



OPERA LAFAYETTE PRESENTS
The Leonore Series

TEXT FROM Beethoven's *Leonore*



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 SIX:

ACTE III A dark underground dungeon

SCENE I

Nr. 13 Récitativ and Aria

FLORESTAN

God! How dark it is here!
O what terrible silence!
Emptiness surrounds me, Nothing, oh nothing lives here but me.
Oh, cruel ordeal!
But just is the will of God!
I do not complain!
He has decreed the measure of my suffering!

In the Springtime of my life
Happiness vanished from me.
I dared speak the truth aloud,
And these chains are my reward.
All my pains I gladly suffer,
End my career in degradation;

But in my heart is this sweet consolation:
I have fulfilled my duty.

Ah! These were happy days,
As my gaze hung to yours,
As with joyful heart

Clasped you to my breast.
Ah! These were happy days!
Soften, my love your grief,
Pursue in peace your life,
Say to your heart, say:
Florestan did the right thing.

Soften, my love your grief ...

SCENE II

Nr. 14 Melodrama and Duet

How cold it is!

LEONORE

It is so deep down!

ROCCO

I thought we should never find the entrance.

LEONORE

Here he is.

ROCCO