



OPERA LAFAYETTE PRESENTS
The Leonore Series

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



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 SIX:

ACT II

SCENE I: FLORESTAN

FLORESTAN

No. 9 Recitatif et Romance de Florestan : « Dieu ! quelle obscurité »

RECITATIF

God ! what darkness !... what eternal silence !...
What! Isolated from everything, and alone in the universe!...
Is there no end, great God, to my suffering?
Must I end my days in these shameful fetters?

ROMANCE

1st Couplet

Must I in the spring of my days
Languish in captivity?
How is it, that abandonment and slavery
Should be the reward for truthfulness?
To earn such a pitiful fate
Of what am I guilty?
Of a tyrant, an execrable monster
I have revealed the crimes.

2nd Couplet

O you whose beloved picture
Alone witnesses my pains,
My Leonore, o my tender friend!
Resign yourself, dry your tears
And if my career is ended,
Raise up your soul and tell yourself
“Until his last hour
My husband was worthy of me”

3rd Couplet

O sole support of innocence,
Justice, where is your power!
Ah! If you do not take my defense,
There is no hope left for me...
But I am growing weak, I am tottering...
Hunger...Cold, freeze my veins...
Come, o death!...It is you that I call;
Come put an end to my torments!

SCENE II: FLORESTAN, ROC, LÉONORE

LÉONORE, *softly*.

How cold it is in this underground! I thought we would never find its entrance.

ROC,

There he is...