



OPERA LAFAYETTE PRESENTS
The Leonore Series

**TEXT FROM Beethoven's *Leonore*
Marzeline and Jaquino**



THE LEONORE SERIES

Original version of FIDELIO of 1805 Opera in three acts

Music by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Libretto by Joseph Sonnleithner

Based on the drama of Jean Nicolas Bouilly "Léonore"

Created: 1805, Theater an der Wien

DISTRIBUTION

Don Fernando, Minister - Baritone

Pizarro, Governor of a State prison - Baritone

Florestan, Prisoner – Tenor

Leonore, his wife - Soprano

Rocco, Jailer - Bass Marcelina, his daughter - Soprano

Jaquino, Doorman - Tenor

1st Prisoner – Tenor

2nd Prisoner – Bass

WEEK ONE :

ACT I The courtyard of a State prison

FIRST SCENE

MARCELINA (turns around to the door every time she hears a knock)

Fidélío is not coming back! It isn't surprising; he had so many errands, so many assignments. - Today my father must finally decide the day of our marriage. Fidélío will remain the key-carrier with the assured inheritance of my father's position; and I, the laundress of the poor prisoners.

Nr. 1 Aria

MARCELINA

O were I already united with you,
And could call you my husband!
A young girl may only half confess
What she really thinks!
But if I would not blush
Would have a warm heartfelt kiss If nothing on earth would bother us.
Hope already fills my breast
With unutterable sweet exhilaration;
How happy shall I be!
In the peaceful silence of the home I will wake up every morning

And we will greet each other tenderly,
Diligence will chase cares away.
And once the work is done,
Then sweet night slips in
And we rest from our responsibilities.
Hope already fills my breast
With unutterable sweet exhilaration;
How happy shall I be!

JAQUINO

If I haven't today opened this door two hundred times... my name is not Jaquino. - At last I can chat with Marcelina. -
(Knocks on the door) What the deuce! There again

MARCELINA

No doubt he wants to harp on about his love

Nr. 2 Duo

JAQUINO

At long last, sweetheart, we are alone. And can have a heart to heart chat.

MARCELINA

If it is nothing of importance, For I cannot interrupt my work.

JAQUINO

Just a word, don't be hard-hearted!

MARCELINA

Well go on speaking, I am listening.

JAQUINO

Unless you look at me in a more friendly way I shall not utter word.

MARCELINA

Unless you trust in me I shall simply close my ears.

JAQUINO

Listen to me for just a moment And then I will leave you in peace.

MARCELINA

So I will not have a moment's peace; So go on, speak on!

JAQUINO

I, I have chosen you for my wife, Do you understand?

MARCELINA

That is quite clear.

JAQUINO

And if you would only consent, What do you say?

MARCELINA

Then we would be man and wife.

JAQUINO

We could in a few weeks...

MARCELINA

Well done, you have even settled the day.

(knock on the door)

JAQUINO

The deuce on this endless knocking! I was getting on so well, And always my prize escapes me!

MARCELINA

At last I am rid of him! His love wearies me, And the time seems endless.

(Jaquino opens the door and takes in a package).

MARCELINA

I know that the poor chap is suffering And I am truly sorry for him! But Fidelio is my choice And loving him sweet joy.

JAQUINO

Where was I? She is not looking at me!

MARCELINA

Here he is – He will start all over again!

JAQUINO

When will you say “yes” to me? It might as well be today.

MARCELINA

Alas ! He embitters my life! Now, tomorrow and forever, no, no! I must be so harsh with him!

JAQUINO

Your heart is really of stone, Unmoved by my wishes and pleas.

MARCELINA

I must be so harsh with him Now, tomorrow and forever, no, no! The least thing wakes him hopeful.

JAQUINO

So you will never change your mind? What do you mean?

MARCELINA

You may leave.

JAQUINO

What? You want to prevent me from looking at you? Even that?

MARCELINA

Very well, stay then!

JAQUINO

But you had so often promised me.

MARCELINA

Promised ? No, this is too much!

JAQUINO

The deuce on this endless knocking!

MARCELINA

I am at last rid of him! Thank heaven for this sound, I was starting to be really quite concerned.

JAQUINO

She really seemed quite concerned, Who knows, I may yet succeed.

MARCELINA

Listen, Jaquino. You are a good chap. but if you want to get married you would do well to go after another one than me.

JAQUINO

It was my little Jacquino here, my little Jacquino there. - But since Mr. Fidelio has entered the house.

MARCELINA

Well yes, I love him, and don't hide it, and what is even better, I am loved by him...

JAQUINO

Aren't you ashamed? – You love a guy who, God only knows, wherefrom he comes, of whom no one knows anything...

MARCELINA

It is well known that he is an orphan; he himself does not hide the fact; but what does it matter? All this will not prevent him from being my husband, you can bet on it