



OPERA LAFAYETTE PRESENTS  
**The Leonore Series**

**TEXT FROM Gaveaux's *Leonore*  
(BASIS FOR BEETHOVEN'S LIBRETTO)  
Marceline and Jacquino**



## THE LEONORE SERIES

### **LÉONORE or CONJUGAL LOVE, HISTORICAL FACT, IN TWO ACTS AND IN PROSE MIXED WITH SONGS**

With cuts by Oriol Tomas for Opera Lafayette's 2017 performances  
Words by Jean-Nicolas BOUILLY Translated by Nizam Kettaneh

**Music by Pierre GAVEAUX**

First performed in Paris at the Théâtre Feydeau, On the 1<sup>st</sup> ventôse, year 6 of the French republic (February 19, 1798)

#### **CHARACTERS, ACTORS.**

DOM FERNAND, minister and Spanish noble man

DOM PIZARE, Governor of a State prison

FLORESTAN, prisoner

LÉONORE, wife of Florestan and key-carrier under the assumed name of FIDÉLIO

ROC, jailer

MARCELINE, daughter of Roc

JACQUINO, doorkeeper in love with Marceline

Prisoners, a Captain of the Guards, Gardians, People.

The scene takes place in Spain, in a State prison, a few miles from Seville.

## WEEK ONE :

### SCENE I: MARCELINE, JACQUINO

MARCELINE, (*pressing clothes and looking at the door every time one knocks at it*)

Fidélío is not coming back... he had so many errands! Well, it is today that my father must decide the day of my marriage with him!...Of all the days of my life, that one will be the nicest...I will live with Fidélío, the key-carrier and with father, the jailer. Me, the laundress of the prisoners...(She makes a motion indicating that this is a profession which brings lots of money.)

No.2 Couplets of Marceline: “Fidélío mon doux ami...” , Tempo di Minuetto Seguidilla, 3, g minor

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Couplet, g minor

Fidelio, my sweet friend  
How I long to be your wife  
A girl, alas, can only half  
Admit what is in her heart  
But to caress you without blushing,  
To hug you in my arms  
To tell you at every moment: I love you...

(*She sighs deeply and puts her hand on her heart.*), G major

If only the hope of happiness,  
Makes my heart beat with pleasure  
What would happiness (itself) achieve?

2<sup>nd</sup> Couplet, g minor

Agreement, faithfulness, repose;  
Yes, that will be our lot;  
And soon pretty little kids  
Will embellish our union.  
It seems I can already see them  
On our knees, climbing, sitting  
And babbling: I love you...

*(She puts her hand again on her heart while sighing most tenderly)*, G major

If only the hope of happiness,  
Makes my heart beat with pleasure  
What would happiness (itself) achieve?

*(Spoken)*

JACQUINO

*(to Marceline.)* At last we can chat. *(Knocks on the door)* Again!...it's impossible to leave this damned lodge, impossible!  
*(He goes to open)*

MARCELINE, *aside.*

He will no doubt speak again of his love.

JACQUINO

*to Marceline.)* I hope that now we'll no longer be interrupted.

No.3 Duet of Jacquino and Marceline: “Mon p’tit bijou, ma p’tite belle”, Andante con moto, 2/4, C major

JACQUINO

My little jewel, my little beauty, I would love to chat with you

MARCELINE, *always working*

Well, what do you want of me?

JACQUINO

But you mustn’t be cruel.

MARCELINE

Speak; what do you want of me?

JACQUINO

For a long time I have been pining after your charms.

MARCELINE, *slyly*

Really!

JACQUINO

It is like a fire, like a delirium.

MARCELINE

Really!

JACQUINO

Well, to make it short, I love you; and would like to be loved in return: Is it clear?

MARCELINE

I understand you well.

JACQUINO

Take my heart and give me yours.

MARCELINE

Wait a moment; we must come to an understanding!

JACQUINO

Well?...

*(One knocks at the entrance door)*

MARCELINE, *smiling*

Someone is knocking, go, don't make him wait

JACQUINO

Ah, rats, how unfortunate  
Just when love was doing well

ENSEMBLE

MARCELINE, *aside*

He is always making sheep's eyes at me  
Ah, rats, what a bother!

MARCELINE, *while Jacquino goes to open the door.*

Who?, I, I would become his wife!  
To love, to happiness, I, I should renounce!  
No, no, I feel that in my soul,  
Fidelio reigns forever.

JACQUINO, *returning after having opened and closed the door.*

Let's get back to our business...  
I will love you very faithfully.

MARCELINE

As for me, I shall marry  
Only he who will know how to please me.

JACQUINO, *giggling*

If that is all it takes, I will please you.

MARCELINE

It is sometimes difficult to do.

JACQUINO

When you will be my housewife,  
I will caress you,  
I will pamper you,  
I will please you,



I will be so kind, so docile and so tender!...

*(One knocks again at the entrance door)*

MARCELINE, *smiling*

Someone is knocking, go, don't make him wait

ENSEMBLE

JACQUINO

Ah, rats, how unfortunate  
Just when love was doing well

MARCELINE, *aside*

He is always making sheep's eyes at me  
Ah, rats, what a bother!