



OPERA LAFAYETTE PRESENTS
The Leonore Series

**TEXT FROM Gaveaux's *Leonore*
(BASIS FOR BEETHOVEN'S LIBRETTO)
Leonore, Roc and Opera Lafayette Chorus**



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 1st 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 FIVE:

SCENE VII: LÉONORE, ROC

ROC

Fidelio?...are you alone?...I must speak to you.

LÉONORE

How disturbed you seem to be, Master Roc! Did the governor receive you badly?

ROC

No. I have firstly informed him of your marriage with Marceline; he seemed enchanted, and praised your fidelity, your intelligence and allowed me to take you, as soon as today, in all the dungeons.

LÉONORE

As of today!...

ROC

Yes...and we are going to start by that of the stranger whom we were speaking of earlier...Within an hour, he must be....

LÉONORE

What then!

ROC

Dead...

LÉONORE

Dead!

ROC

And there must not be any traces left of his existence.

LÉONORE

Dead; did you say!

ROC

The governor assures (me) that State interests depend upon it; I promised...

LÉONORE

To assassinate this miserable man!

ROC

Listen! Three o'clock will ring...The prisoners of the small pavilion will come to take a breath of fresh air, as usual. We are going to take advantage of that moment to go down both of us, without being noticed by anyone, to the place where the said prisoner is chained. There we will remove the rubble that covers a deep cistern. As soon as we are done, I'll give the agreed

upon signal; we'll open the door where a masked man will be waiting and we'll let him into the underground...and...he...he'll finish the rest.

LÉONORE

I hear you...yes, yes,... I hear you.

ROC

After that, we'll come back here and we'll share (the content of) this purse that the governor has just given me and which holds lots of gold.

LÉONORE

Lots of gold! Yes, I will accompany you...I am too proud of your trust...and that of the governor!

ROC

Here, these are the keys of the small pavilion. As soon as you hear three o'clock ring, you will open this gate for the prisoners; You will then come find. Go on, my Fidelio, go on!

SCENE VIII: LÉONORE

LÉONORE

Beneath his crudeness, he has a real sensitive heart...If I were to reveal to him who I am! No! He is too attached to the benefits of his position to accept my offers; he fears too much the power of the governor. I must pursue my plan...(The bell strikes three o'clock.) Three o'clock is striking; let's first execute the orders given me; they are sacred to me, since they bring solace to so many unfortunate people.

No. 7 Air of Léonore: « O toi, mon unique espérance », (**Not in the score of 1798**)
(spoken in our OL version)

O you, my only hope,
You who avenges the righteous and strikes the evil one
Save with one stroke, Lord Almighty,
Love, Hymen and innocence...
Sustain my strength; O Heaven! Arm my arm;

Well then, the die is cast...let's save my husband or die with him.

SCENE IX: PRISONERS OF ALL AGES

No. 8 Chorus of Prisoners: « Que ce beau ciel, cette verdure », Andante Gracioso, C, D major.

CHORUS

How this beautiful sky, this greenery,
Shed a refreshing balm on us!
How cruel it is, sweet nature,
To be bereft of your benefits

ONE PRISONER

But let's have hope,
Perhaps one day providence
Will be able to soften the harshness of our fate
And return us to independence.

ALL THE OTHERS

Could I, righteous heaven, find happiness again?
And live again in independence?...

ONE PRISONER

Speak more softly...be prudent!
Fear, fear the governor!

ALL THE OTHERS.

Let's speak more softly...be prudent!
Let's fear, let's fear the governor.

(They get over their fears and hope again)

GENERL CHORUS

How this beautiful sky, this greenery,
Shed a refreshing balm on us!
How cruel it is, sweet nature,
To be bereft of your benefits

END OF ACT I