

15. A lady fair, of lineage high
Psyche with Cyril, Hilarion & Florian

Allegretto grazioso Psyche

Psyche

1. A La-dy fair, of _ lin-eage high, Was

ff *pesante* *p*

7

Psy

lov'd by an Ape, in the days gone by. _ _ The Maid was ra - diant _ as the sun, The

12

Psy

Ape was a most un - sight-ly one The Ape was a most un - sight-ly one So it would not do,

p

18
Psy
His scheme fell through, For the Maid, when his love took for-mal shape, Ex-

23
Psy
press'd such ter-ror At his mon-strous er-ror, That he stam-mer'd an a-po-lo-gy and made his 'scape, The

27
Psy
pic-ture of a dis-con-cert-ed Ape. 2. With a

ff *pesante* *p*

33
Psy
view to rise in the so-cial scale, He shav'd his bris-tles, and he dock'd his tail, — He

Princess Ida

QUARTET – PRINCESS, CYRIL, HILARION *and* FLORIAN.

PRIN. The world is but a broken toy,
 Its pleasure hollow – false its joy,
 Unreal its loveliest hue,
 Alas!
 Its pains alone are true,
 Alas!
 Its pains alone are true.

HIL. The world is everything you say,
 The world we think has had its day.
 Its merriment is slow.
 Alas!
 We've tried it, and we know,
 Alas!
 We've tried it and we know.

ALL. Unreal its loveliest hue,
 Its pains alone are true,
 Alas!
 The world is but a broken toy,
 Its pleasure hollow – false its joy,
 Unreal its loveliest hue,
 Alas!
 Its pains alone are true,
 Alas!
 Its pains alone are true!

Exit PRINCESS. The three gentlemen watch her off. LADY PSYCHE enters, and regards them with amazement.

HIL. 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.)*

PSY. *(aside)* These ladies are unseemly in their mirth.

The gentlemen see her, and, in confusion, resume their modest demeanour.

FLOR. *(aside)* Here's a catastrophe, Hilarion!
 This is my sister! She'll remember me,
 Though years have passed since she and I have met!

HIL. *(aside to FLORIAN)* Then make a virtue of necessity,
 And trust our secret to her gentle care.

FLOR. *(to PSYCHE, who has watched CYRIL in amazement)*
 Psyche! Why, don't you know me? Florian!

Princess Ida

PSY. (*amazed*) Why, Florian!

FLOR. My sister! (*Embraces her.*)

PSY. Oh, my dear!

What are you doing here – and who are these?

HIL. I am that Prince Hilarion to whom
Your Princess is betrothed. I come to claim
Her plighted love. Your brother Florian
And Cyril come to see me safely through.

PSY. The Prince Hilarion? Cyril too? How strange!
My earliest playfellows!

HIL. Why, let me look!

Are you that learned little Psyche who
At school alarmed her mates because she called
A buttercup “*ranunculus bulbosus*”?

CYR. Are you indeed that Lady Psyche, who
At children’s parties, drove the conjuror wild,
Explaining all his tricks before he did them?

HIL. 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?

PSY. That small phenomenon indeed am I!
But gentlemen, ’tis death to enter here:
We have all promised to renounce mankind!

FLOR. Renounce mankind? On what ground do you base
This senseless resolution?

PSY. Senseless? No.
We are all taught, and, being taught, believe
That Man, sprung from an Ape, is Ape at heart.

CYR. That’s rather strong.

PSY. The truth is always strong!

SONG – LADY PSYCHE.

A Lady fair, of lineage high,
Was loved by an Ape, in the days gone by.
The Maid was radiant as the sun,
The Ape was a most unsightly one –
So it would not do –
His scheme fell through,
For the Maid, when his love took formal shape,
Expressed such terror
At his monstrous error,
That he stammered an apology and made his ’scape,