Princess Ida

Or Castle Adamant

By W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan

First performed January 5, 1884



Dramatis personae

King Hildebrand Hilarion (His son)

Hilarion's friends:

Cyril Florian

King Gama

His sons:

Arac Guron

Scynthius

Princess Ida Lady Blanche

Lady Blanche Lady Psyche Melissa (Gama's daughter)

(Professor of Abstract Science) (Professor of Humanities) (Lady Blanche's Daughter)

Girl Graduates:

Sacharissa Chloe Ada

Soldiers, Courtiers, "Girl Graduates," "Daughters of the Plough," etc.

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Note: This is the Beta-5 of this edition of the score, August 31, 2006. Please report all corrections to Jim Cooper, jim@labsoftware.com

Princess Ida





1. Search throughout the panorama

Florian and Chorus

(Scene: Pavilion attached to King Hildebrand's Palace. Florian, Courtiers and Soldiers discovered.)

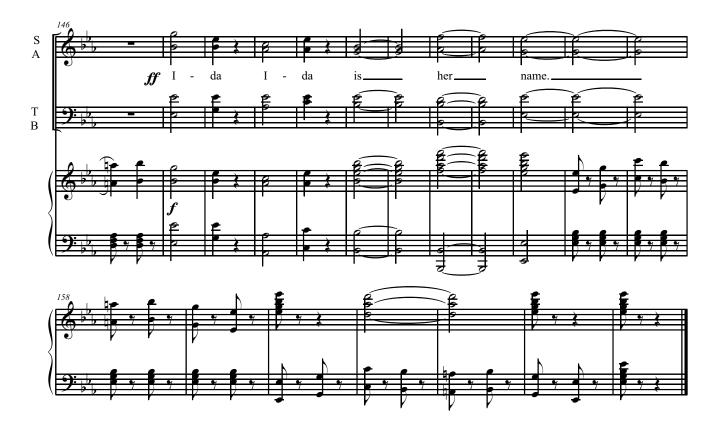












(Enter King Hildebrand, with Cyril.) **Hildebd:** See you no sign of Gama?

Florian: None, my liege!

Hildebd: It's very odd indeed. If Gama fail
To put in an appearance at our Court
Before the sun has set in yonder west,
And fail to bring the Princess Ida here
To whom our son Hilarion was betrothed
At the extremely early age of one,
There's war between King Gama and ourselves!
(aside to CYRIL)
Oh, Cyril, how I dread this interview!

Oh, Cyril, how I dread this interview!

It's twenty years since he and I have met.

He was a twisted monster— all awry—

As though Dame Nature, angry with her work,

Had crumpled it in fitful petulance!

Cyril: But, sir, a twisted and ungainly trunk

Often bears goodly fruit. Perhaps he was

A kind, well-spoken gentleman?

Hildebd: Oh, no!

For, adder-like, his sting lay in his tongue.

(His "sting" is present, though his "stung" is past.)

Florian: (looking through glass)

But stay, my liege; o'er yonder mountain's brow Comes a small body, bearing Gama's arms; And now I look more closely at it, sir, I see attached to it King Gama's legs; From which I gather this corollary

That that small body must be Gama's own!

Hildebd: Ha! Is the Princess with him?

Florian: Well, my liege,

Unless her highness is full six feet high, And wears mustachios too — and smokes cigars—

And rides en cavalier in coat of steel—

I do not think she is.

Hildebd: One never knows.

She's a strange girl, I've heard, and does odd things!

Come, bustle there!

For Gama place the richest robes we own—
For Gama place the coarsest prison dress—
For Gama let our best spare bed be aired—
For Gama let our deepest dungeon yawn—
For Gama lay the costliest banquet out—
For Gama place cold water and dry bread!
For as King Gama brings the Princess here,
Or brings her not, so shall King Gama have

Much more than everything — much less than nothing!

2. Now hearken to my strict command

Hildebrand and Chorus













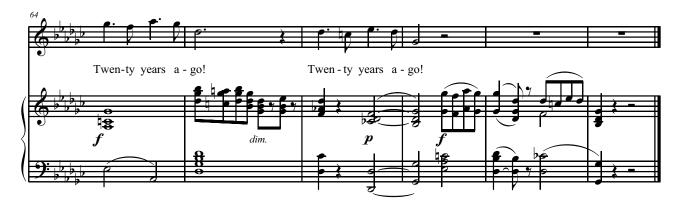


3. Ida was a twelve month old









(Enter HILDEBRAND)

Hilarion: Well, father, is there news for me at last?

Hildebd: King Gama is in sight, but much I fear With no Princess!

Hilarion: Alas, my liege, I've heard, That Princess Ida has forsworn the world, And, with a band of women, shut herself Within a lonely country house, and there Devotes herself to stern philosophies!

Hildebd: Then I should say the loss of such a wife Is one to which a reasonable man Would easily be reconciled.

Hilarion: Oh, no!
Or I am not a reasonable man.
She is my wife - has been for twenty years!
(Holding glass) I think I see her now.

Hildebd: Ha! Let me look!

Hilarion: In my mind's eye, I mean - a blushing bride All bib and tucker, frill and furbelow!
How exquisite she looked as she was borne,
Recumbent, in her foster-mother's arms!
How the bride wept - nor would be comforted
Until the hireling mother-for-the-nonce
Administered refreshment in the vestry.
And I remember feeling much annoyed
That she should weep at marrying with me.
But then I thought, "These brides are all alike.
You cry at marrying me? How much more cause
You'd have to cry if it were broken off!"
These were my thoughts; I kept them to myself,
For at that age I had not learnt to speak.

4. From the distant panorama Chorus





5. We are warriors three

Arac, Scynthius, Guron and Chorus

(Enter Arac, Guron and Scynthius) staccato Arac We are war-riors three,____ Sons of Ga-ma Rex,___ Like most sons are Mas-cu-line in sex. we_ Yes, yes, Mas-cu-line in sex. yes, Guron Mas-cu-line in sex.











Attacca

6. If you give me your attention

Gama and Chorus











(Enter Hildebrand, Hilarion, Cyril and Florian.)

Gama: So this is Castle Hildebrand? Well, well!

Dame Rumour whispered that the place was grand;

She told me that your taste was exquisite,

Superb, unparalleled!

Hildebnd: (Gratified) Oh, really, King!

Gama: But she's a liar! Why, how old you've grown!

Is this Hilarion? Why, you've changed too—

You were a singularly handsome child!

(To FLORIAN) Are you a courtier? Come, then ply your trade,

Tell me some lies. How do you like your King?

Vile rumour says he's all but imbecile.

Now, that's not true?

Florian: My lord, we love our King.

His wise remarks are valued by his court

As precious stones.

Gama: And for the self-same cause.

Like precious stones, his sensible remarks Derive their value from their scarcity!

Come now, be honest, tell the truth for once! Tell it of me. Come, come, I'll harm you not. This leg is crooked — this foot is ill-designed— This shoulder wears a hump! Come, out with it! Look, here's my face! Now, am I not the worst

Of Nature's blunders?

Cyril: Nature never errs.

To those who know the workings of your mind,

Your face and figure, sir, suggest a book

Appropriately bound.

Gama: (Enraged) Why, harkye, sir,

How dare you bandy words with me?

Cyril: No need

To bandy aught that appertains to you.

Gama: (Furiously) Do you permit this, King?

Hildebd: We are in doubt

Whether to treat you as an honoured guest

Or as a traitor knave who plights his word And breaks it.

Gama: (Quickly) If the casting vote's with me,

I give it for the former!

Hildebd: We shall see.

By the terms of our contract, signed and sealed, You're bound to bring the Princess here to-day:

Why is she not with you?

Gama: Answer me this:

What think you of a wealthy purse-proud man, Who, when he calls upon a starving friend, Pulls out his gold and flourishes his notes, And flashes diamonds in the pauper's eyes? What name have you for such an one?

Hildebd: A snob.

Gama: Just so. The girl has beauty, virtue, wit,

Grace, humour, wisdom, charity and pluck. Would it be kindly, think you, to parade These brilliant qualities before *your* eyes? Oh no, King Hildebrand, I am no snob!

Hildebd: (Furiously) Stop that tongue,

Or you shall lose the monkey head that holds it!

Gama: Bravo! Your King deprives me of my head,

That he and I may meet on equal terms!

Hildebd: Where is she now? (Threatening)

Gama: In Castle Adamant,

One of my many country houses. There

She rules a woman's University,

With full a hundred girls, who learn of her.

Cyril: A hundred girls! A hundred ecstasies!

Gama: But no mere girls, my good young gentleman;

With all the college learning that you boast, The youngest there will prove a match for *you*.

Cyril: With all my heart, if she's the prettiest!

(*To* FLORIAN) Fancy, a hundred matches — all alight!— That's if I strike them as I hope to do!

Gama: Despair your hope; their hearts are dead to men.

He who desires to gain their favour must Be qualified to strike their teeming brains,

And not their hearts. They're safety matches, sir, And they light only on the knowledge box—

So you've no chance!

Florian: And there are no males whatever in those walls?

Gama: None, gentlemen, excepting letter mails—

And they are driven (as males often are In other large communities) by women. Why, bless my heart, she's so particular She'll hardly suffer Dr. Watts's hymns—And all the animals she owns are "hers"! The ladies rise at cockcrow every morn—

Cyril: Ah, then they have male poultry?

Gama: Not at all,

(Confidentially) The crowing's done by an accomplished hen!

7. Act I FinaleGama, Hildebrand, Cyril, Hilarion, Arac, Guron, Scynthius and Chorus





































(End of Act I)

Act II

8. Towards the empyrean heights

Psyche, Melissa, Sacharissa and Chorus

(Scene - Gardens in Castle Adamant. A river runs across the back of the stage, crossed by a rustic bridge. Castle Adamant in the distance. Girl graduates discovered seated at the feet of Lady Psyche.















(Enter LADY BLANCHE. All stand up demurely)

Blanche: Attention, ladies, while I read to you

The Princess Ida's list of punishments. The first is Sacharissa. She's expelled!

All: Expelled!

Blan.: Expelled, because although she knew

No man of any kind may pass our walls, She dared to bring a set of chessmen here!

Sach.: (Crying) I meant no harm; they're only men of wood!

Blan.: They're men with whom you give each other mate,

And that's enough! The next is Chloe.

Chloe: Ah!

Blan.: Chloe will lose three terms, for yesterday,

When looking through her drawing-book, I found

A sketch of a perambulator!

All: (Horrified) Oh!

Blan.: *Double* perambulator ...

All: Oh, oh!

Blan.: ...shameless girl!

That's all at present. Now, attention, pray; Your Principal the Princess comes to give

Her usual inaugural address

To those young ladies who joined yesterday.

9. Mighty maiden with a mission Chorus





10. Minerva **Princess**





Princess: Women of Adamant, fair Neophytes—

Who thirst for such instruction as we give,

Attend, while I unfold a parable. The elephant is mightier than Man,

Yet Man subdues him. Why? The elephant

Is elephantine everywhere but here (tapping her forehead),

And Man, whose brain is to the elephant's

As Woman's brain to Man's – (that's rule of three),—

Conquers the foolish giant of the woods, As Woman, in her turn, shall conquer Man.

In Mathematics, Woman leads the way;

The narrow-minded pedant still believes

That two and two make four! Why, we can prove,

We women -- household drudges as we are-

That two and two make five – or three – or seven;

Or five and twenty, if the case demands!

Diplomacy? The wiliest diplomat

Is absolutely helpless in our hands.

He wheedles monarchs – Woman wheedles him!

Logic? Why, tyrant Man himself admits

It's a waste of time to argue with a woman!

Then we excel in social qualities:

Though man professes that he holds our sex

In utter scorn, I venture to believe

He'd rather pass the day with one of you,

Than with five hundred of his fellow-men!

In all things we excel. Believing this,

A hundred maidens here have sworn to place

Their feet upon his neck. If we succeed,

We'll treat him better than he treated us:

But if we fail, why, then let hope fail too!

Let no one care a penny how she looks—

Let red be worn with yellow – blue with green—

Crimson with scarlet – violet with blue!

Let all your things misfit, and you yourselves

At inconvenient moments come undone!

Let hair-pins lose their virtue: let the hook

Disdain the fascination of the eye—

The bashful button modestly evade

The soft embraces of the button-hole!

Let old associations all dissolve,

Let Swan secede from Edgar – Gask from Gask,

Sewell from Cross – Lewis from Allenby!

In other words, let Chaos come again!

(Coming down) Who lectures in the Hall of Arts today?

Blanche: I, madam, on Abstract Philosophy.

There I propose considering, at length,

Three points – The Is, the Might Be, and the Must.

Whether the Is, from being actual fact, Is more important than the vague Might Be, Or the Might Be, from taking wider scope,

Is for that reason greater than the Is:

And lastly, how the Is and Might Be stand Compared with the inevitable Must!

Princess: The subject's deep – how do you treat it, pray?

Blan.: Madam, I take three possibilities,

And strike a balance then between the three: As thus: The Princess Ida Is our head, the Lady Psyche Might Be, – Lady Blanche,

Neglected Blanche, inevitably Must. Given these three hypotheses -- to find The actual betting against each of them!

Princess: Your theme's ambitious: pray you bear in mind

Who highest soar fall farthest. Fare you well, You and your pupils! Maidens, follow me.

10a. And thus to empyrean heights

Princess and women





(Exeunt PRINCESS and maidens. Manet LADY BLANCHE.)

Blan.: I should command here I was born to rule, But do I rule? I don't. Why? I don't know. I shall some day. Not yet, I bide my time. I once was Some One and the Was Will Be. The Present as we speak becomes the Past, The Past repeats itself, and so is Future! This sounds involved. It's not. It's right enough.

11. Come mighty Must!

Blanche







12. Gently, gently Cyril, Hilarion & Florian (Enter Hilarion, Cyril and Florian)









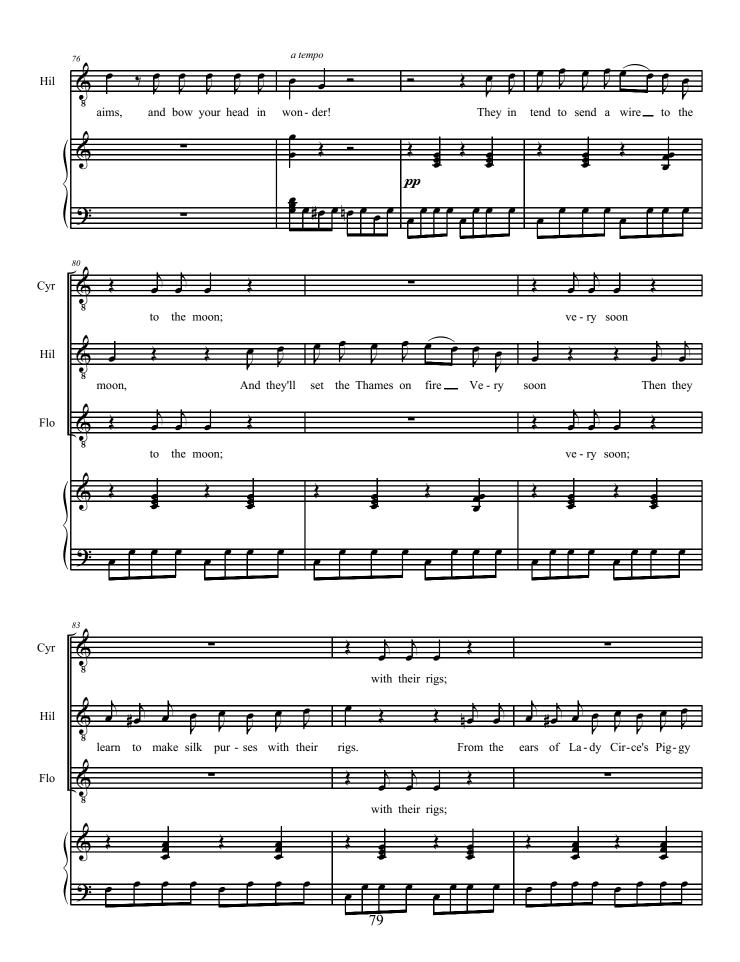


























Hilarion: So that's the Princess Ida's castle! Well, They must be lovely girls, indeed, if it requires Such walls as those to keep intruders off!

Cyril: To keep men off is only half their charge, And that the easier half. I much suspect The object of these walls is not so much To keep men off as keep the maidens in!

Florian: But what are these? (Examining some Collegiate robes)

Hilarion: *(looking at them)* Why, Academic robes, Worn by the lady undergraduates

When they matriculate. Let's try them on. (They do so.)

Why, see- we're covered to the very toes.

Three lovely lady undergraduates

Who, weary of the world and all its wooing— (pose)

Florian: And penitent for deeds there's no undoing– (pose)

Cyril: Looked at askance by well-conducted maids— (pose)

All: Seek sanctuary in these classic shades!

13. I am a maiden

Cyril, Hilarion & Florian

Allegro vivace ff Hilarion Hil 1. Iam a cold__and state - ly, Heart-less with a face dimai - den Hil vine.____ What do want with a heart in - nate - ly? Ev - 'ry heart I meet is Hil mine! 'ry heart_ meet mine ismine!_













[Enter the Princess, reading. She does not see them.)

Florian: But who comes here? The Princess, as I live!

What shall we do?

Hilarion: (Aside) Why, we must brave it out!

(Aloud) Madam, accept our humblest reverence.

(They bow, then suddenly recollecting themselves, curtsey.)

Princess: (Surprised) We greet you, ladies. What would you with us?

Hilarion: (Aside to CYRIL)

What shall I say? (Aloud) We are three students, ma'am,

Three well-born maids of liberal estate,

Who wish to join this University.

(HILARION and FLORIAN curtsey again. CYRIL bows extravagantly, then, being recalled to himself by FLORIAN, curtseys.)

Princess: If, as you say, you wish to join our ranks,

And will subscribe to all our rules, 'tis well.

Florian: To all your rules we cheerfully subscribe.

Princess: You say you're noblewomen. Well, you'll find

No sham degrees for noblewomen here. You'll find no sizars here, or servitors, Or other cruel distinctions, meant to draw A line 'twixt rich and poor; you'll find no tufts

To mark nobility, except such tufts As indicate nobility of brain.

As for your fellow-students, mark me well: There are a hundred maids within these walls,

All good, all learned, and all beautiful:

They are prepared to love you: will you swear To give the fullness of your love to them?

Hilarion: Upon our words and honours, Ma'am, we will!

Princess: But we go further: Will you undertake

That you will never marry any man?

Florian: Indeed we never will!

Princess: Consider well,

You must prefer our maids to all mankind!

Hilarion: To all mankind we much prefer your maids!

Cyril: We should be dolts indeed, if we did not, seeing how fair –

Hilarion: (Aside to CYRIL) Take care – that's rather strong!

Princess: But have you left no lovers at your home

Who may pursue you here?

Hilarion: No, madam, none.

We're homely ladies, as no doubt you see, And we have never fished for lover's love.

We smile at girls who deck themselves with gems,

False hair and meretricious ornament, To chain the fleeting fancy of a man, But do not imitate them. What we have Of hair, is all our own. Our colour, too,

Unladylike, but not unwomanly,

Is Nature's handiwork, and man has learnt

To reckon Nature an impertinence.

Princess: Well, beauty counts for naught within these walls;

If all you say is true, you'll pass with us

A happy, happy time!

Cyril: If, as you say,

A hundred lovely maidens wait within, To welcome us with smiles and open arms, I think there's very little doubt we shall!

14. The world is but a broken toy

Princess, Cyril, Hilarion & Florian











(Exit Princess. The three Gentlemen watch her off. LADY PSYCHE enters, and regards them with amazement)

Hilarion: I'faith, the plunge is taken, gentlemen!

For, willy-nilly, we are maidens now,

And maids against our will we must remain.

[All laugh heartily.]

Psyche: (Aside) These ladies are unseemly in their mirth.

(The gentlemen see her, and, in confusion, resume their

modest demeanour.)

Florian: (Aside) Here's a catastrophe, Hilarion!

This is my sister! She'll remember me,

Though years have passed since she and I have met!

Hilarion: (Aside to FLORIAN) Then make a virtue of necessity,

And trust our secret to her gentle care.

Florian: (To PSYCHE, who has watched CYRIL in amazement) Psyche! Why, don't

you know me? Florian!

Psyche: (Amazed) Why, Florian!

Florian: My sister! (Embraces her)

Psyche: Oh, my dear! What are you doing here — and who are these?

Hilarion: I am that Prince Hilarion to whom

Your Princess is betrothed. I come to claim Her plighted love. Your brother Florian And Cyril came to see me safely through.

Psyche: The Prince Hilarion? Cyril too? How strange!

My earliest playfellows!

Hilarion: Why, let me look!

Are you that learned little Psyche who

At school alarmed her mates because she called

A buttercup "ranunculus bulbosus"?

Cyril: Are you indeed that Lady Psyche, who

At children's parties, drove the conjuror wild, Explaining all his tricks before he did them?

Hilarion: Are you that learned little Psyche, who

At dinner parties, brought in to dessert, Would tackle visitors with "You don't know Who first determined longitude – I do – Hipparchus 'twas – B. C. one sixty-three!" Are you indeed that small phenomenon?

Psyche: That small phenomenon indeed am I!

But gentlemen, 'tis death to enter here: We have all promised to renounce mankind!

Florian: Renounce mankind!? On what ground do you base

This senseless resolution?

Psyche: Senseless? No.

We are all taught, and, being taught, believe That Man, sprung from an Ape, is Ape at heart.

Cyril: That's rather strong.

Psyche: The truth is always strong!

15. A lady fair, of lineage high

Psyche with Cyril, Hilarion & Florian











* modified lyric from "Songs of a Savoyard"



(During this, MELISSA has entered unobserved; she looks on in amazement.)

Melissa: (Coming down) Oh, Lady Psyche!

Psyche: (*Terrified*) What! You heard us then?

Oh, all is lost!

Melissa: Not so! I'll breathe no word!

(Advancing in astonishment to FLORIAN)

How marvelously strange! and are you then

Indeed young men?

Florian: Well, yes, just now we are—

But hope by dint of study to become, In course of time, young women.

Melissa: (Eagerly) No, no, no –

Oh, don't do that! Is this indeed a man? I've often heard of them, but, till today, Never set eyes on one. They told me men Were hideous, idiotic, and deformed! They are quite as beautiful as women are! *As* beautiful, they're infinitely more so!

Their cheeks have not that pulpy softness which

One gets so weary of in womankind:

Their features are more marked - and - oh, their chins!

(Feeling FLORIAN'S chin)

How curious!

Florian: I fear it's rather rough.

Melissa: (Eagerly) Oh, don't apologize – I like it so!

16. The woman of the wisest wit

Psyche, Melissa, Cyil, Hilarion & Florian





















(Exeunt PSYCHE, HILARION, CYRIL and FLORIAN, MELISSA going. Enter LADY BLANCHE.)

Blanche: Melissa!

Melissa: (Returning) Mother!

Blanche: Here – a word with you.

Those are the three new students?

(Confused) Melissa: Yes, they are.

They're charming girls.

Blanche: Particularly so.

> So graceful, and so very womanly! So skilled in all a girl's accomplishments!

Melissa: (Confused) Yes – very skilled.

Blanche: They sing so nicely too!

Melissa: They do sing nicely!

Blanche: Humph! It's very odd.

Two are tenors, one is a baritone!

Melissa: (Much agitated) They've all got colds!

Blanche: Colds! Bah! D'ye think I'm blind?

These "girls" are men disguised!

Melissa: Oh no – indeed!

You wrong these gentlemen – I mean – why, see,

Here is an *étui* dropped by one of them (picking up an étui).

Containing scissors, needles, and –

Blanche: (Opening it) Cigars!

Why, these are men! And you knew this, you minx!

Melissa: Oh, spare them – they are gentlemen indeed.

> The Prince Hilarion (married years ago To Princess Ida) with two trusted friends! Consider, mother, he's her husband now, And has been, twenty years! Consider, too, You're only second here – you should be first. Assist the Prince's plan, and when he gains The Princess Ida, why, you will be first. You will design the fashions – think of that— And always serve out all the punishments!

The scheme is harmless, mother – wink at it!

Blanche: (Aside) The prospect's tempting! Well, well, well, I'll try –

Though I've not winked at anything for years!

'Tis but one step towards my destiny— The mighty Must! the inevitable Shall!

17. Now wouldn't you like to rule the roast

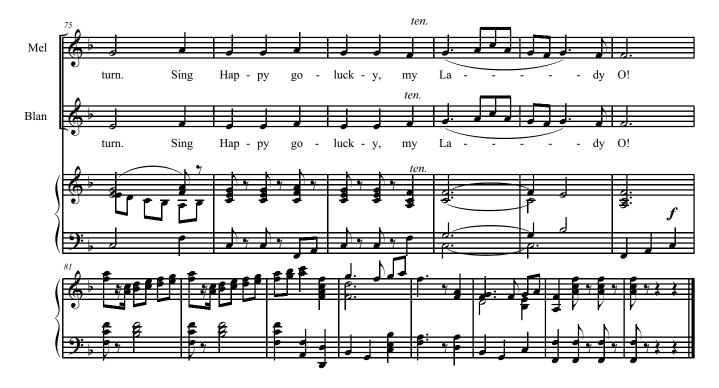
Melissa & Blanche











(Exit Lady Blanche)

Melissa: Saved for a time, at least!

(Enter FLORIAN, on tiptoe)

Florian: (Whispering) Melissa— come!

Melissa: Oh, sir! you must away from this at once-My mother guessed your sex! It was my fault-I blushed and stammered so that she exclaimed, "Can these be men?" Then, seeing this, "Why these-" "Are men", she would have added, but "are men" Stuck in her throat! She keeps your secret, sir, For reasons of her own—but fly from this And take me with you—that is—no—not that!

Florian: I'll go, but not without you! (Bell) Why, what's that?

Melissa: The luncheon bell.

Florian: I'll wait for luncheon then!

(Enter HILARION with PRINCESS, CYRIL with PSYCHE, LADY BLANCHE and ladies. Also "Daughters of the Plough" bearing luncheon.)

18. Merrily ring the luncheon bell

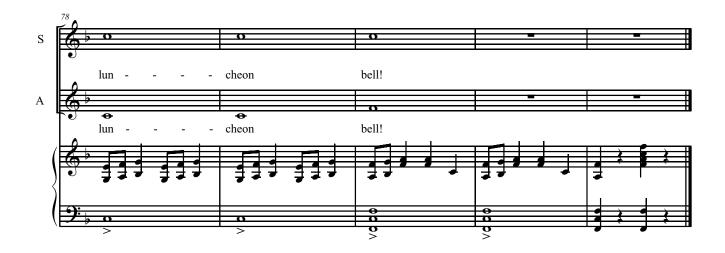
Blanche, Cyril, Women











Princess: You say you know the court of Hildebrand?

There is a Prince there- I forget his name-

Hilarion?

Princess: Exactly— is he well?

Hilarion: If it be well to droop and pine and mope,

To sigh "Oh, Ida! Ida!" all day long,

"Ida! my love! my life! Oh, come to me!"

If it be well, I say, to do all this,

Then Prince Hilarion is very well.

Princess: He breathes our name? Well, it's a common one! And is the booby comely?

Hilarion: Pretty well.

I've heard it said that if I dressed myself In Prince Hilarion's clothes (supposing this Consisted with my maiden modesty), I might be taken for Hilarion's self. But what is this to you or me, who think Of all mankind with undisguised contempt? **Princess:** Contempt? Why, damsel, when I think of man,

Contempt is not the word.

Cyril: (Getting tipsy) I'm sure of that,

Or if it is, it surely should not be!

Hilarion: (Aside to CYRIL) Be quiet, idiot, or they'll find us out.

Cyril: The Prince Hilarion's a goodly lad!

Princess: *You* know him then?

Cyril: (*Tipsily*) I rather think I do!

We are inseparables!

Princess: Why, what's this?

You love him then?

Cyril: We do indeed – all three!

Hilarion: Madam, she jests! (Aside to CYRIL) Remember where you are!

Cyril: Jests? Not at all! Why, bless my heart alive,

You and Hilarion, when at the Court,

Rode the same horse!

Princess: (Horrified) Astride?

Cyril: Of course! Why not?

Wore the same clothes – and once or twice, I think,

Got tipsy in the same good company!

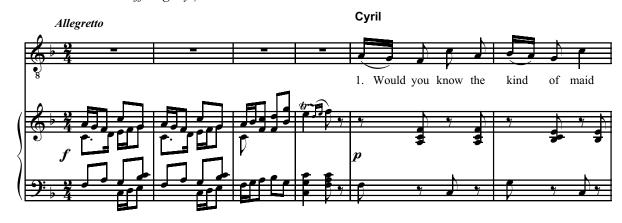
Princess: Well, these are nice young ladies, on my word!

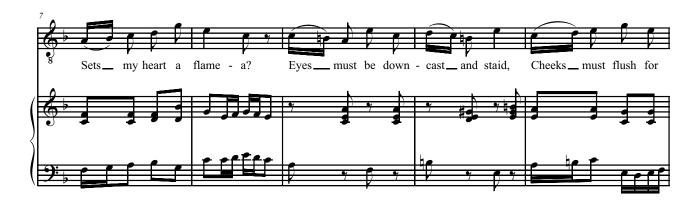
Cyril: (*Tipsy*) Don't you remember that old kissing-song

He'd sing to blushing Mistress Lalage, The hostess of the Pigeons? Thus it ran:

19. Would you know the kind of maid Cyril

(During symphony Hilarion and Florian try to stop Cyril. He shakes them off angrily.)















(Dialog over music)

Princess: Infamous creature, get you hence away!

(HILARION, Who has been with difficulty restrained by FLORIAN during this song, breaks from him and strikes CYRIL furiously on the breast.)

Hilarion: Dog! There is something more to sing about!

Cyril: (Sobered) Hilarion, are you mad?

Princess: (Horrified) Hilarion? Help!

Why, these are men! Lost! lost! betrayed, undone!

(Running on to bridge)

Girls, get you hence! Man-monsters, if you dare

Approach one step, I --- Ah!

(Loses her balance and falls into the stream)

Psyche: Oh! Save her, sir!

Blanche: It's useless, sir -- you'll only catch your death!

(HILARION springs in.)

Sach.: He catches her!

Melissa: And now he lets her go!

Again she's in his grasp—

Psyche: And now she's not,

He seizes her back hair!

Blanche: (Not looking) And it comes off!

Psyche: No, no! She's saved!--she's saved! she's saved!--she's saved!

20. Act II Finale





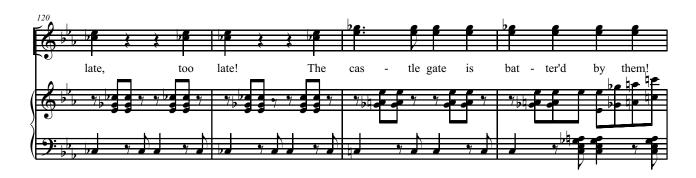






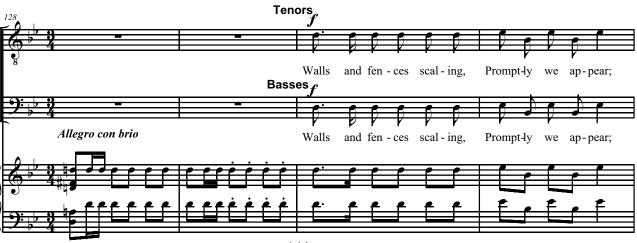








(The gate yields. Soldiers rush in. Arac, Guron and Scynthus are with them, but their hands are handcuffed.)













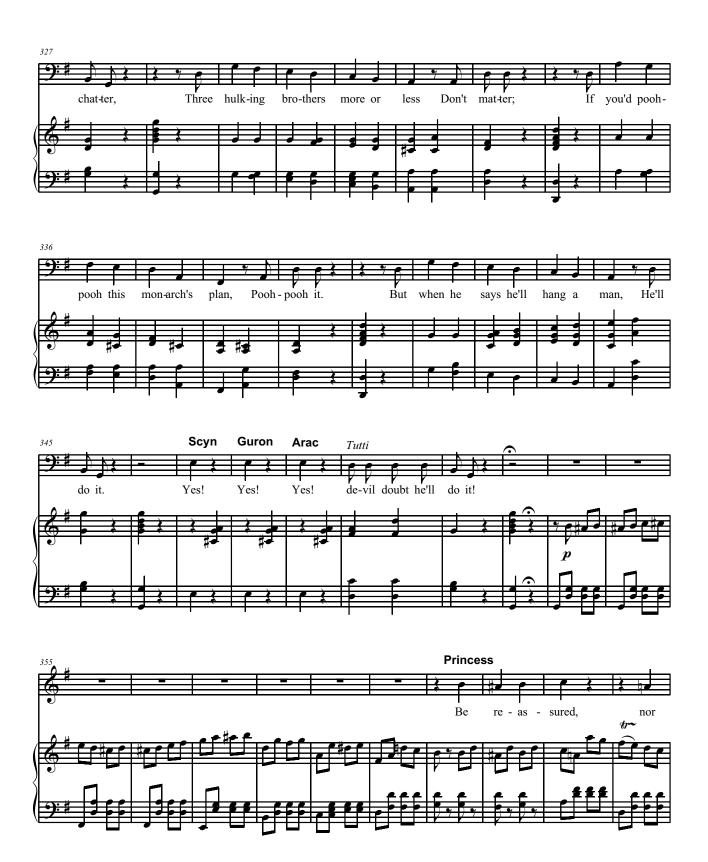






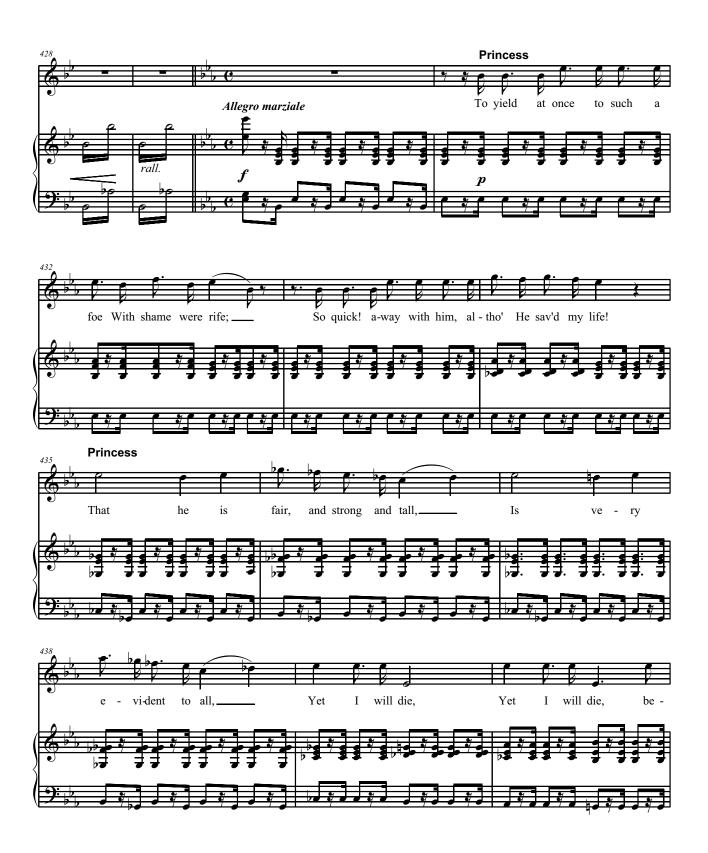
























(The Princess stands C., surrounded by girls kneeling. The King and Soldiers stand on built rocks at back and sides of stage. Picture. End of Act II.)

Act III 21. Death to the invader

Melissa and Women

Scene - Outer walls and courtyard of Castle Adamant. Melissa, Sacharissa and ladies discovered, armed with battle axes.













Princess: I like your spirit, girls! We have to meet

Stern bearded warriors in fight to-day; Wear naught but what is necessary to Preserve your dignity before their eyes,

And give your limbs full play.

Blanche: One moment, ma'am,

Here is a paradox we should not pass Without inquiry. We are prone to say "This thing is Needful – that, Superfluous"—

Yet they invariably co-exist!

We find the Needful comprehended in The circle of the grand Superfluous, Yet the Superfluous cannot be brought

Unless you're amply furnished with the Needful.

These singular considerations are—

Princess: Superfluous, yet not Needful – so you see

The terms may independently exist.

(To Ladies) Women of Adamant, we have to show

That women, educated to the task,

Can meet Man, face to face, on his own ground, And beat him there. Now, let us set to work;

Where is our lady surgeon?

Sach.: Madam, here!

Princess: We shall require your skill to heal the wounds

Of those that fall.

Sach.: (Alarmed) What, heal the wounded?

Princess: Yes!

Sach.: And cut off real live legs and arms?

Princess: Of course!

Sach.: I wouldn't do it for a thousand pounds!

Princess: Why, how is this? Are you faint-hearted, girl?

You've often cut them off in theory!

Sach.: In theory I'll cut them off again

With pleasure, and as often as you like,

But not in practice.

Princess: Coward! Get you hence,

I've craft enough for that, and courage too, I'll do your work! My fusiliers, advance!, Why, you are armed with axes! Gilded toys! Where are your rifles, pray?

Chloe: Why, please you, ma'am,

We left them in the armoury, for fear That in the heat and turmoil of the fight,

They might go off!

Princess: "They might!" Oh, craven souls!

Go off yourselves! Thank heaven I have a heart That quails not at the thought of meeting men; *I* will discharge your rifles! Off with you!

(Exit CHLOE)

Where's my bandmistress?

Ada: Please you, ma'am, the band

Do not feel well, and can't come out today!

Princess: Why, this is flat rebellion! I've no time

To talk to them just now. But, happily, I can play several instruments at once,

And I will drown the shrieks of those that fall With trumpet music, such as soldiers love! How stand we with respect to gunpowder? My Lady Psyche – you who superintend Our lab'ratory – are you well prepared To blow these bearded rascals into shreds?

Psyche: Why, madam—

Princess: Well?

Psyche: Let us try gentler means.

We can dispense with fulminating grains

While we have eyes with which to flash our rage!

We can dispense with villainous saltpetre

While we have tongues with which to blow them up!

We can dispense, in short, with all the arts That brutalize the practical polemist!

Princess: (Contemptuously) I never knew a more dispensing chemist!

Away, away – I'll meet these men alone Since all my women have deserted me!

(Exeunt all but PRINCESS, singing refrain of "Please you, do not hurt us," pianissimo.)

Princess: So fail my cherished plans – so fails my faith—

And with it hope, and all that comes of hope!

22. I built upon a rock







(Enter Chloe)

Chloe: Madam, your father and your brothers claim

An audience!

Princess: What do they do here?

Chloe: They come

To fight for you!

Princess: Admit them!

Blanche: Infamous!

One's brothers, ma'am, are men!

Princess: So I have heard.

But all my women seem to fail me when I need them most. In this emergency,

Even one's brothers may be turned to use. (Exeunt Blanche and Psyche)

Gama: (Entering, pale and unnerved) My daughter!

Princess: Father! Thou art free!

Gama: Aye, free!

Free as a tethered ass! I come to thee

With words from Hildebrand. Those duly given

I must return to blank captivity.

I'm free so far.

Princess: Your message.

Gama: Hildebrand

Is loth to war with women. Pit my sons, My three brave sons, against these popinjays, These tufted jack-a-dandy featherheads, And on the issue let thy hand depend!

Princess: Insult on insult's head! Are we a stake

For fighting men? What fiend possesses thee, That thou has come with offers such as these

From such as he to such an one as I?

Gama: I am possessed

By the pale devil of a shaking heart! My stubborn will is bent. I dare not face That devilish monarch's black malignity! He tortures me with torments worse than death,

I haven't anything to grumble at!

He finds out what particular meats I love, And gives me them. The very choicest wines, The costliest robes – the richest rooms are mine. He suffers none to thwart my simplest plan,

And gives strict orders none should contradict me!

He's made my life a curse! (Weeps)

Princess: My tortured father!

23. Whene'er I spoke sarcastic joke

Gama and Women



* Revision in "Songs of a Savoyard"











Princess: My poor old father! How he must have suffered! Well, well, I yield!

Gama: (Hysterically) She yields! I'm saved, I'm saved! (Exit)

Princess: Open the gates— admit these warriors, Then get you all within the castle walls.

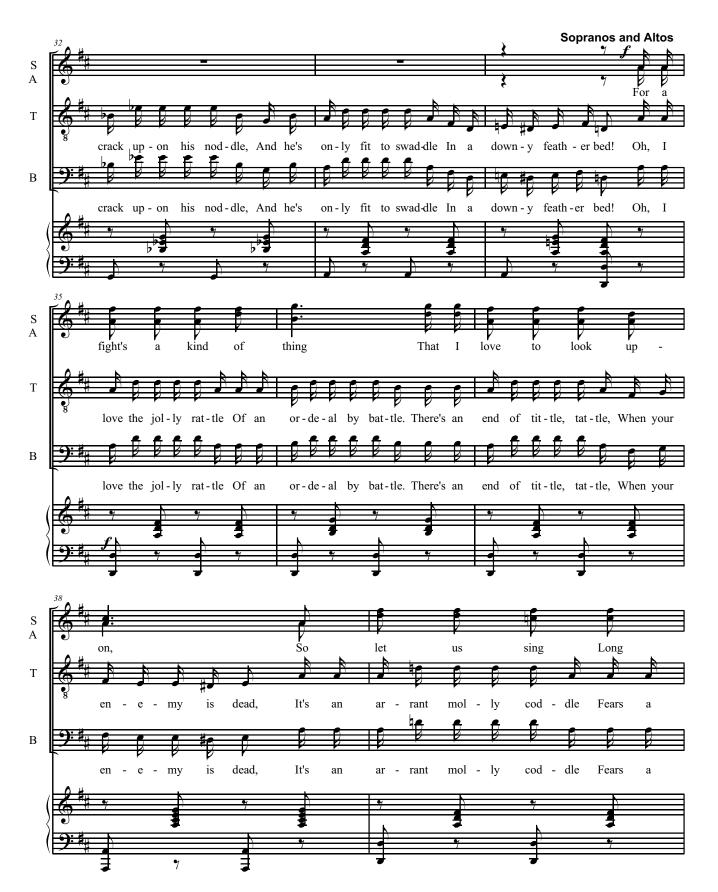
24. When anger spreads his wing

Chorus of Ladies and Soldiers

(The gates are opened and the girls mount the battlements as Soldiers enter. Also Arac, Gurun and Scynthius.)









25. This helmet I suppose

Arac with Guron, Scynthius and Chorus











(During this, HILARION, FLORIAN, and CYRIL are brought out by the "Daughters of the Plough." They are still bound and wear the robes. Enter GAMA.)

Gama: Hilarion! Cyril! Florian! Dressed as women!

Is this indeed Hilarion?

Hilar.: Yes, it is!

Gama: Why, you look handsome in your women's clothes!

Stick to 'em! Men's attire becomes you not!

(To CYRIL and FLORIAN) And you, young ladies, will you please to pray

King Hildebrand to set me free again? Hang on his neck and gaze into his eyes, He never could resist a pretty face!

Hilar.: You dog, you'll find, though I wear woman's garb,

My sword is long and sharp!

Gama: Hush, pretty one!

Here's a virago! Here's a termagant! If length and sharpness go for anything,

You'll want no sword while you can wag your tongue!

Cyril: What need to waste your words on such as he?

He's old and crippled.

Gama: Aye, but I've three sons,

Fine fellows, young and muscular, and brave,

They're well worth talking to! Come, what d'ye say?

Arac: Aye, pretty ones, engage yourselves with us,

If three rude warriors affright you not!

Hilar.: Old as you are, I'd wring your shrivelled neck

If you were not the Princess Ida's father.

Gama: If I were not the Princess Ida's father,

And so had not her brothers for my sons, No doubt you'd wring my neck – in safety too!

Come, come, Hilarion, begin, begin!

Give them no quarter – they will give you none.

You've this advantage over warriors Who kill their country's enemies for pay,—

You know what you are fighting for – look there!

(Pointing to LADIES on the battlements)

26. This is our duty plain Chorus

(Desperate fight between the three Princes and the three Knights, during which the Ladies on the battlements and the Soldiers on the stage sing the following chorus:)



^{*} Second verse was cut after opening night. However, it gives time for a longer battle scene.





(By this time, ARAC, GURON, and SCYNTHIUS are on the ground, wounded – HILARION, CYRIL and FLORIAN stand over them.)

Princess: (Entering through gate and followed by LADIES, HILDEBRAND, and

GAMA.)

Hold! stay your hands! – we yield ourselves to you!

Ladies, my brothers all lie bleeding there! Bind up their wounds – but look the other way.

(Coming down) Is this the end? (Bitterly to LADY BLANCHE)

How say you, Lady Blanche— Can I with dignity my post resign? And if I do, will you then take my place?

Blanche: To answer this, it's meet that we consult

The great Potential Mysteries; I mean The five Subjunctive Possibilities—

The May, the Might, the Would, the Could, the Should.

Can you resign? The Prince May claim you; if He Might, you Could – and if you Should, I Would!

Princess: I thought as much! Then to my fate I yield—

So ends my cherished scheme! Oh, I had hoped To band all women with my maiden throng, And make them all abjure tyrannic Man!

Hildebd: A noble aim!

Princess: You ridicule it now;

But if I carried out this glorious scheme,

At my exalted name Posterity Would bow in gratitude!

Hildebd: But pray reflect –

If you enlist all women in your cause, And make them all abjure tyrannic Man, The obvious question then arises, "How

Is this Posterity to be provided?"

Princess: I never thought of that! My Lady Blanche,

How do you solve the riddle?

Blanche: Don't ask me –

Abstract Philosophy won't answer it.

Take him – he is your Shall. Give in to Fate!

Princess: And you desert me. I alone am staunch!

Hilarion: Madam, you placed your trust in Woman - well,

> Woman has failed you utterly – try Man, Give him one chance, it's only fair – besides, Women are far too precious, too divine,

To try unproven theories upon.

Experiments, the proverb says, are made On humble subjects –try our grosser clay,

And mould it as you will!

Cyril: Remember, too

> Dear Madam, if at any time you feel A-weary of the Prince, you can return To Castle Adamant, and rule your girls

As heretofore, you know.

Princess: And shall I find

The Lady Psyche here?

Psyche: If Cyril, ma'am,

Does not behave himself, I think you will.

Princess: And you Melissa, shall I find you here?

Melissa: Madam, however Florian turns out,

Unhesitatingly I answer, No!

Gama: Consider this, my love, if your mama

> Had looked on matters from your point of view (I wish she had), why where would you have been?

Blanche: There's an unbounded field of speculation,

On which I could discourse for hours!

No doubt! **Princess:**

> We will not trouble you. Hilarion, I have been wrong – I see my error now. Take me, Hilarion – "We will walk this world

Yoked in all exercise of noble end!

And so through those dark gates across the wild That no one knows!" Indeed, I love thee – Come!

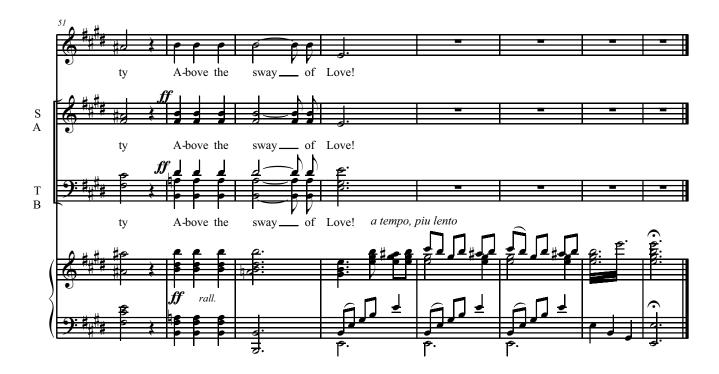
27. Act III Finale











(End of opera)