



OPERA LAFAYETTE PRESENTS
The Leonore Series

TEXT FROM Beethoven's *Leonore*
Opera Lafayette Chorus, Rocco, Leonore and Marzeline



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 FIVE :

Nr. 12 Finale

Oh, what happiness!
To breath in open air
Oh, what happiness!
Here only is life,
The dungeon is a grave, a grave!

PRISONERS

We want with faith
Hope for God's help, for God's help,
Hope whispers sweetly to me,
That we will be free, we will find peace,
We will find peace.

FIRST PRISONER

Oh, Heaven's salvation,
What happiness
Oh, liberty, oh liberty will you return?

PRISONERS

Speak softly, speak softly,
We are watched over with ears and eyes.

SECOND PRISONER

Speak softly, speak softly,
We are watched over with ears and eyes.
Oh, what happiness!

PRISONERS

To breath in open air
Oh, what happiness!
Here only is life,
The dungeon is a grave, a grave!
Speak softly, speak softly,
We are watched over with ears and eyes.

ROCCO

Be gone now! Can't you hurry up? You will be able to stay longer tomorrow.

LEONORE

Tell me now, how are things?

ROCCO

Very well, very well!
I took my courage with both hands,
And have explained all to him,
And would you believe
What his answer was?
He allows the marriage
And that you help me,
And this very day I will lead you to the dungeons.

LEONORE

This very day?
This very day?
Oh what happiness, oh what joy!

ROCCO

I see your joy;

Wait a moment now,
Then we will go together, yes,
Then we will go together.

LEONORE

Where, where?

ROCCO

To this man
To whom for the past weeks
I have been bringing less and less to eat.

LEONORE

Ha – Will he be freed?

ROCCO

Oh No!

LEONORE

Speak, speak!

ROCCO

Oh no, oh no!
Oh no, oh no!
We must, so to speak, deliver him,
He must within an hour –
You must keep quiet about it
Be buried by us.

LEONORE

So, he has died?

Not yet, not yet!

ROCCO

Is your duty to kill him?

LEONORE

No, my good lad, do not tremble!
To murder, to murder, is not Rocco's thing
No, no! The Governor,
The Governor will take care of it himself,
Both of us only dig the grave.

ROCCO

I will have to dig my husband's grave, Is there anything more horrendous?

LEONORE

I may not feed him any longer,
He will be better in the grave.
We must hurry to work,
You must help me, accompany me;
Hard, hard is the jailer's bread.

ROCCO

I will follow you to the death!

LEONORE

In the well fallen in ruins,
We will easily dig a pit;
Believe me, I do not do it with pleasure,
You too are turning pale, so it seems to me.

ROCCO

I am not yet used to it.

LEONORE

I would have like very much to spare you this,
But it is too hard for me alone,
And our master is so strict.

ROCCO

Oh, what pain!

LEONORE

(to himself) Methinks he is crying.

ROCCO

Oh, what pain!

LEONORE

No, no, you stay here,
I will go alone; I will go alone.
You stay here, no,
You stay here!

ROCCO

LEONORE

O no, o no, I must see him
See the miserable one.
Even if it brings me down!

BOTH

Let us tarry no longer,
And fulfill our severe duty.

MARCELINA

(enters hurriedly) Ah, father, hurry up!

ROCCO

What is the matter?

MARCELINA

Ah you are dawdling!

ROCCO

What happened?

MARCELINA

Pizarro follows me in full anger,
You are lost!

ROCCO

Calm down, calm down!

LEONORE

Hurry up now!

ROCCO

I am leaving right away, but one more word;

MARCELINA

He is soon here,
You know how he throws a fit
You know his anger.

LEONORE

My heart is pounding,
My blood is curling!

ROCCO

One moment he praises me
And the next he is angry.

(Pizarro, officers and guards enter)

PIZARRO

You are still dawdling?
You are still here?

ROCCO, MARCELINA, LEONORE

I had to, while you...
Ah forgive, ah forgive!

PIZARRO

Not a word more,
Go, hurry up.
Or else you will get your reward.

Yes, we obey immediately

ROCCO, MARCELINA, LEONORE