



OPERA LAFAYETTE PRESENTS  
**The Leonore Series**

**TEXT FROM Beethoven's *Leonore*  
Pizarro and Rocco**



## **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 THREE :

### ACT II The courtyard of a State prison

#### SCENE I

PIZARRO

Three sentries on the wall, twelve men on the drawbridge by day and night and as many on the garden side. Anyone approaching the moats of the fortress to be brought to me at once. Where are the dispatches?

ROCCO

Here they are

PIZARRO

I know this handwriting ! Let's see. –  
« I send you warning that the Minister has secretly been informed that the State prison, which you supervise, contains a number of victims detained without authority. He is setting out tomorrow on a surprise inspection. » -

Heavens! suppose he found that I have laid in chains Florestan, he who wanted to expose me to the Minister and rip away the privileges from me!  
Greatly praised Minister, I will know how to deceive you again and escape your vigilance. - He must arrive today! I cannot waste a single moment. – Captain, listen! Climb up the dungeon

tower with a trumpet player immediately.  
Observe attentively and without respite the road from Seville.  
As soon as you see in the distance a coach accompanied by several guards, you will  
advise me instantly by trumpet signal. Use the  
greatest exactitude. You shall answer to me for it  
with your head. – But what to do now to get rid  
forthwith of this Florestan?–  
There is only one way!

Nr. 8 Aria with Choir

PIZARRO Ha! What a moment!  
I shall assuage my vengeance!  
Fate is calling you!  
Ram into his heart,  
What joy, what satisfaction!  
I was about to be thrust to the ground  
Be the butt of loud mockery  
By those who would have despoiled me!  
Now I have the opportunity  
To murder my own murderer!  
Ha! What a moment! etc.  
At his last hour,  
The blade in his wound,  
Shout in his ears,  
Triumph! Triumph! Triumph!  
Victory, victory is mine!

GUARDS

He speaks of death and wound!  
Let's do our rounds,

How important, how important it must be,  
Let's do our rounds,  
How important, how important it must be!

PIZARRO

Ha! What a moment! I shall assuage my vengeance!  
Fate is calling you!  
Victory, victory is mine! Triumph.

PIZARRO

Rocco !

ROCCO Sir !

PIZARRO

I need him for this. – Come closer!

Nr. 9 Duo

PIZARRO

Now, old chap, we must hurry!  
You shall be well rewarded, (he throws him a purse)  
You will be a rich man;  
Take this for a start.

ROCCO

But tell me at once  
In what way I can serve you.

PIZARRO

You have iron nerves  
And indomitable courage  
Acquired through many, many years of service.

*ROCCO*

*What must I do? Say it, say it !*

*PIZARRO*

*Murder !*

*ROCCO*

*What ?*

*PIZARRO*

*Listen to me!*

*Are you trembling? Are you a man?*

*We have no time to lose,*

*For the safety of the State*

*A criminal must be removed,*

*And that at once.*

*ROCCO*

*O Sir!*

*PIZARRO*

*For the safety of the State*

*A criminal must be removed,*

*And that at once.*

*ROCCO*

*O Sir!*

*PIZARRO*

*You hesitate still?  
He must live no longer,  
Or I am lost indeed.  
Shall Pizarro falter?  
You shall fall, and I shall stand.*

*ROCCO*

*I feel all my limbs trembling,  
How could I stand to do that?  
I will not murder him,  
Whatever may befall me.*

*ROCCO*

*No, Sir, I shall not take his life,  
This is not my profession.*

*PIZARRO*

*Then I myself will do it,  
Since your courage fails you.  
Make haste at once  
To that man below,  
You know the one...*

*ROCCO*

*... who is barely alive,  
And who is no more than a shadow?*

*PIZARRO*

*Go down to him!*

*I will wait nearby,  
While you in the well  
Quickly dig a grave.*

*ROCCO  
And then? And then?*

*PIZARRO  
Then in disguise  
I will stealthily enter the dungeon:  
One blow...and he is silenced!*

*ROCCO  
Starving in his fetters,  
He suffered pain for long,  
To kill him is to free him,  
The dagger ends his woes.*

*PIZARRO  
Perishing in his fetters,  
His suffering is too short,  
To kill him is to free him,  
Then I will be safe again.  
Now, old chap, we must hurry!  
You heard me well?  
You give me the signal;  
Then in disguise  
I will stealthily enter the dungeon:  
One blow...and he is silenced!*



*ROCCO*

*Starving in his fetters,  
He suffered pain for long  
To kill him is to free him,  
The dagger ends his woes.*

*PIZARRO*

*Perishing in his fetters,  
His suffering is too short,  
To kill him is to free him,  
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