

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.)

Allegro grazioso

The musical score is written in 2/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It begins with a piano introduction marked *f* (forte) in the right hand and *p* (piano) in the left hand. The introduction consists of two systems of piano accompaniment. The first system (measures 1-10) features a complex, rhythmic pattern in the right hand with many beamed sixteenth notes and chords, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The second system (measures 11-20) continues this pattern, with the right hand becoming more melodic and the left hand providing harmonic support. The piano introduction ends with a *ff* (fortissimo) dynamic marking.

The vocal parts enter at measure 21. The Soprano (S) and Alto (A) parts have the following lyrics:

S To - wards the em - py - re - an heights —
A To - wards the em - py - re - an heights —

The piano accompaniment continues with a *ff* dynamic, featuring a driving eighth-note bass line and a more active right hand with chords and melodic fragments.

At measure 28, the vocal parts have the following lyrics:

S — Of ev'-ry kind of lore, We've tak-en sev'-ral ea - sy flights — And mean to
A — Of ev'-ry kind of lore, We've tak-en sev'-ral ea - sy flights — And mean to

The piano accompaniment continues with a steady eighth-note bass line and a more active right hand with chords and melodic fragments.

35

S take some more. In try - ing to a - chieve suc-cess___ No en - vy racks our

A take some more. In try - ing to a - chieve suc-cess___ No en - vy racks our

42

S heart, And all the know-ledge we possess,___ We mu-tual - ly im-part.

A heart, And all the know-ledge we possess,___ We mu-tual - ly im-part.

49

Melissa

Pray, what auth-ors should she read Who in Classics would suc-

56

Psyche

ceed? If you'd climb___ the He - li-con,

61

You should read A - na - cre-on, O - vid's Me - ta - mor - pho-ses, Like-wise A - ris -

66

to - pha-nes, And the works of Ju - ve-nal: These are worth at -

71

ten - tion, all; But If you will be ad -

76

vised, You will get them Bowd - ler-ized!

81

S Ah! we will get them Bow - dler-ized!

A Ah! we will get them Bow - dler-ized!

f *mf*

85 **Sacharissa**

Pray you, tell us, if you can,

92 **Psyche**

What's the thing that's known as Man? Man will swear, and Man will storm_____

99

Man is not at all good form_____ Man is of no kind of use.

106

Man's a don-key, Man's a goose- Man is coarse and Man is plain. Man is more or less in-sane.

112

Man's a ri-bald- Man's a rake, Man is na-ture's sole mis - take!

S We'll a

A We'll a

cresc.

117

S me - mo - ran - dum make. Man is na - ture's sole mis -

A me - mo - ran - dum make. Man is na - ture's sole mis -

120

S take! _____ And thus to em-py - re - an height _____ Of ev-'ry

A take! _____ And thus to em-py - re - an height _____ Of ev-'ry

f

125

S kind of lore, In search of wis-dom's pure de-light, _____ am-bi-tious - ly we soar.

A kind of lore, In search of wis-dom's pure de-light, _____ am-bi-tious - ly we soar.

132

S In try - ing to a - chieve suc-cess _____ No en - vy racks our heart,

A In try - ing to a - chieve suc-cess _____ No en - vy racks our heart,

139

S For all we know and all we guess, — We mu-tual - ly im-part! And all the

A For all we know and all we guess, — We mu-tual - ly im-part! And all the

145

S know-ledge we pos - sess, We mu-tual - ly im - part, — We mu-tual - ly im - part, —

A know-ledge we pos - sess, We mu-tual - ly im - part, — We mu-tual - ly im - part, —

153

S im - part!

A im - part!

Princess Ida

MELISSA.

But 'twould be an error
To confess our terror,
So in Ida's name,
Boldly we exclaim:

CHORUS.

Death to the invader!
Strike a deadly blow,
As an old Crusader
Struck his Paynim foe!

Flourish. Enter PRINCESS, armed, attended by BLANCHE and PSYCHE.

PRIN. 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.

BLAN. 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 bought
Unless you're amply furnished with the Needful.
These singular considerations are –

PRIN. Superfluous, yet not Needful – so you see
The terms may independently exist.

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

PRIN. We shall require your skill to heal the wounds
Of those that fall.

SACH. *(alarmed)* What, heal the wounded?

PRIN. Yes!

SACH. And cut off real live legs and arms?

PRIN. Of course!

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

Princess Ida

PRIN. 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.

PRIN. 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!

PRIN. '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!

PRIN. 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?

PSY. Why, madam –

PRIN. Well?

PSY. 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!

PRIN. (*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.

PRIN. So fail my cherished plans – so fails my faith –