

THE GRAND DUCHESS

A New Performing Version

Music by Jacques Offenbach Book and Lyrics by Thomas Petiet

WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT THIS SHOW?

LA GRANDE DUCHESS was huge hit in its day, and it remains hugely entertaining. This version is crafted for modern audiences, reducing the show from three acts to two by shortening the third act, which starts to lag. Numbers 13, 14, and 15 have been cut, as they did not add to the plot and stalled the action.

The show is considered star turn for a mezzo, but is equally rewarding for the lead tenor Fritz. The plot involves a lovelorn monarch who promotes a handsome but inept soldier to commander-in-chief, with disastrous, but hilarious consequences. The friction between Fritz, a carefree soldier, and his commanding officer, the demanding and pompous General Boum, drives the humor of the show. Prince Paul and Prime Minister Dietz are caricatures that will provide singing actors with opportunities to steal scenes. The cast is not large, making the show easy to handle.

CAST REQUIREMENTS

THE GRAND DUCHESS —LEAD MEZZO

WANDA —LEAD SOPRANO

IZA, AMELIE, OLGA, CHARLOTTE, vivandieres

FRITZ —LEAD TENOR

GENERAL BOUM —LEAD BARITONE

PRINCE PAUL — COMIC TENOR

PRIME MINISTER DIETZ —COMIC BARITONE

NEPOMUC — COMIC BARITONE OR TENOR

SERGEANT —ACTOR

MUSICAL NUMBERS

OVERTURE — Orchestra

1a. INTRODUCTION — Fritz, Iza, Chor. 1b. Song, Fritz 1c. Solo, Gen. Boum

2. THO IT'S DARK — Wanda, Fritz

3. CHORUS AND DUCHESS RONDO – Duchess, Chorus

4. CHANSON MILITAIRE— Duchess, Chorus

5. NEWSPAPER SONG — Prince Paul

6. FINALE ACT 1 — Ensemble 6B. SABER COUPLETS — Duchess

7. ENTR'ACTE

8. THIS HORRID, CRUEL WAR — Chorus of maids

9. OUR HEROES RETURN — Chorus 9A. FRITZ'S RONDO — Fritz

10. SAY TO HIM (DITES LUI) — Duchess and Fritz

11. STORY OF BARON MAX — Dietz, Boum, Prince Paul

12. CONSPITRACY QUARTET — Duchess, Paul, Boum, Dietz

16. NUPTIAL CHORUS — Chorus

17. NOCTURNE — Boum, Dietz, Paul

18. I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT WE ARE WEDDED — Wanda, Fritz

19. OPEN THE DOOR —Chorus

20. THE LEGEND — Duchess, and Chorus

21. VICTORY CHORUS — Nepomuc and Chorus

22. RETURN AND COMPLAINT OF FRITZ — Fritz, Wand, Chorus

23. FINALE ACT 2 — Ensemble

ORCHESTRATION

Full orchestration available for rent

RECORDING AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

1.

#1A ENSEMBLE

CHOR. *A military life is fine
At least in Duchy Gerolstein
It's better than fact'ries
And better than farming
Our vivandieres
Are very, very charming*

To discipline we're not inclined

*Drinking, singing, clinging, kissing,
There's little that we're missing.
Dancing, joking, smoking, laughing,
How much more could there be.
We wine, we dine
Our camp's the best in all the line.
We don't concern ourselves with fighting.
We've better things to fill our time.
We drink, we sing, we do most everything
Demanded of troops in Gerolstein.*

*We're bold, we're brave, we're not afraid
You can't be killed in a parade. Hoorah!*

IZA *Have you read, as I have lately,
That there may soon be a war?*

FRITZ *Such a thing doesn't concern us
For little countries hardly ever go to war.*

#1B SONG AND WALTZ

*Little, tiny countries never go to war...
That is not the thing they best are suited for.
So they usually stand apart and say
"We are neutral and we hope you'll go away."
Then the nations battle and they make an end
And whoever wins has always been a friend
Peace will then arrive
And good times abound
We're all still alive
And our country is sound.*

2.

*So dance and drink and laugh and sing
Our country's the best to soldier in*

*Ah! Throw all care away,
We begin today
Reconnoiter in the military way.
Take a firm command
Of a lady's hand,
Feel the rhythm of the regimental band.
Take her and dance!
And renounce the dull routine of army life,
Take her and dance!
In the morning she may be your wife.*

CHOR Come let us dance, etc.

*GENERAL BOUM (ENTERING)
A dance in my camp!
A court martial may follow.*

FRITZ Hey! Now the brass has come.

*BOUM What's going on?
You men endanger the nation.*

*FRITZ But what can be the harm of being normal men?
We're ordinary men.*

BOUM Who's that? Who dared to speak?

FRITZ It wasn't me...

*BOUM Be silent! Be silent!
Or I will have you in a cell.
To what I say now listen well.*

*CHOR To what he says listen well
Or we will surely share a cell.*

#1C SOLO

*BOUM Any man who would be a soldier,
model on me
For there is none who could be bolder
Than I can be.*

3.

*And when I send my full battalion
Into the fray,
I look so dashing on my stallion
A mile away.*

*And piff, paff, pouf
And ta-ra-pa-pa-poom
They call me General Boum, boom.*

CHOR *Et piff, paff, pouf, etc.*

BOUM *And now to soil my reputation
My company
Is guilty of a violation
Of decency.*

*If ever ladies did distract me
I don't recall.
And now I try not to attract any girls at all*

And piff, paff, pouf, etc.

CHOR
And piff, paff, pouf. etc.

CHOR: Hurrah, General Boum!

BOUM: Thank you, gentlemen. You are a fine regiment.

FRITZ: *(just turning around)* Hurrah!

BOUM: With one exception. You, Private! To the front, march!

FRITZ: Where, sir?

BOUM: To the front, private. March! (Fritz stands confused) Here! Here! *(pointing to a spot in front of him. Fritz strolls up)* Is that how you march?

FRITZ: I march like that. Yes, SIR!

BOUM: If I didn't need every man I have, you'd be mustered out of the army.

FRITZ: *(aside)* You'll take all the mustard out of this army.

BOUM: What's that?

4.

FRITZ: Just a private thought, SIR!

BOUM: You insult your general?

FRITZ: I will if you like...

BOUM: How dare you be so insolent? Soldiers do not talk back to superior officers. Why is it only you I have trouble with?

FRITZ: I'm not good with rhetorical questions, SIR!

BOUM; (*noticing that several girls have gathered near Fritz*) It's the confounded girls... You're good for nothing but attracting girls.

FRITZ: Yes, SIR!

BOUM: Silence! (*to the girls*) Go away! For this behavior you'll stand another night of sentry duty and watch for the enemy.

FRITZ: There's an enemy? (*looks around*)

BOUM: Of course. There's always an enemy. That's why we're here.

FRITZ: Who's the enemy?

BOUM: The Grand Duchess will announce that in good time.

FRITZ: How will I recognize him in the meantime?

BOUM: Do I have to tell you everything? This is why we train you.

FRITZ: I think I missed that part.

BOUM: Just watch for anyone who looks and dresses differently than we do, you fool. I've wasted enough time with you. Sergeant. Lead us somewhere.

SGT: Men! To the left. FACE! MARCH!

BOUM: (*as he goes, to Fritz*) And you'd better do your duty. I've got my eye on you.

#1bis SORTIE (CHORUS EXIT)

5.

#1bis SORTIE (CHORUS EXIT)

FRITZ: Here I am standing like a fool. I never got past the sixth grade and even I can see that this army business makes no sense at all. The less sense some people make, the more they get promoted. And every general thinks his medals and uniform please the ladies. But I know they prefer a simple private. That is, a private.

(sees someone) Who goes there?

WANDA: Fritz... it's me.

FRITZ: *(being official)* Who is me? Identify yourself!

WANDA: It's Wanda... your fiancée.

FRITZ *(teasing her)* Insufficient. Come closer or I shoot.

#2 DUET, WANDA & FRITZ

WANDA: *Tho' it's dark, I won't deny
My face you should identify
If it's a game, I'll play along,
But let's not make the game too long.*

FRITZ *(in jest)*
*I have to shoot, I have my orders,
If I obey my orders, I will have to shoot you now, shoot you now.*

WANDA *What a shame that you must obey,
For I might be your fiancée
Oh, is there nothing I can do
To prove that I'm your Wanda true?*

FRITZ: *There is a chance that you are friendly
I'd have to bet your silhouette is not an enemy, enemy.*

WANDA *This rifle then you won't be needing
Our friendliness it is impeding.
Diplomacy is doomed to fail
Unless you put that gun away.*

FRITZ: *But my orders I should not disobey.*

WANDA *Please put that gun away.
You must have had an altercation*

6.

*To be concerned with regulations
It's very hard to be so near,
Yet be paralyzed with fear
Should someone spy on our flirtation.*

FRITZ *It drives me crazy, I can tell you
To always mindlessly obey.
Before I dared to hug and kiss you,
You know what I would have to say...*

BOTH *If we were to hug and kiss,
You know what we would have to say...
The hell with regulations!
It's heaven to love, and I'm in love.
Here's an order you must follow,
Take me full in your embrace.
A happy regulation: commanded to love
From high above, a call to love
That order I'm in favor of.*

WANDA But it's cruel to have you stand out here all night watching for the enemy.
(pulling out her note pad surreptitiously) Just who is the enemy?

FRITZ I don't know...

WANDA Well, who do you think is the enemy?

FRITZ I don't think at all.

WANDA Yes, and that's what I love about you. But hasn't anyone told you?

FRITZ No... I'm supposed to watch for strange silhouettes. *(hugging her)* Your silhouette I've identified. *(kisses her)*

BOUM *(appearing suddenly)* AH HA! Caught you at last! *(to soldiers)* Fraternizing while on duty! You'll spend a week in the brig before I court-martial you.

WANDA Why are you persecuting him?

BOUM It's my duty to see that the citizenry, such as yourself, are protected, and the army must be rid of incompetent soldiers to do that.

FRITZ *(shaking his hand)* Then we'll stand trial together.

BOUM Silence! Just for that, it's two weeks in the brig. *(sounds of gunfire)*
What's that? *(Prime Minister Dietz runs in)* Mr. Prime Minister!
What has happened?

7.

DIETZ I was shot at by two of your soldiers as I came into camp!

BOUM They missed you?

DIETZ Thank God they did.

BOUM I'll punish them for that.

DIETZ What?

BOUM Good soldiers would not have missed.

DIETZ You're sorry they didn't hit me?

BOUM As your friend, certainly not. As your commander-in-chief, however, your survival is an extreme irritant.

BOUM But why have you come into our camp?

DIETZ War is coming. Some Serbian just shot Archduke Ferdinand of Austria and Germany is going to war.

BOUM Just like the Serbians. Shooting before they think.

DIETZ *(looking at him critically)* Um, yes of course. As a result, Gerolstein will have to declare for one side or the other and so we will be at war with someone very soon. Therefore, I have persuaded Her Highness the Grand Duchess to take an interest in the military and raise her soldiers' spirits so that they will go out there and ... you know... *(gestures slitting throat)* She has agreed to do lead them in the regimental song.

BOUM An honor!

DIETZ It is also to bolster our sovereign's own spirits that I encouraged her to do this.

BOUM Her spirits? How so?

DIETZ Well, as you know... *(takes his hat off and sees a bullet hole)* GAD! There's a bullet hole here!

BOUM So there is. Well, that's not too far off the mark. I'll go easy on the lads.

DIETZ *(nearly fainting)* So close... Thank god I had my hat on.

BOUM Quite so. better keep it on.

8.

DIETZ *(Puts it on, looking around)* Where was I? Oh, yes. As you know, her Highness has been engaged to Prince Paul of Steis-stein-Steis-Langenhosen-Dufenheim for the last year but has always put off marrying him. It is a strategic alliance, especially now. But the Prince is, well, somewhat inbred, and has made life at court quite a bore. So the war comes at just the right time to boost her spirits...

BOUM It always does mine...

DIETZ *(confidentially)* She was seen yesterday pushing around her father's toy soldiers.

BOUM Excellent practice.

DIETZ So— I trust you to see to it that the Grand Duchess remains in high spirits.

BOUM Count on me, Excellency.

(shots ring out. Secretary Nepomuc appears)

DIETZ Nepomuc! What's wrong?

NEP. They shot at me! *(looks at her hat, having taken it off in deference, and sees bullet hole)* Oh, my God! *(nearly faints)*

BOUM Their sights must be set too high...

DIETZ General! This is the private secretary to and public relations manager of the Grand Duchess. Would you shoot a woman?

BOUM I? Never! But my soldiers. Who can say? Her silhouette is...

DIETZ GAD! Where is the Grand Duchess now, Nepomuc?

NEP. Right behind me, sir.

DIETZ General, would you kindly see to it that your men do not shoot the Grand Duchess?

BOUM Sergeant! Tell the men to stop shooting at people for the next quarter hour. Will that be sufficient?

NEP. I don't know...

BOUM Well, how much time then? I can't prevent them from shooting people all day. The enemy...

9.

NEP. *(seeing the Duchess arriving)* What a relief. She is here! No need to worry.

BOUM Sergeant... Tell them to fix their sights instead.

(entrance of the Grand Duchess)

#3 CHORUS AND RONDEAU OF THE GRAND DUCHESS

CHOR. *Hail the Duchess!
The good Grand Duchess!
Regent prime of all Gerolstein!*

DUCH. *Oh, you brave men at arms
Who disdain mortal danger,
You fill my heart with humble pride
Altho' until this day to you I've been a stranger.
Not any more!
This noble corps to fields of honor I will guide.*

*How I go for the military
Go for the military, go for the military,
In their uniforms so smart
Don't the darlings break your heart?*

*And I know that the military
Know that the military, know that the military
Love their Duchess,
For of their number she's a part.*

*What if I were really one of them,
Would I think wartime less than thrilling?
If I had to eat canned spam
Would I then be quite so willing?
If I were made to march in rain,
Would I not bitterly complain?*

10.

*I do not know, I do not know,
But this I know:*

CHOR. *But this she knows:*

DUCH. *How I go for the military
Go for the military, go for the military,
I love them, I love them,
They're the men for me!*

*Perhaps it'd suit me best,
To be just a vivandiere
The men love a girl with zest
When far from home they're pressed.*

*And then I'd mind them,
Wounds I'd bind them,
Nurse them, feed them
And liberties concede them.
But cooking, cleaning and canteening
Can be demeaning
Could I stand it? Could I stand it all?
I do not know. I do not know.
But this I know:*

CHOR: *But this she knows:*

DUCH. *How I go for the military
Go for the military, go for the military,
In their uniforms so smart
Don't the darlings break your heart?*

*And I know that the military
Know that the military, know that the military
Love their Duchess,
For of them she's a part.*

11.

*Oh, I know that they love their duchess,
And from their company she'll never, never part,
Oh, I know that they love their duchess,
And she loves them from the heart.*

ALL Hurrah for the Grand Duchess!

DUCH. General Boum, I am much touched by this reception.

BOUM Your servant, Highness...

DUCH. *(going down the line of soldiers)* What fine specimens of manhood. Did we grow them right here in Gerolstein? *(pointing to one of the two men holding Fritz)* Desire that young man to step forward.

BOUM Corporal Saltz... three paces forward.

DUCH. No, no, not him. The other one.

BOUM *(ignoring Fritz)* Sergeant Pfeffer. Three paces forward.

DUCH. No, not him. The one between Salz and Pfeffer.

BOUM That one is under arrest. Couldn't I interst Your Highness in one of the other fine... *(seeing her displeasure)* Private, soon to be ex, Fritz, three paces forward.

DUCH. You are a fine looking soldier. Can you tell me your rank, medals and the nature of your wounds?

FRITZ None, none and none. No, one. I cut myself skinning potatoes. No, two! I fell over my rifle last week. If you fall over your rifle more than once, does that count every time or only once?

DUCH. *(admiring him, ignoring his statement)* You look like a wonderful soldier. I promote you to Corporal.

BOUM *(reprimandingly)* Your Highness.

DUCH. Did I do something wrong, Dietz? You told me to become more active in running my army.

DIETZ *(gesturing to Boum to shut up)* Absolutely, Highness. Perfectly fine, Highness.

12.

DUCH. There, you see. I told you so. *(to Dietz, downcast)* You will tell me if I do something wrong, won't you, Dietz. *(brightening)* I must admit, it is bracing, so I will continue. *(looks for Fritz, who has gone over to Wanda)*

BOUM This is intolerable!

DIETZ Control yourself. This is politics, which supercedes you. Don't interfere.

BOUM When I get to Fritz, I'll give him some corporal attention!

DUCH. You— Fritz— come here.

FRITZ Your Highness...

DUCH. What were you doing just then?

FRITZ I was telling Wanda about my new position.

DUCH. And was she impressed?

FRITZ She was very surprised.

DUCH. *(pleased with herself)* Then you may tell her that you are now a lieutenant.

FRITZ A lieutenant? Say, thanks a lot! *(goes to Wanda)*

DUCH. *(to Dietz)* This is very enjoyable. I never knew it would be so easy for me to bring joy to my troops. Have I brought joy, Dietz?

DUCH. Indeed, your Highness. *(looking at Fritz)* I'm sure of it.

DUCH. Splendid. Fritz, Come here. And bring that young lady. And what do you think of your lieutenant?

WANDA Oh, I just think he's wonderful.

DUCH. And you other ladies. Do you all have boyfriends here?

GIRLS *(variously)* Yes, Your Highness.

DUCH. Then I make them all lieutenants as well.

ALL Hurrah!

BOUM But Your Highness, if they're all lieutenants giving orders, who is left to take orders?

13.

DUCH Oh, dear, I hadn't thought of that. Am I doing it all wrong, Dietz?

DIETZ No, no, Your Highness. The captains will give orders to the Lieutenants, of course.

DUCH Of course. You see?

BOUM But there aren't enough captains...

DUCH. Oh... well, let's see (*looks at Dietz for encouragement*). Fritz, come here. Would you like to be a captain?

FRITZ It's all right with me.

DUCH Then you're a captain. Now, then. I weary of this business. I have come to inspire my soldiers to heroic deeds on the battlefield and since rank does not always inspire sacrifice, I suggest we all sing the regimental song. I need your best singer to help me with it.

BOUM La, la, la...

DUCH. Are you the best singer?

BOUM So I have been told.

FRITZ Who would have told you otherwise?

DUCH. And are you a singer, Captain Fritz?

FRITZ So I have been told...

DUCH. (*flirtingly*) Would you like to sing with me?

BOUM But, Your highness...

DUCH. Perhaps you do not consider him worthy?

BOUM Precisely.

DUCH. Then I will make him a colonel. Would you like to be a colonel?

FRITZ It's all right with me.

DUCH. Then, Colonel, we begin!

#4 CHANSON MILITAIRE— GRAND DUCHESS AND CHORUS

14.

DUCH *Now let us sing the song that makes the thought
Of battle seem hardly distressing.*

CHOR. *Ta-ra, ta-ta, ta-ra-ta-plan*

FRITZ *And I will help you sing its measures
Though its purpose is rather oppressing.*

CHOR. *Ta-ra, ta-ta, ta-ra-ta-plan*

DUCH. *The marvelous sound of the fife and drum
Always carries the day.*

FRITZ *A melody that we can gaily hum
Will drive our foes away.*

DUCH. *Don't dwell on the loss of your legs or arms,
Think of the glories of war.*

FRITZ *We'll dream of our Duchess's regal charms
When faced with blood or gore
The trumpet call...*

CHOR. *Ta-ra, ta-ta, etc.*

DUCH *Ta-ra, ta-ta-ta-ta-ta, can stir us all
The sound of trumpet blaring
And shouts of martial cheer
Disperse illogic glaring
Remove all doubt and fear.*

CHOR *The sound of trumpet blaring
And shouts of martial cheer
Disperse illogic glaring
Remove all doubt and fear.*

DUCH. *Yes, you make a wonderful leader. General Boum, please find a uniform
befitting a colonel, so I can see how Colonel Fritz looks.*

FRITZ *I will be magnificent.*

DUCH. *And later we will discuss military strategy...*

NEP. *(rushing in) Your Highness...*

15.

DUCH. Yes, Nepomuc. What is it?

NEP. Prince Paul has arrived at the outpost and desires to be admitted into your presence.

DUCH. Must that man be with me everywhere I go? Oh, well, there's no help for it. Let him come to me.

NEP. He has brought another man with him, Your Highness. His father's lawyer, Mr. Grog.

DUCH. I do not wish to see the lawyer! He wants to press the marriage and I am much too busy conducting a war. Prince Paul alone may enter.

NEP. Yes, Highness.

DUCH. Gentlemen, I regret I must entertain a prince for a few minutes. Would you be so kind as to march around the camp a few times while I'm busy?

BOUM Sergeant, give the order.

SER. I beg pardon, General. There is no longer a sergeant.

BOUM What? (looks at the Grand Duchess, who smiles) Oh, yes. Lieutenant, if you please...

SER. Lieutenants, left face!
(the soldiers look at one another, but do not move)

BOUM. What is the matter with you men? Obey!
(*Fritz whispers to the Duchess*)

DUCH. (*to Sergeant*) Lieutenant, I hereby promote you to Captain. (*the men nod in approval*)

SGT. Left face. For'd march! (*the men march off*)

#4A SORTIE

DUCH. Dietz, please remain close by. If I need you to end this audience, I'll signal you.

DIETZ As you wish, your Highness.

PAUL (entering, dressed in an exaggerated uniform) Your Highness! My darling!

16.

DUCH. Only the first title, Prince. I have not yet accepted the second. Why on earth have you dressed that way?

PAUL Gad, do you like it? I know how much you like military men, so I had Antoine make a uniform for me. Sink me, I think he's captured the military look nicely. Does it inspire an emotion in you?

DUCH. (*containing herself barely*) Oh yes... a very strong one.

PAUL Then we shall be married at the front. Courageously chic, eh what? I'll have Antoine make uniforms for everyone... well, not the camp followers, of course. We will do them in something that says "peasant", in colored silks...

DUCH. Prince! Prince! (*familiar*) Paul...you mistake. There can be no wedding...yet. I am far too busy fighting a war.

PAUL I'll do all the planning, darling. You can fight as much as you want. It'll take only a day.

DUCH. Oh, no, no. I can't spare a day.

PAUL Sink me, it's always something. One might almost think you'd rather not marry me at all.

DUCH. Oh, Paul...

PAUL It's dashed embarrassing, Christine. If I may have no hope, tell me now, so Daddy can put me onto another grand duchess... one who's not so busy.

DUCH. Paul, Paul... there's always hope. It may be sooner... it may be later... but in the meantime we'll still be allies.

PAUL Odds fish, one can't kiss an ally. I have come to be married and that's what I must be. I've spent all my allowance. Confound it, I'm beginning to think I cut a ridiculous figger...

DUCH. Indeed?

PAUL People are beginning to talk. And the newspapers! Well, I'll tell you.

#5 THE GEROLSTEIN GAZETTE AND SHOPPING TIMES— SOLO, PRINCE PAUL

(reading the newspaper)

17.

PAUL *“To date our Duchess is contrary
On whether she will tie the knot
To Paul, the prince she was to marry,
but whom she seems to have forgot.*

*“And while this writer has to rate him
A very marriageable fish,
Her Highness does appear to hate him
And that is not as he would wish.*

*Although the man’s a silly dandy
Few noblemen can offer more.”
And that is what they take me for
Within the columns of the Gerolstein Gazette and Shopping Times.*

DUCH. *Not much gets by that editor
Within the columns of the Gerolstein Gazette and Shopping Times.*

PAUL *Within the columns of the Gerolstein Gazette and Shopping Times.*

*“Perhaps the Duchess is still waiting
For someone claiming half a brain,
Yet, if the truth can bear relating,
The search most likely is in vain.*

*“Prince Paul’s no worse than any other,
His set is famous for the fool.
We know for sure who was his mother,
He’s young enough and doesn’t drool.*

*“The Prince would make a useful husband
Altho’ he is a crashing bore.”*

*And that is what they take me for
Within the columns of the Gerolstein Gazette and Shopping Times.*

DUCH. *Not much gets by that editor
Within the columns of the Gerolstein Gazette and Shopping Times.*

PAUL *Within the columns of the Gerolstein Gazette and Shopping Times.*

(the Grand Duchess ends the duet laughing merrily)

18.

PAUL Hang me, Christine, it's very wicked of you to laugh, you know, when I've been so cruelly savaged.

DUCH. Forgive me, Paul. Try not to take it too seriously. You must learn to laugh at yourself.

PAUL No, thank you, I'm sure. Currently, I'm the only one who isn't laughing at me.

FRITZ *(coming in from behind Paul. He snaps to attention. Paul is startled)*
Colonel Fritz, as commanded!

PAUL Gad!

DUCH. Admirable, admirable. What do you think of our Fritz, Paul?

PAUL Eh? Oh...yes... very manly, if you like that sort of thing.

DUCH. Colonel Fritz, will you please go into that tent and inform the prime minister and the Commander in Chief that I am ready to examine the plan of battle.

FRITZ Okay by me. *(goes off)*

PAUL Christine, before you get into all this business, will you please give me some hope of a date for the wedding?

DUCH. Really, Paul, all I can tell you is that on the next available day when I have nothing at all to do, I will consider a wedding. Until then, I can only say, have patience. *(the others enter)* Now, would you join our military strategy review?

PAUL I don't know... fighting make me nauseous.

DUCH. And yet you want to be married... Come! General, you may begin. Colonel Fritz and Prince Paul will join us.

BOUM How fortunate for the fatherland.

DUCH. *(not unaware of the sarcasm)* Well, what is your plan?

BOUM *(claps his hands and two soldiers bring out a table, on which a map is spread)*
May I introduce Your Highness to the war table? These colored characters represent the combatants.

DUCH. Which is the enemy?

19.

DIETZ We have not yet determined which country it suits us best to declare war on. There are so many factors to consider. I would like to go over this with you at length and make...

DUCH. No, no, no... we'll fight the yellow ones. I never liked that color and there seem to be fewer of them.

BOUM That's not how it's done...

DUCH. Oh, dear. Did I do something wrong, Dietz? Perhaps I should not interfere...

DIETZ Nonsense. I was going to recommend the yellow ones myself.

DUCH. Oh, good. I have a knack for this then. Is there more? Go on, General.

BOUM Yes... well, in this case we will move the yellow ones from this side to this side. There. Now we will divide the assault troops into three spearheads, here, here and here. Then the cavalry will provide a flanking maneuver over there, driving the little yellow ones into this area. Artillery will provide cover for the tank division...

FRITZ That's silly.

BOUM I beg your pardon...

FRITZ That's too complicated. I can't understand it. *(to Paul)* Do you understand it?

PAUL *(coming back from a daydream)* Eh? Well, sink me if I do.

FRITZ You see?

BOUM You idiot! I'll...

DUCH. Now, now, general. A little constructive criticism never hurt anyone. And what is your plan, Colonel Fritz?

FRITZ Plan? Oh, I don't know. Why not just send everyone running at the enemy. Then if doesn't work we all run away.

BOUM That's absolutely ridiculous!

FRITZ *(to Paul)* What do you think?

PAUL Eh?

20.

FRITZ Do this... *(takes the models and moves them like toys, straight ahead. He makes battle noises and pushes the other models off the table)* What do you think of that?

PAUL Pretty damned impressive. Can I do some?

FRITZ Go ahead.

PAUL *(does what Fritz was doing, only with more gusto)* What ho! On, lads! Brumm, brumm, boom, etc.

FRITZ You see? Simplicity in action.

DIETZ *(preventing Boum from attacking Fritz)* Your Highness, I'm sure that Private... um, Colonel Fritz is grateful to you for allowing him to contribute to our discussion, but a general should plan the campaign, not a colonel.

DUCH. Fine. He's now a general.

BOUM Him? A general?

DUCH. Paul likes his plan, don't you, Paul. *(Paul is still mock-fighting with some models)* And I know you value his opinion, since our marriage is a state project.

DIETZ *(caught in her trap)* Yes, Your Highness, but...

DUCH. No buts, now. You wanted me to involve myself and I have. There it is. It's done and it only took ten minutes. *(sees Paul looking hopeful)* But now I have so much planning to do for the enemy's surrender. Besides, General Boum's plan couldn't have worked anyway.

BOUM And, if I may ask, why not?

DUCH. The tank is in the repair shop. Will you prepare the troops to execute the plan?

BOUM I can't. I won't.

DUCH You will not?

BOUM In all conscience, I cannot.

DUCH. I see. In that case, I believe we need a new commander-in-chief. General Fritz, would you like to be commander-in-chief?

21.

FRITZ I don't know. Is it dangerous?

DUCH. Not at all. My papa told me all about it. You lead your troops, but you're not in the lead, you see.

FRITZ Okay then.

DUCH. Stop! You can't go to war that way. Your collar isn't right. It should be up... like this. Splendid. Doesn't he make a marvelous commander-in-chief? Oh, General Boum, he'll need your hat, too. His is too plain. Good. You can wear his until he returns. *(she takes Fritz aside to fuss with his uniform)*

BOUM This is unspeakable. This is how politics wages wars.

DIETZ For the moment, there's nothing to be done. I wanted her to take an interest in the soldiers, not just one soldier.

PAUL Yes, dash it. Look at her with that fellow. Now she'll never set a date.

BOUM Well, you certainly didn't help with your boom, boom and your brumm, brumm.

DIETZ Gentlemen, we must work together if we are to return things to normal.

BOUM Where wars are run by professionals...

DIETZ And enemies are chosen by politicians...

PAUL And grand duchesses marry princes.

DIETZ From now on, we shall be known as The Three.

DUCH. *(coming over)* General, will you gather the company before me?

FRITZ What? Oh, me... I can do that. *(calling)* Sergeant! *(no one responds)*
Uh, John! HEY, JOHN!!

SGT. What is it?

FRITZ Bring everyone in. *(Sergeant looks at Boum)*

BOUM It's all right. It's all right.

#6 FINALE

22.

CHOR *To the martial sound we have come,
We'll enter the fight to fife and drum.
March to the drum, march to the drum,
As all to Gerolstein succumb.
Rum-ta-ta-tum, Rum-ta-ta-tum
And as we fight, this tune we'll hum.*

*To the martial sound we all have come.
Each is prepared to lose his life
To fife and drum.*

DUCH *Attention all to me,
And do just as I tell you.
Now hail your commander-in-chief!*

CHOR *This stretches our belief.
Commander-in-chief?*

DUCH *My command is that he shall lead you.
Nothing can make me change my mind.*

THE 3 *Now we shall form a conspiracy
That is the key
We shall undermine this pretender
This we agree
He is only one
And we are the three.*

WANDA *Commander-in-chief?*

FRITZ *And all in a day.*

WANDA *Lots of gold leaf...*

FRITZ *And a whole lot more pay.*

WANDA *You've risen so high...*

FRITZ *I'm the highest of brass!*

WANDA *Lowly am I*

FRITZ *But you've got so much class.*

23.

*DUCH. If you please, my dear Fritz,
That's enough tete-a-tete.
Turn your thoughts now to me,
For I don't like to wait.*

*CHOR We have seen this before.
He had better behave
Or there's danger in store
For the unworldly knave.
Better behave...
You've become her new slave.*

*DUCH. What sudden fear
Weakens my thighs
When I observe
The look in their eyes?*

*I'm feeling faint.
I am unwell.
Somehow this fellow
Makes me lose all my self control.*

FRITZ The Duchess doesn't seem too steady

WANDA She's feeling faint.

*THE 3 Now we shall form a conspiracy
That is the key
We shall undermine this pretender
This we agree
He is but one
And we are three.*

CHOR She's feeling faint.

*DUCH. Ah! All self control...
One look and I feel faint.
I'm feeling faint.
So very faint.
What sudden fear
Weakens my thighs
When I observe
The look in their eyes?*

24.

*I'm feeling faint.
I am unwell.
Somehow this fellow
Makes me lose all my self control.*

*I'm feeling faint.
I will faint.*

*WANDA All self control...
Ah, she's feeling faint.
What sudden fear etc.*

*FRITZ Ah, she's feeling faint.
What sudden fear etc.*

*THE 3 We will destroy the commander,
Nothing left of the offender.
We are the three
Conspiring to still him
Requiring to kill him
Desiring to chill him
He's but one
And we are the three.
Yes, we've formed a conspiracy,
You two and me
We'll eliminate the commander.
We are the three!*

*DUCH. But now the weakness I've dispelled
And I am feeling better.
Just a momentary flutter
Of emotion and again I am quite well.*

*And now the moment has arrived.
Bring to me the sabre sublime.*

CHOR. Bring to her the sabre, the sabre.

6B COUPLETS DU SABRE — DUCHESS AND CHOR.

*DUCH. 1. He who would lead the nation's pride,
Must flash a blade of gleaming steel.
Hang father's falchion at your side,
Oh, so courageous you will feel.*

25.

*When first my father rode in battle
He learned what ev'ry leader knows:
Soldiers would follow him like cattle
They would go where'er the sabre goes.*

*“Follow the sabre, the sabre, the sabre.
Follow the sabre where'er the sabre goes.
Follow the sabre, the sabre, the sabre.
Follow the sabre and decimate our foes.”*

*CHOR. “Follow the sabre, the sabre, the sabre.
Follow the sabre where'er the sabre goes.
Follow the sabre, the sabre, the sabre,
This army won't waver,
We'll follow the sabre
And decimate our foes”*

*DUCH. 2. Many the glories it has won
Tho' never scarred in any way.
Greater in war than bomb or gun
Is that which shows the men the way.*

*Hold high its blinding blade in sunlight
So that its flash your men will cheer.
Take care its glint attracts no gunsight
Near enough to dull your bright career.*

*“Follow the sabre, the sabre, the sabre.
Follow the sabre where'er the sabre goes.
Follow the sabre, the sabre, the sabre.
Follow the sabre and decimate our foes.”*

*CHOR. “Follow the sabre, the sabre, the sabre.
Follow the sabre where'er the sabre goes.
Follow the sabre, the sabre, the sabre.
This army won't waver,
We'll follow the sabre
And decimate our foes”*

*FRITZ Thanks a lot for the sword
I'm all set for the brawl.
If waving it around did the trick for your daddy
With a win I'll come back
or I won't come back at all.*

26.

DUCH. A winner he'll come back...

THE 3 Or he won't come back at all.

WANDA A winner he'll come back...

THE 3 Or he won't come back at all.

FRITZ A winner I'll come back...

THE 3 Or he won't come back at all.

ALL. He will reach for the sky.

THE 3 Like a rock he will fall.

ALL All our foes he'll defy.

THE 3 Like a dog he will crawl.

ALL He'll inspire ev'ry man.

THE 3 He's an utter buffoon.

ALL With his masterful plan.

THE 3 He will lose the platoon

ALL He will come back

THE 3 No, not at all. No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no....

*FRITZ Nothing can stop me ,
Bullets can't drop me.
Figger terrifying,
Men on me relying,
Enemy's running,
Victory stunning,
Then I will return in a big parade.*

*THE 3 Something should stop him,
Bullets will drop him.
Soldiers will be dying,
On their faces lying.
Blood will be running,
Massacre stunning,
How could he return in a big parade?*

ALL Nothing can stop him. etc.

*FRITZ Now let us sing a jolly marching song
Tra la la la
Trying to ignore what could go wrong
Tra la la la*

27.

ALL Now let us sing a jolly marching song, etc.

FRITZ It'll be thrilling,

ALL It'll be thrilling, THE THREE "Round him they're milling

FRITZ Minimal killing,

ALL What a ball! THE THREE What a gall!

DUCH. It'll be thrilling,

FRITZ It'll be thrilling.

DUCH. Minimal killing,

ALL Minimal killing.

DUCH. Nothing much to it,

FRITZ Nothing much to it.

DUCH. Monday should do it,

*FRITZ Monday should do it.
Villages and towns maybe we'll destroy,
Burning people out we may all enjoy.
Taking what we need as we go along,
For military greed's never seen as wrong.*

Let us go to war.

ALL Let us go to war.

FRITZ We delay no more

*ALL Let us go to war, let us go to war, etc.
We will be heroes, we will be heroes, etc.
Nothing can stop him,
Bullets can't drop him.
Figger terrifying,
Men on him relying.
Cannon balls flying,
Fear and foe defying,
We will all return in a big parade.
Let us go to war, etc.*

28.

FRITZ *We will go to the war,
We will go to the war,
You go on before me
Because you adore me.
I'll point with the sword
How to get to the war.*

To the war, to the war, to the war, to the war!

ALL *We'll go to war, we'll go to war,
To the war, to the war, to the war, to the war!*

MARCHE MILITAIRE (a parody of a military march)

ALL *I can't resist this music martial
How can I not march along when they play?
To catchy tunes I must admit I'm partial
I can't keep myself away from the fray.*

THE 3 *I must resist this music martial
For I can not march along when they play.
To catchy tunes I must admit I'm partial
I must keep myself away from the fray.*

DUCH. *The sabre shall remain your motivation*

ALL *We'll follow tho' it leads us/you to damnation.
The sabre, the sabre, etc.*

*"Follow the sabre, the sabre, the sabre
Follow the sabre where'er the sabre goes
Follow the sabre, the sabre, the sabre
This army won't waver (This army will waver)
We'll decimate our foes" (Congratulate our foes)*

*Let's go to war,
Delay no mare
To the war, To the war, To the war, To the war!*

END OF ACT I

29.

ACT II SCENE 1 - City Square outside the Duchess' palace. A group of women is languishing. Wanda goes among them, with her notepad.

#8 CHORUS OF MAIDS

*CHOR This horrid cruel war that should have been
concluded long ago
Has left an empty motherland.
Our men are gone and what's become of them
We really do not know.
This life alone we cannot stand
We long for some small letter
Ev'ry maid needs a loving word
What made her warrior forget her?
No answer as yet has been heard.*

IZA. Here's the mail! (Nepomuc enters with letters)

CHOR. Here's the mail!

*IZA. Here's the mail, oh messenger elating
Is this the end of all our waiting?*

NEP. There is an envelope for ev'ryone here.

*CHOR. It's for me, it's for me,
Oh please let me see!*

*NEP; Let me be, wait for me!
Anticipation they're expressing.
I hope that these dispatches will not be distressing.*

*CHOR. With joy and fear my heart is filled.
With anxiety my hand is quaking.
If he were harmed or even killed,
My happiness I'd be forsaking.*

I'll break the seal, I'll break the seal. (maids open their letters and read)

*OLGA "War isn't the game I thought it might be.
Wish I were with you.
Some fellow is always shooting at me
Nasty thing to do.
When peace we obtain
Whatever remains
Of me will e'er be true." Ah...*

30.

OLGA *This letter exciting
Direct from the fighting
Has kindled my love
My heart he has won! Ah...*

CHOR *This letter exciting
Direct from the fighting
Has kindled your love
Oh fortunate one!*

IZA. *“My darling, we thought we would fight in style
Forward we would press.
We’ve gained in a month a tenth of a mile,
Maybe somewhat less.
While stuck in this ditch
I constantly wish
To feel your soft caress.” Ah...*

This letter exciting, etc.

CHOR *This letter exciting, etc.*

AMELIA *“We shoot ev’ry day far into the evening
And once in a while we throw a grenade.
If I had my way,
I’d like to be leaving,
And take up the flank of my little maid.”*

CHARL. *“We no longer dance, we no longer sing,
As we did before.
If you could be here, some joy you would bring
To this weary corps.
If generals had a lover to cling to
We’d never need a war.” Ah...*

This letter exciting, etc.

CHOR *This letter exciting
Direct from the fighting
Has kindled your love, your love
Oh happy, happy one!
Together you will be when war is done.*

31.

IZA. These letters would be almost depressing...

OLGA But they're from our boyfriends...

AMELIA So they're romantic!

IZA. Just think... there they are, lying in a cold trench, breathing smoke...

CHARL. And gunpowder...

AMELIA And poison gas!

IZA. Thinking of us.

OLGA They weren't very romantic when they were here...

CHARL. But the war has changed them...

AMELIA Isn't war wonderful?

*(one girl squeals with joy and the others go over to read her letter.
Nepomuc goes to Wanda)*

WANDA There is much of interest in those letters. *(tears a sheet from notepad)*
Pass this on to our contact.

NEP. Is there any information on General Fritz' military strategy?

WANDA Fritz has made espionage so easy. He has no strategy at all. The last I heard, the entire army seems to be hiding in a hole.

NEP. Then victory should come soon.

WANDA It's just a matter of time.

NEP. Then we can both leave and go back to our lives in England.

WANDA Oh, I'm not leaving. After Gerolstein surrenders, I'm going to marry Fritz.

NEP. What? Marry Fritz?

WANDA But you're a spy... you're going to make him lose the war.

NEP. Yes, before he gets hurt. The best war is one that's over.

(some women who have strolled off now come rushing in)

32.

IZA. SOLDIERS COMING! SOLDIERS COMING! *(all girls scream in terror)*

OLGA Wait. Stop! It's our soldiers. *(girls scream with glee)*

AMELIA Our heroes! They return victorious!

WANDA *(to Nepomuc)* How can this be?

DUCH. *(entering with Dietz, Prince, Boum)* Citizens! I have a communiqué from General Fritz. I am happy to announce that he has returned from the front with the army and has ordered a general celebration.

DIETZ Does it mention prisoners?

DUCH. No.

PAUL Does it mention spoils?

DUCH. No.

BOUM Does it mention that he is horribly maimed or dead?

DUCH. No.

BOUM He's celebrating victory?

DUCH. No, he is celebrating his return.

#9 CHORUS,

CHOR *Our heroes return
With martial glory they are crowned.
Tho' they look as though they have been trampled in the ground.
Our heroes return,
We welcome them with joyous sound.
Our heroes return,
With pride our bosoms do abound,
We praise their endeavors,
We honor their names,
They have proved that our cause was profound.*

DUCH. *In a moment he'll come, I must not show emotion
For a monarch may never reveal her devotion*

33.

CHOR. *Our heroes return
With martial glory they are crowned.
Tho' they look as though they have been trampled in the ground.
Our heroes return
We welcome them with joyous sound
Our heroes return
With pride our bosoms do abound
We praise their endeavors
We honor their names,
They proved that our cause was profound.
We praise their endeavor,
There's no doubt it was profound.*

FRITZ *Your Highness has instructed me that pomp and show
Do a lot to make our martial juices overflow.
That is why the army has come to see you today.
The sabre doesn't work as well when we're away.
The sabre of her father.*

DUCH. *I wish I better understood the situation.
You went to war,
You fought the foe.
Now here you are, but you're unhappy.
Reveal to one and all
What has happened in the fearful fray.*

CHOR. *We want to know, the tale convey
How did our soldiers win the day?*

FRITZ *Since you command, I'll tell the story
Altho' it's not what you expect.
I've changed the game of war forever
You may not like this new effect.*

9A RONDO OF FRITZ

FRITZ *When we departed, colors flying,
Mighty force from Gerolstein,
I held my sabre bright and shining
To point my men toward the line.*

*When we arrived the foe was waiting,
A thousand strong across our path.
Odds of survival estimating,
I counted heads and did the math.*

*I put my sabre in my scabbard
And rode up to the enemy
I called out, "How are you today,
I'd like to have a word with you."*

*They answered with a fearful shout,
"Surrender or we kill you all!"
They looked so awful and unpleasant,
My solution was to stall.*

*Then all at once they got impatient
The shots rang out — we hit the ground.
Pulling my sabre in demonstration
I dug a hole and made a mound.*

*Ev'ryone saw what I was doing,
Digging, ducking, hacking, hewing
Soon all the men were excavating
At length we had a fine, big trench.*

*Now our opponent could not shoot us,
They were upset as they could get
And when at them we shouted insults
It made them even madder yet!*

*What had I done?
Glory was gone.
Instead of walking into shot and shell
And history as well,
I made the war a living hell.*

*There in the hole we had to stay
Or the enemy would have its way.
Likewise the enemy was stuck,
So there wasn't much to do all day.*

La, la, la, la etc.

*Tho' it's a stand-off of smoke and stench,
The plan took hold ev'rywhere.
Now modern war we fight in trenches
And death's no longer done with flair*

*Month after month we shot our rifles,
Armistice never seemed to come.
My fervor this began to stifle*

*And so I said "Let's all go home."
The enemy don't ever seem to cross
The neutral zone.*

*So celebrate tonight
It's really quite all right
The army's home! The army's home!*

- DUCH. Congratulations, General Fritz, on your new invention. It sounds like an improvement on running headlong into bullets.
- BOUM But there is no victory! What about victory?
- FRITZ Don't be greedy. I've given you no casualties and no defeat. If you want victory...
- BOUM Yes...
- FRITZ I need more of those little blue toy soldiers. I don't know how you can expect me to plan a war if I don't have enough soldiers. Oh, and we'll need to change the yellow ones... the enemy do not dress in yellow.
- BOUM Idiot! (*pleading*) Your Highness...
- DUCH. Quite right, Boum. Please present us with the proper number of correctly colored soldiers for the General's next strategy meeting. Good color sense is critical to any war effort. Don't you agree, Paul?
- PAUL Oh, absolutely critical. Demme if it ain't.
- DUCH. There you see? Now please leave us everyone. Your sovereign needs to discuss matters of state with the General in private.

#9bis EXIT CHORUS

36.

SCENE 2 *The main room in the palace, with plush furniture, including a couch downstage and doors to either side, one operable on stage right.*

DUCH. Now we are alone.

FRITZ Sure are...

DUCH. You don't know how delighted I am to see you.

FRITZ Same here...

DUCH. And to think that a short month ago I raised you from a mere soldier to a general.

FRITZ That's right. Thanks a lot.

DUCH. If you were still a private, I wouldn't be talking to you like this, you know.

FRITZ How would you talk?

DUCH. I mean, Grand Duchesses don't talk to simple soldiers.

FRITZ You talk to simple princes.

DUCH. Yes, yes... but you're a general now, so you can talk freely to me. Don't you have anything to say to me?

FRITZ Uh, nice place.

DUCH. *(disappointed)* Thank you.

FRITZ Don't mention it. *(pause)*

DUCH. Is that all?

FRITZ That's about it.

DUCH. I understand. Even a general feels awkward talking to a grand duchess. Would you like to be a count?

FRITZ Sure, why not?

DUCH. Then from now on you're the Count Hohentutenen Vergissmeinnicht.

FRITZ Thanks again.

37.

DUCH. Now that you're a count, you must have something to say... Counts always do.

FRITZ Nothing's coming to me. Sorry.

DUCH. I understand your reticence. In my class, we can't just come out and say the things we'd like to say. We just can't come out and say things like: "I'm in love with you" or "Take me, you fool".

FRITZ You can't?

DUCH. *(sadly)* No...

FRITZ That's tough.

DUCH. I imagine you've said things like that.

FRITZ Oh, yeah. Lots of times.

DUCH. *(shocked)* You have?

FRITZ Yeah... mostly to Wanda... maybe a few others.

DUCH. How wonderful to be so candid.

FRITZ Well, it gets the job done.

DUCH. Do you suppose you could say things like that to a grand duchess?

FRITZ I suppose.

DUCH. You're not sure?

FRITZ Well, you're the only one I know.

DUCH. Yes... well, you can practice on me.

FRITZ Aw, I wouldn't do that.

DUCH. You wouldn't?

FRITZ I don't need to practice.

DUCH. No, of course not. Do you see that door over there on the right? That is the official bridal suite for members of the court. Now, if a court lady were interested in you, she might point that out.

38.

FRITZ Why?

DUCH. Well, since she could never tell you she loved you, she would have to make innuendos and hope you caught the drift.

FRITZ I'll be darned.

DUCH. Do you think you would catch the drift?

FRITZ Oh, sure. I wasn't born yesterday.
(long pause, he really doesn't get it)

DUCH. Yes... well, there is a lady in my court who wants to say these things to you.

FRITZ You're kidding.

DUCH. No, no... not at all. She's very serious. She asked me to declare her affection for her.

FRITZ You?

DUCH. She told me exactly what to say...

#10 DUET, "DITES LUI" — DUCHESS AND FRITZ

*DUCH. This lady said to me discreetly:
"Say to the general so sweetly
All the things I cannot say."*

*Say to him, "how handsome you are,
From afar."
Say to him, "My heart you've attracted."
Say to him, "Of lineage so high don't be shy,
I am only a maiden distracted."*

*Your feeling of awe she would avert
By leveling social stations.
Although you've risen from the dirt,
You now have a fine reputation.*

*She goes on, "My figure is trim,
Fairly slim."
And she adds, "I love to ride horses."
Then she says "They say I am fair,
Beauty rare,
And I haven't had any divorces."*

39.

*I hope the lady won't appear
As tho' she were boasting or bragging;
I saw her this morning and it's clear
She's neither unsightly nor sagging. Ah...*

*Then she says, "I long for your touch,
Oh so much,"
And she pleads, "I want your caressing."
She concludes, "My fingers I'd run thru your hair,
Then we might be shortly undressing."*

*So now you know.
What answer shall I say?*

*FRITZ I must not act in haste.
I should not throw away
This chance I have today.*

*DUCH. reply, reply. Your future you're deciding.
Her love and a title she'll be providing.
Reply, reply, reply, reply.*

VERSE 1

FRITZ Tell the lady I'd like to meet her...

DUCH. Thank you, right away.

FRITZ But to Wanda I'd be a cheater....

DUCH. That you'll have to weigh.

FRITZ I am tempted to be her lover...

DUCH. Tempted, did you say?

FRITZ If but Wanda did not discover...

DUCH. There might be a way.

40.

FRITZ *I've never had so many things to ponder,
This lady's passion is hard to ignore.
Should I be faithful to my pretty Wanda
Or do I do what men are known for?*

DUCH. *Reply, ah...*

FRITZ *I'll try, I'll try.*

VERSE 2

FRITZ *Tell your friend it would be exciting...*

DUCH. *That it surely may.*

FRITZ *With a blue-blood to be uniting...*

DUCH. *Each and ev'ry day.*

FRITZ *I would love living in the palace...*

DUCH. *It's the only way.*

FRITZ *But it might make my Wanda jealous...*

DUCH. *Be that as it may.
(aside) Did he agree?*

FRITZ *Should I agree?*

DUCH. *Or did he not?*

FRITZ *Or should I not?*

41.

DUCH. *I must know, I must know, I must put him on the spot.*

FRITZ *To forego, to forego, or to keep what I have got?*

FRITZ I never knew indirect speaking could be so direct.

DUCH. The nobility must provide for its continuance.

FRITZ Your friend sounds very exciting. So.. tell her thanks but no thanks.

DUCH. Thanks but no thanks?

FRITZ Yeah. You see, Wanda's my girl... you, know, the really cute girl who was with me before? If I met your friend, things might happen... you know. I hope the lady won't be too upset with me.

DUCH. *(seething)* Upset? Upset?

FRITZ Yeah, nothing personal, but I never met her, you know. She might not be as good-looking as Wanda.

DUCH. That's so important? More important than being a count?

FRITZ I don't know. It's hard to say. I guess it's a good thing I'm already a count, isn't it? *(laughs)*

DUCH. Perhaps...

WANDA *(from offstage)* Fritz...

FRITZ Oh, I almost forgot. I asked Wanda to come up here and meet you.

DUCH. *(incredulous)* Come here?

WANDA *(entering)* Fritz!

FRITZ Wanda! *(they kiss amorously. The Duchess seethes)* Duchess, this is Wanda.

WANDA *(curtseying)* Your Highness.

DUCH. Charmed.

FRITZ Say, maybe we could all talk for a while so Wanda could see how the upper classes carry on.

42.

DUCH. I'm sure that would be thrilling for her, but I'm afraid I will not be able to participate in her education. I must attend to some... court business.

FRITZ That's a shame.

DUCH. Yes, it is a shame. (*exits*)

WANDA (*as the Duchess leaves*) It was nice to see you again...

FRITZ Guess what? She made me a count.

WANDA (*suspicious*) What did you have to do?

FRITZ Nothing! Anyway, we better get married, so that you can be a countess. I have to go back to the front, and anything could happen. Give me a kiss!

WANDA Wait! Why do you have to go back?

FRITZ Well, they're bound to miss us eventually.

WANDA I hate to say this, darling, but it's too late. They already know. I told them you were gone.

FRITZ You did? You?

WANDA Yes.

FRITZ You can't tell anything to a woman...

WANDA No, Fritz. I have to tell you. I'm a spy. But I only did it so no one would have an advantage. I assumed your spy would tell you all our secrets as well.

FRITZ No one ever told me any secrets.

WANDA You forgot to hire a spy.

FRITZ Hmm.

WANDA So if you go back you'll be killed.

FRITZ I guess so. Maybe I better not let the men go back either. (*pause*) So let's get married!

WANDA You still want to marry me?

43.

FRITZ Sure, why not? *(they kiss again)*

(Paul, Boum and Dietz enter)

FRITZ Ah, General, Prime Minister. Prince Paul. Good to see all of you.

BOUM Hmph.

DIETZ General.

PAUL Cheerio.

FRITZ Prince! All my uniforms are muddy. Can I borrow your one of yours?

PAUL: If you like... Why?

FRITZ: I'm getting married!

THE 3 *(concerned)* Married? When?

FRITZ Today! As soon as possible.

DIETZ *(aside)* This is a disaster!

FRITZ I get to use the Royal Bridal Suite.

PAUL The blackguard! That should be mine.

BOUM But the war...

FRITZ Oh, that'll be over soon

BOUM Cocky as ever!

FRITZ Well, lots to do. Can't stand around. Have to get to the chapel...
(exits with Wanda)

DIETZ We must not let the fellow marry the Grand Duchess. We must act tonight!
Are you with me?

BOUM Absolutely!

PAUL Eh?

DIETZ We will refresh the Legend of the Bridal Chamber.

PAUL Legend?

44.

DIETZ You do not know the Legend of the Bridal Chamber?

11 THE STORY OF BARON MAX— TRIO, BOUM, PAUL DIETZ

BOUM We will tell you the tale, it's a terrible story

DIETZ The bridal chamber holds a secret grim and gory.

PAUL The bridal chamber holds a secret grim and gory.

*BOUM 1. To the Duchess Max was a lover
 But he ran wild.
 Then a pretty young peasant discovered
 She bore his child.
 While in honor he promised to wed her,
 It wasn't smart,
 For the Duchess felt he had misled her;
 Broken her heart.
□ When she discovered his deceit
 Rage, rage filled the halls
 She swore within the wedding suite that
 His head would fall.*

PAUL His head would fall.

DIETZ His head would fall.

*ALL Within the walls of that room
 Near his bride did he lie,
 Never knowing his doom—
 Unrequited he'd die.*

*BOUM Sad was the fate of Baron Max Sedlitz,
 Baron Max Sedlitz von Kleinenbein.*

*ALL Sad was the fate of Baron Max Sedlitz,
 Baron Max Sedlitz von Kleinenbein.*

*DIETZ 2. The newlywed couple retired
 Without a care
 But the Duchess assassins had hired
 To enter there.
 'Mid the happiness of the occasion
 Max didn't hear*

45.

*The soft tread of the deadly invasion
As it drew near.*

*DIETZ One moment Max's bride reached over
To touch his face.
The next, above his manly shoulder,
An empty space.*

PAUL An empty space.

BOUM With little grace

ALL She fled that place!

*Within the walls of this room
Near his bride did he die.
And tonight in that gloom
Our dear Fritz will be nigh.*

*DIETZ Sad was the fate of Baron Max Sedlitz,
Baron Max Sedlitz von Kleinenbein.*

*ALL Sad was the fate of Baron Max Sedlitz,
Baron Max Sedlitz von Kleinenbein.
And since we hate that misbegotten Fritz,
That misbegotten Fritz will be next in line.*

BOUM Get Fritz!

DIETZ Get Fritz!

PAUL Get Fritz!

ALL That filthy swine!

BOUM Now do you understand the tale?

PAUL I understand. But I am frightened.

DIETZ Yet Fritz must perish, he'll die this very night.

PAUL (shuddering) This very night? I'm not quite ready.

DIETZ The fellow dies this very night,

BOUM The fellow dies this very night,

46.

DIETZ *This very night.*

BOUM *This very night.*

*This very night
We'll end his life
We'll make a widow
Of his wife.
Ere he enjoys
His bridal bed,
We will appear
And take his head.*

ALL *This very night, etc.*

PAUL *Sink me, lads, it seems a little rough,
And, not to mention, somewhat messy.
Bashing him ought to be enough;
Decapitation's too distressing.*

BOUM *All right, all right,
We'll bash him in the head.
All right, all right,
As long as he is dead!*

DIETZ *When we are certain he's inside,
Into the passage we will creep.*

ALL *Then in the darkness we will hide,
And at the proper time we'll leap.
Into the passage we will creep,
And at the proper time we'll leap!*

BOUM *We'll creep, we'll creep,
With tiny, tiny steps we'll creep.*

DIETZ *We'll creep, we'll creep,
With tiny, tiny steps*

BOUM *With tiny, tiny,*

PAUL *Tiny, tiny, tiny, tiny*

ALL *Tiny, tiny, tiny, tiny, tiny, tiny, tiny, tiny, tiny steps*

47.

*ALL This very night
 We'll end his life
 We'll make a widow
 Of his wife.
 Ere he enjoys
 His bridal bed,
 We will appear
 And bash his head.*

*BOUM It is agreed. We swear.
 We have made a pact
 None of us will back down
 In the task he completes,
 With confidence each one will act.*

*ALL We are The Three
 Paul, Boum and Dietz*

PAUL On my honor, Paul.

BOUM On my honor, Boum.

DIETZ On my honor, Dietz.

*ALL We're Paul, Boum Dietz
 Paul*

Boum

Dietz

Boum

Paul

Dietz

Boum, boum, boum, boum etc.

This very night, etc.

*We'll bash him right upon his head
Upon his head!*

48.

BOUM *(gleefully)* They knew how to be cruel then.

PAUL But, damme, how are we to get in the room? They'll surely lock the door.

DIETZ You see that painting? *(points to a portrait of a woman, life-size, floor length)*

PAUL Yes.

DIETZ Press the lady's right knee.

PAUL Here... what do you take me for?

BOUM Go ahead, press it.

PAUL Say, it's not a trick, is it? I press it and something hits me in the nose?

DIETZ No, no... it was a humorous idea of the painter's. Go ahead.
(Paul hesitatingly presses the knee, then covers up. The painting swings aside, revealing an entrance)

PAUL Hello, what's this?

DIETZ It is the secret passage into the Bridal Suite. It comes out behind a portrait of the Grand Duke's mistress. *(chuckling)* On that painting, you press the...

PAUL Never mind.

BOUM Before the couple enter the Bridal Chamber, we will be in that passage.

DIETZ Then we will spring out and... Let us meet at my home and plan every move.

PAUL Will there be refreshments?

DIETZ Yes of course.

BOUM Any ladies?

DIETZ Of course not. Women in a secret society. What can you be thinking of?

DUCH. *(revealing herself)* Perhaps he is thinking of me!

PAUL Christine!

DIETZ Your Highness!

49.

BOUM We are discovered!

DUCH. Gentlemen, I have overheard you conspiring against General... Count Fritz.
I find it is now my unpleasant task to... join you!

DIETZ You?

PAUL Are you not marrying the scoundrel?

DUCH. Marrying him? No, not I. He has asked my consent to marry another, and
I have given it. He was in a rush, and so, by now, he is already at the chapel.
However, as my concern for his eternal happiness has lessened somewhat
recently, I did not attend the ceremony. I expect him to arrive back here
very soon. I think you have preparations to make?

#12 CONSPIRACY QUARTET— GRAND DUCHESS, BOUM, PAUL, DIETZ

*DUCH. This very night
You'll end his life
You'll make a widow
Of his wife.
Ere he enjoys
His bridal bed,
You will appear
And bash his head.*

ALL This very night, etc.

*We'll bash him right upon his head
Upon his head!*

(the 3 conspirators remain, the Grand Duchess exits)

*(the chorus enters, escorting an extravagantly dressed Fritz and Wanda
from the wedding)*

ACT 2, SCENE 3 or ACT THREE. Scene 1

50.

#16 NUPTIAL CHORUS

*CHOR The happy couple we've escorted
To the royal bridal suite
Thus, with dignity comported,
We celebrate the true elite.*

*The happy groom and his fair lady
The tradition will now complete.*

FRITZ Thank you, my friends, and now I wish you good night.

DIETZ (effusively) General Fritz, on behalf of all Gerolstein, may I congratulate you.

FRITZ Why thanks.

BOUM And I, your old comrade.

FRITZ That's very sporting of you.

PAUL And may this be your last hour... (*corrects himself*) of daylight.

WANDA Thank you, gentlemen. How kind. And how unexpected.

FRITZ And now, everyone, if you would be so kind, we would like to retire, so to speak.

DIETZ May we wish you...

BOUM Goodbye!

DIETZ Good night.

#17 ENSEMBLE— BOUM, DIETZ, PAUL

DIETZ So good night, we bid you good night.

ALL Good night.

*DIETZ Tho' eve'ning often blends with morning,
And so I offer this fair warning:*

ALL Good night.

51.

DIETZ *Something may happen ere the dawning light,*

ALL *Good night.*

BOUM *And so my lady I bid you good night.*

ALL *Good night.*

BOUM *You mustn't keep your husband waiting.*

ALL *Good night.*

BOUM *The evening shall prove fascinating.*

ALL *Good night.*

BOUM *Of that I'm certain and so I say good night.*

PAUL *Good night.*

DIETZ *Good night.*

ALL *Good night.*

(Fritz and Wanda continue to wish people good night and escort them out, as Boum, Paul and Dietz continue discussion)

BOUM As soon as they retire, we enter the passage.

DIETZ As soon as the lights go out, we strike.

PAUL Before he and his bride... ah, it seems so cruel.

BOUM Yes, doesn't it?

DIETZ *(to Paul)* And you must do it.

PAUL I? Why on earth?

DIETZ You outrank us. You are a Prince. You wear the medals. Now you may earn them.

PAUL That's not how it's done in the upper classes. I... couldn't.

52.

BOUM If you hesitate, I'll skewer you.

PAUL Now please. There is no need of that sort of thing. I was merely offering my view.
Gad, there's no arguing with someone like you.

FRITZ *(coming down to them)* Good night, gentlemen. *(ushers them out)*

THE 3 Good night, etc.

FRITZ At last we are alone.

#18A DUET OF THE MARRIED COUPLE
*(First couplet is followed by dialog and the reappearance of The 3.
Interlude between the couplets begins after The 3 enter the chamber)*

1ST COUPLET

WANDA *I can't believe that we are wedded.
My husband looks so very strange.
That silly coat I wish he'd change
I cannot look at him without smiling.
I can't see past that sorry styling.
His wedding costume does appall,
Still, he's my husband after all.*

*He is my man, he is my man
I'll change his clothing when I can.*

FRITZ *How happy we!*

WANDA *How happy we!*

FRITZ *Happy as can be!*

WANDA *Happy as can be!*

BOTH *Yes, as can be!*

DIALOG

FRITZ You are now the wife of a count. That makes you Mrs. Count.

WANDA Not if I have to be seen with you in that outfit.

53.

FRITZ I needed something that suited my station. Perhaps my temporary status is overwhelming you. I will level the playing field.
(removes his hat, sword, jacket) Better?

WANDA Much.

FRITZ Now it's only fair for you to do the same.

FRITZ I'll return the gesture in good time. In such a hurry to lower yourself?

FRITZ I can't wait.
(they kiss and enter the Bridal Chamber. The conspirators enter the passage)

#18 INTERLUDE 1

(noise without. Wanda and Fritz come out of the room and go to the window)

WANDA: What is making all that noise?

FRITZ Drums. People with drums!

CHOR; General Fritz! etc.

FRITZ: Hah! The citizens cannot get enough of me.

WANDA I know the feeling.

FRITZ Thank you, friends, thank you. Remember, this is my wedding night. *(to Wanda)* *(a loud smack and a cry of pain is heard)*

WANDA What was that?

FRITZ Just a rat getting caught in a trap. Thank you, friends, thank you. Your General wishes you good night. *(to Wanda)* There... I think they're satisfied.

CHOR: Wanda, Wanda, etc.

FRITZ: They want you! *(pushes Wanda onto the balcony; she waves to the crowd)*

FRITZ: *(impatient)* But so do I! That's enough! *(to chor)* We're going to bed now...

CHOR: Ooh...

FRITZ: That satisfied them!

54.

#18 SECOND COUPLET

*FRITZ This interruption has but doubled
 The burning passion that I feel.
 So you'll forgive me if I steal
 Another kiss to satisfy my ardor.
 Ev'ry moment makes it much harder,
 No need for shyness, you recall,
 I am your husband after all.*

*So come with me, so come with me,
 A night of love's my guarantee.*

*FRITZ In love are we!
M32*

WANDA In love are we!

FRITZ We will never disagree!

WANDA We will never disagree!

*BOTH Never disagree!
 (they reenter the chamber just before the conspirators come out of the passage,
 Boum holding his head)*

DIALOG

BOUM You idiot!

PAUL Well, sink me. It was dark! Everyone looks the same in the dark.

BOUM Give me that! (takes club) The military always suffers at the hands of politics.

DIETZ Quiet! All is not lost. I hear him splashing in there. We may yet strike.

*BOUM This time we'll put the weapon in the hands of a trained professional.
 (they re-enter the passage)*

#18 INTERLUDE 2 *(A band and shouting is heard without. Fritz and Wanda re-emerge)*

*FRITZ The military band. It's tradition. I should have known. Thank you, friends.
 Good night now. Good night. They won't bother us again.
 (two loud smacks and cries are heard)*

WANDA What was that?

55.

FRITZ More rats.

DIALOGUE (*conspirators come out of the passage, Paul and Dietz both holding their heads*)

PAUL I'm assassinated!

DIETZ Trained professional. Hmmph!

FRITZ Where did you fellows come from?

BOUM It's him! I'll take care of this business right here! (*starts after Fritz*)

WANDA Run, Fritz! They're out to get you!

FRITZ Why me?

BOUM (*chasing Fritz*) I'll show you why, you contemptible...

PAUL Odds fish. A public bashing! I'm feeling faint.

DUCH. (*entering*) I see the conspiratorial plan has been revised.

WANDA Your Highness, order him to stop chasing Fritz.

FRITZ Stop it! Stop it! I'm not the enemy!

BOUM Yes, you are. I'm saving the fatherland.

WANDA The fatherland is already lost.

BOUM What?
(*loud banging at the door*)

#19 CHORUS *Open the door! Open the door!*
We must inform our brave commander
Open the door! Open the door!
Terrible news we bring with candor.
The door! The door!

WANDA *Has the war come so near?*

CHOR *The door! The door!*

FRITZ *Have no fear, have no fear.*

56.

WANDA *I knew the end was coming,
It is here. It is here.*

THE 3 *What the hell can this be?
We'll let them in and see!*

CHOR *Come at once! It is bad,
The enemy has come!*

FRITZ *In my pajamas shall I fight?*

WANDA *Better than what you wore tonight.*

FRITZ *To the war, to the war!
I'll lead our noble army corps
To the war, to the war!
The mortal danger we'll ignore.*

CHOR *To the war etc.*

PAUL *In combat he may surely die
To save us from a wretched fate.
And in that case we'll briefly cry
Then find another candidate*

CHOR *In combat etc.*

BOUM *You cannot go to war like that,
Command it would not demonstrate
For God's sake, wear your big tin hat
That other thing you wore tonight you ought to immolate!*

CHOR *You cannot etc.*

NEPOMUC *You've forgotten one more detail
Without which you cannot prevail*

FRITZ *Oh, yes, the sabre, the sabre.
It may not do much good in battle
But it's a damn fine thing to rattle.*

CHOR *So off you go, so off you go.*

FRITZ *Ah, quel plaisir d'être soldat!*

CHOR *Ah, quel plaisir d'être soldat!*

57.

ALL *To the war, to the war,
I'll/He'll lead the noble army corps
To the war, to the war,
The mortal danger I'll/he'll ignore
To the war, to the war,
I'll/He'll lead the noble army corps etc,
We go to the war etc.*

(Fritz leaves to prevent the invasion, along with the soldiers. The Three, the women and non-soldiers remain)

DUCH. *(to the conspirators)* Well, gentlemen, General Fritz still commands and my honor remains besmirched. You have let your sovereign down.

PAUL Christine, we have suffered much trying to please you, by Gad!

DIETZ The man leads a charmed life.

DUCH. And he was charming. But really, chasing him around with a club... it lacks the panache of a good assassination. Ah, well, I shouldn't have expected anything.

BOUM But, Your Highness, the politicians....

DUCH. Be calm General. You could not have known that history was against you. The legend of Baron Max may have been somewhat... improved over the years.

#20B LEGEND— SOLO, GRAND DUCHESS AND CHORUS

FIRST COUPLET

DUCH. *Tradition tells an old, old story
Of a certain Baron Max,
Who fell in love and lost his head
Tho' never severed by the axe.*

THE 3 *Who fell in love and lost his head
Oh, do unravel all the facts.*

DUCH. *The Baron got so drunk one night*

58.

*That a maid he resolved to marry,
And did the deed completely tight
Altho' to common sense contrary.*

*THE 3 He did the deed that very night
He really should have been more wary*

ALL Of wine, of wine.

*DUCH. Ah, when out of bed he later rolled,
To his discomfort, he was told
The maid he married yesterday
Was nearly fifty-one years old.*

*ALL When out of bed he later rolled,
He found his bride was very old,
And that's the tale of Baron Max that's never told.*

SECOND COUPLET

*DUCH. As member of the royal court,
He was in honor bound that night
To consummate his marriage vows
Within the chamber on the right.*

*THE 3 To consummate his marriage vows
Within the chamber on the right.*

*DUCH. But when he saw his bride again
He received a disturbing shock
The maid was overweight and had
A face that could have stopped a clock!*

*THE 3 The maid was overweight and had
A face that could have stopped a clock!*

59.

ALL *A clock, a clock.*

DUCH. *Ah, to face his task, Max drank more wine
Until he found she looked just fine,
But when he passed out once again
The maid his manhood did malign.*

ALL *And that's the story we confine
To members of the royal line
To members of the royal line, the royal line.*

BOUM You mean the Legend of Baron Max was...

DUCH. Pure fiction.

DIETZ And this had been a state secret ever since?

DUCH. State secret? Not at all. But the Legend has a nice tune to it, and that's what the people remember.

BOUM In that case, the legend of Count Fritz...

DIETZ Has only to be creatively written...

PAUL And set to music. I'll do it. Damme if I won't.

BOUM Remember to include The Three...

NEP. *(entering)* The General has returned.

BOUM Damn.

WANDA Is he all right?

DIETZ That's something we may never be able to decide.

(The chorus runs to the door to greet Fritz)

60.

#21 VICTORY CHORUS

*All From the battle Fritz has returned! Hip, hip, hurrah!
Medal of honor will he earn for he has surely captured the day.
We wait with baited breath
Stories galore... brimming with gore.
How he escaped defeat and death.
Leading our men to the war!
That is what we're waiting for.*

NEPO. I saw the man depart and hang oddly from his horse,

CHOR Of course, that was our general deploying all his force.

*NEPO. Because I was guarding the rear, I could not see how it began.
But enemies soon were appearing, so to report to you I ran.
For my life...*

*CHOR For his life.
For his life thus he ran, what a man... Ah!*

From the battle Fritz has returned! Hip, hip, hurrah! Etc.

CHOR. Hurrah for General Fritz!!!

#22 RETURN AND COMPLAINT OF FRITZ

(Fritz comes in at the head of the soldiers, now even more disheveled than before)

*WANDA Thank God he's come back alive!
He's a mess, but he survived.
Oh, my darling, are you all right?
Was it just an awful, awful fight?*

CHOR. We would like to know about the fight.

*FRITZ The enemy we did defy,
Oh, my eye!
And said, "Enter here and you'll die!"*

61.

*Oh, my eye!
They took it as some kind of joke
For they started to laugh as soon as I spoke.*

*It's just as tho' they could not see
What a frightening force were we.
Oh, my eye!*

DUCH, THE 3 (mocking him) Oh, my eye!

*FRITZ Damn it all! Damn it all!
With them I was brief
Your noble commander-in-chief.*

*ALL Damn it all! Damn it all!
With them I/he was brief
Your/our noble commander-in-chief.*

*FRITZ I said to them, "Stop or we'll shoot!"
Oh, my foot!
They charged with a horrible hoot,*

*Oh, my foot!
They chased us around
And each one of us found
Till they pounded us into the ground.*

*They left me no course but to say,
"Let's save the fight for another day.
We give up!"*

DUCH, THE 3 We give up?

*FRITZ "We give up,
We give you our swords, our guns*

62.

*and the Victory Cup.”
I gave up.*

*ALL I/he gave them my/his sword
And the Victory Cup.
Oh my! Oh my! etc.*

DUCH. You surrendered unconditionally?

FRITZ Yes. I thought I made a good bargain.

DUCH. And you gave up my father's sabre?

FRITZ Yes. But the fellow said he'd take good care of it.

DIETZ This is a disgrace. There is only one course.

BOUM A drum-head court-martial on the spot!

DUCH. Just so.

FRITZ You can't court-martial me. I'm the Count of Hohentuten Vergissmeinnicht.

DUCH. That position has just achieved a vacancy.

FRITZ Well, at least I'm still a general.

DUCH. You are demoted to colonel.

FRITZ Fine with me. Why not captain?

DUCH. Why not? Maybe lieutenant?

FRITZ Is that sufficient? Why not sergeant?

SGT. There are no sergeants.

DUCH. Quite right. Private.

FRITZ This sudden descent has made my ears pop.

BOUM Let's drum him out of the army altogether.

63.

DUCH. Done! Citizen Fritz, you are no longer in the army. As for commander-in-chief, General Boum. Resume the plume.

BOUM Gladly. This time I'll weld it to my head.

FRITZ Well, that's a relief. Now I won't have to answer for any war crimes. That falls to him.

BOUM War crimes? Your Highness...

WANDA Don't worry, general. There was hardly a war at all. (*counts the troops*) And Fritz didn't lose a soldier.

WOMEN That's right!

AMELIA They're all ours now.

DIETZ He did lose your sabre.

DUCH. Yes, but you know as well as I do, Dietz, that I'll get it back in a few years in some treaty or other, after everyone forgets what we were fighting for.

FRITZ I never knew in the first place.

PAUL Christine...

DUCH. Yes.

PAUL If I'm not mistaken, you now have no army, no war and no official subjects.

DUCH. I'm afraid so.

PAUL Then I believe you have a free moment. You may now marry me.

DUCH. You'll hold me to that?

PAUL Well, as you're getting used to the idea of surrender...

DUCH. I suppose it is inevitable. Very well.

PAUL You will be the Princess of Steis-Stein-Steis Langenhosen Dufenheim.

WANDA If it still exists.

PAUL Zounds! We'll be smashingly happy!

64.

DUCH. Perhaps. *(takes his arm and pulls him along)* Or perhaps we'll have to work at it. But, as my sainted father said, "If we can't have what we like, *(looking at Fritz, then back at Paul)* we must like what we have."

#23 FINALE

BOUM *The helmet is mine now to carry.*

DIETZ *Surrender I go now to sign.*

PAUL *And now the time has come to marry.*

DUCH. *To that desire I finally resign.*

WANDA *At last, no more military*

FRITZ *You and me! It suits me just fine!*

DUCH. *Tho' in war we have been defeated,
In defeat we may be better off by far.*

FRITZ *Let other armies end this war,
We'll have no more participation.
I hope the trenches I designed
Will be of use to other nations.*

ALL *We hope the trenches he designed
Will be of use to other nations.*

DUCH. *Tho' I was not so well prepared
In making national decisions,
I'm sure my husband will not mind
A little wifely supervision.*

ALL *We're sure her husband will not mind
A little wifely supervision.
Not at all, not at all.*

DUCH. *Ah, at last your Duchess has it right,
We little nations should not fight,
And all of us, and all of us
In that conclusion will unite.*

ALL *Ah, at last our Duchess has it right,*

65.

*We little nations should not fight,
And all of us in that conclusion will unite.
And all of us
In that unite, in that unite,
Never to fight, never to fight,
In that conclusion we'll unite.*

END