THE GRAND DUKE

OR,

THE STATUTORY DUEL

Libretto by

W. S. Gilbert

Music by

Arthur Sullivan

A new edition based on Sullivan's autograph manuscript, edited by Colin Jagger

Vocal Score

Contents

(Chorus Score page numbers also given, for reference)

Intro	duction		iv
Dramatis Personæ			
Vocal ranges and information			vi
Dialogue plot			
	The Grand Duke (or, The Statutory Duel)		
		VS	CS
Over	ture	1	-
Act I			
1.	Won't it be a pretty wedding? (Chorus and Solos)	7	1
1a.	Pretty Lisa, fair and tasty (Ludwig, Lisa, Chorus)	15	6
2.	By the mystic regulation (Ludwig, Chorus)	22	8
2a.	Opoponax! Opoponax! Eloia! (Chorus)	28	9
3.	Were I a king in very truth (Ernest, Chorus)	30	10
4.	How would I play this part (Julia, Ernest)	35	-
5.	My goodness me! what shall I do? (Chorus, Ernest, Ludwig)	41	11
	Ten minutes since I met a chap (Ludwig, Chorus)	44	12
6.	About a century since (Notary, Lisa, Julia, Ernest, Ludwig)	50	-
7.	Strange the views some people hold! (Julia, Lisa, Ernest, Notary, Ludwig)	57	-
8.	Now take a card and gaily sing (Julia, Lisa, Ernest, Notary, Ludwig)	62	-
9.	The good Grand Duke (Chorus of Chamberlains)	71	15
9a.	A pattern to professors of monarchical autonomy (Rudolph)	74	-
9b.	Exit of Chamberlains (Instrumental)	76	-
10.	As o'er our penny roll we sing (Baroness, Rudolph)	78	-
11.	When you find you're a broken-down critter (Rudolph)	87	-
12.	Act I Finale: Go, summon all the people! (Ensemble)	93	16
12a.	Oh, a monarch who boasts intellectual graces (Ludwig, Chorus, Julia)	112	22
12b.	Ah, pity me, my comrades true (Julia, Chorus, Ludwig, Lisa)	117	23
12c.	Oh, listen to me, dear (Lisa, Julia, Notary, Chorus)	124	26
12d.	The die is cast (Lisa, Chorus, Ludwig, Julia)	127	27
12e.	For this will be a jolly Court (Ludwig, Chorus, Julia)	130	29

Act I	I		
13.	As before you we defile (Chorus)	139	34
14.	Your loyalty our Ducal heart-strings touches (Ludwig)	143	36
	At the outset I may mention (Ludwig, Chorus)	144	36
15.	Yes, Ludwig and his Julia are mated! (Ludwig)	149	-
	Take care of him – he's much too good to live! (Lisa, Ludwig)	150	-
16.	Now Julia, come (Ludwig, Julia)	152	-
17.	Your Highness, there's a party at the door (Chorus)	156	37
	With fury indescribable I burn! (Baroness, Chorus, Ludwig)	158	38
17a.	For any disappointment we are sorry unaffectedly (Chorus)	165	40
18.	Now away to the wedding we go (Baroness, Chorus)	167	41
19.	So ends my dream & All is darksome (Julia)	169	-
20.	If the light of love's lingering ember (Ernest, Julia)	176	-
	Now bridegroom and bride let us toast (Chorus)	181	42
21.	Come, bumpers – aye, ever-so-many (Baroness, Chorus)	182	43
22.	Why, who is this approaching? (Ludwig, Chorus)	186	43
23.	The Prince of Monte Carlo (Herald, Chorus)	188	44
24.	His Highness we know not (Ludwig)	194	-
25.	We're rigged out in magnificent array (Prince, Cost., Princess, Her., Nobles)	196	47
26.	Dance (Instrumental)	204	-
27.	Take my advice – when deep in debt (Prince, Chorus)	207	51
28.	Hurrah! Now away to the wedding we go (Chorus, Ernest, Notary, Rudolph)	213	54
28a.	Well, you're a pretty kind of fellow (Rudolph, Chorus)	215	54
29	Act II Finale: Happy couples lightly treading (Chorus)	219	56

This new edition was prepared by Colin Jagger in 2021-23 and published in 2023.

The music and libretto of *The Grand Duke* are in the public domain and the editor does not assert any copyright in the material presented in this volume.

It may therefore be freely copied.

For more information, please contact: cjagger99@gmail.com

Introduction

The Grand Duke was the last and least successful of the Gilbert & Sullivan collaborations and was only revived once by the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, 80 years later. The reasons for its relative failure (123 performances) have been widely addressed elsewhere, but much the most significant factor was simply that theatrical taste had evolved and while the G&S operas had been the height of fashion from 1875-90 they had become much less so by the time of *The Grand Duke's* premiere in 1896.

With 19th century fashion no longer an issue, a reassessment is long overdue. The music is clearly some of the finest Sullivan ever composed, and Gilbert's script is very funny, even if the humour is of a slightly different kind to his earlier works. Mounting a production today, however, is fraught with problems: the Chappell vocal score (for more than 100 years the only score on sale) is full of errors and doesn't match the D'Oyly Carte orchestra parts which are full of different errors (until now this has been the only available set). Also until now there has never been a published full score. Trying to perform something which is even reasonably faithful to the authors' intentions has therefore been impossible for 125 years. This new edition seeks to address these problems.

It is important to note that this is not a critical edition to parallel my work on *The Yeomen of the Guard* for Oxford University Press. Rather, it is part of a collection of performance materials, the musical input of which is based primarily on Sullivan's autograph manuscript. As always with Sullivan, this is a fascinating and extremely accurate source and shows the Chappell vocal score to be even more flawed than usual, with errors in around 100 bars of the vocal lines. The piano part is similarly flawed giving frequently incorrect readings of the harmony and orchestration. I have also made reference to Marc Shepherd's 2009 vocal score which is highly authoritative in regards to textual matters, but due to its limited reference to Sullivan's manuscript, preserves many of the Chappell musical errors.

In addition to this vocal score incorporating the dialogue, a full score and complete orchestral material are available on hire or sale from The Amber Ring (robin@amber-ring.co.uk). There is a second free pdf giving a fully cross-referenced chorus score which includes all the music for those principals with limited solo work, so that by photocopying fragments of dialogue, only Rudolph, Ernest, Ludwig, Notary, Baroness, Julia, and Lisa need the vocal score.

Various other materials are available to make the work more accessible to those with limited space and/or resources: a reduced orchestration for a minimum of ten players (this *does* mirror my work on *Yeomen*), an abridged vocal score reducing the length of the piece, and a version for SAB chorus instead of SATB (this works well as there is no double chorus and very little *divisi*). These are available from: cjagger99@gmail.com

A comprehensive set of notes detailing the many differences from the Chappell vocal score and D'Oyly Carte orchestra parts is given in the full score.

Numerical metronome marks are editorial, intended to give tempos that Sullivan would have recognised (often very different from the 'traditional' tempos that have become the norm). Otherwise such additions are kept to a minimum, and are usually shown in square brackets. Lyrics shown above the staff in italics are from the Chappell vocal score where those are not simply in error, the one exception being No. 12 bars 525-6 where they are from the libretto (see notes in the full score). Cue-sized notes usually indicate Sullivan's preferred reading, except in No. 12 bars 7-8 where they simply indicate what is in the Chappell vocal score as opposed to the autograph.

Boxed text in the chorus numbers are references to the Chorus Score page no./system no. to aid rehearsal situations where both scores are in use.

Dramatis Personæ

comic baritone RUDOLPH (Grand Duke of Pfennig Halbpfennig) ERNEST DUMMKOPF (a Theatrical Manager) tenor LUDWIG (his Leading Comedian) baritone Dr. Tannhäuser (a Notary) high baritone THE PRINCE OF MONTE CARLO baritone VISCOUNT MENTONE speaking role BEN HASHBAZ (a Costumier) any male voice baritone HERALD THE PRINCESS OF MONTE CARLO (betrothed to RUDOLPH) soprano THE BARONESS VON KRAKENFELDT (betrothed to RUDOLPH) contralto JULIA JELLICOE (an English Comédienne) soprano LISA (a Soubrette) mezzo-soprano GRETCHEN (member of ERNEST DUMMKOPF'S Company) soprano 1 BERTHA (ditto) soprano 2 ELSA (ditto) alto 1 OLGA (ditto) alto 2 MARTHA (ditto) any female voice

Chorus of Chamberlains, Nobles, Actors, Actresses, etc.

Act I – Scene. Public Square of Speisesaal

Act II – Scene. Hall in the Grand Ducal Palace

Date - 1750

First produced at the Savoy Theatre, London, under the management of Richard D'Oyly Carte, on Saturday 7 March, 1896.

Vocal ranges and list of musical numbers each character sings in (C3 is middle C):

	Act I	Act II
RUDOLPH, Bb2-F3	9a, 10-12	28, 28a
ERNEST, C2-Ab4	3-8	20, 28
LUDWIG, Bb2-F3	1a, 2, 5-8, 12	14-17, 22, 24
Notary, C2-G3	6-8, 12	28
PRINCE, C2-F3	-	25, 27
COSTUMIER, E2	-	25
HERALD, B2-E3	-	23, 25
PRINCESS, C3-A5	-	25
BARONESS, A3-E4	10	17, 18, 21
Julia, C3-A5	4, 6-8, 12	16, 19, 20
LISA, C3-G4	1a, 6-8, 12	15
GRETCHEN (S1), D3-F#4	1, 12	-
BERTHA (S2), C#3-D4	1, 12	-
ELSA (A1), C#3-D4	1, 12	-
OLGA (A2), D3-E4	1, 12	-
Male Chorus*	9	25
Mixed Chorus	1-3, 5, 12	13, 14, 17-18, 20-23, 27-29

^{*}Not a full chorus, but men drawn to be respectively the seven Chamberlains and six Nobles.

Although the chorus has an enormous amount to do, it is not difficult and always very grateful to sing (the opening chorus is arguably Sullivan's finest). The men rarely sing on their own, and there is quite a lot in unison. There is minimal *divisi*, just: sops/altos No. 12 bars 188-192, tenors none, basses No. 1 bars 21-30 and 50-5, No. 12 bars 503-8, and No. 29 bars 10-19.

For the principals, Ludwig has most to sing, while Julia and Ernest are vocally the most challenging roles, but all the others are extremely manageable even for amateurs. Gretchen, Bertha, Elsa and Olga are chorus girls with two solo fragments each, and one quartet fragment, hence the given S1/2-A1/2 division.

Dialogue plot giving the relevant page numbers (brackets indicate silent presence):

	Act I	Act II
RUDOLPH	76-7, 86, 92-3	218
Ernest	29, 33-4, 49-50, 57	175, 218
LUDWIG	21, 28-29, 49-50, 57, 92-3	151-2, 165-6, 206, 212, 218
Notary	21, 28-29, 49-50, 57	218
PRINCE	-	203, 206, 212, 218
VISCOUNT MENTONE	-	203, (206), (212), (218)
COSTUMIER	-	203, (206), (212), (218)
HERALD	-	(203), (206), (212), (218)
PRINCESS	-	203, (206), 212, 218
BARONESS	76-7	165-6, (206), 212, (218)
Julia	34, 49-50, 57	151-2, 165-6, 175, (206), 212, 218
LISA	21, 28-29, 49-50, 57	175, (206), 212, 218
GRETCHEN, BERTHA, etc.	21, 28-29	(165-6), (206), (212), (218)

The Grand Duke (1896)

The Statutory Duel

W. S. Gilbert (1836-1911)

Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)













Act I. No. 1. Won't it be a pretty wedding?

Chorus with Solos

SCENE—Market Place of Speisesaal, in the Grand Duchy of Pfennig Halbpfennig. A well, with decorated ironwork, up L.C. GRETCHEN, BERTHA, OLGA, ELSA, MARTHA, and other members of ERNEST DUMMKOPF'S theatrical company are discovered, seated at several small tables, enjoying a repast in honour of the nuptials of LUDWIG, his leading comedian, and LISA, his soubrette.

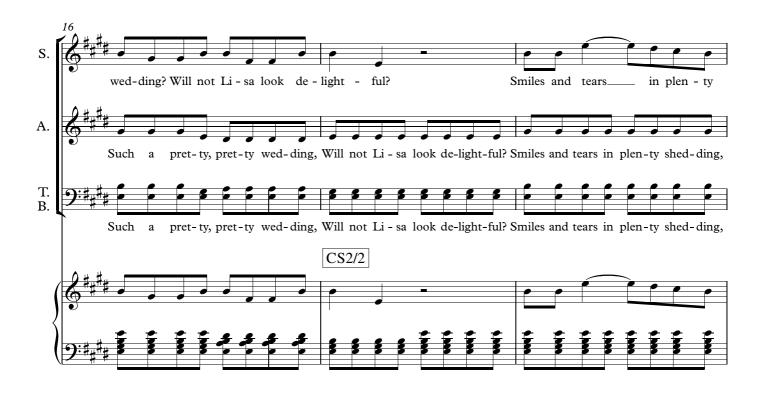
Allegro giojoso (= 132)

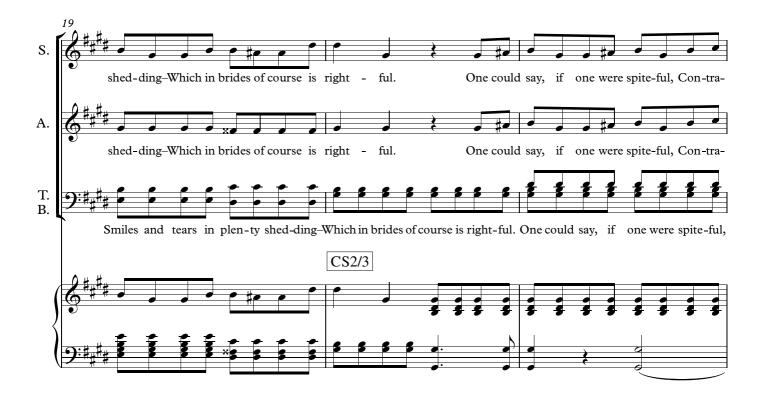


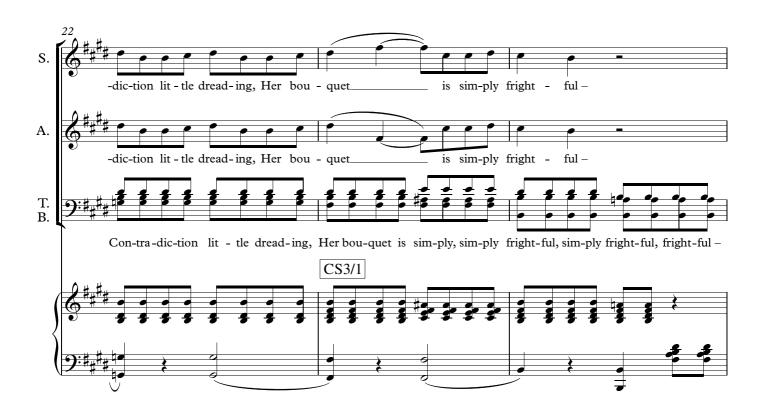


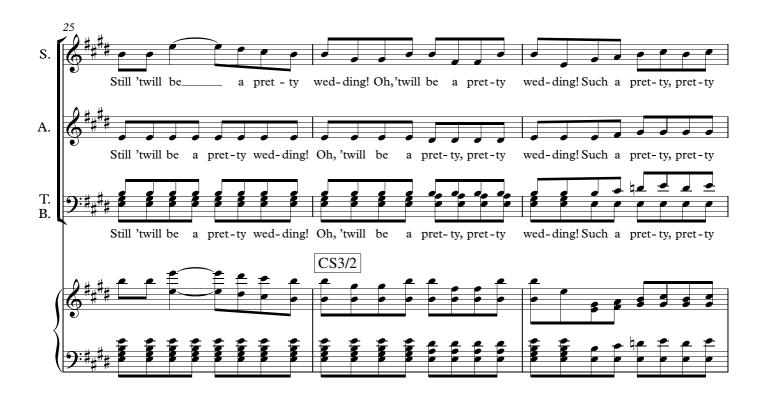






















No. 1a. Pretty Lisa, fair and tasty

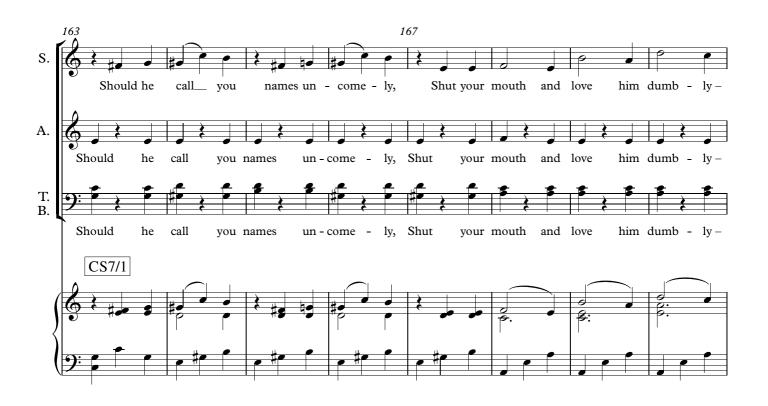
Duet (Ludwig & Lisa) with Chorus



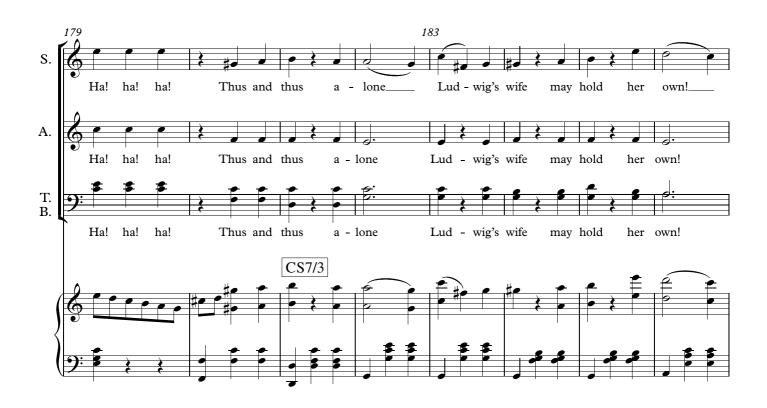


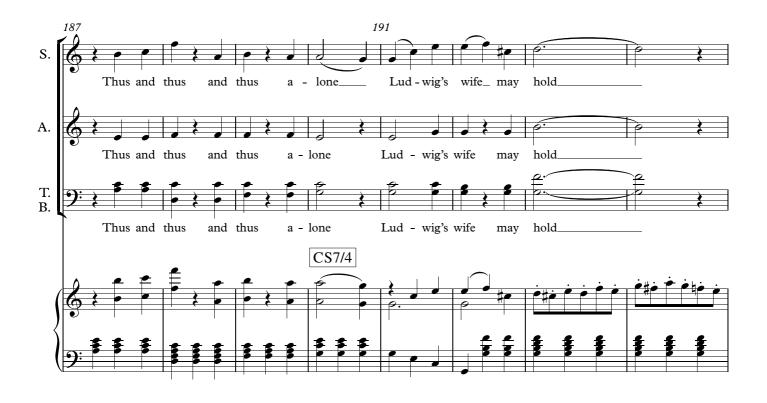


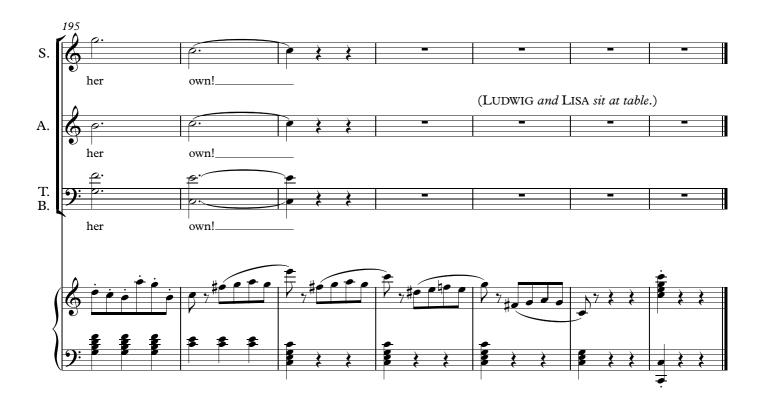












(Enter NOTARY TANNHÄUSER.)

NOTARY. Hallo! Surely I'm not late? (*All chatter unintelligibly in reply*.) But, dear me, you're all at breakfast! Has the wedding taken place? (*All chatter unintelligibly in reply*.) My good girls, one at a time, I beg. Let me understand the situation. As solicitor to the conspiracy to dethrone the Grand Duke – a conspiracy in which the members of this company are deeply involved – I am invited to the marriage of two of its members. I present myself in due course, and I find, not only that the ceremony has taken place – which is not of the least consequence – but the wedding breakfast is half eaten – which is a consideration of the most serious importance.

(LUDWIG and LISA come down.)

LUDWIG. But the ceremony has *not* taken place. We can't get a parson! **NOTARY**. Can't get a parson! Why, how's that? They're three a penny!

LUDWIG. Oh, it's the old story – the Grand Duke!

ALL. Ugh!

LUDWIG. It seems that the little imp has selected this, our wedding day, for a convocation of all the clergy in the town to settle the details of his approaching marriage with the enormously wealthy Baroness von Krakenfeldt, and there won't be a parson to be had for love or money until six o'clock this evening!

LISA. And as we produce our magnificent classical revival of *Troilus and Cressida* to-night at seven, we have no alternative but to eat our wedding breakfast before we've earned it. So sit down, and make the best of it.

GRETCHEN. Oh, I should like to pull his Grand Ducal ears for him, that I should. He's the meanest, the cruellest, the most spiteful little ape in Christendom!

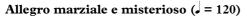
OLGA. Well, we shall soon be freed from his tyranny. To-morrow the Despot is to be dethroned! **LUDWIG**. Hush, rash girl! You know not what you say.

OLGA. Don't be absurd! We're all in it – we're all tiled, here.

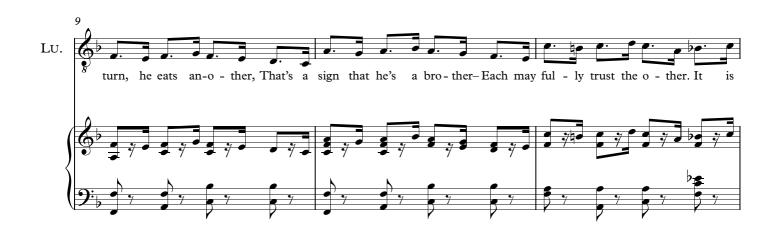
LUDWIG. That has nothing to do with it. Know ye not that in alluding to our conspiracy without having first given and received the secret sign, you are violating a fundamental principle of our Association?

No. 2. By the mystic regulation

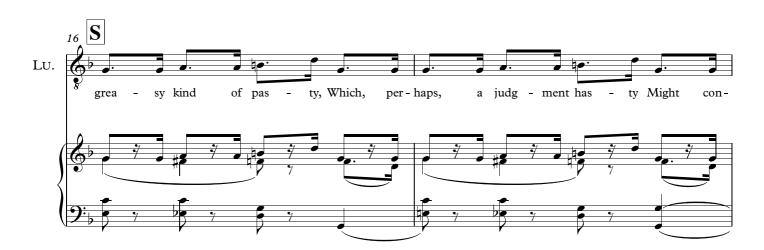
Solo (Ludwig) with Chorus



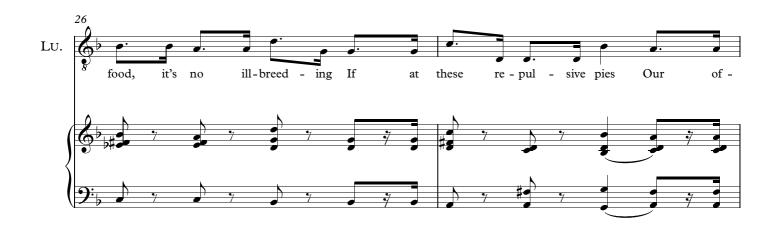






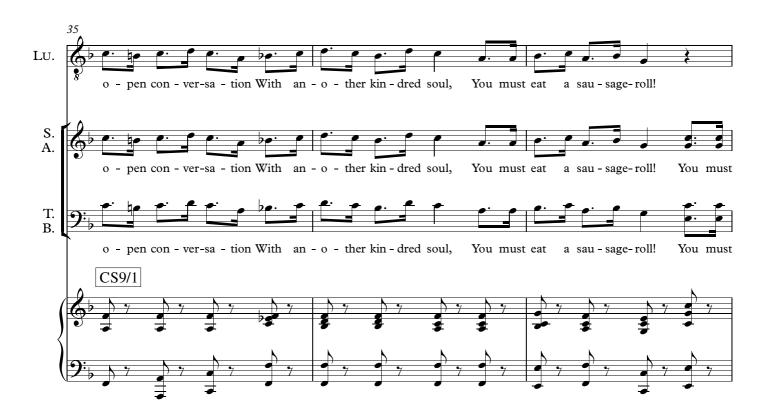














MARTHA. Oh, bother the secret sign! I've eaten it until I'm quite uncomfortable! I've given it six times already to-day – and (*whimpering*) I can't eat any breakfast!

BERTHA. And it's so unwholesome. Why, we should all be as yellow as frogs if it wasn't for the make-up!

LUDWIG. All this is rank treason to the cause. I suffer as much as any of you. I loathe the repulsive thing – I can't contemplate it without a shudder – but I'm a conscientious conspirator, and if you won't give the sign I will. (*Eats a sausage-roll with an effort.*)

LISA. Poor martyr! He's always at it, and it's a wonder where he puts it!

NOTARY. Well now, about *Troilus and Cressida*. What do *you* play?

LUDWIG (*struggling with his feelings*). If you'll be so obliging as to wait until I've got rid of this feeling of warm oil at the bottom of my throat, I'll tell you all about it. (LISA *gives him some brandy*.) Thank you, my love; it's gone. Well, the piece will be produced upon a scale of unexampled magnificence. It is confidently predicted that my appearance as King Agamemnon, in a Louis Quatorze wig, will mark an epoch in the theatrical annals of Pfennig Halbpfennig. I endeavoured to persuade Ernest Dummkopf, our manager, to lend us the classical dresses for our marriage. Think of the effect of a real Athenian wedding procession cavorting through the streets of Speisesaal! Torches burning – cymbals banging – flutes tootling – citharæ twanging – and a throng of fifty lovely Spartan virgins capering before us, all down the High Street, singing 'Eloia! Eloia! Opoponax, Eloia!'*

* If 2a is to be included, it replaces Ludwig's last four words.

No. 2a. Opoponax! Opoponax! Eloia!





LUDWIG. It would have been tremendous!

NOTARY. And he declined?

LUDWIG. He did, on the prosaic ground that it might rain, and the ancient Greeks didn't carry umbrellas! If, as is confidently expected, Ernest Dummkopf is elected to succeed the dethroned one, mark my words, he will make a mess of it.

(Exit LUDWIG with LISA.)

OLGA. He's sure to be elected. His entire company has promised to plump for him on the understanding that all the places about the Court are filled by members of his troupe, according to professional precedence.

(ERNEST enters in great excitement.)

BERTHA (*looking off*). Here comes Ernest Dummkopf. Now we shall know all about it! **ALL**. Well – what's the news? How is the election going?

ERNEST. Oh, it's a certainty – a practical certainty! Two of the candidates have been arrested for debt, and the third is a baby in arms – so, if you keep your promises, and vote solid, I'm cocksure of election!

OLGA. Trust to us. But you remember the conditions?

ERNEST. Yes – all of you shall be provided for, for life. Every man shall be ennobled – every lady shall have unlimited credit at the Court Milliner's, and all salaries shall be paid weekly in advance!

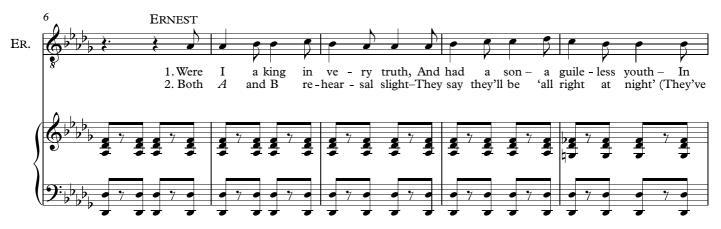
GRETCHEN. Oh, it's quite clear he knows how to rule a Grand Duchy!

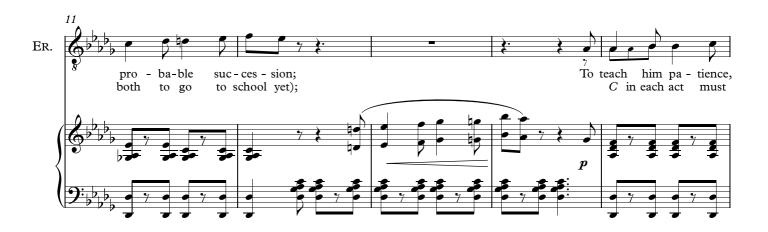
ERNEST. Rule a Grand Duchy? Why, my good girl, for ten years past I've ruled a theatrical company! A man who can do that can rule anything!

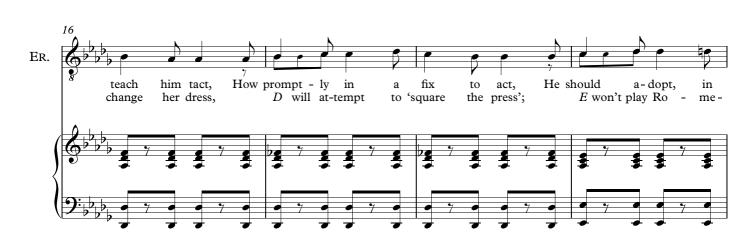
No. 3. Were I a king in very truth

Song (Ernest) with Chorus















ERNEST. Elected by my fellow-conspirators to be Grand Duke of Pfennig Halbpfennig as soon as the contemptible little occupant of the historical throne is deposed – here is promotion indeed! Why, instead of playing Troilus of Troy for a month, I shall play Grand Duke of Pfennig Halbpfennig for a lifetime! Yet, am I happy? No – far from happy! The lovely English *comédienne* – the beautiful Julia, whose dramatic ability is so overwhelming that our audiences forgive even her strong English accent – that rare and radiant being treats my respectful advances with disdain unutterable! And yet, who knows? She is haughty and ambitious, and it may be that the splendid change in my fortunes may work a corresponding change in her feelings towards me!

(Enter JULIA JELLICOE.)

JULIA. Herr Dummkopf, a word with you, if you please.

ERNEST. Beautiful English maiden –

JULIA. No compliments, I beg. I desire to speak with you on a purely professional matter, so we will, if you please, dispense with allusions to my personal appearance, which can only tend to widen the breach which already exists between us.

ERNEST (aside). My only hope shattered! The haughty Londoner still despises me! (Aloud.) It shall be as you will.

JULIA. I understand that the conspiracy in which we are all concerned is to develop to-morrow, and that the company is likely to elect you to the throne on the understanding that the posts about the Court are to be filled by members of your theatrical troupe, according to their professional importance.

ERNEST. That is so.

JULIA. Then all I can say is that it places me in an extremely awkward position.

ERNEST (very depressed). I don't see how it concerns you.

JULIA. Why, bless my heart, don't you see that, as your leading lady, I am bound under a serious penalty to play the leading part in all your productions?

ERNEST. Well?

JULIA. Why, of course, the leading part in this production will be the Grand Duchess!

ERNEST. My wife?

JULIA. That is another way of expressing the same idea.

ERNEST (aside – delighted). I scarcely dared even to hope for this!

JULIA. Of course, as your leading lady, you'll be mean enough to hold me to the terms of my agreement. Oh, that's so like a man! Well, I suppose there's no help for it - I shall have to do it!

ERNEST (*aside*). She's mine! (*Aloud*.) But – do you really think you would care to play that part? (*Taking her hand*.)

JULIA (*withdrawing it*). Care to play it? Certainly not – but what am I to do? Business is business, and I am bound by the terms of my agreement.

ERNEST. It's for a long run, mind - a run that may last many, many years - no understudy - and once embarked upon there's no throwing it up.

JULIA. Oh, we're used to these long runs in England: they are the curse of the stage – but, you see, I've no option.

ERNEST. You think the part of Grand Duchess will be good enough for you?

JULIA. Oh, I think so. It's a very good part in Gerolstein, and oughtn't to be a bad one in Pfennig Halbpfennig. Why, what did you suppose I was going to play?

ERNEST (*keeping up a show of reluctance*). But, considering your strong personal dislike to me and your persistent rejection of my repeated offers, won't you find it difficult to throw yourself into the part with all the impassioned enthusiasm that the character seems to demand? Remember, it's a strongly emotional part, involving long and repeated scenes of rapture, tenderness, adoration, devotion – all in luxuriant excess, and all of the most demonstrative description.

JULIA. My good sir, throughout my career I have made it a rule never to allow private feeling to interfere with my professional duties. You may be quite sure that (however distasteful the part may be) if I undertake it, I shall consider myself professionally bound to throw myself into it with all the ardour at my command.

ERNEST (aside – with effusion). I'm the happiest fellow alive! (Aloud.) Now – would you have any objection – to – to give me some idea – if it's only a mere sketch – as to how you would play it? It would be really interesting – to me – to know your conception of – of – the part of my wife.

JULIA. How would I play it? Now, let me see – let me see. (*Considering*.) Ah, I have it!

No. 4. How would I play this part

Song (Julia) & Duet (Julia & Ernest)



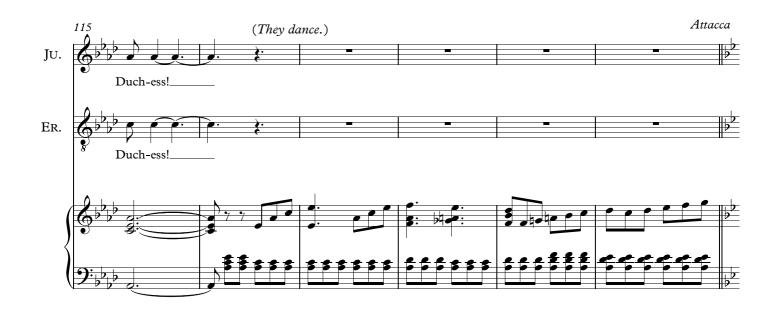












No. 5. My goodness me! what shall I do?

Chorus, Recitative (Ernest) & Song (Ludwig)

Allegro agitato (= 160)

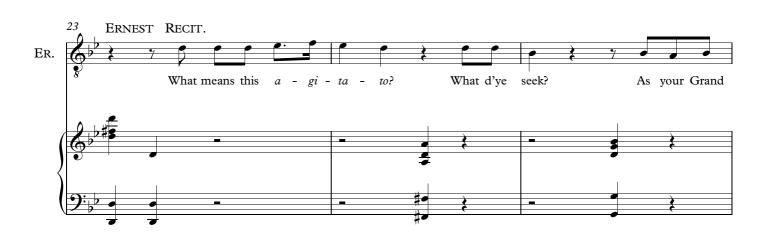








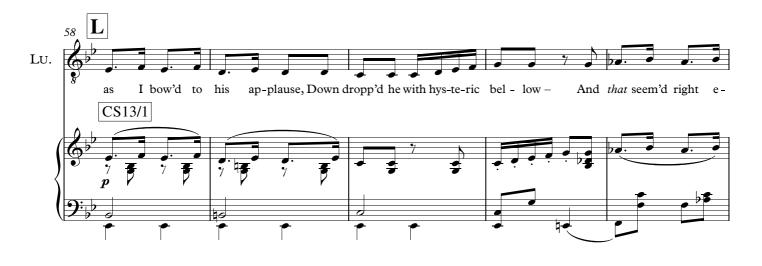


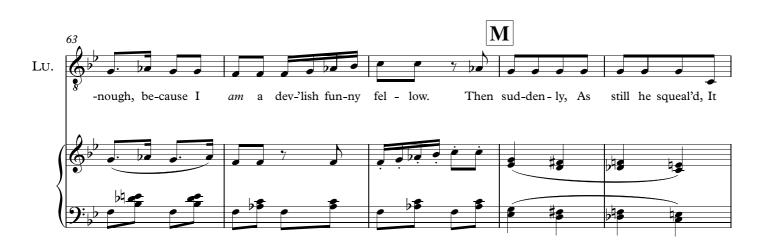




















JULIA. Well, a nice mess you've got us into! There's an end of our precious plot! All up – pop – fizzle – bang – done for!

LUDWIG. Yes, but – ha! ha! – fancy my choosing the Grand Duke's private detective, of all men, to make a confidant of! When you come to think of it, it's really devilish funny!

ERNEST (*angrily*). When you come to think of it, it's extremely injudicious to admit into a conspiracy every pudding-headed baboon who presents himself!

LUDWIG. Yes – I should never do that. If I were chairman of this gang, I should hesitate to enrol *any* baboon who couldn't produce satisfactory credentials from his last Zoological Gardens.

LISA. Ludwig is far from being a baboon. Poor boy, he could not help giving us away – it's his trusting nature – he was deceived.

JULIA (*furiously*). His trusting nature! (*To* LUDWIG.) Oh, I should like to talk to you in my own language for five minutes – only five minutes! I know some good, strong, energetic English remarks that would shrivel your trusting nature into raisins – only you wouldn't understand them!

LUDWIG. Here we perceive one of the disadvantages of a neglected education!

ERNEST (to JULIA). And I suppose you'll never be my Grand Duchess, now!

JULIA. Grand Duchess? My good friend, if you don't produce the piece how can I play the part?

ERNEST. True. (*To* LUDWIG.) You see what you've done.

LUDWIG. But, my dear sir, you don't seem to understand that the man ate three sausage-rolls. Keep that fact steadily before you. Three large sausage-rolls.

JULIA. Bah! – Lots of people eat sausage-rolls who are not conspirators.

LUDWIG. Then they shouldn't. It's bad form. It's not the game. When one of the Human Family proposes to eat a sausage-roll, it is his duty to ask himself, 'Am I a conspirator?' And if, on examination, he finds that he is *not* a conspirator, he is bound in honour to select some other form of refreshment.

LISA. Of course he is. One should always play the game. (*To* NOTARY, *who has been smiling placidly through this.*) What are you grinning at, you greedy old man?

NOTARY. Nothing – don't mind me. It is always amusing to the legal mind to see a parcel of laymen bothering themselves about a matter which to a trained lawyer presents no difficulty whatever.

ALL. No difficulty!

NOTARY. None whatever! The way out of it is quite simple.

ALL. Simple?

NOTARY. Certainly! Now attend. In the first place, you two men fight a Statutory Duel.

ERNEST. A Statutory Duel?

JULIA. A Stat-tat-tatutory Duel! Ach! what a crack-jaw language this German is.

LUDWIG. Never heard of such a thing.

NOTARY. It is true that the practice has fallen into abeyance through disuse. But all the laws of Pfennig Halbpfennig run for a hundred years, when they die a natural death, unless, in the meantime, they have been revived for another century. The Act that institutes the Statutory Duel was passed a hundred years ago, and as it has never been revived, it expires to-morrow. So you're just in time.

JULIA. But what is the use of talking to us about Statutory Duels when we none of us know what a Statutory Duel is?

NOTARY. Don't you? Then I'll explain.

No. 6. About a century since

Song (Notary) with Lisa, Julia, Ernest & Ludwig













BLANK PAGE

LUDWIG. I see. The man who draws the lowest card –

NOTARY. Dies, *ipso facto*, a social death. He loses all his civil rights – his identity disappears – the Revising Barrister expunges his name from the list of voters, and the winner takes his place, whatever it may be, discharges all his functions and adopts all his responsibilities.

ERNEST. This is all very well, as far as it goes, but it only protects one of us. What's to become of the survivor?

LUDWIG. Yes, that's an interesting point, because *I* might be the survivor.

NOTARY. The survivor goes at once to the Grand Duke, and, in a burst of remorse, denounces the dead man as the moving spirit of the plot. He is accepted as King's evidence, and, as a matter of course, receives a free pardon. To-morrow, when the law expires, the dead man will, *ipso facto*, come to life again – the Revising Barrister will restore his name to the list of voters, and he will resume all his obligations as though nothing unusual had happened.

JULIA. When he will be at once arrested, tried, and executed on the evidence of the informer! Candidly, my friend, I don't think much of your plot.

NOTARY. Dear, dear, the ignorance of the laity! My good young lady, it is a beautiful maxim of our glorious Constitution that a man can only die once. Death expunges crime, and when he comes to life again, it will be with a clean slate.

ERNEST. It's really very ingenious.

LUDWIG (to NOTARY). My dear sir, we owe you our lives!

LISA (aside to LUDWIG). May I kiss him?

LUDWIG. Certainly not: you're a big girl now. (*To* ERNEST.) Well, miscreant, are you prepared to meet me on the field of honour?

ERNEST. At once. By Jove, what a couple of fire-eaters we are!

LISA. Ludwig doesn't know what fear is.

LUDWIG. Oh, I don't mind this sort of duel!

ERNEST. It's not like a duel with swords. I hate a duel with swords. It's not the blade I mind – it's the blood.

LUDWIG. And I hate a duel with pistols. It's not the ball I mind – it's the bang.

NOTARY. Altogether it is a great improvement on the old method of giving satisfaction.

No. 7. Strange the views some people hold!

Quintet (Julia, Lisa, Ernest, Notary, & Ludwig)





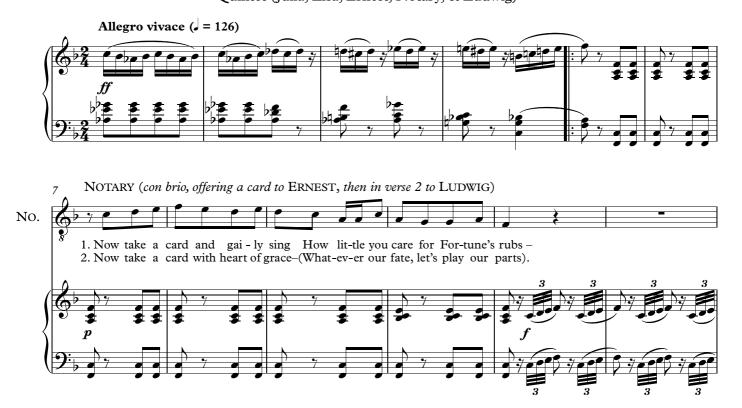








No. 8. Now take a card and gaily sing Quintet (Julia, Lisa, Ernest, Notary, & Ludwig)

















(Dance and exeunt LUDWIG, ERNEST, and NOTARY with the two Girls.)







No. 9. The good Grand Duke

Entrance and Chorus of Chamberlains

CS15/1

Andante allegretto (= 108)













(Enter the GRAND DUKE RUDOLPH. He is meanly and miserably dressed in old and patched clothes, but blazes with a profusion of orders and decorations. He is very weak and ill, from low living.)



No. 9a. A pattern to professors of monarchical autonomy Song (Rudolph)





RUDOLPH. My Lord Chamberlain, as you are aware, my marriage with the wealthy Baroness von Krakenfeldt will take place to-morrow, and you will be good enough to see that the rejoicings are on a scale of unusual liberality. Pass that on. (Chamberlain whispers to Vice-Chamberlain, who whispers to the next, and so on.) The sports will begin with a Wedding Breakfast Bee. The leading pastry-cooks of the town will be invited to compete, and the winner will not only enjoy the satisfaction of seeing his breakfast devoured by the Grand Ducal pair, but he will also be entitled to have the Arms of Pfennig Halbpfennig tattoo'd between his shoulder-blades. The Vice-Chamberlain will see to this. All the public fountains of Speisesaal will run with Gingerbierheim and Currantweinmilch at the public expense. The Assistant Vice-Chamberlain will see to this. At night, everybody will illuminate; and as I have no desire to tax the public funds unduly, this will be done at the inhabitants' private expense. The Deputy Assistant Vice-Chamberlain will see to this. All my Grand Ducal subjects will wear new clothes, and the Sub-Deputy Assistant Vice-Chamberlain will collect the usual commission on all sales. Wedding presents (which, on this occasion, should be on a scale of extraordinary magnificence) will be received at the Palace at any hour of the twenty-four, and the Temporary Sub-Deputy Assistant Vice-Chamberlain will sit up all night for this purpose. The entire population will be commanded to enjoy themselves, and with this view the Acting Temporary Sub-Deputy Assistant Vice-Chamberlain will sing comic songs in the Market Place from noon to nightfall. Finally, we have composed a Wedding Anthem, with which the entire population are required to provide themselves. It can be obtained from our Grand Ducal publishers at the usual discount price, and all the Chamberlains will be expected to push the sale. (Chamberlains bow and exeunt.)

No. 9b. Exit of Chamberlains

RUDOLPH. I don't feel at all comfortable. I hope I'm not doing a foolish thing in getting married. After all, it's a poor heart that never rejoices, and this wedding of mine is the first little treat I've allowed myself since my christening. Besides, Caroline's income is very considerable, and as her ideas of economy are quite on a par with mine, it ought to turn out well. Bless her tough old heart, she's a mean little darling! Oh, here she is, punctual to her appointment!

(Enter BARONESS VON KRAKENFELDT.)

BARONESS. Rudolph! Why, what's the matter?

RUDOLPH. Why, I'm not quite myself, my pet. I'm a little worried and upset. I want a tonic. It's the low diet, I think. I am afraid, after all, I shall have to take the bull by the horns and have an egg with my breakfast.

BARONESS. I shouldn't do anything rash, dear. Begin with a jujube. (Gives him one.)

RUDOLPH (about to eat it, but changes his mind). I'll keep it for supper. (He sits by her and tries to put his arm round her waist.)

BARONESS. Rudolph, don't! What in the world are you thinking of?

RUDOLPH. I was thinking of embracing you, my sugar-plum. Just as a little cheap treat.

BARONESS. What, here? In public? Really you appear to have no sense of delicacy.

RUDOLPH. No sense of delicacy, Bon-bon!

BARONESS. No. I can't make you out. When you courted me, all your courting was done publicly in the Market Place. When you proposed to me, you proposed in the Market Place. And now that we're engaged you seem to desire that our first *tête-à-tête* shall occur in the Market Place! Surely you've a room in your Palace – with blinds – that would do?

RUDOLPH. But, my own, I can't help myself. I'm bound by my own decree.

BARONESS. Your own decree?

RUDOLPH. Yes. You see, all the houses that give on the Market Place belong to me, but the drains (which date back to the reign of Charlemagne) want attending to, and the houses wouldn't let - so, with a view to increasing the value of the property, I decreed that all love episodes between affectionate couples should take place, in public, on this spot, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, when the band doesn't play.

BARONESS. Bless me, what a happy idea! So moral too! And have you found it answer?

RUDOLPH. Answer? The rents have gone up fifty per cent, and the sale of opera-glasses (which is a Grand Ducal monopoly) has received an extraordinary stimulus! So, under the circumstances, *would* you allow me to put my arm round your waist? As a source of income! Just once!

BARONESS. But it's so very embarrassing. Think of the opera-glasses!

RUDOLPH. My good girl, that's just what I *am* thinking of. Hang it all, we must give them *something* for their money! What's that?

BARONESS (*unfolding paper*, *which contains a large letter*, *which she hands to him*). It's a letter which your detective asked me to hand to you. I wrapped it up in yesterday's paper to keep it clean.

RUDOLPH. Oh, it's only his report! That'll keep. But, I say, you've never been and bought a newspaper?

BARONESS. My dear Rudolph, do you think I'm mad? It came wrapped round my breakfast.

RUDOLPH (*relieved*). I thought you were not the sort of girl to go and buy a newspaper! Well, as we've got it, we may as well read it. What does it say?

BARONESS. Why – dear me – here's your biography! 'Our Detested Despot!'

RUDOLPH. Yes – I fancy that refers to me.

BARONESS. And it says – Oh, it can't be!

RUDOLPH. What can't be?

BARONESS. Why, it says that although you're going to marry me to-morrow, you were betrothed in infancy to the Princess of Monte Carlo!

RUDOLPH. Oh yes – that's quite right. Didn't I mention it?

BARONESS. Mention it! You never said a word about it!

RUDOLPH. Well, it doesn't matter, because, you see, it's practically off.

BARONESS. Practically off?

RUDOLPH. Yes. By the terms of the contract the betrothal is void unless the Princess marries before she is of age. Now, her father, the Prince, is stony-broke, and hasn't left his house for years for fear of arrest. Over and over again he has implored me to come to him to be married – but in vain. Over and over again he has implored me to advance him the money to enable the Princess to come to me – but in vain. I am very young, but not as young as that; and as the Princess comes of age at two to-morrow, why at two to-morrow I'm a free man, so I appointed that hour for our wedding, as I shall like to have as much marriage as I can get for my money.

BARONESS. I see. Of course, if the married state is a happy state, it's a pity to waste any of it.

RUDOLPH. Why, every hour we delayed I should lose a lot of you and you'd lose a lot of me!

BARONESS. My thoughtful darling! Oh, Rudolph, we ought to be very happy!

RUDOLPH. If I'm not, it'll be my first bad investment. Still, there *is* such a thing as a slump even in Matrimonials.

BARONESS. I often picture us in the long, cold, dark December evenings, sitting close to each other and singing impassioned duets to keep us warm, and thinking of all the lovely things we could afford to buy if we chose, and, at the same time, planning out our lives in a spirit of the most rigid and exacting economy!

RUDOLPH. It's a most beautiful and touching picture of connubial bliss in its highest and most rarefied development!

No. 10. As o'er our penny roll we sing

Duet (Baroness & Rudolph)



















RUDOLPH. Oh, now for my detective's report. (*Opens letter*.) What's this! Another conspiracy! A conspiracy to depose *me*! And my private detective was so convulsed with laughter at the notion of the conspirator selecting him for a confidant that he was physically unable to arrest the malefactor! Why, it'll come off! This comes of engaging a detective with a keen sense of the ridiculous! For the future I'll employ none but Scotchmen. And the plot is to explode to-morrow! My wedding day! Oh, Caroline, Caroline! (*Weeps.*) This is perfectly frightful! What's to be done? I don't know! I ought to keep cool and think, but you *can't* think when your veins are full of hot soda-water, and your brain's fizzing like a firework, and all your faculties are jumbled in a perfect whirlpool of tumblication! And I'm going to be ill! I know I am! I've been living too low, and I'm going to be very ill indeed!

No. 11. When you find you're a broken-down critter Song (Rudolph)











(Enter LUDWIG.)

LUDWIG. Now for my confession and full pardon. They told me the Grand Duke was dancing duets in the Market Place, but I don't see him. (*Sees* RUDOLPH.) Hallo! Who's this? (*Aside.*) Why, it is the Grand Duke!

RUDOLPH (*sobbing*). Who are you, sir, who presume to address me in person? If you've anything to communicate, you must fling yourself at the feet of my Acting Temporary Sub-Deputy Assistant Vice-Chamberlain, who will fling himself at the feet of his immediate superior, and so on, with successive foot-flingings through the various grades – your communication will, in course of time, come to my august knowledge.

LUDWIG. But when I inform your Highness that in me you see the most unhappy, the most unfortunate, the most completely miserable man in your whole dominion –

RUDOLPH (*still sobbing*). *You* the most miserable man in my whole dominion? How can you have the face to stand there and say such a thing? Why, look at me! (*Bursts into tears*.)

LUDWIG. Well, I wouldn't be a cry-baby.

RUDOLPH. A cry-baby? If you had just been told that you were going to be deposed to-morrow, and perhaps blown up with dynamite for all I know, wouldn't *you* be a cry-baby? I do declare if I could only hit upon some cheap and painless method of putting an end to an existence which has become insupportable, I would unhesitatingly adopt it!

LUDWIG. You would? (*Aside.*) I see a magnificent way out of this! By Jupiter, I'll try it! (*Aloud.*) Are you, by any chance, in earnest?

RUDOLPH. In earnest? Why, look at me!

LUDWIG. If you are really in earnest – if you really desire to escape scot-free from this impending – this unspeakably horrible catastrophe – without trouble, danger, pain, or expense – why not resort to a Statutory Duel?

RUDOLPH. A Statutory Duel?

LUDWIG. Yes. The Act is still in force, but it will expire to-morrow afternoon. You fight – you lose – you are dead for a day. To-morrow, when the Act expires, you will come to life again and resume your Grand Duchy as though nothing had happened. In the meantime, the explosion will have taken place and the survivor will have had to bear the brunt of it.

RUDOLPH. Yes, that's all very well, but who'll be fool enough to be the survivor?

LUDWIG (*kneeling*). Actuated by an overwhelming sense of attachment to your Grand Ducal person, I unhesitatingly offer myself as the victim of your subjects' fury.

RUDOLPH. You do? Well, really that's very handsome. I daresay being blown up is not nearly as unpleasant as one would think.

LUDWIG. Oh, yes it is. It mixes one up, awfully!

RUDOLPH. But suppose I were to win?

LUDWIG. Oh, that's easily arranged. (*Producing cards.*) I'll put an Ace up my sleeve – you'll put a King up yours. When the drawing takes place, I shall seem to draw the higher card and you the lower. And there you are!

RUDOLPH. Oh, but that's cheating.

LUDWIG. So it is. I never thought of that. (*Going.*)

RUDOLPH (*hastily*). Not that I mind. But I say – you won't take an unfair advantage of your day of office? You won't go tipping people, or squandering my little savings in fireworks, or any nonsense of that sort?

LUDWIG. I am hurt – really hurt – by the suggestion.

RUDOLPH. You – you wouldn't like to put down a deposit, perhaps?

LUDWIG. No. I don't think I should like to put down a deposit.

RUDOLPH. Or give a guarantee?

LUDWIG. A guarantee would be equally open to objection.

RUDOLPH. It would be more regular. Very well, I suppose you must have your own way.

LUDWIG. Good. I say – we must have a devil of a quarrel!

RUDOLPH. Oh, a devil of a quarrel!

LUDWIG. Just to give colour to the thing. Shall I give you a sound thrashing before all the people? Say the word – it's no trouble.

RUDOLPH. No, I think not, though it would be very convincing and it's extremely good and thoughtful of you to suggest it. Still, a devil of a quarrel!

LUDWIG. Oh, a devil of a quarrel!

RUDOLPH. No half measures. Big words – strong language – rude remarks. Oh, a devil of a quarrel!

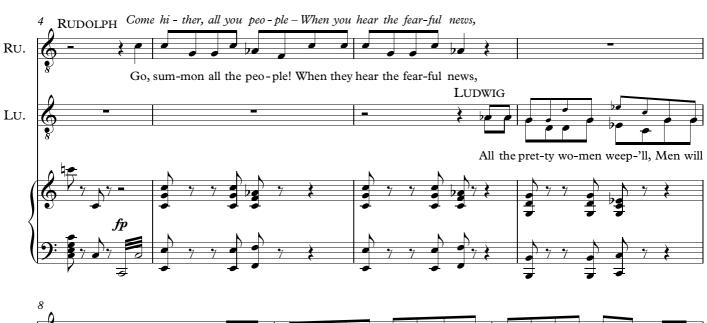
LUDWIG. Now, the question is, how shall we summon the people?

RUDOLPH. Oh, there's no difficulty about that. Bless your heart, they've been staring at us through those windows for the last half-hour!

No. 12. Act I Finale

(CS16) Go, summon all the people! (Rudolph, Ludwig, Chorus, Notary, & Solos)



































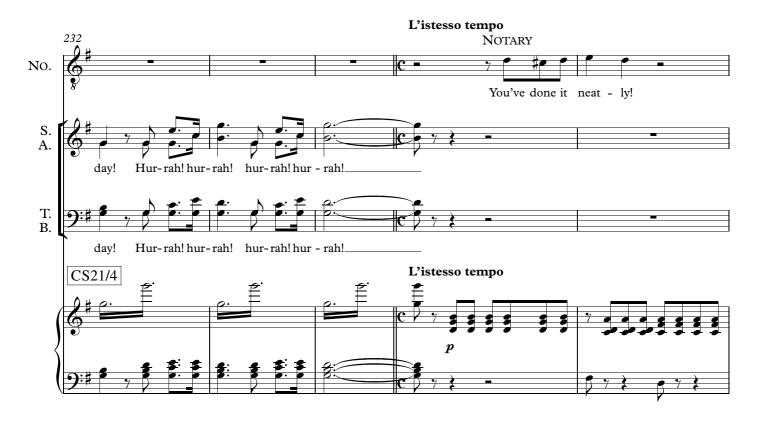


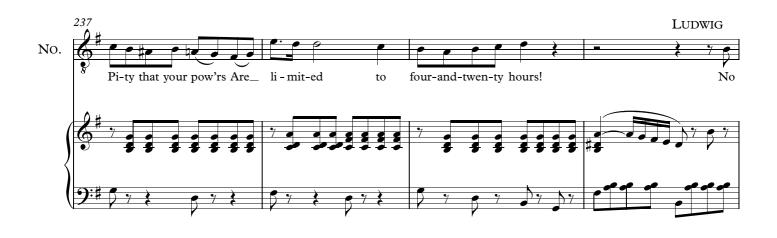










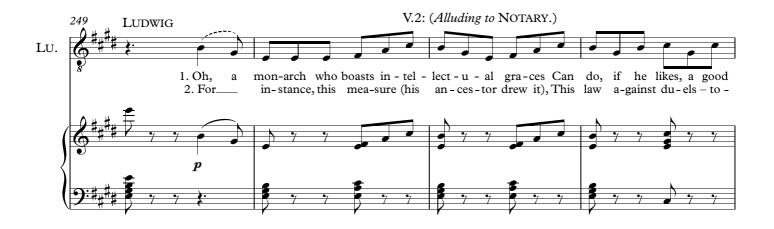


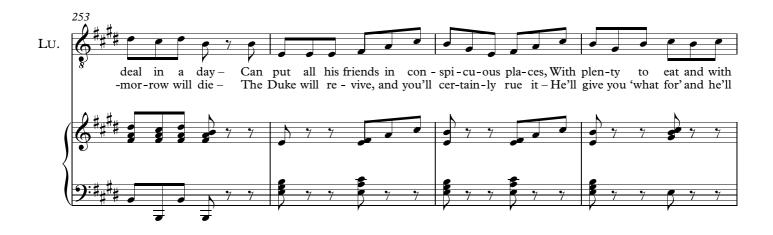


No. 12a. Oh, a monarch who boasts intellectual graces

Song (Ludwig) with Chorus







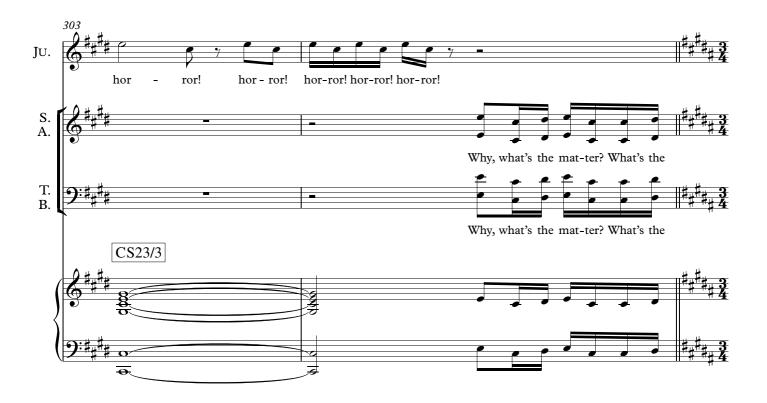










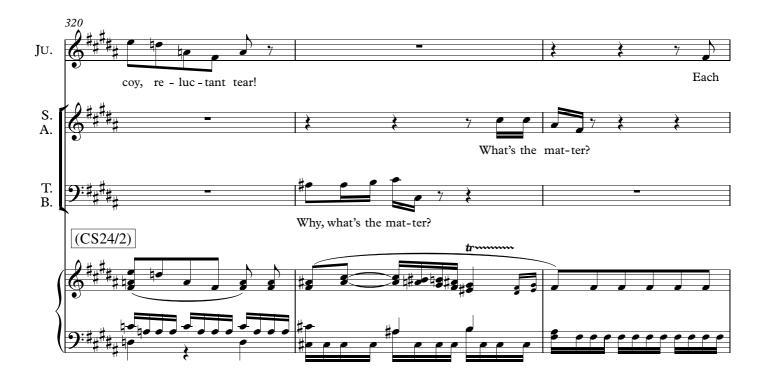


No. 12b. Ah, pity me, my comrades true

Song (Julia) with Chorus & Ludwig







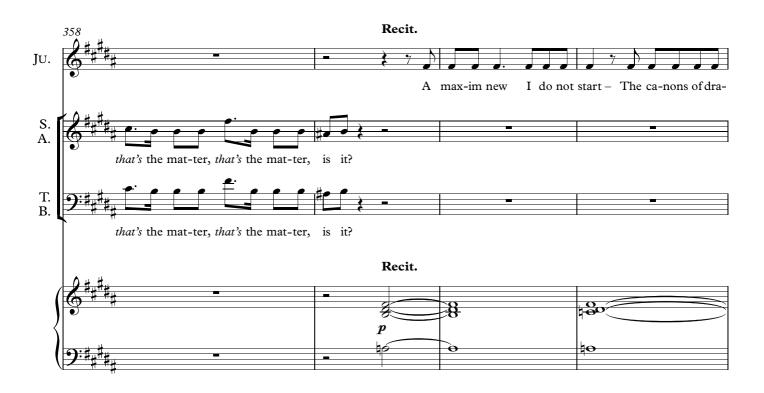


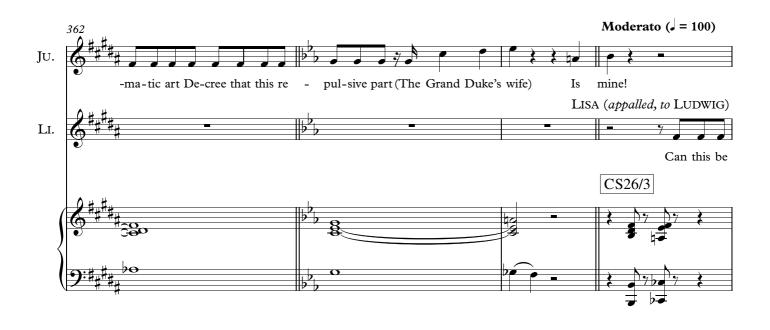














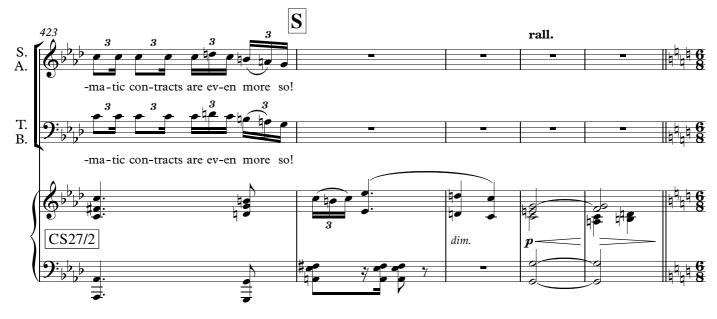
No. 12c. Oh, listen to me, dear

Duet (Lisa & Julia) with Chorus





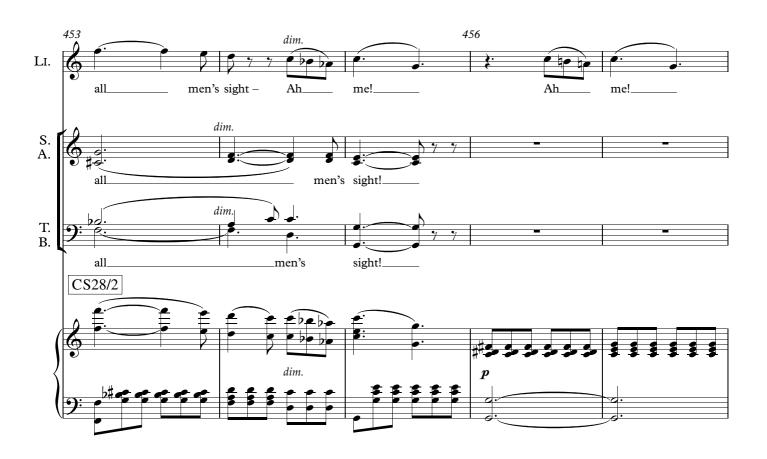




No. 12d. The die is cast Song (Lisa) with Chorus









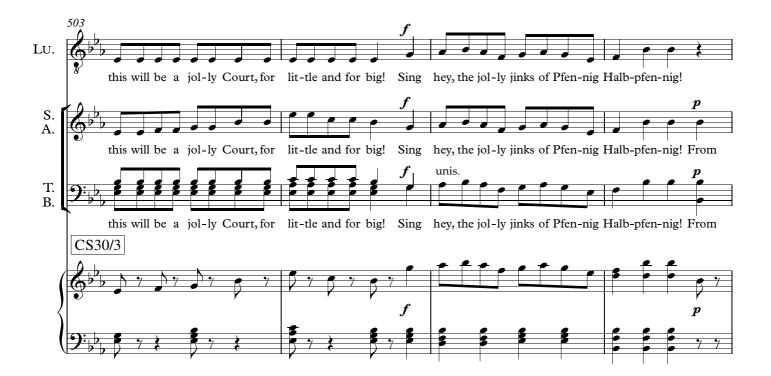


No. 12e. For this will be a jolly Court















CS32/2







End of Act I

Act II. No. 13. As before you we defile

Introduction & Chorus

SCENE—Entrance Hall of the Grand Ducal Palace (the next morning)



Enter a procession of the members of the theatrical company (now dressed in the costumes of Troilus and Cressida), carrying garlands, playing on pipes, citharæ, and cymbals, and heralding the return of LUDWIG and JULIA from the marriage ceremony, which has just taken place.









No. 14. Your loyalty our Ducal heart-strings touches

Recit. & Song (Ludwig) with Chorus







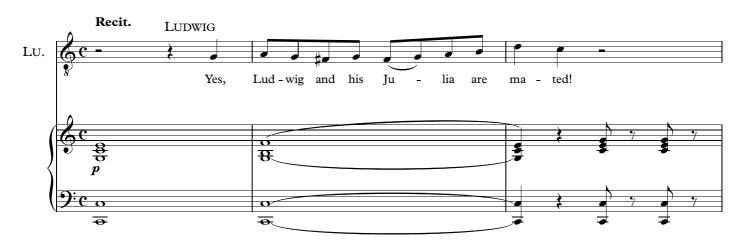


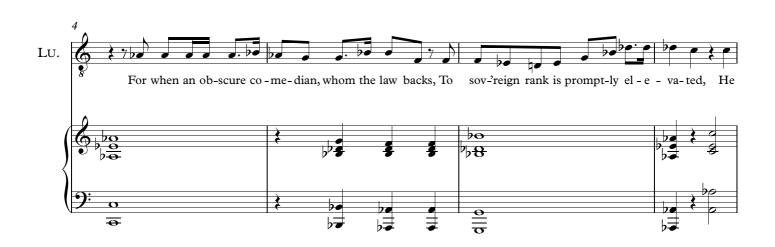


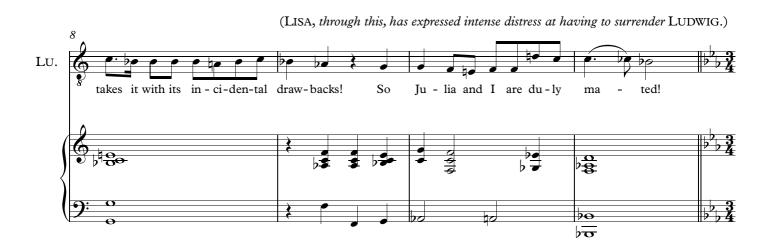


No. 15. Yes, Ludwig and his Julia are mated!

Recit. (Ludwig) & Song (Lisa)











JULIA. And now that everybody has gone, and we're happily and comfortably married, I want to have a few words with my new-born husband.

LUDWIG (*aside*). Yes, I expect you'll often have a few words with your new-born husband! (*Aloud.*) Well, what is it?

JULIA. Why, I've been thinking that as you and I have to play our parts for life, it is most essential that we should come to a definite understanding as to how they shall be rendered. Now, I've been considering how I can make the most of the Grand Duchess.

LUDWIG. Have you? Well, if you'll take my advice, you'll make a very fine part of it.

JULIA. Why, that's quite my idea.

LUDWIG. I shouldn't make it one of your hoity-toity vixenish viragoes.

JULIA. You think not?

LUDWIG. Oh, I'm quite clear about that. I should make her a tender, gentle, submissive, affectionate (but not too affectionate) child-wife – timidly anxious to coil herself into her husband's heart, but kept in check by an awestruck reverence for his exalted intellectual qualities and his majestic personal appearance.

JULIA. Oh, that is your idea of a good part?

LUDWIG. Yes – a wife who regards her husband's slightest wish as an inflexible law, and who ventures but rarely into his august presence, unless (which would happen seldom) he should summon her to appear before him. A crushed, despairing violet, whose blighted existence would culminate (all too soon) in a lonely and pathetic death-scene! A fine part, my dear.

JULIA. Yes. There's a good deal to be said for your view of it. Now there are some actresses whom it would fit like a glove.

LUDWIG (aside). I wish I'd married one of 'em!

JULIA. But, you see, I *must* consider my temperament. For instance, my temperament would demand some strong scenes of justifiable jealousy.

LUDWIG. Oh, there's no difficulty about that. You shall have *them*.

JULIA. With a lovely but detested rival –

LUDWIG. Oh, *I'll* provide the rival.

JULIA. Whom I should stab – stab – stab!

LUDWIG. Oh, I wouldn't stab her. It's been done to death. I should treat her with a silent and contemptuous disdain, and delicately withdraw from a position which, to one of your sensitive nature, would be absolutely untenable. Dear me, I can see you delicately withdrawing, up centre and off!

JULIA. Can you?

LUDWIG. Yes. It's a fine situation – and in your hands, full of quiet pathos!

No. 16. Now Julia, come

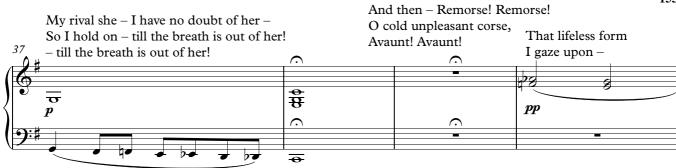
Duet (Ludwig & Julia)

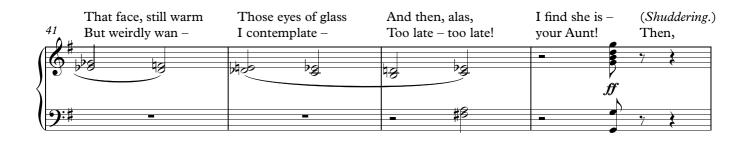


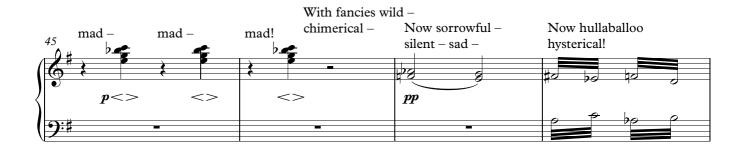


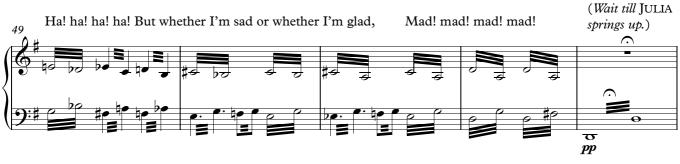


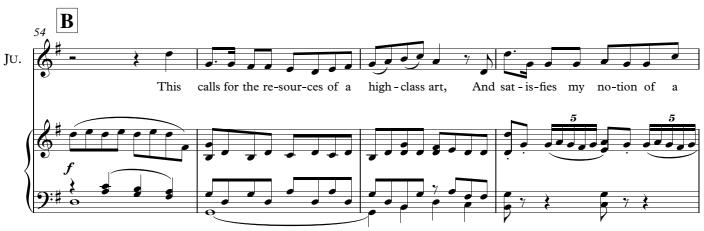
(Furiously.) I fly at her soft white throat – The lily-white laughing leman!
On her agonized gaze I gloat
With the glee of a dancing demon!













No. 17. Your Highness, there's a party at the door

Chorus with Solos (Baroness & Ludwig)

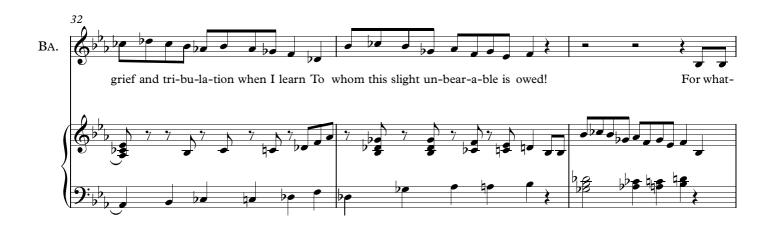
(Enter all the Chorus, hurriedly, and in great excitement.)

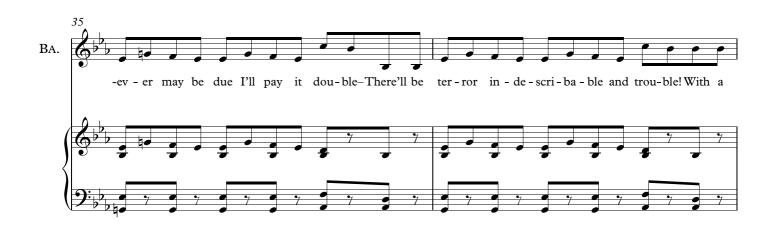


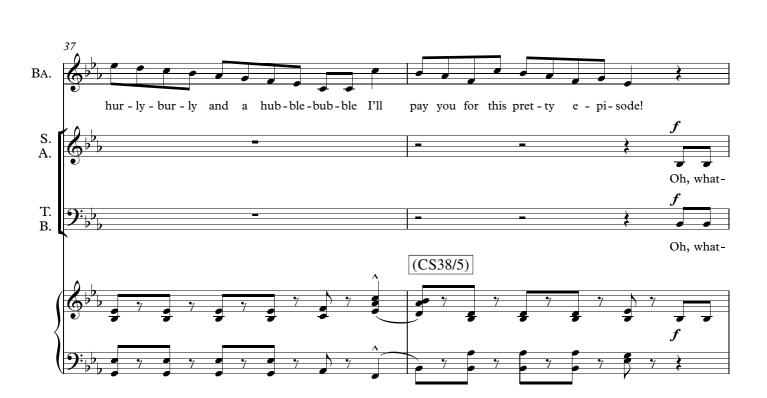










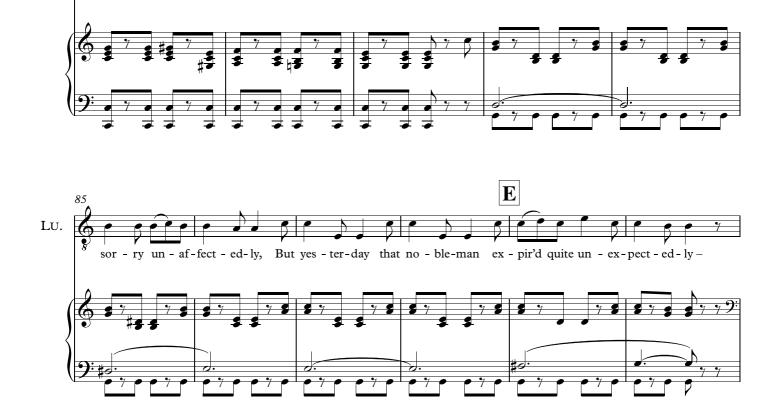














Dialogue if No. 17a is to be included (if not, cut to the dialogue following 17a):

BARONESS. But this is most unexpected. He was well enough at half-past eleven yesterday.

LUDWIG. Yes. He died at a quarter to twelve.

BARONESS. Bless me, how very sudden!

LUDWIG. It was sudden.

BARONESS. But what in the world am I to do? I was to have been married to him to-day!

No. 17a. For any disappointment we are sorry unaffectedly





BARONESS. Is this Court Mourning or a Fancy Ball?

LUDWIG. Well, it's a delicate combination of both effects. It is intended to express inconsolable grief for the decease of the late Duke and ebullient joy at the accession of his successor. *I* am his successor. Permit me to present you to my Grand Duchess. (*Indicating JULIA*.)

BARONESS. Your Grand Duchess? Oh, your Highness! (*Curtseying profoundly*.)

JULIA (*sneering at her*). Old frump!

BARONESS. Humph! A recent creation, probably?

LUDWIG. We were married only half-an-hour ago.

BARONESS. Exactly. I thought she seemed new to the position.

JULIA. Ma'am, I don't know who you are, but I flatter myself I can do justice to *any* part on the very shortest notice.

BARONESS. My dear, under the circumstances you are doing admirably – and you'll improve with practice. It's so difficult to be a lady when one isn't born to it.

JULIA (in a rage, to LUDWIG). Am I to stand this? Am I not to be allowed to pull her to pieces?

LUDWIG (aside to JULIA). No, no – it isn't Greek. Be a violet, I beg.

BARONESS. And now tell me all about this distressing circumstance. How did the Grand Duke die? **LUDWIG**. He perished nobly – in a Statutory Duel.

BARONESS. In a Statutory Duel? But that's only a civil death! – and the Act expires to-night, and then he will come to life again!

LUDWIG. Well, no. Anxious to inaugurate my reign by conferring some inestimable boon on my people, I signalized this occasion by reviving the law for another hundred years.

BARONESS. For another hundred years? Then set the merry joybells ringing! Let festive epithalamia resound through these ancient halls! Cut the satisfying sandwich – broach the exhilarating Marsala – and let us rejoice to-day, if we never rejoice again!

LUDWIG. But I don't think I quite understand. We have already rejoiced a good deal.

BARONESS. Happy man, you little reck of the extent of the good things you are in for. When you killed Rudolph you adopted all his overwhelming responsibilities. Know then that I, Caroline von Krakenfeldt, am the most overwhelming of them all!

LUDWIG. But stop, stop – I've just been married to somebody else!

JULIA. Yes, ma'am, to somebody else, ma'am! Do you understand, ma'am? To somebody else! **BARONESS**. Do keep this young woman quiet; she fidgets me!

JULIA. Fidgets you!

LUDWIG (aside to JULIA). Be a violet – a crushed, despairing violet.

JULIA. Do you suppose I intend to give up a magnificent part without a struggle?

LUDWIG. My good girl, she has the law on her side. Let us both bear this calamity with resignation. If you must struggle, go away and struggle in the seclusion of your chamber.

No. 18. Now away to the wedding we go

Song (Baroness) & Chorus





No. 19. So ends my dream













(Enter ERNEST.)

ERNEST. It's of no use – I can't wait any longer. At any risk I must gratify my urgent desire to know what is going on. (*Looking off.*) Why, what's that? Surely I see a wedding procession winding down the hill, dressed in my *Troilus and Cressida* costumes! That's Ludwig's doing! I see how it is – he found the time hang heavy on his hands, and is amusing himself by getting married to Lisa. No – it can't be to Lisa, for here she is!

(Enter LISA.)

LISA (*not seeing him*). I really cannot stand seeing my Ludwig married twice in one day to somebody else!

ERNEST. Lisa! (LISA sees him, and stands as if transfixed with horror.) Come here – don't be a little fool – I want you. (LISA suddenly turns and bolts off.) Why, what's the matter with the little donkey? One would think she saw a ghost! But if he's not marrying Lisa, whom is he marrying? (Suddenly.) Julia! (Much overcome.) I see it all! The scoundrel! He had to adopt all my responsibilities, and he's shabbily taken advantage of the situation to marry the girl I'm engaged to! But no, it can't be Julia, for here she is!

(Enter JULIA.)

JULIA (not seeing him). I've made up my mind. I won't stand it! I'll send in my notice at once! **ERNEST**. Julia! Oh, what a relief! (JULIA gazes at him as if transfixed.) Then you've not married Ludwig? You are still true to me? (JULIA turns and bolts in grotesque horror. ERNEST follows and stops her.) Don't run away! Listen to me. Are you all crazy?

JULIA (*in affected terror*). What would you with me, spectre? Oh, ain't his eyes sepulchral! And ain't his voice hollow! What are you doing out of your tomb at this time of day – apparition?

ERNEST. I do wish I could make you girls understand that I'm only technically dead, and that physically I'm as much alive as ever I was in my life!

JULIA. Oh, but it's an awful thing to be haunted by a technical bogie!

ERNEST. You won't be haunted much longer. The law must be on its last legs, and in a few hours I shall come to life again – resume all my social and civil functions, and claim my darling as my blushing bride!

JULIA. Oh – then you haven't heard?

ERNEST. My love, I've heard nothing. How could I? There are no daily papers where I come from.

JULIA. Why, Ludwig challenged Rudolph and won, and now *he's* Grand Duke, and he's revived the law for another century!

ERNEST. What! But you're not serious – you're only joking!

JULIA. My good sir, I'm a light-hearted girl, but I don't chaff bogies.

ERNEST. Well, that's the meanest dodge I ever heard of!

JULIA. Shabby trick, *I* call it.

ERNEST. But you don't mean to say that you're going to cry off!

JULIA. I really can't afford to wait until your time is up. You know, I've always set my face against long engagements.

ERNEST. Then defy the law and marry me now. We will fly to your native country, and I'll play broken English in London as you play broken German here!

JULIA. No. These legal technicalities cannot be defied. Situated as you are, you have no power to make me your wife. At best you could only make me your widow.

ERNEST. Then be my widow – my little, dainty, winning, winsome widow!

JULIA. Now what would be the good of that? Why, you goose, I should marry again within a month!

No. 20. If the light of love's lingering ember

Duet (Ernest & Julia) & Chorus















to do likewise, keep the final triplet of No. 20, and add the first LH of No. 21 to No. 22.

No. 21. Come, bumpers – aye, ever-so-many

Brindisi (Baroness) with Chorus









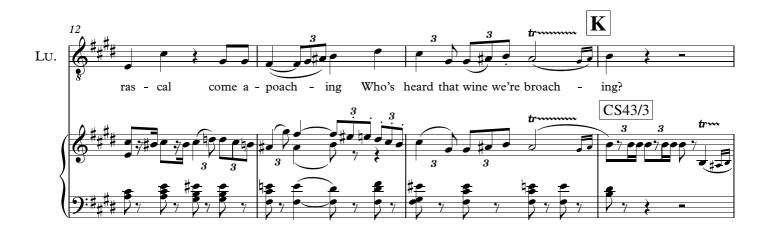


No. 22. Why, who is this approaching? Solo (Ludwig) & Chorus











No. 23. The Prince of Monte Carlo

Song (Herald) & Chorus







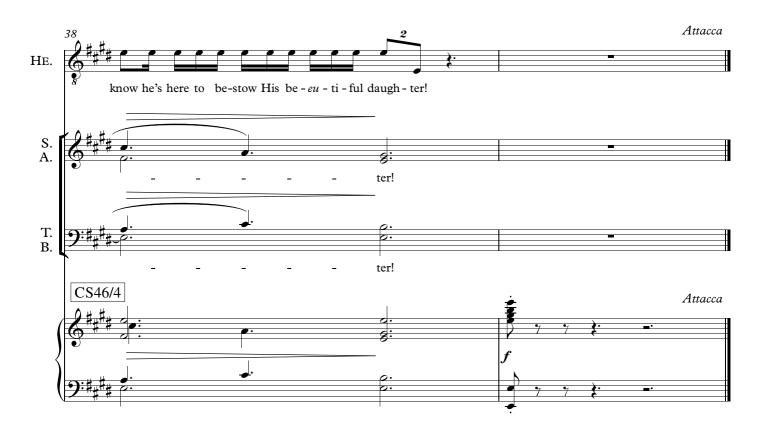












No. 24. His Highness we know not

Recit. (Ludwig)





No. 25. We're rigged out in magnificent array

Entrance of Prince & Princess with Costumier, Herald, & Six Nobles
Duet (Prince & Princess of Monte Carlo)

















PRINCE. Well, my dear, here we are at last – just in time to compel Duke Rudolph to fulfil the terms of his marriage contract. Another hour and we should have been too late.

PRINCESS. Yes, papa, and if you hadn't fortunately discovered a means of making an income by honest industry, we should never have got here at all.

PRINCE. Very true. Confined for the last two years within the precincts of my palace by an obdurate bootmaker who held a warrant for my arrest, I devoted my enforced leisure to a study of the doctrine of chances – mainly with the view of ascertaining whether there was the remotest chance of my ever going out for a walk again – and this led to the discovery of a singularly fascinating little round game which I have called Roulette, and by which, in one sitting, I won no less than five thousand francs! My first act was to pay my bootmaker – my second, to engage a good useful working set of second-hand nobles – and my third, to hurry you off to Pfennig Halbpfennig as fast as a *train de luxe* could carry us!

PRINCESS. Yes, and a pretty job-lot of second-hand nobles you've scraped together!

PRINCE (*doubtfully*). Pretty, you think? Humph! I don't know. I should say tol-lol, my love – only tol-lol. They are not wholly satisfactory. There is a certain air of unreality about them – they are not convincing.

COSTUMIER. But, my goot friend, vhat can you expect for eighteen-pence a day!

PRINCE. Now take this Peer, for instance. What the deuce do you call him?

COSTUMIER. Him? Oh, he's a swell – he's the Duke of Riviera.

PRINCE. Oh, he's a Duke, is he? Well, that's no reason why he should look so confoundedly haughty. (*To Noble*.) Be affable, sir! (*Noble takes attitude of affability*.) That's better. (*Passing to another*.) Now, who's this with his moustache coming off?

COSTUMIER. Vhy; you're Viscount Mentone, ain't you?

NOBLE. Blest if I know. (*Turning up his sword-belt*.) It's wrote here – yes, Viscount Mentone.

COSTUMIER. Then vhy don't you say so? 'Old yerself up – you ain't carryin' sandwich boards now. (*Adjusts his moustache*.)

PRINCE. Now, once for all, you Peers – when His Highness arrives, don't stand like sticks, but appear to take an intelligent and sympathetic interest in what is going on. You needn't say anything, but let your gestures be in accordance with the spirit of the conversation. Now take the word from me. Affability! (attitude). Submission! (attitude). Surprise! (attitude). Shame! (attitude). Grief! (attitude). Joy! (attitude). That's better! You can do it if you like!

PRINCESS. But, papa, where in the world is the Court? There is positively no one here to receive us! I can't help feeling that Rudolph wants to get out of it because I'm poor. He's a miserly little wretch – that's what he is.

PRINCE. Well, I shouldn't go so far as to say that. I should rather describe him as an enthusiastic collector of coins – of the realm – and we must not be too hard upon a numismatist if he feels a certain disinclination to part with some of his really very valuable specimens. It's a pretty hobby: I've often thought I should like to collect some coins myself.

PRINCESS. Papa, I'm sure there's some one behind that curtain. I saw it move!

PRINCE. Then no doubt they are coming. Now mind, you Peers – haughty affability combined with a sense of what is due to your exalted ranks, or I'll fine you half a franc each – upon my soul I will!

No. 26. Dance

(Gong. The curtains fly back and the Court are discovered. They give a wild yell and rush on to the stage dancing wildly, with PRINCE, PRINCESS, and Nobles, who are taken by surprise at first, but eventually join in a reckless dance. At the end all fall down exhausted.)







LUDWIG. There, what do you think of that? That's our official ceremonial for the reception of visitors of the very highest distinction.

PRINCE (*puzzled*). It's very quaint – very curious indeed. Prettily footed, too. Prettily footed.

LUDWIG. Would you like to see how we say 'good-bye' to visitors of distinction? That ceremony is also performed with the foot.

PRINCE. Really, this tone – ah, but perhaps you have not completely grasped the situation?

LUDWIG. Not altogether.

PRINCE. Ah, then I'll give you a lead over. (*Significantly*.) I am the father of the Princess of Monte Carlo. Doesn't that convey any idea to the Grand Ducal mind?

LUDWIG (*stolidly*). Nothing definite.

PRINCE (*aside*). H'm – very odd! Never mind – try again! (*Aloud*.) This is the daughter of the Prince of Monte Carlo. Do you take?

LUDWIG (*still puzzled*). No – not yet. Go on – don't give it up – I daresay it will come presently.

PRINCE. Very odd – never mind – try again. (*With sly significance*.) Twenty years ago! Little doddle doddle! *Two* little doddle doddles! Happy father – hers and yours. Proud mother – yours and hers! Hah! *Now* you take? I see you do! I see you do!

LUDWIG. Nothing is more annoying than to feel that you're not equal to the intellectual pressure of the conversation. I wish he'd say something intelligible.

PRINCE. You didn't expect me?

LUDWIG (*jumping at it*). No, no. I grasp that – thank you very much. (*Shaking hands with him.*) No, I did *not* expect you!

PRINCE. I thought not. But ha! at last I have escaped from my enforced restraint. (*General movement of alarm.*) (*To crowd who are stealing off.*) No, no – you misunderstand me. I mean I've paid my debts! And how d'you think I did it? Through the ingenious medium of Roulette!

ALL. Roulette?

LUDWIG. Now you're getting obscure again. The lucid interval has expired.

PRINCE. I'll explain. It's an invention of my own – the simplest thing in the world – and what is most remarkable, it comes just in time to supply a distinct and long-felt want! I'll tell you all about it.

No. 27. Take my advice – when deep in debt

Song (Prince of Monte Carlo) with Chorus

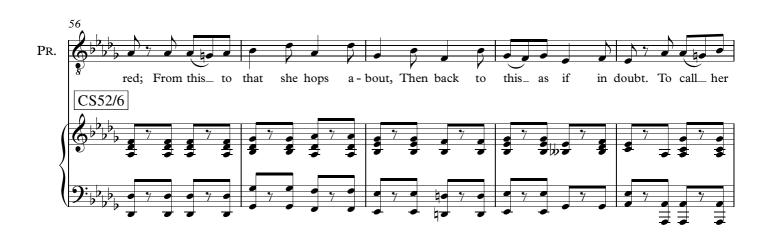


^{*}Translation (for meaning not singing) by R. & R. Wild.













LUDWIG. Capital game. – Haven't a penny left!

PRINCE. Pretty toy, isn't it? Have another turn?

LUDWIG. Thanks, no. I should only be robbing you.

PRINCESS (*affectionately*). Do, dearest – it's such fun! (*Embracing him.*)

BARONESS. Why, you forward little hussy, how dare you? (*Takes her away from* LUDWIG.)

LUDWIG. You mustn't do that, my dear – never in the presence of the Grand Duchess, I beg!

PRINCESS (weeping). Oh, papa, he's got a Grand Duchess!

LUDWIG. A Grand Duchess! My good girl, I've got three Grand Duchesses!

PRINCESS. Well, I'm sure! Papa, let's go away – this is not a respectable Court.

PRINCE. All these Grand Dukes have their little fancies, my love. This Potentate appears to be collecting wives. It's a pretty hobby – I should like to collect a few myself. This (*admiring* BARONESS) is a charming specimen – an antique, I should say – of the early Merovingian period, if I'm not mistaken; and here's another – a Scotch lady, I think (*alluding to* JULIA), and (*alluding to* LISA) a little one thrown in. Two half-quarterns and a makeweight! (*To* LUDWIG.) Have you such a thing as a catalogue of the Museum?

PRINCESS. But I cannot permit Rudolph to keep a museum –

LUDWIG. Rudolph? Get along with you, I'm not Rudolph! Rudolph died yesterday.

PRINCE and PRINCESS. What!

LUDWIG. Quite suddenly - of - of - a cardiac affection.

PRINCE and PRINCESS. Of a cardiac affection?

LUDWIG. Yes, a pack-of-cardiac affection. He fought a Statutory Duel with me and lost, and I took over all his engagements – including this imperfectly preserved old lady, to whom he has been engaged for the last three weeks.

PRINCESS. Three weeks! But I've been engaged to him for the last twenty years!

BARONESS, LISA, and JULIA. Twenty years!

PRINCE (*aside*). It's all right, my love – they can't get over that. (*Aloud*.) He's yours – take him, and hold him as tight as you can!

PRINCESS. My own! (*Embracing* LUDWIG.)

LUDWIG. Here's another! – the fourth in four-and-twenty hours! Would anybody else like to marry me? You, ma'am – or you – anybody! I'm getting used to it!

BARONESS. But let me tell you, ma'am – (*These three lines spoken together*.)

JULIA. Why, you impudent little hussy –

LISA. Oh, here's another – here's another! (*Weeping*.)

PRINCESS. Poor ladies, I'm very sorry for you all; but, you see, I've a prior claim. Come, away we go – there's not a moment to be lost!

No. 28. Hurrah! Now away to the wedding we go Ensemble & Song (Rudolph)





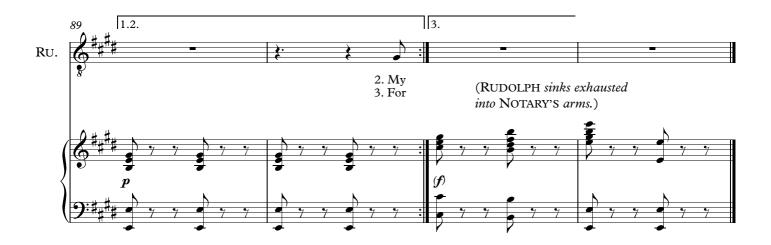
No. 28a. Well, you're a pretty kind of fellow

Song (Rudolph) with Chorus









The first version of Ludwig's line is for use if No. 28a is cut, the second for use if not:

LUDWIG. Not a bit of it! I've revived the Law for another century!

LUDWIG. My good sir, it's no use your saying that I can't revive the Law, in face of the fact that I have revived it.

RUDOLPH. You didn't revive it! You couldn't revive it! You – you are an impostor, sir – a tuppenny rogue, sir! You – you never were, and in all human probability never will be – Grand Duke of Pfennig Anything!

ALL. What!!!

RUDOLPH. Never – never, never! (*Aside*.) Oh, my internal economy!

LUDWIG. That's absurd, you know. I fought the Grand Duke. He drew a King, and I drew an Ace. He perished in inconceivable agonies on the spot. Now, as that's settled, we'll go on with the wedding.

RUDOLPH. It – it isn't settled. You – you can't. I - I - (To NOTARY.) Oh, tell him – tell him! I can't!

NOTARY. Well, the fact is, there's been a little mistake here. On reference to the Act that regulates Statutory Duels, I find it is expressly laid down that the Ace shall count invariably as lowest!

ALL. As lowest!

RUDOLPH (*breathlessly*). As lowest – lowest – lowest! So *you're* the ghoest – ghoest! (*Aside*.) Oh, what *is* the matter with me inside here!

ERNEST. Well, Julia, as it seems that the Law hasn't been revived – and as, consequently, I shall come to life in about three minutes – (*consulting his watch*) –

JULIA. My objection falls to the ground. (Resignedly.) Very well!

PRINCESS. And am I to understand that I was on the point of marrying a dead man without knowing it? (*To* RUDOLPH, *who revives*.) Oh, my love, what a narrow escape I've had!

RUDOLPH. Oh – you are the Princess of Monte Carlo, and you've turned up just in time! Well, you're an attractive little girl, you know, but you're as poor as a rat!

PRINCE. Pardon me – there you mistake. Accept her dowry – with a father's blessing! (*Gives him a small Roulette board, then flirts with* BARONESS.)

RUDOLPH. Why, what do you call this?

PRINCESS. It's my little Wheel of Fortune. I'll tell you all about it. (*They retire up conversing*.)

LISA. That's all very well, but what is to become of *me*? (*To* LUDWIG.) If you're a dead man – (*Clock strikes three*.)

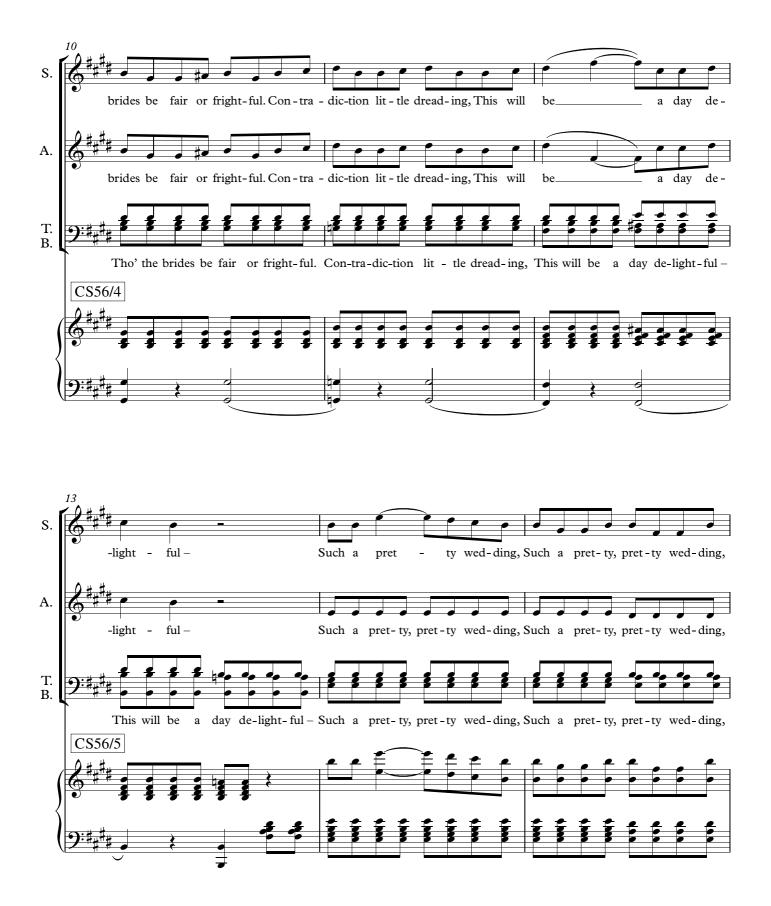
LUDWIG. But I'm not. Time's up – the Act has expired – I've come to life – the parson is still in attendance, and we'll all be married directly.

ALL. Hurrah!

No. 29. Act II Finale

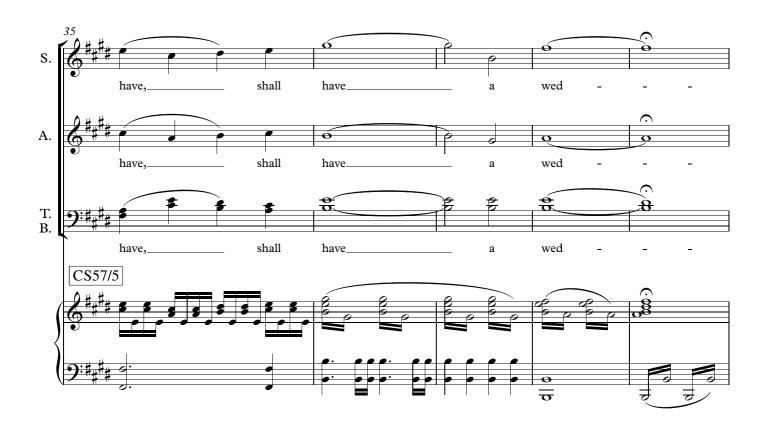
Happy couples, lightly treading (Chorus)

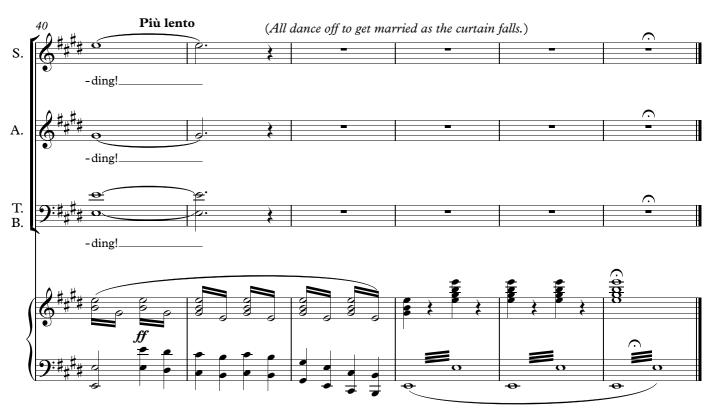












End of Opera