

OVERTURE

ACT I

SCENE—*The Piazzetta, Venice. The Ducal Palace on the right.*

FIAMETTA, GIULIA, VITTORIA, and other Contadine discovered, each tying a bouquet of roses.

Music No. 1 CHORUS OF CONTADINE (Sopranos 1 & 2)
with Solos *Gondoliers, Antonio, Mario and Giuseppe*
“List And Learn”

CHORUS List and learn, list and learn,
(Sopranos 1 & 2) List and learn, ye dainty roses,
Roses white and roses red,
Why we bind you into posies
Ere your morning bloom has fled.
By a law of maiden’s making,
Accents of a heart that’s aching,
Even though that heart be breaking,
Should by maiden be unsaid :

Though they love with love exceeding,
They must seem to be unheeding—
Go ye then and do their pleading,
Roses white and roses red!

List and learn,
List and learn, ye dainty roses,
Roses white and roses red,
Why we bind you into posies
Ere your morning bloom has fled.
List and learn, list and learn,
Roses white and roses red,
Roses, Oh list, list and learn,
List and learn,
Oh, roses white and red!

FIAMETTA Two there are for whom, in duty,
Ev’ry maid in Venice sighs—
Two so peerless in their beauty
That they shame the summer skies.
We have hearts for them, in plenty,
They have hearts, but all too few,
We, alas, are four and twenty!
They, alas, are only two!
We alas,

CHORUS Alas!

FIAMETTA Are four and twenty!
They, alas!

1st SOPRANOS*(Contd.)*

Glad-

ly

will

de-

vote

our

lei-

sure,

Gay

and

gal-

lant

*gon-**do-**lier-**i.***2nd SOPRANOS****& TENORS** *(Contd.)*

la,

la,

la,

la,

la,

la,

la,

la,

la, la,

la,

la, la,

la,

la, la,

la,

la, la,

la,

BASSES*(Contd.)*

la,

la,

la,

la,

la, la,

la,

la, la,

la,

la, la,

la,

la, la,

la,

1st & 2nd SOPRANOS

Tra la la la, Tra la la

la la la

la la!

Tra la la la, la la!

TENORS & BASSES

Tra la la la, Tra la la

la!

Tra la la la, la la!

GIAN., TESSA & 1st & 2nd SOPRANOS

Fate

in this has put his finger—

Let us bow to Fate's decree,

Then

no longer let us linger,

To the altar hurry we!

Tra la la la la la la la la la!

Fate

in this has put his finger—

Let us bow to Fate's decree,

Then

no longer let us linger,

To the altar hurry we!

Tra la la la la la la la la la!

*(They all dance off two and two—GIANETTA with MARCO, TESSA with GIUSEPPE)**Flourish. A gondola arrives at the Piazzetta steps, from which enter the DUKE OF PLAZA-TORO, the DUCHESS, their daughter CASILDA, and their attendant LUIZ, who carries a drum. All are dressed in pompous but old and faded clothes.***Music No. 2***Entrance of DUKE, DUCHESS, CASILDA and LUIZ.**"From The Sunny Spanish Shore"***DUKE**

From the sunny Spanish shore,

The Duke of Plaza-Tor'—

GIUSEPPE And now our lives are going to begin in real earnest! What's a bachelor? A mere nothing—he's a chrysalis. He can't be said to live—he exists.

MARCO What a delightful institution marriage is! Why have we wasted all this time? Why didn't we marry ten years ago?

TESSA Because you couldn't find anybody nice enough.

GIANETTA Because you were waiting for *us*.

MARCO I suppose that *was* the reason. We were waiting for you without knowing it. (*DON ALHAMBRA comes forward*) Hallo!

DON AL. Good morning.

GIUSEPPE If this gentleman is an undertaker, it's a bad omen.

DON AL. Ceremony of some sort going on?

GIUSEPPE (*aside*) He *is* an undertaker! (*Aloud*) No—a little unimportant family gathering. Nothing in *your* line.

DON AL. Somebody's birthday, I suppose?

GIANETTA Yes, mine!

TESSA And mine!

MARCO And mine!

GIUSEPPE And mine!

DON AL. Curious coincidence! And how old may you all be?

TESSA It's a rude question—but about ten minutes.

DON AL. Remarkably fine children! But surely you are jesting?

TESSA In other words, we were married about ten minutes since.

DON AL. Married! You don't mean to say you are married?

MARCO Oh yes, we are married.

DON AL. What, both of you?

ALL All four of us.

DON AL. (*aside*) Bless my heart, how extremely awkward!

GIANETTA You don't mind, I suppose?

TESSA You were not thinking of either of us for yourself, I presume? Oh, Giuseppe, look at him—he was. He's heartbroken!

DON AL. Oh, no, I wasn't! I wasn't!

GIUSEPPE Now, my man (*slapping him on the back*), we don't want anything in your line to-day, and if your curiosity's satisfied—you can go!