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## Fidelio Libretto English Translation

### ACT ONE

#### Overture

#### FIRST SCENE

*Marzellina, Jaquino.*

#### No. 1 - Duet

##### JAQUINO

Now, Sweetheart, at last we are alone  
Let us have now a quiet chat.

##### MARZELLINA

It cannot be all that important,  
I must go on, with my work.

##### JAQUINO

One word, you obstinate girl!

##### MARZELLINA

Go on then, I'm listening to you.

##### JAQUINO

If you don't look friendlier at me  
I shall not be able to talk.

##### MARZELLINA

Put up with me as I am,  
Or else I shan't listen at all.

##### JAQUINO

One minute, please, hear what I say,  
Thereafter I'll leave you in peace.

##### MARZELLINA

You never will leave me in peace,  
Let hear me what you've got to say.

##### JAQUINO

I've chosen you for my wife,  
You understand?

##### MARZELLINA

This is quite clear.

##### JAQUINO

And if you did only consent -  
You follow?

##### MARZELLINA

We're husband and wife.

##### JAQUINO

We could within very few weeks -

##### MARZELLINA

How nicely you've worked it all out.

##### JAQUINO

To Hell with this continuous knocking!

At last he will leave me in peace.

JAQUINO

I was getting so nicely along -, -  
Again she has slipped through my net.

MARZELLINA

His love, how sad does it make me,  
The hours seem never to end.  
I know that the poor devil suffers  
And I am so sorry for him.  
Fidelio's the one I have chosen,  
To love him makes happy my life.

JAQUINO

Where was I - she's looking away.

MARZELLINA

Here he is - he'll start it again.

JAQUINO

When will you give me your consent?  
It easily could be today.

MARZELLINA

Oh dear, he embitters my life.  
Once and for ever, no!

JAQUINO

Your heart is as hard as a stone!  
Unmoved by my wishes, my prayers.

MARZELLINA

I must be so cruel with him,  
Not give him a glimmer of hope.

JAQUINO

Is there nothing that would change your mind?  
Do tell me!

MARZELLINA

Please, leave me alone.

JAQUINO

To look at you, you can't forbid me,  
Or will you?

MARZELLINA

Stay here, if you want to!

JAQUINO

How often you've given your promise -

MARZELLINA

My promise? No, this goes too far!

JAQUINO

To Hell with this continuous knocking!

MARZELLINA

At last he will leave me in peace!

JAQUINO

She really seemed quite concerned,  
Who knows, I might win her at last.

MARZELLINA

How welcome this sound is to me,  
I almost got frightened to death.

ROCCO

Jaquino, Jaquino!

MARZELLINA

Listen, Father is calling!

JAQUINO

I'm coming! I'm coming!

MARZELLINA

Now Jaquino, the same for him, I need to be with the food of him. But then Fidelio come into room.

## SECOND SCENE

*Marzellina alone***No. 2 - Aria**

MARZELLINA

I wished we were united yet  
 And I could husband call you!  
 A girl may never what she thinks,  
 Tell anyone aloud.  
 But when I never have to blush  
 From kisses of a loving heart,  
 When nothing ever will us part -  
 And hope already swells my chest  
 With untold sweet desire,  
 How happy shall I be then!  
 In peace and quiet homeliness  
 I'll wake up every morning,  
 We greet each other tenderly,  
 Hard work dispels anxiety.  
 And when the day's work has been done,  
 The gentle night will quietly fall,  
 Then we shall rest from all our toil.  
 And hope already swells my chest  
 With untold sweet desire,  
 How happy shall I be then!

## THIRD SCENE

*Marzellina, Rocco, Jaquino.*

ROCCO

Good morning, Marzellina. Has Fidelio not returned yet?

MARZELLINA

No, Father!

ROCCO

I'm waiting for him with impatience.

MARZELLINA

Here he is, here he is!

## FOURTH SCENE

*The former, Leonora.*

ROCCO

Well, Fidelio?

LEONORA

The blacksmith took so much time over mending the chains. Here is the receipt.

ROCCO

Very good, you buy much cheaper than I.

LEONORA

I'm trying my best.

ROCCO

Yes, you are good and you shall have your reward.

LEONORA

Please, do not believe it is because of a reward that I ...

ROCCO

Hush! Do you think I could not see into your heart?

**No. 3 - Quartet**

MARZELLINA

A feeling never known,  
 It tightly grips my heart,  
 He loves me, it is clear,  
 Happy I shall be.

LEONORA

How great the danger is,  
 The name of peace is sweet!

My sufferings never end.

ROCCO

She loves him, it is clear;  
Yes, girl, he will be yours.  
A couple, young and good,  
Happy they will be.

JAQUINO

My hair, it stands on end,  
The father will consent;  
A feeling never known,  
There's nothing I can do.

ROCCO

Listen, Fidelio, as soon as the governor has departed for Sevilla, I shall make you my son-in-law. The day after I shall join you in wedlock.

MARZELLINA

The day after his departure? Oh yes, dear Father!

ROCCO

Well, my children, you love each other, don't you? But for good housekeeping one also needs ...

#### **No. 4 - Aria**

ROCCO

Unless there is gold to live on,  
Quite happy you will never be;  
Sadly life will carry on,  
Many a sorrow will set in.  
But if in the pockets it tinkles and rolls,  
The fate you will have at your mercy,  
And gold will provide you with power and love,  
Will still your boldest desires.  
You pay for luck to serve you well,  
It is a wonderful thing, the gold.  
If nought and nought is put together,  
The total is and will be small;  
If you find only love at table,  
You'll be hungry afterwards.  
So may fortune prove to you gracious and kind  
And bless and guide your striving;  
The beloved at your side, the gold in your purse,  
For many a year you may live thus.  
You pay for luck to serve you well,  
It is a mighty thing, the gold.

LEONORA

It is for you to say this, Father Rocco, but I maintain that the union of two like-minded hearts is the fount of true happiness in marriage. There is, however, something no less dear to my heart.

ROCCO

And this is?

LEONORA

Why do you not allow me to accompany you into the underground vaults?

ROCCO

You know that I have the strictest orders not allow anyone near the prisoners of state.

MARZELLINA

But you work yourself to death, dear Father.

ROCCO

Yet, Fidelio, there is one prison into which I shall probably never be allowed to take you.

MARZELLINA

Probably where the prisoner is ...

ROCCO

Yes, yes

LEONORA

I believe it must be a long time since he has been taken prisoner?

ROCCO

More than two years.

Two years, you said? He must be a great criminal?

ROCCO

Or he must have great, enemies. He cannot last much longer. Now, on Pizarro's orders, he gets no more than a little bread and water, no light, no straw, nothing.

MARZELLINA

Dear Father, please, don't lead Fidelio to him. He could not stand his sight.

LEONORA

Why not? I have courage and strength.

### No. 5 - Terzetto

ROCCO

Good, my lad, good,  
Courageous you must be,  
Then you will master life;  
The heart grows hard  
If you can face  
The horrors of this world.

LEONORA

Courage I possess!  
With cold blood  
Boldly I'll go down:  
For high reward  
Love will be able  
To suffer greatest pain.

MARZELLINA

Your kind heart  
Will many a pain  
Suffer in those vaults;  
Thereafter will return  
Happiness of love  
And many untold pleasures.

ROCCO

You'll build your fortune on firm ground.

LEONORA

In God and justice faith I'll have.

MARZELLINA

Why don't you look me into the eyes,  
The power of love is by no means small.  
Yes, happy we shall be.

LEONORA

Yes, happy I can still be.

ROCCO

Yes, happy you will be.  
The governor shall today permit  
That you share all my work with me.

LEONORA

You'll deprive me of all my peace  
If till tomorrow you did wait.

MARZELLINA

Yes, dearest Father, ask him now,  
Married we could then shortly be.

ROCCO

I soon shall be the prey of the grave,  
I need assistance, this is true.

LEONORA

How long I've been the prey of grief!  
Oh hope, do give me strength.

MARZELLINA

Father, dear, what did you say?  
Our friend and councillor you must remain.

ROCCO

Be on your toes, then all ends well,  
Your longing will be stilled.

LEONORA

You are so good, give courage me,  
My longing will soon be stilled ...  
*aside*  
I gave my hand to the tender tie,  
It costs me bitter tears.

MARZELLINA

Oh have courage! Oh what fire!  
Oh what deep desire!  
Firm be the tie with heart and hand,  
Oh sweet, sweet tears!

#### **No. 6 - March**

FIFTH SCENE

*Rocco, Pizarro, Officers, Guards.*

PIZARRO

Captain! Three guards on the rampart, six men on the drawbridge, and anyone approaching the fortress will be brought to me at once. Rocco!

ROCCO

Sir?

PIZARRO

Where are the dispatches?

ROCCO

Here they are, Sir.

PIZARRO

Well - Always recommendations or reproaches. I know this hand-writing: "I wish to tell you that the Minister has learned that the state prisons illegally detain a number of victims. He will depart tomorrow for a surprise inspection." If he found that man Florestan whom he believes to be dead. But there is a way out - a courageous deed ...

#### **No. 7 - Aria with Chorus**

PIZARRO

Ah, time has come now!  
Revenge I'll take on him,  
Your fate is calling you!  
I shall probe his heart,  
Oh joy, oh great delight!  
I almost was in the dust,  
At the sneering scoffer's mercy,  
Knocked miserably down.  
But come has now my chance,  
To be the, murderer's slayer;  
In his final hour,  
The steel deep in his wound,  
To shout into his ears:  
Triumph! Victory is mine!

CHORUS OF THE GUARDS

He speaks of death and wounds!  
Let's go on our rounds,  
How important it must be!  
He speaks of death and wounds!  
Look out, when on your rounds!  
How important it must be!

PIZARRO

Captain, these are my orders: Watch the road from Seville continuously and with the greatest care. As soon as you see a coach approaching, the bugler will sound the signal. Man your posts! - Rocco!

ROCCO

Sir!

#### **No. 8 - Duet**

PIZARRO

Old man, we've got to hurry,

*A flourish will be given*

Take this for a start!

ROCCO

Please, tell me in a hurry  
What I shall have to do.

PIZARRO

A man of cold blood are you,  
Fearless and courageous  
Years of service have made you.

ROCCO

What's my duty? Tell me!

PIZARRO

Murder!

ROCCO

What?

PIZARRO

Listen to me now!  
You're trembling! Are you a man?  
No time is to be lost;  
In the interest of the state  
The criminal subject must  
Quickly be removed.

ROCCO

Sir ...

PIZARRO

Why hesitate?  
He must no longer live,  
My ruin it would be.  
Pizarro were afraid?  
You'll die - and I shall live.

ROCCO

Trembling I am all over;  
How could I do such a thing?  
I shall not take his life,  
Whatever may happen to me.  
No, Sir, committing murder,  
My duty this is not.

PIZARRO

Then I myself shall do it  
If you the courage lack;  
Now hurry at this instant  
To that man down below -  
You know .

ROCCO

Who hardly lives  
And like a shadow looks?

PIZARRO

To him, to him go down!  
I'll wait not far away  
Whilst you dig in the cistern  
Very quickly a grave.

ROCCO

And then?

PIZARRO

Then I shall in disguise  
Quietly enter the dungeon -  
One stroke - and he'll be dead!

ROCCO

Starving in his fetters  
He suffered endless pains,  
To kill him means salvation,  
The dagger'll make him free.

PIZARRO

He die now in his fetters,  
Too short his suffering was,

Old man, we've got to hurry,  
Have you understood me?  
You give the signal!  
Then I shall in disguise  
Quietly enter the dungeon -  
One stroke - and he'll be dead!

ROCCO  
Starving in his fetters  
He suffered endless pains,  
To kill him, means salvation,  
The dagger'll make him free.

PIZARRO  
He die now in his fetters,  
Too short his suffering was,  
His death alone can save me,  
I shall be quiet then.

SIXTH SCENE  
*Leonora alone.*

LEONORA

**No. 9 - Recitativo and Aria**

You monster! Where will you go?  
What have you planned in cruel fury?  
The call of pity, the voice of mankind,  
Will nothing move your tiger's wrath?  
Though surge like ocean's waves  
Ire and anger in your heart,  
A rainbow on my path still shines,  
Which brightly rests on sombre clouds:  
It looks so calm, peacefully at me,  
Of happier days reminding me  
And soothes thus my troubled heart.

Come hope, let not the last bright star  
In my anguish be obscured!  
Light up my goal, however far,  
Through love I shall still reach it.  
I follow my inner calling,  
Waver I shall not,  
Strength I derive  
From faithfulness and love.  
Oh you -, for whom I bore so much,  
If I could penetrate  
Where malice has imprisoned you  
And bring to you sweet comfort!  
I follow my inner calling,  
Waver, I shall not,  
Strength I derive  
From faithfulness and love.

SEVENTH SCENE  
*Marzellina, Jaquino.*

JAQUINO  
But Marzellina! Once I was your dear, good Jaquino, but since this Fidelio ...

MARZELLINA  
I do not deny ...

EIGHTH SCENE  
*The former, Rocco, Leonora.*

ROCCO  
What have you two got to quarrel again?

MARZELLINA  
Father, he keeps on following me. He wants that I should marry him.

ROCCO  
No, Jaquino, there is no question of your marrying her now. I have other things in mind.

MARZELLINA  
*Under the influence of the music, she faints.*



LEONORA

Father Rocco, several times I have asked you to allow the poor prisoners into the fortress garden. Today the weather is so beautiful.

ROCCO

Without the governor's permission?

MARZELLINA

But he talked to you so long, perhaps ...

ROCCO

You are right, Marzellina, I can risk it. Come along, Jaquino and Fidelio, open the lighter prisons.

NINTH SCENE

*Prisoners' Chorus.*

### **No. 10 - Finale**

PRISONERS' CHORUS

Oh what joy, in the open air  
Freely to breathe again!  
Up here alone is life!  
The dungeon is a grave.

FIRST PRISONER

We shall with all our faith  
Trust in the help of God!  
Hope whispers softly in my ears!  
We shall be free, we shall find peace.

ALL THE OTHERS

Oh Heaven! Salvation! Happiness!  
Oh Freedom! Will you be given us?

SECOND PRISONER

Speak softly! Be on your guard!  
We are watched with eye and ear.

ALL

Speak softly! Be on your guard!  
We are watched with eye and ear.  
Oh what joy, in the open air  
Freely to breathe again!  
Up here alone is life.  
Speak softly! Be on your guard!  
We are watched with eye and ear.

TENTH SCENE

*Rocco, Leonora.*

### **Recitativo**

LEONORA

How did it go?

ROCCO

Quite well, quite well.  
All my courage I plucked up  
And put it all to him.  
And would you believe it,  
What he replied to me?  
The marriage and that you help me, he will permit;  
Today already I shall lead you down into the dungeon.

### **Duet**

LEONORA

Today! Today!  
What happiness, what great joy!

ROCCO

I can see your joy,  
It'll only be one moment  
And 'We shall go together -

LEONORA

Where?

To that man down below  
To whom I gave for weeks  
Less and less to eat.

LEONORA  
Ah! - Will he be released?

ROCCO  
Oh no!

LEONORA  
Do speak!

ROCCO  
Oh no, oh, no!  
We have to - how shall I say - free him,  
He must within one hour -  
No one else may know -  
Be buried by us both!

LEONORA  
So he is dead?

ROCCO  
Not yet, not yet.

LEONORA  
To kill him, is your duty this?

ROCCO  
No, my dear boy, don't be afraid;  
For murder Rocco won't be hired.  
The governor himself comes down,  
We two, we only dig his grave.

LEONORA  
To dig perhaps the husband's grave,  
Is there anything more cruel?

ROCCO  
I'm not allowed to give him food,  
The grave will be relief for him. -  
We have to go to work at once,  
You must assist me, come with me;  
Hard is the jailer's life.

LEONORA  
I follow you, were it to my death.

ROCCO  
In the crumbling cistern  
We easily dig the grave,  
Believe me, I am loath to do it;  
You, too, are shuddering, it seems.

LEONORA  
I only am not used to it.

ROCCO  
I wished, I could have spared you this,  
For me alone it gets too much,  
And so severe our master is.

LEONORA  
Oh, what great grief!

ROCCO  
I think, he's crying.  
No, you stay here - I'll go alone,  
I'll go alone.

LEONORA  
Oh no, oh no!  
I must see him; see the poor man,  
If I should perish over this.

ROCCO, LEONORA  
So let's no longer hesitate,  
We have to do our cruel work.

*The former, Jaquino and Marzellina.*

MARZELLINA  
Quick, Father, quick!

ROCCO  
What is it now?

JAQUINO  
No longer wait!

ROCCO  
What's happened now?

MARZELLINA  
Pizarro follows me furiously!  
He's threatening you.

ROCCO  
Keep calm, keep calm!

LEONORA  
Hurry along!

ROCCO  
Just tell me this:  
He knows it all?

JAQUINO  
Yes, he knows it all.

MARZELLINA  
The officer  
Told him what we  
Have the prisoners allowed.

ROCCO  
Let quickly all of them return.

MARZELLINA  
We've seen him rage before  
And know his anger well.

LEONORA  
My heart is full of rage,  
Indignant is my blood.

ROCCO  
My heart, it gives me right,  
May the tyrant rage.

#### TWELFTH SCENE

*The former, Pizarro, later on the prisoners.*

PIZARRO  
Insolent old man! By what rights  
Have you assumed such frivolous behaviour?  
Does it befit a hired servant  
To give the prisoners free?

ROCCO  
Oh Sir!

PIZARRO  
Speak up!

ROCCO  
The spring's arrival,  
The bright and warm sunshine,  
And: Have you ever thought of it,  
It might acquit me of my guilt?  
His Majesty's birthday is today,  
We celebrate it in this way.  
The one below die - but let the others  
Walk gaily to and fro;  
For him be all your hatred spared.

PIZARRO  
So hurry up and dig his grave,

May you never be insolent!

THE PRISONERS

Farewell, warm sunshine,  
Too quickly we must leave you;  
Already night is falling down  
From which so soon no morrow dawns.

MARZELLINA

How gaily did they greet the sun  
And now they part so sadly.  
The others whisper to themselves,  
This is no place for joy and pleasure.

LEONORA

You heard the word, don't hesitate,  
Return into your prisons now.  
Anxiety makes me tremble,  
Is there no justice for the wicked?

JAQUINO

You heard the word, don't hesitate,  
Return into your prisons,  
They whisper to each other,  
I cannot hear what they all say.

PIZARRO

Now Rocco, no longer hesitate,  
Descend down to the dungeon.  
No sooner you'll return,  
Ere I have judgement passed on him.

ROCCO

No, Sir, I shall not hesitate,  
I'll hurriedly go down.  
Trembling I am all over,  
Oh dreadful, cruel duty!

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**ACT TWO**

FIRST SCENE

*Florestan (alone).*

**No. 11 - Recitativo and Aria**

FLORESTAN

God! what darkness this! What terrifying silence!  
I'm living in a desert. Death only reigns down here.  
How hard my trials! -  
But just is the Lord's pleasure!  
I don't complain! What I've to suffer, You decree.

In the spring days of my life  
Happiness deserted me!  
Truth I dared to utter boldly  
And the chains are my reward.  
Willingly I bear my tortures,  
End in ignomy my life;  
To my heart this is sweet solace:  
My duty I have always done!  
And do I not feel soft whispering air?  
What brightness shines into my grave?  
I see how an angel fragrant like a rose  
Comforting stands by my side,  
An angel, Leonora, my wife so alike  
To lead me to freedom, to the kingdom of God.

SECOND SCENE

*Florestan, Rocco and Leonora.*

**No. 12 - Melodrama and Duet**

*Melodrama*

LEONORA

How cold it is in this underground vault!

ROCCO

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LEONORA

I thought we should never find the entrance.

ROCCO

Here it is.

LEONORA

He seems quite motionless.

ROCCO

Perhaps he is dead.

LEONORA

Do you think so?

ROCCO

No, no, he is asleep. - We ought to make use of this and commence work at once; we must not lose any time.

LEONORA

It is impossible to make out his face. - God help me, if it is he!

ROCCO

Here, underneath this rubble there is the cistern I was telling you about. - There is no need to dig much to get at the opening. Give me a pick-axe and you stay here. You are trembling, are you afraid?

LEONORA

Oh no, it only is so cold.

ROCCO

Get on with it, when working you'll get warm.

*Duet*

ROCCO

Be quick and let us dig the grave,  
It won't be long and he'll arrive.

LEONORA

You shall not have to complain of me,  
You shall be satisfied with me.

ROCCO

Come, help to lift this stone with me -  
Look out! Look out, it weighs a lot!

LEONORA

I help you - do not be afraid;  
I promise you to do my best.

ROCCO

A little more!

LEONORA

Be patient!

ROCCO

It moves.

LEONORA

A little more!,

ROCCO

Hard work it is!

ROCCO

Be quick and let us dig the grave,  
It won't be long and he'll arrive.

LEONORA

Let me regain a little strength,  
We'll soon have finished our work.  
By God! His prey you shall not be!  
I surely will undo your chains,  
And make you free, you poor, poor man.

ROCCO

Why hesitate about your work?

My Father, I'll go on with it.

ROCCO

Be quick and let us dig the grave,  
It won't be long and he'll arrive.

LEONORA

You shall not have to complain of me,  
Let me regain a little strength,  
No work will be too much for me.

LEONORA

He's waking up!

ROCCO

He is waking up, you said?

LEONORA

Yes, he lifted his head.

ROCCO

I must talk to him alone. Well, have you been resting again for a few moments?

FLORESTAN

Resting? How could I find rest?

LEONORA

If I could- only see his face for one moment - God, it is him!

FLORESTAN

Tell me at last, who is the governor of this prison?

ROCCO

The governor of this prison is Don Pizarro.

FLORESTAN

Pizarro! Send someone to Seville as soon as possible and ask for Leonora Florestan, tell her that  
I am imprisoned here.

ROCCO

It is impossible, I tell you. I should ruin myself without accomplishing anything for you.

FLORESTAN

If it is my destiny then to end my life, do not let me slowly die of thirst. Give me just one drop  
of water.

ROCCO

All I can offer you is a drop of wine which I have left in my jar. Fidelio!

LEONORA

Here it is, here it is!

ROCCO

How agitated you are, Fidelio!

LEONORA

Who should not be? You yourself,  
Master Rocco -

ROCCO

It is true, this voice -

LEONORA

Yes, it penetrates into the depth of the heart.

*No. 13 - Terzetto*

FLORESTAN

Reward be yours in better worlds,  
You have been sent to me by God.  
Oh thanks, you've sweetly me refreshed;  
Your kindness I cannot repay.

ROCCO

I refreshed him gladly,  
the poor man,  
It will be over soon with him.

LEONORA

How kind you are to me!

FLORESTAN

This youth I see so deeply moved,  
Compassion also shows this man,  
Oh God, fresh hope you've given me,  
May it become true in the end.

LEONORA

The great and anxious hour nears,  
Which brings salvation me or death.

ROCCO

I always act in duty bound,  
But also hate all cruelty.

LEONORA

This piece of bread - yes, for two days  
I've carried it around with me.

ROCCO

I want to, but believe you me,  
This is to venture a great deal.

LEONORA

This poor man gladly you refreshed.

ROCCO

This cannot be, this cannot be.

LEONORA

It will be over soon with him.

ROCCO

So be it - yes, so be it - you may do it.

LEONORA

Here, take the bread - you poor, poor man!

FLORESTAN

Oh thanks to you! Oh thanks! Oh thanks!  
Reward be yours in better worlds,  
You, have been sent to me by God.  
Oh thanks! You've sweetly me refreshed,  
Your kindness I cannot repay.

LEONORA

May Heaven grant salvation you,  
Then high reward will come to me.

ROCCO

Your suffering has often moved me,  
But I've not been allowed to help.  
I refreshed him gladly, the poor man,  
It will be over soon with him.

LEONORA

Oh, this is more than I can bear!

FLORESTAN

Oh that I can give you no reward!

ROCCO

Everything is ready. Fidelio, you stay here, I shall go to give the governor the signal.

FLORESTAN

Where does he go? Does this mean that my end has come?

LEONORA

Be calm and do not forget that there is providence everywhere - yes, there is a providence!

THIRD SCENE

*The former, Pizarro.*

PIZARRO

Is everything ready?

ROCCO

Yes, the cistern has only to be opened.

PIZARRO

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ROCCO

Go, Fidelio. - Shall I take the chains off the prisoner?

PIZARRO

No, but detach him from the stone. -There is no time to be lost.

**No. 14 - Quartet**

PIZARRO

He die - But first he shall be told  
Who'll tear to pieces his proud heart.  
The dark veil of revenge be torn.  
Look here! Deceive me you could not!  
Pizarro, whom you hoped to bring to fall,  
Pizarro, whom you ought to fear,  
As avenger he faces you.

FLORESTAN

A murderer faces me!

PIZARRO

Once more you shall recall  
What you have done to me;  
Only one short moment  
And this steel -

LEONORA

Stand back!

FLORESTAN

Oh God!

ROCCO

What's up?

LEONORA

Pierce  
You must first my heart;  
Death I have sworn to you  
For your murderous mind.

PIZARRO

Madman!

ROCCO

Stop it!

PIZARRO

Punished he shall be!

LEONORA

Kill first his wife!

ROCCO, PIZARRO

His wife?

FLORESTAN

My wife?

LEONORA

Yes, see here Leonora!

FLORESTAN

Leonora!

LEONORA

I am his wife, I vowed  
Him help and death to you!

PIZARRO

What unheard-of courage!

FLORESTAN

My heart stops over-joyed!

ROCCO

My heart stops out of fear.

LEONORA

Yes, see here Leonora!



PIZARRO  
Shall I a woman fear?

LEONORA  
I have sworn you death.

PIZARRO  
Both shall my hatred's victims be.

LEONORA  
This heart you must pierce first!

PIZARRO  
You have shared your life with him,  
You shall now share his death with him.

LEONORA  
One more word - and you'll be dead!  
Ah! You are saved! Great God!

FLORESTAN  
Ah! I am saved! Great God!

PIZARRO  
Ah! The Minister! Hell and Death!

ROCCO  
Oh! What is this! Gracious God!

FOURTH SCENE  
*The former, Jaquino, soldiers*

JAQUINO  
Father Rocco, the Minister is arriving, his retinue is at the castle-gates already.

ROCCO  
The Lord be praised! We are coming, yes, we are coming at once. And our men shall come down to accompany the governor up.

LEONORA / FLORESTAN  
The hour of vengeance has come.  
This means you shall be saved;  
Our love, it will in union  
With courage make you free.

PIZARRO  
Damned be this fateful hour!  
The traitors laugh at me;  
Dispair, it will in union  
With my revenge now be.

ROCCO  
Oh hour full of horror!  
Oh God, what's awaiting me?  
I will not be in union  
With this villain any more.

FIFTH SCENE  
*Leonora, Florestan.*

FLORESTAN  
My Leonora, what have you done for me!

LEONORA  
Nothing, my Florestan!

#### **No. 15 - Duet**

LEONORA  
Oh what boundless happiness!  
My husband in my arms!

FLORESTAN  
Oh what boundless happiness!  
Leonora in my arms!

BOTH  
After untold sorrows

LEONORA

I hold you in my arms again!

FLORESTAN

Oh God, how great your mercy is!

BOTH

My wife, I hold her in my arms!

My husband I hold in my arms!

We thank you, Lord, for this great bliss!

FLORESTAN

You here!

LEONORA

I'm here!

FLORESTAN

Oh heavenly delight!

Leonora!

LEONORA

Florestan!

BOTH

Oh what boundless happiness!

My wife, I hold her in my arms!

My husband I hold in my arms!

We thank you, Lord, for this great bliss!

SIXTH SCENE

*The Prisoners, Don Fernando, Pizarro, Marzellina and Jaquino.***No. 16 - Finale**

CHORUS

*of the prisoners and of the people*

Blessed the day, blessed the hour,

We've been longing for with little hope,

Justice with graciousness in union

To the gate of our graves has come!

FERNANDO

Our gracious Majesty's will and pleasure

Has sent me here to you poor men,

That I disclose the crimes of darkness

Which, has enveloped all of you.

No longer kneel like slaves before me,

Tyrant's grimness I detest.

A brother's come to seek his brethren,

And can he help, he gladly helps.

CHORUS,

Blessed the day, blessed the hour!

FERNANDO

A brother's come to seek his brethren,

And can he help, he gladly helps.

SEVENTH SCENE

*The former, Rocco, Leonora, Florestan.*

ROCCO

Well, Sir, you help now! Help the poor!

PIZARRO

What do I see?

ROCCO

Are you moved now?

PIZARRO

Away! Away!

FERNANDO

No! Speak up!

ROCCO

.....

Don Florestan -

FERNANDO  
Whom we thought dead,  
The noble man who fought for truth?

ROCCO  
And suffered tortures numberless.

FERNANDO  
My friend! My friend! He is alive?  
In chains and pale he faces me.

ROCCO, LEONORA  
Yes, Florestan, you see him here.

ROCCO  
And Leonora -

FERNANDO  
Leonora?

ROCCO  
The best of wives I bring you here.  
She came to me -

PIZARRO  
Two words allow me -

FERNANDO  
Be quiet!  
She came -

ROCCO  
There to my door,  
So that my servant she became,  
And worked so loyally for me  
That I made her my son-in-law.

MARZELLINA  
Dear me, what do I have to hear!

ROCCO  
This villain, in this very hour  
He meant to murder Florestan.

PIZARRO,  
With his support!

ROCCO  
With our help!  
Your arrival only called him away.

CHORUS  
Punished be the villain now  
Who innocence oppressed.  
Justice holds for punishment  
The sword of vengeance up.

*Pizarro is lead away*

FERNANDO  
You unlocked this brave man's grave,  
Now take his chains off him -  
But no! You, noble lady alone,  
You have the right to make him wholly free.

LEONORA  
Oh Lord! - What a moment this!

FLORESTAN  
Oh unspeakable happiness!

FERNANDO  
Just, oh Lord, your judgement is.

MARZELLINA, ROCCO  
You try us, you desert us not.

ALL  
Oh Lord, what a moment this!

Just, oh Lord, your judgement is,  
You try us, you desert us not.

## CHORUS

Who calls a faithful wife, his own,  
Join in our song of joy!  
Never be it praised too highly  
Your husband's saviour to become.

## FLORESTAN

My life your faithfulness has saved,  
Virtue makes the villain fear.

## LEONORA

Love alone my efforts guided,  
Real love is not afraid.

## CHORUS

Praise with greatest joy and warmth  
Leonora's noble mind.

## FLORESTAN

Who calls such, a wife his own,  
Join in our song of joy!  
Never be it praised too highly  
The husband's saviour to become.,

## LEONORA

Love alone has given me  
To liberate you from your chains.  
Lovingly I sing with joy:  
Florestan is mine again!

## CHORUS

Who calls a faithful wife his own,  
Join in our song of joy!  
Never be it praised too highly  
Your husband's saviour to become.

## LEONORA

Lovingly I sing with joy:  
Florestan is mine again!

## ALL

Never be it praised too highly  
Your husband's saviour to become.