... and I get half your house.

**DEL:** This is miserable. Another plague upon me! What have I done to deserve this? I...  
 (*gets an idea*) Ooh... You want to be my WIFE.

**CIBO:** Wife or nothing!

**DEL:** Well, that's fine. Now I understand. I'm glad we had this talk. I would never have known that you wanted to be my wife. Can you start tonight?

**CIBO:** Tonight?

**DEL:** Yes, at the Duke's masked ball.

**CIBO:** The Duke's masked ball? You're going to marry me at the Duke's ball?

**DEL:** Well, not exactly. I think we ought to do this a bit slowly at first. If you decide you like it, we can talk about it more at another time.

**CIBO:** But I'll really be your wife?

**DEL:** Tonight you will definitely be my wife.

**CIBO:** And tomorrow?

**DEL:** Tomorrow we'll talk.

**CIBO:** Well, it sounds all right. (*dreamily*) The Duke's ball...

**DEL:** My angel! (*kisses her, then looks around*) Quickly, now. You must go!

**CIBO:** But I have nothing to wear...

**DEL:** Yes, I almost forgot. Here is some money... Tell Lucia, the seamstress, to make you a red gown befitting my wife. It's my favorite color... Don't argue. Oh, by the way, when you meet the Duke tonight I want you to do me a little favor...

**CIBO:** What?

**DEL:** (*hearing crowd noise approaching*) Come, I'll explain. (*both exit*)

### **No. 3 ANNINA'S ENTRANCE & SOLO, Annina With Chorus**

#### **CHORUS**

*Listen, pray! Listen pray!  
Yes, Annina's on her way.*

*Listen, pray,  
She's coming across the shining sea*

*As pretty as can be.  
Listen, listen to her song.*

**ANNINA**

*Frutti di mare, frutti di mare  
Fresh today, fresh today...*

*I come from Chioggia  
and, all on the sea,  
I gather the fishes  
To keep me company.*

*The clam and the oyster  
Are shy as they can be,  
The flounder just came along  
To keep an eye on me.*

*Frutti di mare, frutti di mare  
Fresh today, fragrant tomorrow!*

**CHORUS**

*Frutti di mare, frutti di mare  
Fresh today, fragrant tomorrow!*

**ANNINA**

*My fish are impatient  
For you to take them home  
For they may no longer dance  
Upon the briny foam.*

*There's cod and some whitefish  
There's stickleback and eel,  
And all seek the pleasure  
Of one final meal.*

*Frutti di mare, frutti di mare  
Fresh today, fragrant tomorrow!*

**CHORUS**

*Frutti di mare, frutti di mare  
Fresh today, fragrant tomorrow!*

*Some people remain to buy fish from Annina. Barbara, who has come out in front of her house to hear Annina, now comes forward.*

- ANN:** Mistress Barbara! Today I have the whitefish and scallops you love!
- BARB:** Annina. (*kisses her cheek*) I'm afraid I only came to look today. I can't buy what I won't be home to enjoy...
- ANN:** (*disappointed*) Oh... you and the senator are going away?
- BARB:** No, dear, not he! Only I must go. He will be here to enjoy the Duke's ball while I... while I am in the convent in Murano... prying conversation out of the nuns.
- ANN:** How awful...
- BARB:** It's not much fun being a virtuous wife, Annina. Stay with your fish... a herringbone can make your life more exciting than a husband, and stay with you longer.
- ANN:** But... surely you love him...
- BARB:** (*wearily*) Yes... I love him... but he's a husband! He both expects it and refuses to believe it. He's afraid I will run away with the duke if I go to the ball... (*changing*) Of course, the duke is very dashing... but I can resist his type, don't you doubt it! Do you know he kissed me last year?
- ANN:** All Venice knows that!
- BARB:** Do they really? And I suppose all Venice thinks I enjoyed it, as well.
- ANN:** Didn't you? Only the fish will know...
- BARB:** Well... (*examines them*) all right, if you must know, it was...
- ANN:** Exciting?
- BARB:** No! Well, maybe, but only because I'm so bored. It means nothing.
- ANN:** And then...
- BARB:** And then...Del Acqua came in. I did nothing, but now I am doomed to Murano.
- ANN:** I might as well be. I will not be asked to the ball, either.
- BARB:** Poor Annina! But surely a little eau de cologne...
- ANN:** No, I mean Caramello never takes me anywhere. He's always too busy poling around the canals or doing something (*disdainfully*) for his "Lordship".

**BARB:** (*hearing "Ho-a-ho" and crowd noise*) Can that be the subject of our conversation?

**ANN:** If he's followed by half the city, that's him!

*Caramello enters, followed by half the city--people, dogs, children etc.*

**No. 4 ENTRANCE OF CAMELLO-- Caramello and chorus**

**CHORUS**

*Evviva Caramello, the Gondolier  
The Duke comes to Venice, that's why he is here.  
Why he is here.*

**CAMELLO**

*My friends, this hearty welcome  
That me you now accord  
I'll take as partly owing to my noble lord  
It's very unexpected  
The common man to cheer,  
But then I'm quite uncommon:  
The duke's gondolier.*

**CHORUS**

*Evviva Caramello, we sound a cheer.  
Evviva Caramello, the duke's gondolier!*

**CAMELLO**

*The Dukes a man of passion  
Of style and grace and fashion.  
The many hearts he's broken  
Can't in a breath be spoken;  
I work when he's at play,  
and look the other way.  
I don't question his obsession,  
It's a matter of obsession.  
He's a lord, he has the right...  
It's been that way forever.  
I just do my job and attend throughout the night,  
Ah— then at dawn I make it right.*

*We've lingered in Trieste  
And conquered much of Rome.  
There wasn't much in Mestre,  
It's much too close to home.  
Then all around the nation*

*Such things I've done and seen.  
I'm back with adoration  
For my beloved Queen.*

*So if you want to travel  
With one who can unravel  
Your problems and your fears  
Call for this gondolier.  
Hey, Caramello, his time you should buy  
I am and remain an amazing guy!*

**CHORUS**

*Hey, Caramello, your time I will buy  
You are and remain an amazing guy!*

**CARAMELLO**

*And to prove what I have stated,  
It is time I demonstrated  
Dancing that was first created  
For occasions most elated.  
Round you go so agitated  
Till you're most exhilarated;  
ladies now are elevated  
(That's the part I always hated)  
Then it gets more complicated  
And the steps more syncopated,  
More and more accelerated  
Till our lungs are suffocated;  
But we're so infatuated  
That our legs are stimulated  
To perform exaggerated  
Steps to which we've graduated.  
Can the dance be terminated, nated, nated.*

*Hey, Caramello, what an amazing guy  
Nothing can stop him now,  
Watch him fly!  
What an amazing guy,  
Nothing can stop him now,  
Just watch the fellow fly!  
La, la, la, etc.*

**CHORUS**

*Caramello, Caramello  
Caramello's an amazing guy  
Just watch the fellow fly!*

*And ah, Caramello,  
What an amazing guy,  
Nothing can stop him now,  
Just watch the fellow fly!  
La, la, la, etc.*

**CAR:** Annina, my beautiful mermaid! I have come to you! (*he kisses her, but she gives him only the cheek*)

**ANN:** Liar! You came with his lordship. No other reason.

**CAR:** Ohh. You have wounded your gondolier! Can he be blamed if he must go with his gondola?

**ANN:** Oh. And maybe you'd like to tell me why the Duke needed his gondola in Naples? Or in Rome for the last six months? I'll bet you broke a few poles on the Via Appia.

**CAR:** You don't trust your gondolier? Who was thinking only of you?

**ANN:** I'll bet! And stop talking to me in the third person. It's very annoying!

**CAR:** All right, all right, I know. But I'm more than a gondolier to the Duke! Ever since I managed a little problem for him at La Giudecca I've been his executive assistant. He can't make a move on anyone without me.

**ANN:** And just what do you do for him?

**CAR:** I am to him what a door is to a room, what a fork is to a meal, uh, what a crab is to an apple.... I, uh, take care of things...

**ANN:** What things?

**CAR:** I can't tell... You're not a gondolier!

**ANN:** You can only tell a gondolier?

**CAR:** That's right. Of course, they'd probably already know...

**ANN:** But you can't tell me?

**CAR:** That's right. *(pause)* Of course, I could tell you if you were married to a gondolier.

**ANN:** Oh, I'd have to be married to a gondolier?

**CAR:** Right. *(coming closer)*

**ANN:** But not before?

**CAR:** Oh, no. It would hardly be proper.

**ANN:** I suppose I could marry you because you're a gondolier.

**CAR:** Yes, And one that happens to love you.

**ANN:** That's convenient. And it would also be convenient to have a wife to return to from your travels. Well, Mr. Gondolier, it's not convenient for me! Fly away, if you must, but don't expect the nest to be there when you come back!

**No. 5 DUET -- Annina and Caramello**

**CARAMELLO**

*Annina!*

**ANNINA**

*Caramello!*

**CARAMELLO**

*My dear, why do you turn away?*

**ANNINA**

*You ought to know my darling.*

**CARAMELLO**

*I love you, what more can I say?*

**ANNINA**

*Be silent and I'll tell you.*

**CARAMELLO**

*But I've come back just to show  
My overpowering affection.*

**ANNINA**

*And very soon you'll go  
And that's the point to which I have objection.*

*I know the swallow flies far away,  
 Returning one day the following year.  
 Is that your promise to Annina?  
 "Pellegrina, rondinella..."*

**CARAMELLO**

*Hear me, Annina...*

**ANNINA**

*Rondinella, pellegrina,  
 Pellegrina, rondinella!*

*When you tell me you love me,  
 Why should I hark to you?  
 For you've not been here to kiss me  
 And you don't seem to miss me,  
 How can you still be true?*

*Pellegrina, rondinella  
 Rondinella, pellegrina,  
 Migratory Caramello  
 Won't return to find Annina!*

**BOTH**

*Pellegrina, rondinella  
 Rondinella, pellegrina,*

**CARAMELLO**

*I've returned to my Annina.  
 I'm in love with you.*

**ANNINA**

*Ah, I won't wait for you!*

**CARAMELLO**

*Tho' I've wandered far and wide,  
 We've not been apart  
 Tho' I've not been by your side,  
 Wherever you abide  
 Will always be my heart.*

**ANNINA**

*Ah, pellegrina, rondinella  
 Rondinella, pellegrina,*

*Migratory Caramello  
Won't return to find Annina!*

**BOTH**  
*Pellegrina, rondinella  
Rondinella, pellegrina,*

**CARAMELLO**  
*I've returned to my Annina.  
I'm in love with you.*

**ANNINA**  
*Ah, I won't wait for you!*

**CAR:** Is there nothing I can say to convince you?

**ANN:** I've heard it all before. (he kisses her) But I could hear it again... *(they kiss emphatically)*

**CAR:** *(after looking at each other dreamily, he suddenly starts to chatter)* So... tell me, how are the fish? Anything new in Venice? Have you seen Mistress Barbara?

**ANN:** Barbara? Why?

**CAR:** Just curious.

**ANN:** Well, she told me she can't go to the Duke's ball tonight.

**CAR:** What?

**ANN:** Yes, in fact, her husband is sending her to Murano, to the convent.

**CAR:** WHAT? *(catching himself)* Oh, really? Well, well. Tsk. Tsk.

**ANN:** Can you imagine that silly man?

**CAR:** Ha, ha! What a silly man. *(aside)* This is terrible!

**ANN:** What?

**CAR:** Nothing, nothing. So... he's sending her to Murano. Well, well... *(aside, even further)* The Duke will be furious. I've got to DO something!

**ANN:** What?

- CAR:** Uh, nothing. Uh, when are they leaving?
- ANN:** Oh, he's not going. He's going to the ball and she's being sent away. Can you believe it? What a pig!
- CAR:** Right! The dirty pig! (*aside*) There's still a chance. All I have to do is find a way to get her away from...
- ANN:** What? Why do you keep talking over there?
- CAR:** Oh, nothing. Just... asthma. (*coughs*) Damp canals...
- ANN:** I'll make you some fish soup...
- CAR:** No, no. It's nothing. Comes and goes. It just went. So... my goodness...when is she leaving?
- ANN:** Tonight, before dusk. He's putting her on the gondola himself. I'm going to stay to say good-bye... she's so sad.
- CAR:** Yes, that would be nice. (*aside*) That's it! I'll be the gondolier! But I won't take her to Murano. I'll take her to... (*sees her watching him, starts to cough*)
- ANN:** No more arguments. Some clam chowder for you. Then we say good-bye, then you take me to the ball!
- CAR:** Oh! Uh, I'm afraid I can't go to the ball tonight. I have to, uh, work!
- ANN:** Ooh! I knew it!
- CAR:** Tomorrow we can have our own party. What do you say?
- ANN:** Here! Here's my answer! (*slaps him in the face with a fish*) Make your own soup! (*she leaves in a huff*)
- CAR:** Annina! (*he follows her part way, stops, wipes his face off*)
- DUKE:** (*entering*) Pst. Caramello! Have you seen her?
- CAR:** I'm afraid so.
- DUKE:** And will she come tonight?

**CAR:** Oh! Lady Barbara! Not precisely, your lordship. I mean... yes, of course, she will come tonight.

**DUKE:** Good, good. Ah, what would I do without you? A man like me needs a gondolier like you, Caramello! You have taken me where my heart desires and never once asked tedious questions.

**CAR:** Well...

**DUKE:** Shh! I don't like questions. I don't like answers! I just like to do what I do. I will reward you well for the beautiful Barbara, my friend! Quickly, see to my wardrobe. (*sniffing around*) And bring my eau de cologne!

**CAR:** At once, sire! (*aside*) I have to do it! I'll bring him his Barbara and then I'll have enough to marry Annina...

**DUKE:** What?

**CAR:** At once, sire. (exits)

**DUKE:** I think he has asthma... Oh, Barbara! It has been a year since I saw you... and your husband saw me! But now at last we will be together. Your ambitious husband will be happy to have you talk to me tonight! But we will not talk of him...

**No. 6 LAGOON WALTZ-- Solo, Duke**

***DUKE***

*Ah, lovely lady divine,  
Come to me, Barbara mine.  
We'll dance and then we will dine  
To love you has been my design.*

*Angel, before you I swear,  
Nothing with you can compare,  
And I will love you fore'er  
Any time and anywhere.*

*But then some time  
It may come time  
To depart, dear,  
So take heart, dear;  
I can never  
Be forever,*

*And our love may run its course  
Without divorce.*

*I have not been known to falter,  
I avoid the dreaded altar.  
But there is no need for marriage  
When you have a house and carriage.*

*Husbands take their wives for granted,  
I can make their lives enchanted.  
Lonely ladies sigh,  
Then I just happen by...  
Ah, I hardly have to try.*

*I don't ever take advantage  
Rare the heart I ever damage.  
Expert at all light romancing,  
I adore and take them dancing.  
Noble is a man's employment  
In providing such enjoyment;  
None of them demand  
That I ask them for their hand.*

*So, lovely lady divine,  
Come to me, Barbara mine,  
We'll dance and then we will dine.  
To love you has been my design.*

*I know that you'll understand  
I'll never ask for your hand.  
I'm sure that you'd rather have it that way,  
La donna e' mobile.*

**BARB:** Bravo, signore! (*from balcony*)

**DUKE:** (*turning to her*) Ah, Bella Fortuna! Lovely Barbara!

**BARB:** Oh, my goodness! The Duke! But why do you sing in front of my house, your lordship?

**DUKE:** Every word, every note is for you, you divine creature. I have thought of nothing but you since I first saw you last year on the veranda. Do you not remember?

**BARB:** I don't remember the veranda.

**DUKE:** But the rest...

**BARB:** (coyly) ... is coming back to me.

**DUKE:** Ah, you must not tease me-- it is too cruel. Tell me that you will come to my ball tonight... that we may once again...

**BARB:** But, my lord... I am a married woman!

**DUKE:** Oh yes, I forgot. Don't bring your husband.

**BARB:** Sire! What kind of a woman do you think I am?

**DUKE:** That is what I mean to find out.

**BARB:** It is no use to tempt me, my lord. Even though I admit that I am bored- - just a little- - and that I would enjoy the ball- - a bit- - and that I am attracted to you--not very much--it is hopeless. I leave for Murano tonight!

**DUKE:** What? Caramello told me nothing of this!

**BARB:** Caramello?

**DUKE:** My informant. Never mind... I forbid you to go!

**BARB:** It is my husband's command. I must!

**DUKE:** But I am your Duke and you mustn't! I am coming to you!

**BARB:** NO! Someone will see you!

**DUKE:** Let them! A duke will go where he must! (*he proceeds to climb up, but with difficulty*)

**BARB:** It's very high...

**DUKE:** Yes, it is... (*but he finally makes it*) I am here:

**BARB:** You know, I forgot. You could have used the stairs. My husband is in the senate.

**DUKE:** Oh... Well, never mind. I do what I do. And now I hold you and will not let you go until you tell me you will be with me tonight!

**BARB:** I can't! My husband..

**DUKE:** Your husband will be there.

**BARB:** I know that.

**DUKE:** ...with another woman.

**BARB:** What?

**DUKE:** I'm sorry, my dear. But I have it from a gondolier. Your husband has a mistress.

**BARB:** (upset) You don't look sorry...

**DUKE:** Ah, yes. It's true. Actually, I'm overjoyed. But I am as I am. I can't help it

**BARB:** How can you tell me this and then expect me to go to the ball with you?

**DUKE:** Well... I simply thought that you would be so angry with your husband that you would go with me just to get even with him.

**BARB:** Oh, is that what you thought?

**DUKE:** Well, yes.

**BARB:** {*pause*} Well, you're right. I'll go!

**DUKE:** Bellissima! (*he embraces her, and they continue to speak in pantomime*)

**DEL:** (*entering with Ciboletta, out of sight of the other couple*) Yes, that's fine.

**CIBO:** Do you like it?

**DEL:** Very pretty. Nice color.

**CIBO:** I will put it on and--BANG!-- I will be your wife!

**DEL:** Oh, please ! And could you be a little quiet?

**CIBO:** Well, I will, won't I?

**DEL:** You will, you will... but of course it's a masked ball. You will have to wear a mask; here...try it on (*he tries to get it on her as fast as possible*)

**CIBO:** Let me see! Oh, this is exciting! A masked ball! What do I look like?

**DEL:** A goose.

**CIBO:** A goose? (*continues in mime*)

**BARB:** (*also putting on a mask*) A masked ball? Let me see it. What do I look like?

**DUKE:** A dove.

**BARB:** A dove?

**DEL:** (*to Ciboletta*) A dove.

**No.7 QUARTET-- Barbara, Duke, Ciboletta, and Del Acqua. (the two couples remain unaware of each other's presence during the quartet, and sing to each other)**

***ALL***

*In masquerade,  
Nothing's betrayed,  
No face this evening  
Will be displayed.  
Bold suggestions,  
Improper questions  
Are considered abstractions.  
And the dancing,  
So entrancing,  
Is a chance for bold romancing.*

*Ah, we're dancing, we're dancing...*

*In masquerade,  
We're not afraid,  
Our reputations can't be unmade.  
Joy will pervade  
This escapade  
We'll laugh and sing till the break of day!*

***BARBARA***

*Everyone will be there,  
But their names they'll never tell.*

**DUKE**

*When you think of what might happen  
That is just as well!*

**CIBOLETTA**

*You can dance with anyone,  
A peasant or a lord.*

**DELACQUA**

*With such endless opportunities,  
Who could be bored?*

**BARBARA, CIBOLETTA**

*Ah—*

**DUKE, DELACQUA**

*Tra, la, la, la, la*

**ALL**

*In masquerade,  
We're not afraid,  
Our reputations can't be unmade.  
Joy will pervade  
This escapade  
We'll laugh and sing till the break of day!*

**BARBARA**

*If you lose me midst the dancers  
I have found a simple answer:  
I will be the only one  
Who has got a red dress on.*

**DUKE**

*I am sure that with your charming features  
And your auburn hair,  
In a crowd of gorgeous creatures  
I would know you anywhere!*

**DELACQUA**

*For my wife you'll be mistaken  
And we both shall have our way.*

**CIBOLETTA**

*Your respect I'll reawaken  
And you'll love me then for aye!*

**ALL**

*I will love you.  
Let's away...*

*In masquerade,  
We're not afraid,  
Our reputations can't be unmade.  
Joy will pervade  
This escapade  
We'll laugh and sing till the break of day!*

*Until the break, until the break, until the break...  
Till the break of day!*

- DEL:** Now go and change and stay out of sight until I've put my... uh, Barbara on the gondola, then we will go to the ball.
- CIBO:** Right. *(starts to go into DelAcqua's house)*
- DEL:** Not in my house, you ninny! Change somewhere else and then come back here.
- CIBO:** *(giggles)* Oh, I forgot! *(aside, as she exits)* Someday it'll be my house.
- DEL:** I'm beginning to wonder if this is such a good idea. I'm not good at direct action. I wonder if anything could go wrong? *(exits into his house)*
- DUKE:** How ingenious! You will ask the fishmonger Annina to go to Murano, dressed as you. Then you will come with me.
- BARB:** Yes. And she'll wear a veil and hold her face in her hands whenever DelAcqua speaks to her. I'm sure she can do it.
- DUKE:** With so cunning a companion, perhaps we will find a way to have more than just this one night...
- BARB:** Don't be greedy.
- DUKE:** I am what I am.
- BARB:** Yes, you really are. And now you are going.

- DUKE:** Yes. Addio, mia bella! *(he starts to go over the railing)*
- BARB:** Guido... you may use the stairs.
- DUKE:** Oh yes. Thank you. Until later, when I come for you...
- BARB:** Remember, wait until the gondola has gone.
- DUKE:** It will seem like forever. *(he goes into the house. Barbara then follows. There is a pause. The Duke emerges below and DelAcqua comes out on the balcony. The Duke looks around, and, satisfied that the coast is clear, slams the door and walks away. DelAcqua, hears the door and goes down to the door)*
- DEL:** Barbara? I thought I heard the door. Must be my nerves. I must relax. *(Barbara sneaks out behind him)*
- SOP:** *(Entering with his ambitious wife Agrippina, Testaccio and his wife, the very plain Vipsania)* Ah, DelAcqua, just thought we would stop by and see your lovely wife off on her journey. Of course, you know Agrippina...
- DEL:** *(hiding his irritation)* Signora... a pleasure. *(kisses her hand)*
- AGR:** Signor.
- TEST:** And I believe you have also met Vipsania.
- DEL:** Indeed. Charmed, signora.
- VIP:** Signor.
- AGR:** And where is Barbara, signor? I must console her at missing the ball tonight.
- DEL:** Well, actually, signora, she's not going away.
- ALL:** She's not?
- DEL:** No, I changed my mind.
- SOP:** But you told everyone...
- DEL:** *(enjoying it)* Yes, but a politician says so many things...
- AGR:** *(snidely)* Well, this is wonderful news, signor. Is the lady at home that we may congratulate her?

- DEL:** Uh, no! She... she's buying a new gown. (*hurrying them*) So, you see, there's no reason for you to hang around. I must also get ready. Good-bye. (*he goes inside; they stand stunned. He peeks out again*) Good-bye! (*They move slightly to satisfy DelAcqua*)
- AGR:** So, she's going away, is she? Hah! He's sending her right to the Duke, and you had to give him the idea!
- TEST:** Yes. That was stupid! (*Sop. glares at him*) Now with our wives we don't stand a chance! (*the women glare at him*)
- SOP:** Yes. You had better take those new gowns back...
- AGR:** Over my dead body! This just means we will have to work a little harder. I have no doubt that I can compete with Barbara for the Duke's ear...
- TEST:** That's right. You're louder than she is...
- AGR:** (*menacing him*) Shut up. (*changing back*) The Duke knows a well-bred woman when he sees one, I'm sure.
- SOP:** Yes, but fortunately this is a masked ball! Ha, ha!
- AGR:** You're very jolly for someone who is about to lose 1,000 ducats!
- SOP:** I'm sorry.
- AGR:** Yes, well, I'm not going to work any harder than I have to charm the Duke. It will be hard enough for Vipsania, heaven knows... We shall all have to escort Barbara away from the Duke whenever we see them together. Then it should be easy to talk him into that appointment.
- TEST:** (*looking at Vipsania*) It'll have to be.
- VIP:** Is that right? Well, maybe I'll just go to enjoy the ball and forget about you!
- AGR:** I think you should, dear.
- VIP:** I'll just dance with the Duke and the other gentlemen! I might not dance with you at all!
- AGR:** I'm sure your card will be full, dear. (*looks at Sop. and shakes her head*)
- TEST:** Then you won't mind if I dance with the other ladies...

**VIP:** Go ahead!

**AGR:** (*takes Vipsania aside*) If I were you, dear, I wouldn't worry about the Duke. You'd better watch that husband of yours. Tsk, tsk, tsk.

**VIP:** You think I have to worry about Testaccio?

**AGR:** If he were my husband, I'd be worried.

**TEST:** (*to Sop.*) I'm going to enjoy myself tonight!

**SOP:** Yes, after all... it's a masked ball. It should be easy to enjoy ourselves.

**TEST:** (*enthusiastically*) Nobody will know who we are!

**SOP:** That's right! (*the women glare at the men*)

**SOP/** Almost nobody...

**TEST.**

**No.7b QUARTET (REPRISE)-- Agrippina, Soporifico, Vipsania, and Testaccio)**

***ALL***

*In masquerade,  
We're not afraid,  
Our reputations can't be unmade.  
Joy will pervade  
This escapade  
We'll laugh and sing till the break of day!*

***VIPSANIA***

*If a gentleman is bolder  
Than he ought to be,*

***AGRIPPINA***

*You won't worry for you have  
Your anonymity!*

***SOPORIFICO***

*If a lady should appear  
To lead a fellow on,*

**TESTACCIO**

*He won't have to put her off till  
His old lady's gone!*

**VIPSANIA, AGRIPPINA**

*Ah—*

**SOPORIFICO, TESTACCIO**

*Tra, la, la, la, la*

**ALL**

*In masquerade,  
We're not afraid,  
Our reputations can't be unmade.  
Joy will pervade  
This escapade  
We'll laugh and sing till the break of day!*

**AGRIPPINA**

*With our husbands' kind permission  
We will set out on our mission,*

**AGRIPPINA, VIPSANIA**

*And our fortunes rise or fall  
If we're not charming at the ball.*

**SOPORIFICO**

*And we husbands must contribute  
To the business here at hand  
By removing all the pretty ladies  
From the ducal band.*

**TESTACCIO**

*That's a pleasant proposition  
Which I eagerly await...*

**VIPSANIA**

*If I catch you in coition,  
I will settle your estate!*

**AGRIPPINA, SOPORIFICO**

*She will settle your estate!*

**TESTACCIO**

*She will settle my estate!*

**ALL**

*In masquerade,  
We're not afraid,  
Our reputations can't be unmade.  
Joy will pervade  
This escapade  
We'll laugh and sing till the break of day!*

*Until the break, until the break, until the break...  
Until the break of day!*

**BARB:** *(bringing Annina in)* You're a darling to do this for me, Annina!

**ANN** Well, I have nothing else to do. Besides, I feel like getting even with a man... any man!

**BARB:** I promise you Del Acqua will get what's coming to him, and I'll tell you all about it when you come back. Now, it shouldn't be too difficult. We'll dress you in a gown the same color as mine- -men can't tell the difference. You'll have a veil!. When he looks at you, pretend you're crying. Men don't like crying wives; they know it's their fault.

**ANN:** I'll just think of Caramello and the ball...

**BARB:** I've hired some townspeople to distract DelAcqua It should be easy... Come quickly! It's late. We must get your dress...

**No. 8 FINALE****DUKE**

*I cannot wait...  
The moments tease and torment me too long.  
Once more I'll play a serenade  
And wile my time in song.*

*The moon complains he'll shine no more,  
Beside your glow he's pale and plain.  
His time as evening's lamp is o'er,  
Tonight begins your silver reign.*

*He calls you robber,  
Calls you thief  
And counts the stars in disbelief;  
The brightest orbs*

*That mark the skies  
Are now the highlights in your eyes.*

*She's come to my call,  
Then to the ball...*

**ANNINA**

*There was a voice... a voice...*

**DUKE**

*Suddenly two are now in view!*

**BARBARA**

*No, no, it's just a noise.*

**DEL ACQUA**

*Now where can she be?*

**CIBOLETTA**

*Psst, psst, psst.*

**ANNINA**

*What was that? What can it be?  
Surely it isn't my gondolier.*

**DEL ACQUA**

*I hear you.  
I'll tell you when the coast is clear.*

**DUKE**

*I welcome thee, o orb of night,  
You promise me a lover's light.  
The moon will help me steal away  
The daughter of the Milky Way  
(repeat)*

**ANNINA, BARBARA**

*Oh, what a crime,  
Oh what a fright,  
Short is the time,  
Long is the night.*

**BARBARA**

*What I will do,*

*What I will say  
 Is overdue,  
 As is my day.  
 Oh, what a crime,  
 Oh what a fright,  
 Short is the time,  
 Long is the night.  
 What I will do,  
 What I will say,  
 Ah, is overdue  
 As is my day.*

**ANNINA**

*What she will do,  
 What she will say  
 I will obey  
 Oh, what a crime,  
 Oh what a fright,  
 Short is the time,  
 Long is the night.  
 What she will do,  
 What she will say  
 I will obey*

**CIBOLETTA**

*When I was young  
 I was led astray.  
 A lady I may be in every way, in every way.*

**DEL ACQUA**

*Come over here and let me see...  
 Yes, that will do, it seems to me.*

**CIBOLETTA**

*I think I look the part  
 And I have learned my lines by heart.*

**DUKE**

*I cannot wait a moment more,  
 I'm apprehensive and I'm sore*

**ALL**

*I cannot wait a moment more,  
 Please hurry, hurry, I implore!*

**CARAMELLO**

*Ho-a-ho! Ho-a-ho!*

**DUKE**

*It's Caramello, the gondolier...  
I hear his ballad over the wave.*

**CARAMELLO**

*"Come in the gondola,"  
Whisper the waters of love.  
We sail beneath the veil  
Of the stars above.*

*I'll be your guide  
And across the lagoon we will glide  
To the Isle,  
Where for a while  
From all eyes we hide.*

*Tho' the hours are few  
'Til we say adieu,  
In our hearts ever we'll be  
Hand in hand there by the sea.*

*Oh, come, lovely lady,  
The moment, the second we'll share.  
Come in my gondola  
For you'll find me there.*

*Ho-a-ho, ho-a-ho, a-ho.*

**DEL ACQUA**

*Come my darling wife.*

**ANNINA**

*I tremble so...*

**DEL ACQUA**

*Come with me, my wife, my dear,  
For the gondola is here.  
Let us go  
Tho' I'll know  
I'll be left all alone.  
Let us go, let us go!*

**Dialogue**

**DEL:** Just a farewell kiss, my dear.

**ANN:** (*Covering her face with a scarf*) Mmmmrnm.

**DEL:** What's the matter?

**ANN:** Mmmmmm. (*kisses him through the veil*)

**DEL:** Agh! What are you doing? Take that thing off a minute.

**ANN:** (*anxiously waving at Barbara*) MMMMMMMMMMMMMM! (*Barbara signals her cohorts.*)

**LUIGI:** Signor DelAcqua    **ALBA:** Signor DelAcqua

**LUIGI:** *You see before you*

**ALBA:** *A delegation*

**LUIGI**

*Come to adore you*

**ALBA**

*In moderation.*

**LUIGI**

*We must deliver*

**ALBA**

*Our recitation*

**LUIGI**

*which is a river*

**ALBA**

*Of obfuscation.*

**BOTH**

*Away, away! Do cast away!*

**DEL ACQUA**

*I will not delay, just one final kiss.*

**LUIGI, ALBA**

*There's no time for this.*

**DEL ACQUA**

*Oh, well, cast away.*

**LUIGI, ALBA**

*Away, away, send her away!*

*Hear what we say!*

**DUKE**

*Away, away, and out to sea*

*He knows not that I'll have Barbara with me.*

**CARAMELLO**

*Ho-a-ho! Ho-a-ho!*

**CHORUS**

*Oh man of high position,*

*We honor you today*

*On your greatest acquisition,*

*A lovely head of gray.*

*Thru twenty years of service*

*You've done the best you could,*

*And while you made us nervous,*

*We always understood.*

*So to the senior senator we'd like to say a word*

*Yes, we would like to say a word.*

*I.*

*When the issues caused a riot,*

*You were always very quiet*

*That's a thing you're very sly at,*

*Oh Del Acqua, qua, qua, qua, qua.*

*Only those who take positions*

*Are subjected to suspicions;*

*Paragon of politicians,*

*Oh Del Acqua, qua, qua, qua, qua.*

*When a thought monumental,  
Tho' quite accidental,  
Came by, you were right  
Keeping it out of sight*

*For such gems are accorded  
More value when hoarded.  
How priceless be those  
Humankind never knows.  
Vivat!*

### **Dialogue**

#### **DEL ACQUA (spoken)**

A thousand thanks, kind citizens. How strange that after all these years in office.  
My merits are only just this moment recognized.  
*(chorus laughs)*

What a shame my wife is not here to hear this! *(chorus laughs)*

#### **2. CHORUS**

*When confronted with election  
Your solution was perfection  
"Never cause a strong objection,"  
Oh Del Acqua, qua, qua, qua, qua.*

*When we grew less sympathetic  
To your record apathetic  
Money was your anaesthetic  
Oh Del Acqua, qua, qua, qua, qua.*

*When you bribed us and paid us,  
Contented you made us,  
And rare is the vote  
That would upset the boat.*

*So we honor and greet you,  
We'll never unseat you.  
So modest your range,  
Never, oh never change!  
Vivat!*

**Dialogue****DEL ACQUA** (spoken)

Another thousand thanks, my friends. Another thousand thanks.  
Your words bring tears to my eyes (*chorus laughs*)

What a pity my colleagues could not have seen this! Do you rent out?  
(*chorus laughs*)

**CHORUS**

*Can you believe it? See the fellow preen.  
He's not aware of what we really mean.  
Or that his wife's departed from the scene.*

**CARAMELLO***Ho-a-ho!***CHORUS**

*Remember, Del Acqua...  
The boatman is singing, your lady is gone.*

**CARAMELLO**

*Now in my gondola, lady, I sing of love,  
As we sail  
Beneath the veil  
Of the stars above.*

*Sit by my side  
Near the music that pours from my heart  
For this night  
Of true delight  
Is about to start.*

*Ho-a-ho! Ho-a-ho! Ho-a-ho!***CHORUS**

*As the moon shines on the waters  
Venice calls its sons and daughters  
Arm in arm now go together  
Hold each other tight.*

*Sudden embraces  
And loving faces*

*Reflect the delight  
Found in a Venice night*

**Dialogue**

**DUKE:** *(seeing Ciboletta)* There you are, my angel! Come, let us go

**CIBO:** But... DelAcqua... *(in confusion)*

**DUKE:** ...is quite completely distracted. Come! To the ball!

**CIBO:** Oh, well... as long as you're going to the ball...

**DEL:** *(Fulling away from his admirers)* Now where is that girl?

**BARB:** *(sneaking out of the house)* Where is the duke? *(suddenly sees DelAcqua coming over)* Oh, my Cod! *(puts on mask)*

**DEL:** *(mistaking Barbara for Ciboletta)* Where have you been? Come! We'll be late for the ball.

**FINALE CONTINUES**

**CARAMELLO**

*Now in my gondola, lady, I sing of love,  
As we sail  
Beneath the veil  
Of the stars above.*

*Sit by my side  
Near the music that pours from my heart  
For this night  
Of true delight  
Is about to start.*

*Ho-a-ho! Ho-a-ho! Ho-a-ho!*

**CHORUS**

*As the moon shines on the waters  
Venice calls its sons and daughters  
Arm in arm now go together  
Hold each other tight.*

*Sudden embraces  
And loving faces  
Reflect the delight  
Found in a Venice night*

## ACT II

Scene: The ballroom of the Villa of the Duke of Urbino, with a more intimate area or room to one side.

**No8b. ENTRACTE--** *The curtain opens during this music to find the guests already making merry. They are dressed in restrained costumes, but wear imaginative masks.*

**CENT:** Ladies and gentlemen! Please continue to enjoy yourselves! The Duke has left instructions that the ball be well underway when he arrives. We have hired the band for the entire evening and I am pleased to announce that there will be games of chance in the small salon. At midnight the Duke has promised to lead the procession to the Piazza di San Marco to celebrate the first day of Carnival. On with the ball! *(the guests return to their socializing. A woman dressed in a bird mask taps Centurio on the shoulder)* Yes, Madame? *(she whispers something)* It is this way, Madame. I will show you...

**SOP:** *(Dressed in Mephisto mask, speaking to a young woman)* I feel sure, my dear, that we have met before. Have you ever sat in the senate?

**GIRL:** Why, no... I've never even stood in the senate.

**SOP:** And yet we were drawn to each other...

**GIRL:** You unnerve me, signor. I feel like Margherita...

**SOP:** You want a Margarita?

**GIRL:** No, no... like Margherita in Faust.

**SOP** I don't know that one.

**GIRL:** In the story, the beautiful Margherita is nearly undone by Mephistopheles.

**SOP:** Well, what he left undone, maybe I can do! *(he starts to walk her away)*

**AGR:** *(grabbing him by the collar, addressing the girl)* The devil just remembered something evil he forgot to do, sweetheart. Why don't you go off somewhere and disguise yourself as a good girl? *(the girl runs off)* What are you trying to do?

**SOP:** Just practicing luring away, my dear. That's what I'm here to do.

**AGR:** Barbara is the only woman you're supposed to lead away, and you don't need any practice! Just sit on your horns till she gets here. Or, you could dance with me...

**CENT:** (*announcing*) Ladies and gentlemen, his Highness; Guido, the Duke of Urbino!

**SOP:** Just in time!

**NO. 9, INTRODUCTION--** Music begins as Duke enters. Dialogue over music at "MELODRAM"

**DUKE:** Gentlemen... and above all, my dear ladies! I am thrilled that you have come tonight in spite of all the terrible things I'm sure your husbands have told you. I can assure these bold stags that I offer them no threat (*to Cibo.*) because of you..(*aloud*) I implore you to enjoy yourselves to the fullest by doing nothing that I wouldn't do! (*laughter*) I have done everything possible to insure that this will be the most memorable of evenings... (*to Cibo*)...Everything!

**NO. 9 CHORUS AND COUPLET-- The ladies and Agrippina**

**WOMEN'S CHORUS**

*We've come to do the very things they warn us not to do  
Because the men want all the fun while we sit home and stew!  
We've heard about the wicked duke and what he's done to who...  
But that is no concern of ours, not even if it's true.*

*We're always faced with being chaste while men are having fun,  
Ah—but at this ball and carnival, we're not to be outdone.  
Not to be outdone, not to be outdone.*

**AGRIPPINA**

*No pompous greeting shall we read you,  
For closer company we've yearned.  
Tho' words of warning did precede you,  
Ha, ha  
We're not a bit concerned, we're not a bit concerned, no, no!*

**CHORUS**

*We're not a bit concerned, we're not a bit concerned, no, no!*

**DUKE, CIBOLETTA**

*They're not a bit concerned, they're not a bit concerned, no, no!*

**VIPSANIA**

*From scandals round about our nation  
Your nature we have slowly learned.  
Yet though we risk our reputations  
Ha, ha,  
We're not a bit concerned, we're not a bit concerned, no, no!*

**CHORUS**

*We're not a bit concerned, we're not a bit concerned, no, no!*

**DUKE, CIBOLETTA**

*They're not a bit concerned, they're not a bit concerned, no, no!*

**AGRIPPINA**

*And so each asks of you a favor  
Before the evening is adjourned  
Some time alone with you to savor  
Ha, ha  
We're not a bit concerned, we're not a bit concerned, no, no!*

**CHORUS**

*We're not a bit concerned, we're not a bit concerned, no, no!*

**DUKE, CIBOLETTA**

*They're not a bit concerned, they're not a bit concerned, no, no!*

**CIBO:** *(reacting to a whispered comment of the Duke) Oh, Duke! (laughs loudly and swats him on the back)*

**AGR:** *(To a puzzled Duke) I have been simply dying for a chance to meet you, your grace.*

**DUKE:** Indeed, Madame...

**AGR:** Oh, yes, because I am not afraid of you, you know.

**DUKE:** How reckless of you, Madame.

**AGR:** *(flirting)* Should I be?

**DUKE:** Madame, your husband, whoever he is, may rest content that the vessel of his happiness will not be uncorked by me!

**AGR:** Oh, Duke, how droll.

**TEST:** *(to Vipsania)* It's up to me. I'll lure her away. *(to Cibo.)* Madame, I feel sure that we have met before. Have you ever sat in the senate? *(Vipsania tries to get near the Duke, and gets into an elbowing contest with Agrippina)*

**CIBO:** *(coarsely)* Sure, why not? And, by the way, it's Mademoiselle

**TEST:** Really? Oh, of course, I understand. And I'm the Count of Luxembourg.

**CIBO:** Say, where's the Duke? Oh, there he is, next to those two old ladies. I just remembered, I think I'm supposed to talk to him for a minute...

**TEST:** Oh, but surely, you have time for something else first?

**CIBO:** Say, what do you think I am?

**TEST:** No, no... I mean, uh, perhaps you'd join me in a game of chance... Baccarat? Roulette? Klaverjasse?

**CIBO:** You mean it? For money?

**TEST:** In the salon.

**CIBO:** That's great, I'd love to! *(pausing to notice Testaccio's satyr mask)* Say, what are you supposed to be, anyway?

**TEST:** Why, a satyr...

**CIBO:** That's what I thought, You're not going to lead me into dispersion, are you?

**No. 9b EXIT**

*(all exit in differing directions. )*

**DEL:** *(entering with Barbara, whom he assumes to be Ciboletta)* All right, here we are. Look for the Duke. When you find him, you know what to say...

**BARB:** No...

**DEL:** Now don't act stupid. I know you're not stupid..

**BARB:** *(sarcastically)* Thank you.

**DEL:** You can be my wife all night; you can dance, drink, socialize with the upper class, whatever. All I ask is that you put in a good word for me with the Duke. You know what to do. I shouldn't have to tell you, you little smoochie! (*squeezes her behind*)

**BARB:** You're right. Indeed, I do know what to do.

**DEL:** Get him to want to give me that position.

**BARB:** You don't care what I do?

**DEL:** Why should I?

**BARB:** I'm sure I don't know.

**DEL:** Are you all right? You sound funny. A little like my wife...

**BARB:** (*changing*) Oh, but I'm just pretending to be your real wife. Is that okay, Qua-qua? (*pinching his cheek*)

**DEL:** Owl Yes, yes! Don't call me that.

**BARB:** You'd better leave me alone now. I'm sure I can do better alone with the Duke. And don't worry if I flirt with him a little. I'll just be working for you.

**DEL:** Fine, fine.

**BARB:** By the way, what about your wife?

**DEL:** Don't worry about her. She's a long way from here by now.

**BARB:** Thank goodness. It would be really embarrassing if she happened to be here, wouldn't it?

**DEL:** Don't worry. My wife thinks I'm a faithful husband.

**BARB:** But we know the truth, don't we? Go on now! Give me some room. (*he goes upstage and conceals himself*) I'll get you everything that's coming to you...

**No. 10 REVENGE ARIA -- Barbara****BARBARA**

*Oh how I burn inside  
With a flame consuming  
With revenge and wounded pride  
I am hotly fuming*

*I'll get my husband dear  
Before the night is out;  
My very finest sneer  
At him I'll flout!*

*I haven't any plan  
But I will get my man.  
I will! I will!  
I live for that alone,  
Until, until  
He reaps what he has sown.  
Ah—and when he asks me to forgive  
I'll laugh aloud, ha, ha!*

*I was a perfect wife,  
And so compliant,  
The time has come in life  
To be defiant!*

*No one will recognize  
This brand new Barbara.  
I'll catch him in his lies  
And make him crawl!*

*I'll hang him by the toes,  
My heart to him I'll close.  
I will! I will!  
For this I cannot stand.  
My fill, my fill  
I've had of this gold band!  
Ah— when he asks me to forgive  
I'll laugh aloud, ha, ha!*

*Yet after all I've said  
In hatred of him  
I wouldn't be so sad*

*Did I not love him.*

*Can women ever learn?  
Tho men are cruel,  
We love them all the same,  
So what is our name?  
Fool! Fool!*

**AGR:** *(entering with Duke)* Ah, ha,ha,ha! Oh, Duke! You are so clever.

**DUKE:** You bring out the irony in me, Madame. But I have been selfish in monopolizing you. Perhaps your husband would like to tell some jokes to you...

**AGR:** My husband is a joke... I mean, my husband is very good at jokes. He would amuse you ever so much. If I could just tell you about...

**BARB:** *(breaking in)* Well, hello!

**BOTH:** Barbara!

**BARB:** Ssshhhh! We're not supposed to recognize each other! That's what makes masked balls so...exciting! *(to the Duke)* Could we be alone?

**DUKE:** Yes. YES! Madame, if you will excuse us for just a short while... I must help this lady on a... personal matter.

**AGR:** Why, yes, of course, your lordship. *(glares at Barbara, then aside)* I'm the one who needs help now. Where is that idiot? *{aloud}* Later...?

**DUKE:** Much! *(she leaves)* How can I thank you for saving me from the barracuda?

**BARB:** You can tell me what happened to you... *(sees DelAcqua eavesdropping)* Never mind. You can tell me later. *(very broadly)* At last we're together!

**DUKE:** My darling!

**BARB:** Now I can tell you how I've been attracted to you. Ever since last year I've dreamed of being alone with you... *(he grabs her)* BUT I've been prevented by wifely virtue. Now *(speaking loudly)* I know my husband is a cheap philanderer.

**DEL:** *(aside)* I didn't want her to haggle over salary...

**BARB:** ...so now I have no further hesitation! I'm ready for a royal fling!

**DUKE:** Bravo! If not quite royal, my love, it will be a noble effort, I can assure you. *(he kisses her. She overreacts for DelAcqua's benefit. They exit)*

**DEL:** *(coming down)* Hmm. If I didn't know better... I must say, Ciboletta is more the little actress than I gave her credit for. Oh, this is going beautifully! I'm going to get it! I'm going to get it! *(he dances off)*

**ANN:** *(storming in)* I can't believe it! You abducted me!

**CAR:** I did not!

**ANN:** And you brought me here to be a toy for the Duke!

**CAR:** NO!

**ANN:** Well, I'm here!

**CAR:** But I didn't want to bring you...

**ANN:** What? Ohhh... *(starts to cry)*

**CAR:** No, no, sweetheart... I didn't mean that...

**ANN:** Don't touch me, you... you GONDOLIST!

**CAR:** Listen to me! I wanted to bring Barbara for the Duke!

**ANN:** Barbara for the Duke?

**CAR:** Yes, yes... he wanted her here. I knew she was going away, so... I brought her, I thought.

**ANN:** You knew she was going away, so you were going to kidnap her. Oooh, that's what you do, isn't it? And you got the information from me. You used me!

**CAR:** Well, just a little bit... Annina! I love you! I did it so we would have enough money to get married. Believe me!

**ANN:** Why should I?

**CAR:** Because you love me!

**ANN:** What? Never!

**CAR:** (*holds her*) I won't let you go until you admit it!

**ANN:** Let go! You're a CRIMINAL!

**CAR:** Only for stealing a kiss... (*he kisses her*)

**ANN:** You think that's all you have to do, don't you?

**CAR:** Well, no... maybe some more of this.. (*kisses her better*) and this...(*kisses her even better*)

**ANN:** I guess even criminals can marry...

**CAR:** I'm not a criminal. But I may have to become one now that you're not Barbara. The Duke won't reward me for bringing you...

**ANN:** Is that so? Well, we'll see about that...

**CAR:** What do you mean?

**ANN:** (*finding a mask that someone has left behind*) If he wants a Barbara, he shall have one! (*poses*) What do you think?

**CAR:** I think it's too dangerous! You don't know the Duke! He might take you to his room and... ooh, I can't think about it!

**ANN:** Don't worry. Annina can take care of herself with the upper class.

**CAR:** I won't let you...

**AGR:** (*entering, pulling in Sop.*) I told you I don't know where they are now, but you just go and find them and say something to the Duke...

**ANN:** (*to Car.*) Just watch this! (*to Agrip.*) Excuse me...

**AGR:** AAH! She's here again! (*to Annina*) Yes, my dear, what is it?

**ANN:** Can you tell me, dahling, where the Duke is?

**AGR:** You don't know?

**ANN:** Of course not, dahling, or I shouldn't have asked you. (*Caramello covers his eyes*) And I'm just not up to looking around this enormous house, don't you know? I would simply die of exhaustion, don't you know?

**AGR:** *(to Sop.)* What is wrong with her? *(to Ann)* Oh, I certainly do know, dahling. *(to Sop.)* This is too good to be true! *(to Ann.)* My husband will be delighted to take you to the Duke. *(to Sop.)* Keep her busy and I'll go and enchant the Duke.

**SOP:** How long will that take<sup>7</sup>

**AGR:** How do I know, you fool! Go on! *(Sop. leads Annina out)*

**CAR:** No! Come back! *(starts after them)*

**AGR:** Stop! You're not a guest! *(looking him over)* You're real! You're what you seem to be. You have no business here... so don't annoy the guests. Still, you're decorative. I suppose you may stay. *(suddenly remembering her task)* Oh! I must go!

**CAR:** This is terrible! What have I done to Annina? If I stop her, we will be too poor to marry. And if I let her do it... I'm in a moral dilemma! What should I do? I've never been in a moral dilemma before? I've never had any morals before! *(sits)* It's not the sort of thing gondoliers should have to worry about.

**DUKE:** *(entering with Barbara)* I had no idea I'd invited so many guests. There are people everywhere! Let us hope we may be undisturbed here. Please, sit down... *(sees Caramello)* Caramello?

**CAR:** Your Highness!

**DUKE:** Thank you, Caramello. I won't be needing the gondola any more. You may go.

**CAR:** Yes, your Highness. *(sees Barbara)* ANNINA!

**DUKE:** *(Toasting)* To us!

**BARB:** To US!

**CAR:** *(under his breath)* Annina! Come away!

**DUKE:** Are you still here? Go away.

**CAR:** Yes, sire. At once, sire. *(pause)* May I deliver a message to the lady first, sire?

**DUKE:** A message? Well, make it quick.

**CAR:** *(pulling her aside)* If you love me, you will come with me!

**BARB:** What?

**CAR:** Do you love me?

**BARB:** Love you? No, I don't. I'm sorry.

**CAR:** You don't?

**BARB:** No, I don't. You see, I don't know you... *(to the Duke)* He thinks I should love him.

**DUKE:** Caramello! You forget yourself! If you are in need of companionship, you may speak to one of the serving girls! *(to Barb.)* Come, angel of San Marco, let us walk in the garden,, and then...

**BARB:** And then... *(giggles as they leave)*

**CAR:** *(crushed)* Here a few minutes and she's forgotten me! I'm going to kill myself! *(hears a commotion)* Ah, and here come the Romans to witness the spectacle! At least someone will leave the room happy! *(goes and sits aside)*

**No. 11-- ENSEMBLE AND COUPLET -- Ciboletta and chorus**

***CIBOLETTA***

*Ah, the party's going fine,  
We have danced and drunk the wine.  
Ev'ryone has found a friend.  
May the evening never end.*

*Though we're reeling,  
No one is feeling  
Tuckered out,  
So hear us shout:  
"Marietta come va? Se oggi la va bene,  
Domani non si sa, domani non si sa."*

*I want to tell you, thanks a lot;  
You taught me your games and I won every pot.*

*When I was a little younger,  
sometimes there was pain and hunger.  
And I never had a sou,  
So I knew not what to do.*

*When I tried to make a living,  
Life was hard and unforgiving.  
But you've taught me much today...  
The real aristocratic way.*

*Yes—I have wagered with a satyr,  
Played roulette with a dictator,  
Which was sure a lot of fun,  
For just look what I have won!*

*Baccarat was even better;  
I made ev'ryone my debtor.  
How a girl can be so fortunate  
I cannot contemplate.*

*For I am not so demanding...  
All I want is social standing.  
To hell with servility—  
I'm the new nobility!*

**CHORUS**

*We've indulged in games of chance,  
But we came here to dance.  
So come, fellow maskers, kick your feet.  
Ohe, tra la, la, la, la!  
Ohe, tra la, la, la, la! Ohe!*

*We'll dance to the most insistent beat.  
Ohe, tra la, la, la, la!*

**CARAMELLO (mistaking Cibioletta for Annina)**

*They may laugh the whole night long, whole night long, whole night long.  
I'll be glad to see the dawn, see the dawn, see the dawn.*

**CHORUS**

*We'll laugh, we'll laugh the whole night long,  
Then lament the coming dawn.  
Ohe, tra la, la, la, la! Ohe!  
We'll laugh, yes, we'll laugh the whole night long,  
Then lament the coming dawn.  
But life is as you find it, you find it, you find it...*

**CARAMELLO**

*Life's a joke, life's a joke,  
I'd like to give your heads a soak!*

**CIBOLETTA**

1.

*This gentleman was very kind,  
He taught me the games that I played,  
And now in return he will find  
His kindnesses will be repaid.*

**TESTACCIO**

*Ha! Life's a joke, life's a joke,  
Now she is rich and we are broke,  
She took it as she found it, she found it, she found it,  
Astounded life's a funny, funny joke.*

*A lady of breeding elite  
I welcome wherever she goes.  
As Venice you have at your feet,  
I'm ready to tickle your toes! Ah...*

**CIBOLETTA**

*Ah, life's a joke, life's a joke,  
The rich are very jolly folk  
So take it as you find it, you find it, you find it,  
Don't mind it, life's a funny, funny, funny joke!*

**ALL**

*So take it as you find it, you find it, you find it,  
Don't mind it, life's a funny, funny, funny joke!*

**CIBOLETTA**

2.

*At working I'd always get sacked  
For something like filing my nails.  
How fortunate that I attract  
The kindly affection of males!*

**CARAMELLO**

*Ha! Life's a joke, life's a joke,  
She's dumping me in one bold stroke;  
And that's the way I find it, I find it, I find it—  
I mind that life's an awful, awful, awful joke*

*I don't understand it at all,  
Can this be the girl of my heart?*

*Since she has been here at the ball  
She's quickly becoming a tart! Ah...*

**CIBOLETTA**

*Ah, life's a joke, life's a joke,  
I don't know why you're so provoked.  
Just take it as you find it, you find it, you find it,  
Don't mind it, life's a funny, funny, funny joke!*

**ALL**

*Just take it as you find it, you find it, you find it,  
Don't mind it, life's a funny, funny, funny joke!*

**TEST:** I never saw anything like it! She cleaned everybody out at Baccarat!

**CIBO:** A cute game...

**TEST:** Then broke the bank at Roulette!

**CIBO:** I just told the little ball where to go.

**TEST:** Now nobody has any money left to play with.

**CIBO:** *(to him)* If you look, you'll find something to play with! *(flirts with him)*

**CAR:** Annina! First she goes out with the Duke, and now she's after this fellow! The place is corrupting her! *(to her)* I'm taking you home!

**CIBO:** Say, wait a minute! Hands off! Nobody's taking me anywhere I don't want to go!  
*(shows money)* I'm rich now!

**CAR:** It... it's a fortune! Where did you get it?

**CIBO:** From them. *(indicates everyone)*

**CAR:** It's a miracle! Now we can get married!

**CIBO:** Married? Are you crazy? Who are you anyway? Some gondolier? I'll have you know I'm the wife of Senator Del Acqua!

**CAR:** Oh, you are not!

**CIBO:** *(concerned)* Sssshhh! Quiet! Everybody thinks I am, so don't say anything, okay?

**TEST:** Is this fellow bothering you?

**CAR:** Yes, I do bother her, and she knows why, and she's leaving with me!

**CIBO:** I am not!

**TEST:** I must ask you to leave!

**CAR:** (*defiantly*) Go ahead!

**TEST:** (*taken aback, he collars Centurio*) If that's how you're going to be, I must ask him to ask you to leave.

**CENT:** I'm sorry, sir...(takes Caramello's arm)

**CAR:** So am I! (*he struggles and they start to wrestle*)

**CIBO:** They're fighting!

**ALL:** They're fighting!

**TEST:** Thank God they're fighting...

**DUKE:** (*entering*) What's going on here? (*he breaks up the fight*) Who started this outrageous behavior?

**CENT:** This man insulted a lady and refused to leave.

**DUKE:** Caramello! What has come over you? This is the second time!

**CAR:** Something you wouldn't understand...

**DUKE:** Leave now! You have embarrassed me and I want you out of here!

**CAR:** (*dramatically*) Yes, I'll go... Enjoy the evening with your new lady... I'm sure she will entertain you! For me... the entertainment is over- -the tragedy has begun. (*to Cibo.*) I'll go, but some day, when this exciting evening is over and your money is gone and you drift along the empty canal of life, you'll think of me of me, lying at the bottom of it and then you'll wonder... yes, then you'll wonder...

**CIBO:** Do I know you?

**CAR:** (*As they carry him out*) Annina! Annina!

**CIBO:** I guess not... (*she and Testaccio leave*)

**AGR:** (*who had followed the Duke in*) Oh, your Highness, what an unfortunate scene. I'm sure you, like I, deplore the lack of breeding that...

**DUKE:** (*trying to escape*) If you'll excuse me, Madame...someone is waiting for me...

**ANN:** (*entering with Sop.*) I heard Caramello's voice!

**SOP:** Wait, Madame...

**AGR:** (*to Sop.*) Get her out of here!

**DUKE:** My angel! I apologize for leaving you alone. A small emergency. It is over. Now the night is ours! (*to Sop., who is taking an earful from Agrip.*) I am indebted to you, signor, for guiding this lady to me.

**AGR:** (*kicking him in the pants after he has bowed to the Duke*) You idiot! Look what you've done!

**SOP:** It's not my fault! She's everywhere! (*they exit*)

**DUKE:** I hope now we may resume where we left off...

**ANN:** Where was that?

**DUKE:** We were about to have a little private tête-à-tête.

**ANN:** Does that mean I can talk to you?

**DUKE:** Oh, yes... I suppose we can talk too... (*whispering to Centurio*) Get these people out of here. And bring us some wine... and perhaps some pastries.

### **NO. 12 DUET -- Duke and Annina**

**DUKE**

*I thought the floor would never clear  
Now sit, my darling, over here.*

**ANNINA**

*So very near?*

**DUKE**

*Of course, my dear, or I won't hear a word you say.*

**ANNINA**

*Well, then... but mind your manners, pray.*

**DUKE**

*My manners? Come and let me kiss you.  
You gorgeous thing!*

**ANNINA**

*You are too bold!*

**DUKE**

*Now why, my dove, so very cold?  
When I know that you're ready to make love to me...*

**ANNINA**

*What's that you say? How can you be so sure of me?*

**DUKE**

*You told me...*

**ANNINA**

*Yes? What did I tell you?*

**DUKE**

*You told me that your heart was free,  
That now you'd like to have a spree.  
I'm certain that you recall...*

**ANNINA**

*I don't remember that at all...*

**DUKE**

*You said, "Let's have a real affair," and then...*

**ANNINA**

*...I stopped you then and there!  
I'm certain that you do recall...*

**DUKE**

*That's not the way it was at all!*

**ANNINA**

*He says we have met before.  
Am I just forgetful, or  
Is there a mistake? Is there a mistake?*

*It's high time I recognized  
That I may be compromised  
For my lover's sake, ah!*

**DUKE**

*You promised after we had dined,  
You'd slip your room and enter mine.  
A statement that you should recall...*

**ANNINA**

*I don't remember that at all...*

**DUKE**

*You said, "I'd like to have your child," and then...*

**ANNINA**

*...Enough! That's much too wild!  
That statement takes a lot of gall...*

**DUKE**

*That's what you said, if I recall.*

**ANNINA**

*He says we have met before.  
Am I just forgetful, or  
Is there a mistake? Is there a mistake?*

*It's high time I recognized  
That I may be compromised  
For my lover's sake, ah!*

*Compromised will I be,  
I can't remain for my lover's sake!  
Yes, I can't remain  
For my lover's sake!*

**ANNINA**

*Ah, what is that?*

**DUKE**

*I would love her and adore  
But she seems to bar the door.  
Is there a mistake? Is there a mistake?*

*Now I'm being criticized  
I admit I'm quite surprised  
That just takes the cake. Ah!*

**DUKE**

*I would love her and adore  
But she seems to bar the door.  
Is there a mistake? Is there a mistake?*

*Now I'm being criticized  
I admit I'm quite surprised  
That just takes the cake. Ah!*

*I'm surprised at the way  
She's acting, that really takes the cake!  
Yes, I'm quite surprised at her act  
It really takes the cake!*

**DUKE**

*The palace fills with sounds of dancing.*

**ANNINA**

*I can't resist the music so entrancing.  
I love a waltz...*

**DUKE**

*Permit me, my dear, to be your partner  
And claim this dance.*

**ANNINA**

*That would be lovely.  
It's been so long since I was asked.  
I'll take a chance...*

**DUKE**

*Come, now we must dance.*

**ANNINA**

*Ah, it's so grand,  
Come hold my hand  
As we circle the floor, ah—  
Hold me! Spin me! ah—*

**DUKE**

*It seems that to dance is her compulsion  
She's in my arms with no revulsion!*

**ANNINA**

*That was grand.  
I love dancing...*

**DUKE**

*I, romancing...*

**ANNINA**

*Ah, ah, ah, ah—*

**BOTH**

*Ah, his/my arms hold me/her so tight,  
Round we go! Ah, what delight!  
In the waltz  
I find no faults,  
Forgotten is our little fight*

*Come along, join the throng,  
It's our song, ah—  
Our hearts unite*

*DANCE CONTINUES*

**DUKE:** Now I am exhausted! Only you can refresh me. (*tries to engage her on couch*)

**ANN:** You seem very refreshed to me, your Highness.

**DUKE:** (*acting*) No! I am dying! My heart! Save me... my heart...

**ANN:** Your heart? (*she comes nearer*)

**DUKE:** (*holds her hand*)...beats only for you! THROBS only for you...

**ANN:** (*relieved*) Oh, thank goodness! It's only poetry. I thought you were really... well, you know... you are older...

**DUKE:** (*momentarily put off*) OLDER? Well, yes, perhaps old enough to have seen the world and realize that the universe is here before me. Let this mask no longer keep its secrets from my eyes... (*tries to remove the mask*)

**ANN:** No, no...

**DUKE:** Why not? This is not the ball.

**ANN:** Uh, uh... someone might come in...

**DUKE:** What do we care if...

**ANN:** (*looking over his shoulder*) WHO'S THAT?

**DUKE:** What? (*looks over in the same direction, sees something in the wings not visible to the audience*) Why, Senator DelAcqua... (*totally irritated*) Won't you come the rest of the way in?

**DEL:** (*sheepishly enters*) Oh. I didn't know anyone was here. I hope my wife hasn't been monopolizing you too much, your lordship...

**DUKE:** No, truly she has not, signor. (*standing up*) Truly she has not.

**DEL:** I'm glad of that, sire. She does love to talk so. Don't you, my dear? (*doesn't wait for an answer*) She's always talking about all sorts of things. She especially wanted to talk to you, tonight, your lordship, but about what? Well, who knows with women? And did you say what you wanted to say to his lordship, my dear?

**ANN:** Oh, NO! I haven't! Thank you for reminding me... I wanted to tell your lordship about the good man who brought me here so that your lordship would not be disappointed...

**DUKE:** (*looking at DelAcqua*) A most generous man...

**ANN:** Oh, yes, your lordship. A man who does more for you than anyone in Venice and whose loyalty to you is without equal.

**DEL:** It's true. (*to her*) Don't overdo it!

**ANN:** And even though he makes mistakes sometimes and even though you may find out about one of them tonight and may even get a little bit angry, he is still the best man for...

**DUKE:** For my managerial post, no doubt...

**ANN:** Why, no. He just wants to be your gondolier!

**BOTH:** Gondolier?

**ANN:** Of course... he doesn't know anything else!

**DUKE:** Well, if that's what he wants...

**DEL:** No, no! What are you saying? (*to the Duke*) She's a little confused...

**BARB:** (*entering*) Yes, indeed she is!

**DUKE:** Barbara? Another Barbara?

**DEL:** Then this one is an impostor! Take off your mask!

**ANN:** No! I don't have to!

**DUKE:** (*to Barbara*) Then perhaps you would be so kind...

**DEL:** Oh my God, it must be Ciboletta! Uh, no! Never mind! It's impolite-- I see that now.

**BARB:** Besides, it would be embarrassing if one of us was the Senator's wife, alone here with the Duke, and with the Senator right here! Why, duels have been fought for less. (*DelAcqua cringes*)

**DUKE:** Of course, you're right. I could hardly do this (*kisses Barbara*) to a Senator's wife while he was standing there!

**DEL:** Yes, but...

**DUKE:** Oh, I understand your concern, sir. So just in case that was your wife I'll do this! (*kisses Annina*) If I should do anything to this lady that you feel is improper, be reassured that my intention was to do it to the other!

**NO. 13 QUARTET -- Duke, Barbara, Annina, DelAcqua**

***DUKE***

*Barbara, Barbara, I long to kiss you.  
Barbara, Barbara, list to my song,  
La, la, la, la, I'd hate to miss you...  
La, la, la, la, by guessing wrong  
(to one of them)  
I'll tell you loudly that my love is true  
So that the other could surely hear...  
Because, my darling, you are one of two,  
And which is right, I'm afraid, is not clear.  
And then, I'd run my arm around your waist,  
Expecting not to have you slap my face.  
Then pull you to my side and steal a kiss  
From the only girl I love (looks at the other)  
Or maybe her neighbor.*

***BARBARA, ANNINA***

*Barbara, Barbara, ah! Ah!  
Barbara, Barbara, ah! Ah!*

***DUKE, DEL ACQUA***

*Barbara, Barbara, name of confusion  
Which one is Barbara no one has guessed  
La, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la,  
Which is illusion?  
La, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la,  
Both are the best!*

**AGR:** Yoo, hoo! Is it later yet? (*sees the two women with the Duke*) Yaaah! Now there are two of them! (*sees DelAcqua*) You just can't play fair, can you?

**DEL:** But...

**AGR:** If you think one Barbara, or two Barbaras or even three Barbaras can best me, you're sadly mistaken! I'll take care of this situation! You haven't won yet! (*she stomps off!*)

**DEL:** (*to her as she goes*) I don't think I'm winning...

**BARB:** Well, this is cozy! It seems we have the misfortune of having the same dressmaker, my dear.

**ANN:** I had better go...

**DUKE:** Stop! In all my days... and nights... this has never happened to me before. It is unique! I will not lose the moment so quickly. We shall all dine together!

#### **NO. 14 FINALE**

##### ***DUKE***

*I'm twice as happy as before  
Tra, la, la, la, la, la, la,  
Now I have two and there may be more.  
Tra, la, la, la, la, la, la,  
Although I'm outflanked by the forces of beauty  
To the left and to the right.  
In such confrontations attack is my duty  
For I love such a fight!*

*(there is a knock at the door)  
What the devil?  
Now who is that?  
Do go away at once!*

**CARAMELLO** (*disguised as a waiter*)  
*Please pardon this intrusion, sir;  
Dinner for the connoisseur  
(And an old adulterer.)*

##### ***ANNINA***

*Oh my God! Oh my God! That voice I've heard before!*

**DUKE**

*Let's see, let us see...*

**CARMELLO**

*Dinner for all three?*

**DUKE**

*Yes, yes, all three.*

**CARMELLO**

*That cannot be!*

**DEL ACQUA**

*Believe me, there are three.*

**ANNINA**

*It's Caramello!*

**BARBARA**

*Quite possibly.*

**DEL ACQUA**

*Who is this odd fellow?*

**CARMELLO**

*That cannot be! No! Dinner for three?*

**BARB., ANNINA, DUKE, DEL ACQUA**

*Yes, yes, dinner for three.*

**CARMELLO**

*Ah, I thought Annina was alone  
But now I see she has a chaperone  
Dinner for three...*

**DEL ACQUA**

*Just wait, Ciboletta, till we get home...*

**DUKE**

*It seems a shame to waste such wine,  
It's an excellent year.  
To your good health ladies*

*We'll have a private party here.  
 (to one) A kiss to the left,  
 (to the other) A kiss to the right,  
 To right and left throughout the night.*

**BARBARA, ANNINA**

*Ah, why should we not have a nice tete-a-tete?  
 I'm having lots of fun and it's time that I ate.  
 And I know that Del Acqua/Caramello is right over there  
 I'll make him care/That's why I dare  
 Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!*

**CARAMELLO, DEL ACQUA**

*Can this be my Annina/Ciboletta?  
 I cannot quite believe it,  
 She's forgotten all about me, I see it.  
 She has given me the air!  
 A sad affair.*

**DUKE**

*Of lovely ladies I am a true gourmet.*

**CARAMELLO**

*Would you prefer a Rhine wine or a rose?*

**DUKE**

*Your eyes are deep and blue as the summer sky...*

**CARAMELLO**

*Would you like dinner now or some pie?*

**DUKE**

*(annoyed) Just leave it here, and get out!*

**BARBARA**

*Please do not shout.*

**DUKE**

*Darling, forgive an angry word  
 I would not spoil our repast.  
 Whatever your pleasure, beef or bird,  
 He will prepare, then leave at last.*

**CARAMELLO**

1.

*Whatever you like... I have here.**(spoken) You real hungry? SPAGHETTI!**Take a little noodle, soft and white,  
Put him in a pot and boil him quite.  
Then take him and his friends,  
Cut off their little ends,**Put 'em in a thing all full of holes,  
(Surely it's the holiest of bowls),  
Then on milady's plate  
Boy, doesn't that look great?**Then cover it with sauce and give a little toss,  
It's messy and it puts on weight.**You ask the secret of my art?  
I make good chow because I just know how!**No one needs a chef from Paris, France  
With his hoity toity elegance  
I'm a chef who makes the portions big;  
For a quiche I just don't give a fig.**If you truly like to overeat,  
Then I say to you, bon appetit.  
Mine the most impressive meal in town  
It'll fill you up... never let you down!*

2.

*When you've finished splashing on your shirt,  
There is always time for some dessert.  
I make a sacher torte,  
In fact, it is my forte!**Full of things like chocolate and nuts  
Heavier than lead inside your guts.  
At least a dozen eggs  
Will paralyze your legs.**If that were not enough, each little bit of fluff  
Is covered with some other stuff.*

*Ev'rybody likes a pastry treat  
That is almost good enough to eat,  
With a little blob of whipping cream  
Nothing could be finer, it would seem.*

*Then I make the eyeballs really pop  
When I put a cherry on the top.  
Mine the most impressive meal in town  
It'll fill you up... never let you down!*

*(entering)*

**AGRIPPINA AND CHORUS**

*We've come to do some crazy things  
And so we've come to you...*

**DUKE**

*What do you want? Can't I have some privacy in my own house?*

**AGRIPPINA**

*We wondered whether to disturb you;  
"He's with a lady!" we discerned.  
But with a PAIR we thought it best to curb you...because...  
We were a bit concerned ,  
We were a bit concerned ,*

**AGRIPPINA, CHORUS, DUKE**

*We/They were a bit concerned , oh, yes!  
We/They were a bit concerned ,  
We/They were a bit concerned ,  
Oh yes, oh, yes!*

**AGRIPPINA**

*The midnight bell proclaims to all  
The time has come for carnival!  
And you must lead, with song and verse,  
The happy throng...*

**DUKE**

*Oh, what a curse!*

**ALL**

*March along you happy throng*

*And ev'ryone excite!  
Streets will shake! All will wake!  
No more sleep tonight!*

*Torchlight streams in golden beams  
Upon each laughing face,  
As they go, eyes aglow,  
To San Marco's place!*

*Comrades come in masquerade  
Let your voices ring  
And prove by this grotesque parade  
Carnival is king!*

*So take each other's arms and sing  
As you walk along  
When we all deserve a fling  
Who dares to say it's wrong?  
Hoorah!*

**WOMEN**

*And now we beg of your Grace  
If at our head you'll take your place?*

**DUKE**

*All right, my companions, I obey.  
So let us go, no longer delay!  
Let us start on our way...*

**BARBARA, ANNINA**

*Let us start on our way...*

**ALL**

*"Come to San Marco," the bells loudly peal, calling us ev'ry one!  
Come, for the toil of a year is now done, is now done  
The time for fun has begun... has begun!*

*Comrades come in masquerade  
Let your voices ring!  
Prove by this grotesque parade  
Carnival is king!*

*Take each other's arm and sing  
As you walk along,*

*When we all deserve a fling  
Who dares to day it's wrong?  
Hoorah, Hoorah! Hoorah! Hoorah!!*

**CIBOLETTA** *(entering with a banner)*  
*Follow me toward the square,  
I raise my banner in the air!  
Those who falter on the way  
The great tradition will betray.*

**CHORUS**

*Follow her toward the square  
Her banner flutters in the air,  
Those who falter on the way  
The great tradition will betray.*

**BARBARA, ANNINA, CIBOLETTA** *(suddenly realizing they are all dressed the same)*  
*To the piazza we go  
Sparing no pomp and show  
May the clamor and din  
Tell all Venice to join in!*

**CHORUS**

*To the piazza we go  
Sparing no pomp and show  
May the clamor and din  
Tell all Venice to join in!*

**BARBARA, ANNINA, CIBOLETTA**  
*All you masqueraders  
More than mere paraders,  
But, like old crusaders  
Act as true persuaders!*

**CHORUS**

*All you masqueraders  
More than mere paraders,  
But, like old crusaders  
Act as true persuaders!*

*Wake the town!*

**BARBARA, ANNINA**

*This distraction's neatly planned  
Things were getting out of hand!*

**BARBARA, ANNINA, CIBOLETTA, AGRIPPINA, DUKE, CARMELLO, DEL ACQUA**

*Take a torch and light it  
Brotherhood united.  
All for one and one for all,  
Ev'ryone to carnival!  
Carnival!*

**ALL**

*In masquerade,  
We're not afraid,  
Our reputations can't be unmade.  
Joy will pervade  
This escapade  
We'll laugh and sing till the break of day!*

**END OF ACT 2**

**ACT III --Scene-- The Piazza di San Marco, at midnight**

**No. 15-- CARNIVAL! -- Full Chorus, Ciboletta, Annina, Barbara, Soporifico, Testaccio, Agrippina, Vipsania**

*Wake up to the raucous sound  
Carnival! Carnival!  
See the queen of mirth be crowned.  
Carnival! Carnival!*

*At this special time of year,  
Pauper dances with the peer.  
That's our democratic way,  
Which will last at least a day! Ah...*

*Everywhere, Carnival!  
Come and share Carnival!  
From halls of riches  
To the stalls and ditches,*

*To the square, Carnival!  
Meet us there, Carnival!  
From the costume ball  
We now go to Carnival!*

*(Caramello and DelAcqua follow them on-stage in a depressed mood)*

**CAR:** There she goes...

**DEL:** There she goes...

**CAR:** I don't feel like celebrating... *(sits)*

**DEL:** Nor do I...

**CAR:** What a horrible night.

**DEL:** Indeed. Can you imagine--being appointed executive gondolier?

**CAR:** Not any more...

**DEL:** And how can there be more than one Barbara?

**CAR:** I don't know. I only brought one.

**DEL:** You brought one? I brought one!

**CAR:** (*slowly adding*) That might do it...

**DEL:** (*suddenly worried*) Quickly, tell me... why did you bring Barbara??

**CAR:** It wasn't Barbara. My beloved Annina-- who is now in the hands of the Duke.

**DEL:** Oh, thank goodness!

**CAR:** (*looks at him sharply*) Your wife wasn't coming. Who did you bring?

**DEL:** Oh, just my mistress Ciboletta. That's why everything now is ruined! I feel sick.

**CAR:** Then you and I have much in common...

**NO. 16-- LAMENT (Reprise, Gondola serenade)-- Caramello**

***CARAMELLO***

*Come in the gondola  
Whisper the waters of love,  
We will sail beneath the veil  
Of the stars above.*

*I'll be your guide  
And across the lagoon we will glide  
To the isle where, for a while  
From all eyes we hide.*

*Tho' the hours are few  
'Til we say adieu,  
In our hearts ever we'll be  
Hand in hand there by the sea.*

*Oh, come, my Annina,  
It's not just a song that you hear  
List to the heart and soul  
Of the gondolier.*

**DEL:** I understand what you are going through. Like you, I have a woman I love. Unlike you, she still loves me. I made sure of that! To be married to such a woman is, I agree, an enviable position. -

**CAR:** If that's true, why do you have a mistress?

**DEL:** Ah... I admit, to a layman, that seems contradictory, but I can easily explain it. You see, while most men, yourself included, would feel uncomfortable over such a thing, in my line of work, apparent contradictions are everyday occurrences.

Now, a wife is a man's glory---she is his sanctuary. Like his home, he returns there each day after waging his battles. But a man sometimes feels housebound, and needs only a brief refresher, which allows him to continue on. For this he has a...

**CAR:** A chair?

**DEL:** No... well, yes, metaphorically, I suppose. A mistress can be nicely compared to office furniture: not as nice as what you have at home, but hard to do without.

**CAR:** I guess it's all right for you. But I'm only a gondolier. I'm not up to metaphors.

**DEL:** That is the curse of the lower classes.

**CAR:** *(wandering off)* I wonder if I shall ever see my little Annina again? To see her... to touch her... to smell the fish... *(Ciboletta runs in, frolicking with the drunken Testaccio)* MY GOD! There she is! I'll kill her! I'll kill them both!

**CIBO:** Help! Help! It's the madman again!

**TEST:** Help! You wouldn't hit a man when he's drunk, would you?

**DEL:** *(to Car.)* What are you doing? I thought you loved her.

**CAR:** I do. When she's with me! When she's with someone else I hate her! It's the Italian way.

**DEL:** You're right. Go ahead.

**CAR:** First I will look on her face once more... *(pulls her mask off)* That's not Annina!

**DEL:** It's Ciboletta. *(Caramello moves away dazed)* You're so easily fooled! Now it's my turn! *(starts to choke her)*

**CAR:** Go ahead. I don't really know her that well...

**DEL:** Why did you tell the Duke that I wanted to be his gondolier?

**CIBO:** Let me go! I didn't! I haven't said a word to the Duke.

**DEL:** What?

**CAR:** Annina! It must have been Annina! Oh, my faithful Annina! She still loves me. She was trying to tell the Duke about me!

**DEL:** Well, if that was Annina, and Ciboletta wasn't there, then who was the other Barbara?

**DEL/**

**CAR:** BARBARA!

**DEL:** Oh no! It has to be! the red dress! The real red dress! My life is over! (*collapses in agony*)

**CIBO:** Well, that's good, because I'm really not too interested in being your mistress any more. I've found there are better things in life! (*Del. looks at Testaccio*) Oh, heavens, not that! (*pulls out money*) **THIS!** Bye now. I'm off to celebrate! (*runs off*)

**TEST:** Wait! Wait for me! Uh... (*to Car.*) if that's all right with you.. (*Car. nods, he leaves*)

**DEL:** How could that happen? How could that happen? I put her in the gondola myself...

**CAR:** Uh, I think I can explain that. (*walking him offstage*) You see, there was this woman with a red dress on... (*they exit*)

*The women come in, decorating the square. They serenade the Doves of San Marco, who watch the proceedings.*

**NO. 17-- THE DOVES OF VENICE: Annina, Barbara and Chorus**

*The doves of old San Marco  
Are known both far and wide  
To stand for tender feelings  
That humans often hide.*

*When Venus rode her carriage  
To every lover's door  
The doves knew where to find them  
And so went on before.*

*The story's often heard  
That every pretty dove  
Is rather more than bird:  
An emblem of true love.*

*As such we must protect them  
Venetians respect them,  
They know that love  
Must be on wings forever free.*

**BARBARA, ANNINA**

1.  
*With messages of love they wing  
Their way across the land,  
And softly say the words  
All lovers understand:*

**CHORUS**

*Burrr-up etc.*

**BARBARA, ANNINA**

*With note so clear, yet faint to hear,  
A plaintive coo says "I love you."*

2.  
*And when a loving pair returns  
Tho' they be bent and old,  
The doves will sing again  
Their tale of love retold:*

**CHORUS**

*Burrr-up etc.*

**BARBARA, ANNINA**

*With note so clear, yet faint to hear,  
A plaintive coo says "I love you."*

**BARB:** Oh, Annina, this is so much fun! Now tell me again... he thought he was kidnapping me?

**ANN:** Oh, yes. He was very disappointed when he found me in the gondola.

**BARB:** *(laughs)* Not very flattering! I hope he's thoroughly confused now, just like DelAcqua. Did you see his face when he saw both of us? Serves him right! Ooh, I'm not done with him yet!

**ANN:** Maybe we've punished them enough...

**BARB:** I don't think that's possible.

**ANN:** Look! There they are! .....

**BARB:** Ssshhh! Let them come to us... Put your mask back on! Do as I do!

**CAR/** *(together)* Annina! Barbara!

**DEL**

**BARB/** Darling! *(holding hands out to the wrong man)*

**ANN.**

**CAR:** I was afraid I'd never find you again..

**DEL:** I knew it was you all along, darling! I just played along with the joke!

**ANN:** *(being held by DelAcqua)* How did you know?

**DEL:** A husband is so familiar with his wife's every thought, every gesture, that a mask can hardly...*(takes off Annina's mask)* OH!

**ANN:** Why don't you kiss me, husband?

**CAR:** *(noticing)* Annina! *(then looks at Barbara, who un.masks herself)* Oh.

**BARB:** But surely you are not disappointed, Mr. Gondolier? Wasn't it I you wanted all along?

**CAR:** I'm sorry, Madame! *(unhands her and rushes to Annina)*

**DEL:** *(rushing to Barb;)* My darling! It was the light! There is not enough light.

*(women's chorus laughs)*

**BARB:** I certainly am glad that you can play along with a joke, DelAcqua, because it's not quite over. What do you say, sister?

**NO.18-- JOKING SONG -- Barbara, Annina and women's chorus Barbara and Annina induce the other women to tease DelAcqua and Caramello unmercifully**

**BARBARA**

1.

*There was a man of power, ha, ha, ha  
Kept his wife in a tower, ha, ha, ha  
He went out to play  
Without her every day,  
Tra, la, la, la, la, tra, la, la, la, la,*

*But when, one day a stranger  
Began to pay her court  
He cried about the danger  
From rascals of that sort  
Aha! Aha! Aha!*

**CHORUS**

*Aha! Aha! Aha!*

**BARBARA**

*With jealousy of note  
He put her in a boat  
And sent her off to sea  
But it was not to be  
For the lady was not she!*

*The game I've won,  
I know what you have done!  
For your rascality  
You'll pay the penalty!*

**CHORUS**

*The game she's won,  
She knows what you have done!*

**BARBARA AND CHORUS**

*For your rascality  
You'll find that there's a penalty!*

**CHORUS**

*Look out, ha, ha, ha!  
Look out, ha, ha, ha!  
Your wife has found you out now*

*Look out, ha, ha, ha!  
Look out, ha, ha, ha!  
At last she's found you out*

**BARBARA**

*Ha, ha, ha! Etc.*

*Look out, ha, ha, ha!  
Look out, ha, ha, ha!  
Look out!*

2.

**ANNINA**

*A maiden who sold fishes, ha, ha, ha!  
Kidnapped against her wishes, ha, ha, ha!  
By her fiancée  
Who grabbed her by mistake.  
Tra, la, la, la, la, tra, la, la, la, la,*

*He realized his error,  
And ordered her to go,  
But she would not be fettered  
And so she told him NO!  
Aha! Aha! Aha!*

**CHORUS**

*Aha! Aha! Aha!*

**ANNINA**

*She seemed to play around  
With every man she found  
To torture him with glee  
He was sure it was she  
But she's only one of three!*

*Oho! What fun!  
The women have won!  
For your rascality  
You've paid a penalty!*

**CHORUS**

*Oho! What fun!  
The women have won!*

**ANNINA AND CHORUS**

*For your rascality  
You've paid a painful penalty!*

**CHORUS**

*Look out, ha, ha, ha!  
Look out, ha, ha, ha!  
Annina you can't doubt now!*

*Look out, ha, ha, ha!  
Look out, ha, ha, ha!  
Annina you can't doubt*

**ANNINA**

*Ha, ha, ha! Etc.*

*Look out, ha, ha, ha!  
Look out, ha, ha, ha!  
Don't doubt!*

**DEL:** Barbara! The joke is over! I admit that I may have acted inadvisedly in some cases... *(cringing from her glare)* . . .in fact, I'm not very proud of myself... ...in fact, I don't think I'll ever do it again! *(whining)* Can we go home now?

**BARB:** Oh, I don't think so. Oh, no. It would be impolite to the Duke. After all, I was brought here for him...

**DEL:** Who brought you here? That's who the villain is. Let your anger fall upon him!

**BARB:** But that was you, dear.

**DEL:** Me? Nonsense.

**BARB:** If I recall, you said to me, "Put in a good word for me with the Duke. I shouldn't have to tell you what to do, smoochie!" *(pinches his behind)*

**DEL:** Oh, yes. I vaguely recall...

**BARB:** *(to Annina)* The Duke should really be consulted. Besides, I rather liked him, didn't you, Annina?

**ANN:** Oh, yes. He's a very good dancer.

**BARB:** And he's so handsome...

**ANN:** Very handsome.

**BARB:** So polite...

**ANN:** He kissed my hand.

**BARB:** Mine, too. Among other things...

**DEL:** Stop! Enough!

**BARB:** Of course, dear. For here he comes! Prepare yourselves, ladies! *(women all don their masks)*

**NO. 19a. AUFZUGSMARSCH -- (PROCESSION) The men's chorus and dancers enter with the Duke in a colorful parade.**

**DUKE:** Citizens of Venice! Companions! (looking at the women) Friends! We have all gathered at the Piazza di San Marco to inaugurate the Carnival and to choose a Festival Queen, whom I shall have the honor of personally escorting for the next few ...days! And since your senate has so graciously offered the choice to me, I must tell you that I have reduced the field to three candidates. (*he takes Barbara, Annina, and Ciboletta forward. The crowd, save for DelAcqua and Caramello applaud*) I will now make my final choice (*aside*) and find my real Barbara! (*continuing, to Annina*) My dear! Do you remember last year's first meeting?

**ANN:** Yes, my lord. (*she takes off her mask*) It was then that I first met Caramello (*she goes to him and they embrace*)

**DUKE:** (*disappointed*) I see. (*turning to Barbara*) Well, then, it was this lovely creature with whom I danced!

**BARB:** No, my Lord. Strange as it may seem, the last person I danced with was my husband.. (*takes off her mask and goes to DelAcqua*) And I'm just traditional enough not to change partners. (*they embrace*)

**DUKE:** (*disappointed again*) How very depressing! (*turning to Ciboletta*) I don't suppose you ever danced with me?

**CIBO:** No, my lord.

**DUKE:** Or met me last year?

**CIBO:** No, my lord.

**DUKE:** Or said incredible things to me on the balcony?

**CIBO:** No, my lord.

**DUKE:** I thought not.

**CIBO:** But I would like to be queen!

**DUKE:** Done! (*he crowns her and they embrace - -MELODRAMA BEGINS*)

**AGR:** But... but what about the position, your lordship?

**DUKE:** Position?

**AGR:** The position which I was about to mention to you earlier in the evening before I was unfairly overwhelmed with Barbaras!

**DUKE:** Oh, that! (*laughing*) Well, now I have a confession to make. I have no position open. I simply said that to get the husbands to ask their wives to flirt with me. Works every time! (*the women glower at their husbands*). Perhaps tonight we have learned not to risk what we hold dear for something that doesn't exist!

**AGR:** (*to Sop.*) Idiot!

**DEL:** I think some of us have... (*embracing Barbara, as the others follow suit*)

**DUKE:** Then on with the Carnival! Evviva Venezia!

**NO. 19b-- FINALE III continues**

***ALL***

*In masquerade*

*Love was displayed*

*And truth has suddenly*

*Been conveyed.*

*This escapade*

*Shortly will fade,*

*But friends forever*

*We have made!*

*So we'll see you next year*

*When we all reappear*

*When we come, one and all,*

*Back again to Carnival!*

**END**