



OPERA LAFAYETTE PRESENTS  
**The Leonore Series**

**TEXT FROM Gaveaux's *Leonore*  
(BASIS FOR BEETHOVEN'S LIBRETTO)**



## THE LEONORE SERIES

### **LÉONORE or CONJUGAL LOVE, HISTORICAL FACT, IN TWO ACTS AND IN PROSE MIXED WITH SONGS**

With cuts by Oriol Tomas for Opera Lafayette's 2017 performances  
Words by Jean-Nicolas BOUILLY Translated by Nizam Kettaneh

**Music by Pierre GAVEAUX**

First performed in Paris at the Théâtre Feydeau, On the 1<sup>st</sup> ventôse, year 6 of the French republic (February 19, 1798)

#### **CHARACTERS, ACTORS.**

DOM FERNAND, minister and Spanish noble man

DOM PIZARE, Governor of a State prison

FLORESTAN, prisoner

LÉONORE, wife of Florestan and key-carrier under the assumed name of FIDÉLIO

ROC, jailer

MARCELINE, daughter of Roc

JACQUINO, doorkeeper in love with Marceline

Prisoners, a Captain of the Guards, Gardians, People.

The scene takes place in Spain, in a State prison, a few miles from Seville.

**WEEK SEVEN:**

**ACT II**

FLORESTAN

Never...no never has heroic love been pushed so far. Ah! If I had the weapon that this unbending jailer.....(with sweetness)  
Let me look at and admire you.

No. 12 Chorus : « Vengeance ! Vengeance ! »

CHORUS.

Vengeance!  
Vengeance!  
One must promptly obey.

LÉONORE

Here comes our last moment!

FLORESTAN

No, no, no more hope for us.

ENSEMBLE

But in falling to our demise  
We will die in each other's arms.

CHORUS

Vengeance!  
Vengeance!

FLORESTAN, LÉONORE together

No, no, no more hope for us...  
But in falling to our demise  
We will die in each other's arms.

**SCENE V AND FINALE**

ROC

Here they are!...here they are!

FLORESTAN

Dom Fernand!

DOM FERNAND

Himself...yes, I come to break your fetters asunder and put an end to your miseries.

LÉONORE

Ah milord!

DOM FERNAND

Stand up, madam; ... you at my feet! I should be the one falling at yours. I know everything: this man has just informed me. (He points to Roc.)

ROC

Excuse me if I seemed to betray you for a moment; and if I have used of so much violence to wrest this weapon from you, it is because I feared, that by leaving it with you here, it might inspire you to take your lives away. (to Pizare) Take it, here is all your gold. You have made me despise it forever.

DOM FERNAND

And you were able to betray my trust to such an extent!. (to Leonore) Detach the chains of this respectable victim... It is to you, exceptional and magnanimous woman, it is to you alone that belongs the honor to deliver your husband.

MARCELINE

Who would ever have thought that Fidelio was a woman?

DOM FERNAND

Let this monster be chained in place of his victim. And soon I will condemn him in the name of law to withstand the tortures that his barbarity invented.

FLORESTAN

Ah! save him from such a terrible edict...His torture, milord, would be more cruel than mine: for he will not have as I had, his innocence to help him withstand it.

LÉONORE

Mercy, milord, mercy on him!

DOM FERNAND

No, no, one can pardon an error due to inexperience...but to spare this monster who was wallowing in the barbarous pleasure of assassinating his peer; never! Come, model of spouses. I want to publish everywhere what you have done. And you, come and take the place you deserve by my side, and be my friend.

FLORESTAN

Ah! milord, such goodness!

LÉONORE

And you, charming creature whose trust I betrayed...But here is my excuse...

MARCELINE

Ah! I do not hold a grudge against you...But wherever will I find a real Fidelio?

JACQUINO

If she'd be willing to settle for someone who's mad about her...

LÉONORE

Whosoever she chooses for a husband, I shall take care of her dowry, and will vow forever the tenderest friendship to her.

DOM FERNAND

Let us get out of this sad abode. Let us hasten to erase their memory by the immutable return of justice and truth.

No. 13 FINALE: « La main des dieux sèche nos/vos larmes. »

GENERAL CHORUS, LÉONORE, FLORESTAN

The hand of god dries all your/our tears.  
Let us celebrate in turn  
The power and the charm  
Of constancy and of love!

DOM FERNAND

You who applaud Léonore's zeal,  
Patience and daring,  
Women, make her your model,  
And, like her, let your happiness  
Consist in faithfulness!

GENERAL CHORUS, LÉONORE, FLORESTAN

The hand of god dries all your/our tears.  
Let us celebrate in turn  
The power and the charm  
Of constancy and of love!

**THE END.**