



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 EIGHT:

FINALE

FLORESTAN

Oh, Leonore, speak! Through what miracle have you succeeded to reach me?

LEONORE

I left Sevilla – I came on foot – dressed as a man – the jailer hired me and your persecutor himself made me the key-keeper!

FLORESTAN

You were able to withstand so many hardships?

LEONORE

Love inspired me! My strength was inexhaustible!

Nr. 18 Finale

CHORUS

Vengeance, vengeance, vengeance, We must see him, Yes, we must see him!

LEONORE

Oh, God, oh God, we are done for!
Help, great God, help! help!

FLORESTAN

Let us go with courage to death
And to peace.

LEONORE

Yes, let us go to it,
It brings an end to our suffering;
Your will, Lord, is a benediction,
I die in his arms.

FLORESTAN

Yes, let us go to it,
It brings an end to our suffering;
Your will, Lord, is a benediction,
I die in her arms.

CHORUS

Vengeance, vengeance!
Innocence shall be freed
God protects what is just
And punishes cruelty.

LEONORE, FLORESTAN

God protects what is just
And punishes cruelty.

CHORUS

Vengeance, vengeance!
God protects what is just
And punishes cruelty.

ROCCO

There they are!

Look! Oh, have pity!
Oh, save this noble pair!

FLORESTAN

Who tears her from my arms?

LEONORE

Begone! I defy danger!

FLORESTAN

Who do I see! Don Fernando!

DON FERNANDO

Yes, it is only to avenge virtue
And break your chains
That I come here as your savior.

LEONORE, FLORESTAN

Oh God!

DON FERNANDO

Stand up, stand up! Methinks
That it is for me to be at your feet
And honor the most noble of women.

ROCCO

Let me inform you
That I only feigned to betray you I am not pitiless,
And I want to return to you as savior.

If I used so much violence to wrest it from you
It is for fear that you might misuse it.
Now my heart fears nothing anymore.
(to Pizarro) You wanted to buy me with that!
May heaven's curse be on it!

CHORUS

Let the wicked one be punished
For having hunted down innocence!
Let justice prepare
The sword of vengeance

FERNANDO

You opened this noble man's grave,
Remove now his chains.

But wait! It is to you, noble lady, to you alone,
That it is fitting to complete his liberty.

LEONORE, FLORESTAN, MARZELLINE, ROCCO, DON FERNANDO, CHORUS

O God, o God, what a sublime moment
O inexpressible joy!
Just, o God, just is your will!
You try us but never forsake us!

DON FERNANDO

How long have you born these fetters?

FLORESTAN

I do not know it; because the days here
Blend into the nights.

DON FERNANDO

You, old man, do you know it, tell me.

ROCCO

It has been two years, I am not mistaken.

DON FERNANDO

Listen, you wicked one,
You were able to enjoy his suffering
For two frightful years?
You shall now be subject
To the same torture!

CHORUS

Oh, punishment is too light.

LEONORE

Oh no! Oh no! Be lenient! Because he was able to find strength in his good conscience.

FLORESTAN

Oh no! Oh no! Be lenient!
Because I was able to find strength in my good conscience.

CHORUS

No, no, no! His punishment is too light.

DON FERNANDO

The king shall be his judge;
Come, friends, let us hasten to him,
He will share with me the joy
Of having saved persecuted innocence.

CHORUS

Praise! Praise!
Praise in joy and ardour
The noble courage of Leonore!

MARZELLINE, JAQUINO, ROCCO, DON FERNANDO

He who has such an excellent wife
Join in our rejoicing,
Never can we praise too highly
A wife who saves her husband.

CHORUS

He who has such an excellent wife
Join in our rejoicing,
Never can we praise too highly
A wife who saves her husband.

FLORESTAN

Your loyalty has saved my life,
Your courage made the villain pause.

LEONORE

Love guided my steps
Steadfast love knows no fear.

CHORUS

Praise in joy and ardour
The noble courage of Leonore!

FLORESTAN, MARZELLINE, JAQUINO, ROCCO, FERNANDO, CHORUS

He who has such an excellent wife
Join in our rejoicing,
Never can we praise too highly
A wife who saves her husband.

END