

Pourquoi me réveiller

from the opera "Werther"

The scene takes place near Frankfort in 178 . . .

Werther, a young student of romantic and melancholy disposition falls in love with Charlotte who is betrothed to his friend Albert. Charlotte is also drawn to Werther but decides to fulfill the promise made to her dying mother and marry Albert. This scene takes place in the 3rd act after Werther has come to visit Charlotte at her house. Amidst old surroundings, he finds on the table a volume of poems by Ossian, a hero and bard of Gaelic legend. When Charlotte recalls that Werther loved these poems, he remarks that they reflect his moods, and starts to recite one of them.

Pourquoi me réveiller, ô souffle du printemps!
 Sur mon front je sens tes caresses,
 Et pourtant bien proche est le temps
 Des orages et des tristesses!
 Demain dans le vallon viendra le voyageur
 Se souvenant de ma gloire première,
 Et ses yeux vainement chercheront ma splendeur, . . .
 Ils ne trouveront plus que deuil et que misère! Hélas!

Wherefore awaken me, o breath of spring!
 On my forehead I feel your caresses,
 And yet, how near is the time
 Of storms and of sadness!
 Tomorrow a traveller will come into the valley,
 Reminiscing on my former glory,
 And his eyes will seek in vain my splendour, . . .
 They will find but grief and misery! Alas!



Libretto by E. BLAU, P. MILLIET et G. HARTMANN
 (based on GOETHE'S "The Sorrows of Werther")

English adaptation by HUMPHREY PROCTER-GREGG

JULES MASSENET

(1842-1912)

PIANO

expressif

mf

p

dim.

p

mf

Voice

Pourquoi me ré - veiller, Ô souffle du prin-temps! Pour -

Why must you call me back With whisper soft of spring? Why