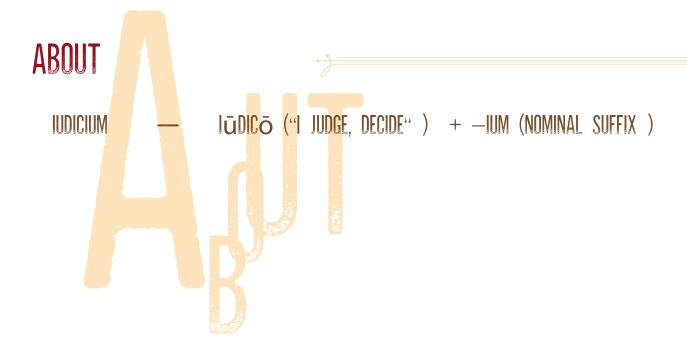
## INDEX OVERVIEW ABOUT OPERA CAST **ORCHESTRATION** SYNOPSIS MUSIC **CREATORS** OPERA IN: 2 ACTS 10 SCENES **OPERA**

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ESTIMATED LENGTH: 1:49:37



Grounded in tradition, *Iudicium* blurs the dramatic lines between the new and the old, fantasy and reality, and opera's many successful theatrical styles. A predominantly syllabic libretto by C. J. Bartels, *Iudicium's* poetic prose and timeless story of good and evil pair seamlessly with the stage-centric score written by Jan Tegtmeyer as he takes the two art forms hand-in-hand and presents them as one.

Written as a two-act opera, and based on the book "Where The Valley Lies," *Iudicium* is sure to please stage aficionados of multiple genres as it turns the audience into the jury, the stage into a dilemma, and the opera house into a heart-pounding experience.

Welcome to *Iudicium!* 



KAST

#### THROW (SOMETHING) FORCEFULLY IN A SPECIFIED DIRECTION.

#### SINGERS

King Adami Tenor
Bazzo (Messenger/Servant/Attendant) Tenor
Carpenter (Ghost Prophet) Bass Baritone
Mary (Blacksmith's Daughter) Mezzo-Soprano
Bonhomie (Blacksmith) Bass Baritone
Ranthial (Bishop) Bass Baritone *
Medea (Sorcerer of the Woods) Alto
Choir (Crowd/Entourage/Choir of Priests/Choir of Demons) S,A,T,B

#### SPEAKING ACTORS

Timor (Low-Level Demon/Narrator)

Child (King's Granddaughter)

- <sup>c</sup> Amicus (Military Captain)
- <sup>c</sup> Sagasi (Military Adjutant)
- <sup>c</sup> Mandolin (Mysterious Old Woman)
- <sup>c</sup> Blacksmith Apprentice
- <sup>c</sup> Chicane (Lord of Cunnings)
- <sup>c</sup> Zeal (Guest of the King)
- <sup>c</sup> Cerberus (Gate Keeper of the Infernal Regions)
- <sup>c</sup> Jurors (3) (In Audience at Beginning)

▶ Do not overlap – one principle option

c Option of using choir member



ôRKə' STRāSHəN

#### TO ARRANGE OR MANIPULATE, ESPECIALLY BY MEANS OF CLEVER OR THOROUGH PLANNING

OR MANEUVERING

#### **ORCHESTRA**

- 1 Flute
- 2 Oboes
- 2 Clarinets
- 1 Bassoon
- 2 Horns

Timpani, Tambourine

Strings

#### **ORCHESTRA**

**Optional:** Stage ensemble 2 Clarinets, 2 Bassoons (or 1 Bassoon and 1 Cello)

Strings Suggested: Eight first violins, six second violins, four violas, three celli

and two double basses.

Strings Suggested Minimum: Four first violins, three second, two violas,

two celli and one double bass.

### SYNOPSIS

SYN · OP · SIS — AN OUTLINE OF THE PLOT OF A BOOK, PLAY, MOVIE, OR

INTRODUCTION

**Timor, a low-level demon,** tries to convince the jury (the audience) that there has been a mistake made with a man's soul and they must overturn the verdict.

As Hell lays out its case, three jurors demand that Timor present the transcript from the trial, in its entirety. Tentatively, he agrees, and the story begins as Adami, the owner of the soul, receives word that his son, the heir, died while crossing an icy pass in the mountains when his horse threw a shoe. Furious, 'King' Adami demands the person to blame, (the Blacksmith) and in his rage takes it one step further, denouncing God for the death and crushing the symbol of God's son that rises before him, a brilliantly white crucifix. Shattering it to dust, he declares, "You are no more!"

At the same time, a carpenter hired to renovate the prince's parlor as a gift to be presented on return, finishes his work. In the light of the candles, as they flicker from the gold stands and the intricately carved wood, the carpenter admires his creation while the hour of the king's night-of-mercy approaches. Finishing his review, he carefully places each chisel back in his toolbox and lifts a straw-woven doll from his side and sets it on a table below a window. In its arms, he places a carved wooden basket. With one final glance around the room, he steps from the castle and out into the night. As the room settles in silence, a small child appears from her hiding place behind the door and runs through the room, singing, and dancing, touching the beautifully carved woodwork that wraps her playground. Reaching the table she stops, pauses, and then lifts the woven doll and whittled basket into the air. Looking around to make sure nobody is watching she gives it a gentle hug and runs from the room with the precious gift.

#### ACT1: SCENE 3

The villagers gather at the steps of the cathedral for their yearly stipend meant to carry them through the long winter, a tradition that has continued since any can remember, but it is not to be. The old and young, split in two, move aside as the soldiers drag the blacksmith's daughter before the king. Her pleading does little to soften his heart, and in the end, the king demands a son for a son, ordering her to bring her child to hang in mornings first light. As she is removed from the cathedral, the king's messenger enters to report that the gift commissioned for the prince, not due to be finished for another month, is complete. Along with the update on progress, it is revealed that the carpenter did not follow the king's approved architectural drawings. The news of the project's completion piques the king's interest. He orders the doors of the cathedral closed, his carriage brought forth, and he and his guests taken to see what this carpenter has done.

#### INTERMISSION APT 2- SPENE

The king and his entourage arrive at the prince's palace. Inside the main door, they find the king's granddaughter playing with a woven doll on the stairs, unaware of what has happened to her father. Her innocence steals Adami's thoughts before he orders the doors to the parlor opened. Once inside, he is struck speechless by the beauty that surrounds him. However, as he admires the fantastic work, he discovers that within its intricate carving is hidden a message that will come true at first light. Moreover, to make matters worse, the last word is missing. Worried for his life, and assuming these are God's words, he sends for the Bishop.

Far from the castle, across the fields and deep in the woods, the blacksmith's daughter enters her cottage. Beaten and stiff from the cold, she tells her father what has happened. To her dismay, she discovers that the old blacksmith has injured himself. Forgetting her pain, she tends to him as a mysterious old woman that the blacksmith invited out of the cold and into their home months earlier rambles on about how they should not worry – all has been taken care of, a gift to them.

Back at the castle, the bishop enters to find the king somber and broken. In the king's state of disbelief, he asks the Bishop to tell him the final word. The Bishop sees an opportunity to gain great power throughout the kingdom... for Rome. Following the reading of the prophecy, the Bishop tells the king that the last word requires obedience to him and the church or he shall perish in the fires of hell. After considering the terms, King Adami tells the bishop his answer is unacceptable and sends him away. With no other option, he summons the sorcerer of the woods.

#### ACT2: SCENE 4

As the night draws into the winter cold and the moon rises higher, Mary holds her father's hand, and it becomes clear he will not survive the night. She sings goodbye to him and then determines what she must do with her child.

In the parlor, Medea, the sorcerer of the woods, slinks along the wall, surrounded by her demon choir. Summoning all her power to convince the king that the final word is of his death and destruction, Adami is captured in a hypnotic trans and at the mercy of the demon witch. Suddenly realizing his mistake, he breaks free, denying the foul creature her desire and accepting his fate – he has done evil and will have to pay.

Prostrate and without hope, the sun begins to break the horizon through the window on the far side of the parlor as King Adami hears the sweet soft voice of the blacksmith's daughter. Dressed in a beautiful white gown, she enters with the child in a basket, as requested. The king slowly breaks the grip that cold and dismay hold on him and rises to meet the woman.

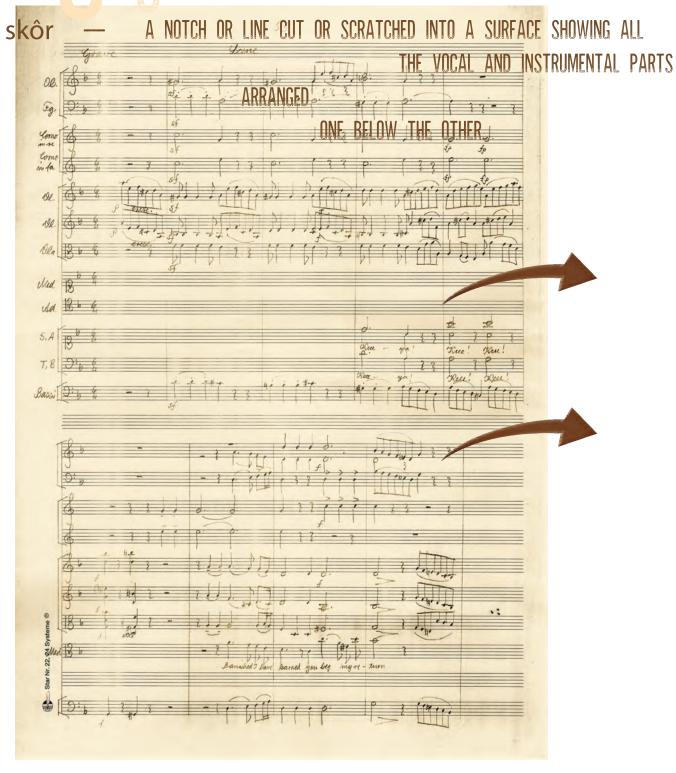
Telling her that he has made a mistake and now knows his son would never have blamed another for his woes, the king apologizes and then asks for a single favor; to tell him the word none of his other confidant's were able to speak. She does not, but following the prophecy's reading, she tells him that he has been granted a great gift, and he should feel very fortunate for it is all there, within the words. There is no riddle.

The king cannot believe it and ignores her as the door behind the woman suddenly moves. Seeing that it can only mean one thing, that a demon has come for him, he demands that it present itself and states that he is ready to die. To both of their surprise, it turns out to be the prince's young daughter. In sadness, she rushes across the floor and into her grandfather's arms, now aware that her father, the prince, will never return. The King dries her tears and explains away her pain. Comforted, the child stops crying, and he tells Mary she is to consider herself a guest in his castle, to eat from his kitchen, and then to return and take her child with her.

Alone with the little girl, the king notices the woven doll and its whittled basket in the child's grip. Transfixed, he asks who gave her such a beautiful gift. Forgetting her pain for the moment, he takes the doll and basket from her as she runs over to the window and the table where the carpenter had set the doll earlier in the night. As she details the moment, the king realizes that the table sits just past the last word of the prophecy. In the silence of the morning, light streaming through the window, Adami slowly turns over the wooden basket that the woven doll held, to find a single word whittled into the bottom...

...AND THE REST IS YOURS TO DISCOVER...

SCORE SCORE





### THE CREATORS

KRe'āDəR

 $\lambda$   $_{\sf PER}$ SON OR THING THAT BRINGS SOMETHING INTO EXISTENCE.

# TORS

### COMPOSER JAN TEGTMEYER



Born in Herford, Germany, Jan has written for multiple orchestras, including Klangvereinigung Wien, Sinfonietta dell'Arte, and Sophia Philharmonic, and performed from China to North America. While traveling through the United States, Jan met Chris and together, immediately realized that there was an opera that needed writing. *Jan currently lives, composes, teaches, and performs in Austria.* 

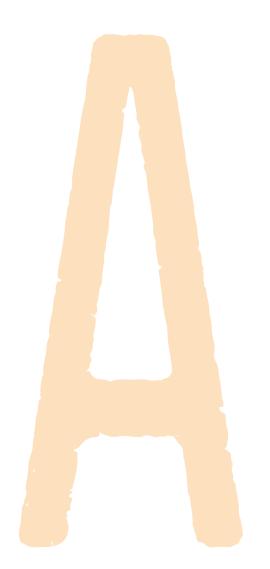
CHRIS BARTELS



A first-generation American, Chris has picked up golf balls at 4:30 am, flown helicopters over the sands of Iraq and the Korean waters of the Yellow Sea, lifted trout from the pristine waters of Montana, and watched fireworks over the Sydney Opera House with friends that are still friends. While in China, he met a couple, and then 12 months later, while living in Germany, met their daughter, now his wife and mom to their four wonderful children. Chris presently resides somewhere on a stream in the United States.



OPERA IN: 2 ACTS 10 SCENES







'PEOPLE OF THE JURY
ON THE COURT OF IMMATERIAL,
I BRING TO YOU A POOR DEVIL'S
APPEAL FOR A VERY WICKED
MAN'S SOUL.

HE WAS IN MY CARE...
UNTIL HE DIED. AND THEN TAKEN
FROM ME, EVEN AFTER THAT
VILE CREATURE DID WHAT HE DID
ON THAT COLD WINTER'S
NIGHT!"

## INTRODUCTION TO THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY O



#### SCENE SETUP

Timor, a low-level demon, has come forward to appeal a verdict past down hundreds of years earlier because his boss, the devil, believes it has set an unacceptable precedent. Timor decides to bring the case to "the people..." in the hopes they will see his side. And to help his case, he plays a recorded transcript of the original judgement-day battle... but will he tell all?

SCENE — BEHIND TIMOR AND SCREEN IS A SOFTLY LIT JUDGES DESK. GAVEL DROPS THREE TIMES!

Timor

People of the jury on the court of immaterial, I bring to you a poor devil's appeal for a very wicked man's soul.

He was in my care... until he died. And then taken from me, even after that vile creature did what he did on that cold winter's night!

...And for this reason, he must be punished!

He must be condemned straight to hell. For the safety of your children, I tell you, this time, YOU MUST CONVICT! Pick up your pitchforks.

Together we will punish this derelict!

Juror 1
(IN AUDIENCE)

Why now! Why after so many years do you return for this man's soul?

Timor

Because it has come to my attention (*looks*behind) that through the dismissal of this sin
a terrible precedent has been set.

By accepting the ruling without appeal, I have acknowledged my enemy's most unfavorable gift!

When I said, "Judge, I accept your verdict..."

I allowed God — a true detriment to society — to pillage from my cohorts, life-long criminals and all sorts of hypocrites.

For this reason, the chain must be broken, and it must be broken by YOU!

Accept my appeal or I tell you, God, that brute, will continue to dish out mercy and grace to dangerous freaks and fools, "to people exactly like that gentleman (tips head) in row two."

And if not for your children, do it for me!

I say again! This man is guilty and should
never have been set free.

(points toward the screen behind him were a flash of violent acts from the opera that the king carries out takes place in film before he scurries over to large switch on tape player)

Here! Just Listen to the transcript from when he died! You will see. He's outspoken.

He's Manipulative. He speaks irreverently to everyone, especially to me. (flips on a scratchy recording of previous trial)

King Adami

You have made a mistake! I do not deserve to go with him!" (points at a young Timor)

Young Timor

Mistake? You have chosen to deny the truth.

King Adami

If you will oblige me, your honor, and ignore this buffoon, I will tell you a story that will outline the proof. It is pure and true, and it will show that no subordinate can condemn me; not a priest, not Satan, and certainly not you.

Judge

How dare you speak to the court like this!

Demon, take him away!

King Adami

He cannot! For if that was the case and from sin, there is no reprieve, then no matter what you say, we on earth have all been deceived!

By the words of missionaries and prophets, spinning webs of mercy and grace, I tell you, if their words are not true, then there is no God, there is no Devil, and there is indeed no reason to listen to you!

Judge & Timor

Enough! (bangs gavel!)

King Adami

-If by your words you condemn my foundation as flawed, then you and your God have dreadfully misled us all.

Young Timor

Blasphemy— (...smiles toward crowd)

King Adami

Your honor, Look at my life before you decide my penalty. If I am wrong, upon me hell, I beg you bestow, because then it is I that misunderstood the message promised to man so long ago.

As I stand before my judge and jury, I tell you, this demon, has hidden the truth.

(Timor scrambles to switch) The story does not end with Medea or the youth—

Timor

(embarrassed giggle) —Heee Heee.

Juror 1

"Hey, you cannot stop it there!"

Juror 2

"Let us hear it all!"

Timor

That is unnecessary, Madam. This man is a wretch! It is a trick. You can trust me.

Juror 3

You're the one that brought the appeal to us.

Juror 1 & 2

"Yes! Let us hear the rest."

Timor

(hesitantly, glancing over the audience, slowly walks over and pulls play lever)

Judge

(beat) Because I do not trust this demon I will listen, but I warn you, you are on very thin ground. (beat) Tell me this story that you believe so thoroughly sums up what my verdict must be and I will make my decision.

King Adami

(beat) I do not remember the year, but I can still see the children singing and parents gathering outside the cathedral for their annual stipend, to take them through the long winter. But, it is true, by my hand, (beat) ...it was not to be? ■

19

















HE WAS RIDING FROM
BATTLE WHEN HIS HORSE THREW
A SHOE. THE MOUNTAIN PASS
WAS OF ICE. THERE WAS
NOTHING THEY COULD DO.

HE FELL FROM THE
EDGE, WITH HIS HORSE HAND
IN HAND. HE DROPPED OUT
OF SITE. THEY ARE STILL
SEARCHING FOR HIM,
MY LORD.

**—BAZZO** 

## ACT 1 — SCENE 1



SCENE SETUP

A messenger has just delivered the news to King Adami that his son is dead. Behind him, a tall white porcelain crucifix rises above on a rough wooden pole. Unknown to either of them and hidden behind one of the pillars at the base of the stairs, stands the Bishop.

SCENE - The King strikes the messenger with one hand as he holds him with the other!

King Adami No, I say no!

This cannot be!

My wife

...now my son

Bazzo <u>He was riding from battle</u>

when his horse threw a shoe

The mountain pass was of ice

There was nothing they could do!

King Adami Where is the mercy?

How can this be?

Bazzo <u>He fell from the edge</u>

with his horse hand in hand

He dropped out of site

They are still searching for him, my lord

King Adami <u>His horse threw a shoe?</u>

Where is the blacksmith?

Bazzo <u>But sire, you must be aware</u>

it was nobodies fault!

<u>He was at the edge when it reared and he fell</u>

He fell by default

King Adami No!

Bazzo <u>An accident</u>

King Adami No! Bring me the man who is to blame

Bring me the blacksmith

or I shall hang you for that insult

Bazzo

<u>An accident!</u>

King Adami

No, this cannot be!

Bring him to me

His nail caused this fate

<u>His poor work is at fault</u>

Bring him to me!



## 































(Bazzo runs off leaving the king a subject to the pearl-white crucifix that rises above him. he studies its form as both gravity and hell's minions cling to the sculptures ankles. the king feels the urge to take part. all he has cherished is gone. all he has prayed for, betrayed. the downcast face of the pale ceramic no longer understands his pain)

King Adami

How could you?

How could you do such a thing?

Did you not have the courage to face me?

...a King?

How could you do such a thing?
Did you not have the courage to face me?
Not my son

...but his king!

How could you do this to me?

A boy that has always fought for thee.







King Adami

(King Adami's rage takes hold as he stares at the lone statue rising above him in pearl white and ringed with a crown of gold)

Look at me!...

You are no more.

(stepping forward he grabs the vertical post of the crucifix as it hangs before him)

Listen to me...

You are no more!...

You are no more!

Do you hear me?



King Adami

(with all his might, the crucifix shatters in his grasp and shutters to the ground in shards of ceramic and dust)

Timor

(the light fades from King Adami and softly illuminates Timor, at the edge of the chapel as he slowly steps out from his hiding place, smiles, and begins to laugh as he wrings his hands and steps from the stage light) ■

THE WOODS ARE ALIVE WITH EACH LEAF AND EACH BRANCH, AS THEY SWAY AND THEY SWING, WITHOUT BREEZE.

CAST IN DEEP—OILED
WOOD, EVERY ELEMENT DRAWN
FROM A SPECIMEN FOUND ON
HIS LAND. IT IS BEAUTIFUL.
MAGNIFICENT. COMPLETE.
IT IS FINISHED.

\_\_CARPENTER

# ACT 1 — SCENE 2



### SCENE SETUP

A carpenter examines his creation of carved branches and leaves, understanding it is the most beautiful composition he has ever created, but knowing not where the inspiration came from or why he was chosen to deliver the message.

SCENE — ON A TABLE SET JUST BELOW A WINDOW HE PLACES A STRAW—GRASS WOVEN DOLL AND CARVED BASKET.

Carpenter

The woods are alive

with each leaf and each branch

as they sway and they swing
with-out breeze

Cast in deep-oiled wood

every element drawn from a specimen
found on his land

It is beautiful

## <u>Magnificent</u>

## Complete

<u>It is finished</u>

No two figures the same

No pattern to be carried away

Each holds its own little tale

It is beautiful

Magnificent

<u>Complete</u>

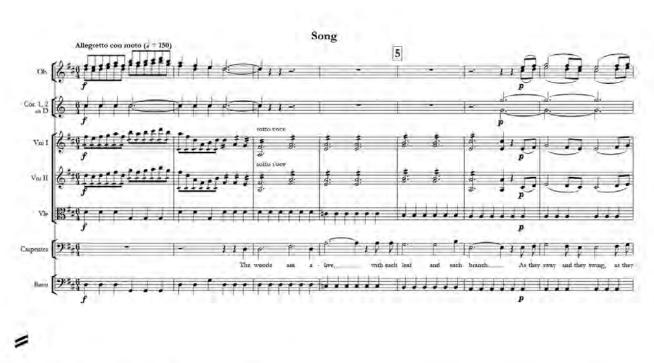
It is finished

<u>I have an idea from whence this gift has come</u>

<u>but not even I believe in ghosts</u>

When the carvings steal my thoughts
 for a time to return
 and find the work's complete

## It is finished.



























### Carpenter

(the carpenter lifts a straw-grass-woven doll that is next to his toolbox. admiring it for a moment, he steps toward a table pressed below a window. placing his hand in his pocket, he pulls out a small carved basket and sets it in the doll's arms as he stands it on the table. studying it for a moment, he turns, walks to his toolbox, lifts it, and leaves the room)

Child

(after a moment of stillness a child peaks around the door and into the room that the carpenter has just left. like a fairy left to a paradise, she enters and dances down a wall, lightly touching the carvings until she sees the woven doll on the table. she runs over to it and gently lifts it, keeping the basket in its grasp. looking around to make sure no one is watching, she runs out of the room holding both pieces tightly in her grasp)

Timor

...It is a masterpiece, but tonight is the night that the town raises its cup to their king and his tremendous generosity. (smiles)

TONIGHT, TONIGHT,
THE CROWN OF THE LAND
WILL TAKE IN HIS HAND
THE PEOPLE BELOW.

TONIGHT IS THE NIGHT.
TONIGHT WE SHALL RAISE
OUR CUP TO THE KING FOR
THE RICHES BESTOWED. ...THE
CANDIES, THE BLESSINGS,
FOR THE YOUNG AND
THE OLD

-VILLAGE CHOIR

# ACT 1 - SCENE 3



### SCENE SETUP

The townspeople are full of drink and laughter as they enter the village square. The large rising stairs leading up to the old cathedral sit at the center and are the gathering place where they will receive their annual stipend to carry them through the long winter.

SCENE — THE KING'S CHAIR SITS AT ITS HEART, WAITING FOR SOMETHING THAT NO ONE COULD HAVE EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE ON THE NIGHT OF MERCY.

Crowd

Tonight tonight

the crown of the land
will take in his hand

the people below

Tonight is the night

Tonight we shall raise

our cup to the king

for the riches bestowed

The candies, The blessings

...for the young and the old

The cider, The wheat

...and most certainly the gold

Tonight is the night

Tonight we shall sing

the praise of the glory

for the gifts from our king

King Adami <u>Tonight is the night</u>

the greedy shall bear

the wrath of their king

and the death of the heir

Their wants and their needs

confused as the same

No more have I patience

There'll be no more of the same

Crowd Tonight is the night

Tonight we shall sing

the praise of the glory

for the gifts from our king.











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(King Adami is seated at the top of the cathedral stairs as the crowd below is split in two by two soldiers dragging a woman, beaten and covered in dirt)

Amicus As requested, Sire.

King Adami Who is this servant girl?

Where is the man I ordered you to bring

before me? Where is the blacksmith?

Amicus Sire. He cannot be found.

We bring his daughter in his sted.

King Adami This filthy girl, the daughter of my

blacksmith?

Amicus She is all of his that has value. (Amicus's

eyes rise toward his venerate) And a true

beauty when polished.

Mary Liege, my father has done nothing wrong. He is

a good man! Please tell them! (Looking toward

her captors and the people pressing up the front step and just behind her) Someone.

Please! Tell them!

King Adami

Why does she speak? (some attendants chuckle as King Adami stands) Do you not have a husband to take better care of you? Look at you. You are filthy.

Amicus

Her husband was a soldier in your army until last year when he was killed at the battle of Corsico. A weak, ungodly man who let his ranks down when they needed him most, I have heard.

(only for Mary to hear) You shall rue the day you spoke "no" to me!

King Adami

Have no others stepped forward to take your husband's place? Answer me, woman! A beauty as yourself must certainly keep the company of approach. (he studies the fouled bundle as others chuckle) Tell me there is not one

kind soul within my ranks that has offered to care for you in his absence? (he turns to inspect his entourage)

Mary (her head remains Lowered) No Sire.

King Adami Not one in my service? Not even you, Bishop?

Mary (Mary's head rises)

No, Sire

I have but a son

A beautiful son

From a soldier so true

<u>He's a beautiful boy</u>

only months by his age

He's my breath, He's my joy

He's my soul, my stay

Amicus It should be known, Sire, that the locals

are cruel. They treat a woman with child,

and no husband, worse than your handler

treats a mule.

King Adami <u>I had a son</u>

A beautiful son

He was my breath and my joy

from a woman so true

Yet, yours lives in squalor

and mine is now dead

Where is the mercy

I see no mercy in dread

Amicus I've tried to persuade her to marry.

This is true. Yet, she will not listen.

I ask you, what more can I do.

King Adami Where is the kindness

that I have shown to thee

Wretches of evil

...you that take with such greed

Has no one come forward

to help this woman?

No one, Not a one

cares for her and her son?

Mary

No Sire, I have but a son

Amicus

(turning toward her so only she can hear)
So you still defy me my plundering plea?
(to all) Sire, I fear she'll become a whore.
Ask them; I am sure they will agree.

(points to crowd)

King Adami

I had a son

<u>a beautiful son</u>

from a woman so true

Mary

Please, Sire
Please, let me go to his care
He is alone

<u>Please show him</u>

your mercy-







=

















King Adami —Mercy?

King Adami

(soldiers draw their swords as spit tears from his lips, and he responds loudly) You, a woman of nothing, have a son that lives and breathes stench, and I have one at the bottom of a cliff in fine clothes that is now dead!

(turns toward the town people crowded at the
cathedral entrance) This husbandless whore,
a son? I ask you, where is the mercy in this?

Crowd

(groaning and murmuring to each other, unsure of the situation. the word "whore?" mumbles through the crowd. from the back you hear people yelling) "What's going on?

Let us in!" (laughing and pushing)

"Get on with it."

King Adami

What is his name? Your boy's name? Speak!

Mary

Adi, Sire.

... After our king.

King Adami

A son, no husband, and a father who has left you to take his punishment? No child named after me should live like this. (the cold descended over the throng in a mist of feathered breath carrying the talons of a devil) This must be remedied.

Mary

(it only takes a moment before the signs of understanding break into a plea and its courier scurries to find the judge) No Sire, I beg you. (her trembling voice bears the painful cry of a beaten dog pressing its master for pity) He is all I have. Please, please do not take him from me.

King Adami

Your father's poor workmanship has killed my son. If I have no blacksmith to hang, then I will need another. ... How about a son.

Ranthial

Sire! This cannot be!

(the young woman pulls back, away from the king and looks around in disbelief)

Mary

From your star looking down from above

You've left me a world I now disavow

Come to me, Take us home

Your friends desire
Your foes, they laugh

Swords leave their sheaths on no one's behalf

His boots, so cold

His heart torn off side

Hells minions have come

taking our king from the light

From your star looking down at my fate

you've left me a world I now disavow

Come to me, Take us home

Forgive me! I know not what I've done

Show mercy, not for me

but for a man that once had a son

Take me, I beg you

Take me, not my boy.











Mary

(grabs the king's leg and presses her lips against his mud-encrusted boots)

Show mercy, Please sire... Please.

King Adami

(King Adami Lurches toward the door, pulling the girl off balance and to the side) What mercy have I been shown? What mercy did my son know? Tonight, tradition shall deviate once again and not by the hand of the pack.

(free of the pile of chattering flesh with a shake, his robes splay his position with a spin before he returns to stand and face the stares as one still form looking up through the door at their master)

King Adami

You gather like children in front of a vendor's barrel, expecting an apple that has become ordinary for the price of a bow. What is this day of Christmas but that of a child born to die? (his boots slap the floor with his change of posture) I see no mercy in that?

(turns toward the woman and then the crowd)

Mercy is that I do not hang you all as fools.

You spend when you have nothing, knowing that tradition will be upon us as it is every year and the generous king will save you. (the king's robe rises with his turn as the cold twirls below its fur-lined edge and sweeps the woman's quail form)

Tonight, God showed me no mercy. Expect the same. (passing the woman) Bring the boy ... by dawn. (with a mighty slump the king falls to his decorated chair and looks out over his sheep) Now leave me so I may show the next man his due.

Mary

No..., Sire. Please (her plea is ignored as

Amicus and another drag her out the door and
into the throng, which no longer seems so
anxious to step forward)

Bazzo

(through the crowd and up the stairs pushes the awkward messenger, Bazzo, as he hurries into the cathedral with a message from the palace)

King Adami

What is it now, Bazzo?

Bazzo

(bowing before the king and then rising)

I bring word that the gift petitioned for the prince's return, the renovation of the palace, has been completed.

King Adami

Finished? Already?

Bazzo

Yes, Sire.

Sagasi

(places a hand on the messenger's shoulder and draws him back from the king) Not now,

### Bazzo. Can't you see that-

King Adami

(still slumped in his chair and evaluating
the crowd at the door) My son's gift,
finished? Completely?

Bazzo

(Bazzo slips from the soldier's grasp) Yes,
Sire. Completely, ...although... (he pauses
and makes a face toward the audience) Your
carpenter has done, well...more than expected.
(the king does not respond and Bazzo takes it
as a reason to continue) The architectural
drawings were ignored, so under the
circumstances, I think we should postpone
your review and—

Amicus

(Amicus has returned and takes hold of Bazzo with a firm grip and slides him to the side as he squeaks the last word) Go away, You fool.

King Adami

(the king remains distilled in thought before
speaking) So you are now a consultant as well
as a messenger of bad news?

Crowd

(music begins...)

(FRONT ROWS )

Let us pass!

Let us pass!

It is our right!

Amicus

Sire, I too recommend we close the doors, bring up your carriage, and return to the castle with your guests. These people do not feel your pain as a clan raised in humble and gracious kind.

Crowd

Let us pass! Let us pass!

(FRONT ROWS )

It is our right

...to enter tonight!







### Ranthial

-Sire, I think it would be wise to let the people receive their rations. We can consider the alternatives tomorrow. This is not a night for ultimatums, not with the current situation of cold and scarcity.

King Adami

(King Adami rises from his throne, ignoring Ranthial's appeal) Close the doors and bring up my carriage. Let's see what this carpenter has done for my son!

(MUSIC BEGINS HERE )

Amicus

You heard the King! Close the doors.

(cathedral doors are closed)

Crowd

What have you done?

(FRONT ROWS )

Blame fools for your pain

We're poor, hungry peasants

...please take us in vain

<u>Please sire</u>

your mercy is all we ask

A mighty king

must follow his task

(BACK ROWS )

Tonight tonight

the crown of the land

will take in his hand

the people below

### <u>Tonight</u> is the night

### tonight we shall raise

### our cups to the king

### for the riches bestowed

### (ALL) <u>Tonight Tonight!</u>









(as the crowd dissipates Mary is left alone, on the ground, clutching her frozen dress)

Mary

I feel my heart pounding

My blood is astoundingly warm

on the back of my hand

Each breath is beleaguered

Each cry is as eager

...to rise and float me away

Yet from this place I hug dearly

Awaiting the sun to rise warmly

<u>I feel a strange embrace</u>

Carpenter <u>It is beautiful</u>

(FROM AFAR ) <u>Magnificent</u>

<u>Complete</u>

It is finished

Mary What is happening?

Your voice courses my veins

Oh my dear, I cannot see you

yet I feel you....near

Hold me!

Take me away!

Or leave me!

Voice of whisper, cruel joke

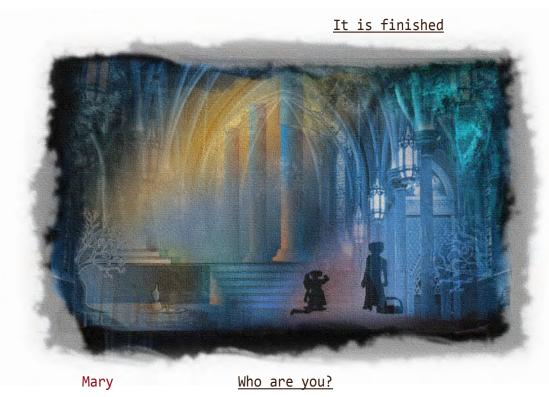
<u>I banish you.</u>

Be gone, words of desire

Carpenter <u>It is beautiful</u>

Magnificent

### <u>Complete</u>



Did you not hear?

They want my boy!

My boy in trade for the heir!













Carpenter Oh Mary, oh Mary

Pounding heart, need not fear

<u>Rise up</u>

Bring the boy as requested

<u>I am here</u>

\_Choir Rise up! We're here

Now cast your eyes and you shall see

Carpenter <u>I have come, bringing words, hidden words</u>

that will save but a son

\_Choir Bringing words, hidden words

Carpenter And it is beautiful

<u>Magnificent</u>

Complete

and finished

Choir Oh Mary, oh Mary

Pounding heart, need not fear

Mary (Mary stumbles backward and runs into the night) ■





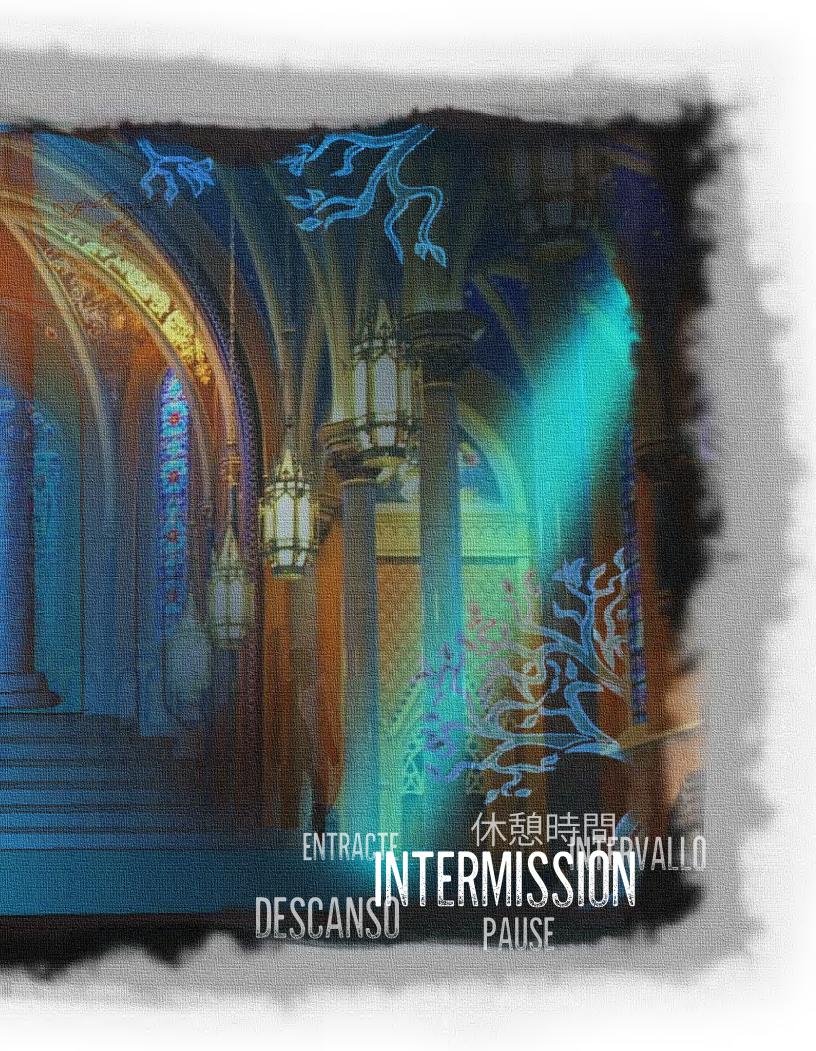


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# TO BE A CHILD LIKE THIS, A CHILD SO PURE, A CHILD WITHOUT A CARE.

TO HAVE A HEART SO SWEET, A MIND SO CLEAR, A MOMENT LIKE THIS IS RARE.

KING ADAMI

### ACT 2 - SCENE 1



SCENE SETUP

The king and his entourage step into the palace foyer. The king stops and studies his granddaughter playing on the stairs. He considers how wonderful it would be to be a child with no cares.

SCENE - A RISING STAIRCASE FLOWS FROM JUST INSIDE THE DOOR AND UP TO THE LEFT, OUT OF SIGHT.

King Adami

To be a child like this

a child so pure

a child without a care

To have a heart so sweet

a mind so clear

a moment like this is rare

## And stairs all rise to the base of the clouds where the sun warms your face

And rain begins

rather then falls

and successes are shared by all

To be a child, like this

a child so pure

to be a child before the fall

This is my world

my feet in the ground

where dear-to-me disappear

Surrounded by things

that live and die

like what is behind this door

### Reminding me

of all I've lost

Of the lives that are no more

No longer discovering new rhythm

new rhyme

as they enter life's hole

Where you become a king

and a leader, like me

with a tarnished

and deserted soul

You know not what comes

from out of your lips

please, deserted

...speak no more

For to be a child like this

a child so pure

is what all of us

should wish for.







King Adami

-Open the doors. Let us see what this

carpenter has done.

Bazzo

"Yes, Sire."

King Adami

(the king steps into the room and is immediately taken back by the beauty. it is like a whisper and a sigh when it leaves his lips)

It is beautiful.

Bazzo

(scurries to the approved drawings) It is,
Sire, but by some mistake, the carpenter you
hired has ignored the plans. He shall be found
and punished.

King Adami

My architects could not have imagined such a thing. He was right to ignore them.

Bazzo

(beat) Yes, Sire, I would agree! The
architects must be punished—

King Adami

It is magnificent. My son would have been very happy with this gift.

Chicane Sire, I have seen work with detail like this

before. In France, near the sea. Please, tell

me the artisan's name?

King Adami (the king turns to Bazzo, looking for the

answer)

Bazzo (appears worried) I do not know.

King Adami Did you not record his name when you gave him

payment? Is this not customary?

(returns to the carvings above the mantel. His

fingers touch the edge of a branch where the

scar of a snapped twig had become an overgrown

knot and an acorn now hung as shield)

Bazzo No, Sire. He did not seek wages, and who am I

to argue with such ... well ... generosity.

King Adami What do you mean, he did not seek wages?

Bazzo He left, Sire, before anyone knew the room was

finished. He asked for nothing. (steps toward

the middle window and points outside) Your granddaughter found the room as you see it and observed the carpenter through this window, walking away. (turns back toward his king) She said he disappeared into the night, like a ghost.

King Adami

(touches a carved leaf. it feels like flesh against his skin, yet he does not pull away)
We must know his name. Find the man who did this work. I must thank him.

Chicane

I believe I know this work, my friend, and you will not find him, Adami.

King Adami

(turns to face his friend that is now studying the detail) Why do you say this, Chicane?

I am his king. (he turns to admire a clump of leaves and acorns gathered around a sconce)

I will hire him to do another project. I will have him finish the entire palace in memorial to my son.

Cerberus

(unfamiliar in tone and candor) You have been honored by this space. Do not seek another.

King Adami

(spins around abruptly to see who has spoken to him with such insolence. he does not recognize the voice)

Bazzo

This man insisted that he speak with you.

I could not stop—

King Adami

Show yourself!

Cerberus

(steps into the room. unsurprised by the detail, he is still pulled toward the carvings. his clothes are of skin and fur, and a thick beard conceals his face) Your wife recognized satisfaction in what is possessed, not desired. (beat) His name is Iudicium. Yes, this is his work—

King Adami

How do you know this? —How dare you speak to me like this! I will have you flogged for your—

Cerberus

-but your friend is correct. You will not find him. He is a ghost. He comes and goes as sent. I have followed him for years, and still, I have been unable to meet up with him though I move fast and do not stop. (touches a section of carved wood) But I can see I am close.

King Adami

Who are you?

Cerberus

(ignoring the king once more) I cannot tell you why he chooses his audience, but like a prophet, he can see the future and lets you know what is to come. (entranced in a section of work, he steps between two of the kings' ministers) Yes. I have followed many like him, but none his equal.

King Adami

You are mad. I demand you tell me who you are!

(steps toward the beastly man's shoulders,
though he receives no response)

Chicane

He tells the truth, Adami. It is he. (captured by the stranger's words, he steps forward and

places a hand on the king's shoulder and turns toward the strange visitor) You said the name Iudicium. I have also heard of him. He did a palace like this in Spain and (pauses as he searches his memory) ...Romania. But there is something about his legend that contrasts the peace that I sense in this work. Please, traveler. Help us with it.

Cerberus

Beware! He leaves a prophecy.

Chicane

(spins to face the entrance of the room) Yes, there is a prophecy! It is hidden within the work and must be found. (quickly steps toward the carvings that commence by the door) Look for the words. They will begin, here, on the left and follow the wall. (reaches for a candle and lifts it from its socket and steps toward the carvings immediately to the side of the main door)

King Adami

Prophecy? You mean to say he has left my future on these walls?

Zeal

He weaves it into his work that when finally read, destines the prophecy to come true ...at first light.

Chicane

Morning's first light! Yes! It is him. I remember now. In Spain, he said a plague would end and their crops would thrive in abundance. (gracefully, he turns and faces the king) You must know that the crops had been cut to the ground by beetles for the fourth year in a row. It is said that the earth moved with the beat of their wings and those captured in curiosity would fall dizzy to their spell.

Zeal

-And by morning, sprouts, green and full of life, had pushed up between the insects' hollow shells, and by night the fields held more bounty than ever recorded-

Cerberus

Their king remained solemn to his appeal for patience, even in the face of dismay. And, yes, in Spain it happened as you say, but in Romania, the prophecy told of a king who had

ignored the testament presented as a child, and for this, he placed himself equal the earth below his feet and the sky above him.

Zeal The emperor was struck that night with worms

where his eyes had flashed and dust where flesh

had hung.

Chicane They burned the castle and the town is no more.

Yes, I have been there.

King Adami Who are you? (spoken less pronounced than

before as he studies the strange intruder)

Cerberus I am Cerberus and one day you shall meet me.

Chicane —It begins!

King Adami (swings toward his guest)

Chicane (chicane presses the candle's light up against

the wood and reads the raised letters hidden

within the ornamentation of leaves and acorns

as each word spoken illuminates) It says...

Fall on your knees... (he sidesteps down the wall, inches away, searching for the next word like a blind man feeling his way in the dark)
...and hear the angels sing. This night is divine ... even for those ... who have forgotten ... me. (at the fireplace he searches but realizes it does not continue until just past)

Mercy will... be shown... (his fingers crawl the ridges of finely carved foliage) ...not as... granted. (turns away from the wall and toward his sovereign, the carving left in darkness as he repeats the line) Mercy will be shown, not as granted.

Bazzo

Sire. I think we should stop-

King Adami

(the king raises his hand as if seizing

Bazzo's tongue) Can you not hold your tongue

even for a moment, Bazzo? (beat) Continue,

Chicane.

Chicane

(back at the wall Chicane continues) Under a...

star... the... child ...was born... and you...
believed it... to be true... ...For this, you... were...
blessed... with kingdom. (at the fireplace he
searches but realizes it does not continue
until just past. he repeats the last words as
he continues) Blessed with kingdom... But this...
night, you... looked into... her face... and struck...
him... d-

Bazzo

Stop! (spins toward his Lord in pleading)
Sire, I do not think he should continue.
If it is true what they said, it will not take effect until the last word is read.
Please, Sire. I beg—

King Adami

How dare you speak to me like that? I will fear no one.

Cerberus

That may be a fault!

King Adami

(looks from person to person) I will take
my place as given. (beat) Continue, Chicane.

(all in the room step back from the king and glance at each other as Chicane allows a moment for Adami to reconsider. he does not)

Chicane

(the candle's flame catches the detail once again. Chicane continues) ...You looked into her face and struck him down. For... this... you will be... (with a staggering step, he stumbles up against a small table that is set below the last window) For this you will be... (Chicane's candle moves up and down the panel, but he finds no more) I do not see the last word, Sire.

Bazzo

(eager to regain his majesty's favor, Bazzo steps quickly to the section where Chicane stands, also to find no words, large or small)

King Adami

What does it mean? (Adami places hands against his arms and chest to see if he has started to decay or his sight to blacken) ...you looked into her face and struck him down. For this

you will be? (glances at his entourage, who appear scared) What does this mean?

Chicane It does not continue. It stops here against

the window. " ... For this, you will be ..."

Sagasi Amicus, you fool. You should not have struck

the woman for denying your lust. See what

you've done!

Amicus Me? (Lunges forward as the king's hand

deflects his attack)

King Adami Enough! I will not tolerate such behavior from

my leads. I alone take responsibility. (his

thoughts on the crucifix crashing to the floor

in the priory with a video image above(?))

'I am the one that struck him down'.

Bazzo (drops to the floor and crawls along the

intricately carved baseboard, below where the

words stopped, and along the wall. he slides

under the table)

King Adami

-This is maddening. I must know what it means!

Bazzo

Sire, I have found something.

King Adami

Don't wait. Speak, for God's sake!

Bazzo

It says-

King Adami

Wait, (looks around to deflect the fear he now feels) I must understand this for myself.

(breaks into a murmur of thought that could not be understood beyond his mumbling lips.

the meditation lasted but a moment) Now, I command you to continue. Yes, I shall take my sword as I have presented to others. Continue. I am ready.

Bazzo

(holds his stare on his king before he again repositions the light to catch the words)

It says... (stops and peaks toward his master's downcast face) It says... Schmood. (even Bazzo looks perplexed by the sound of the word. he repeats the word slowly) Schmoooooooood.

Bazzo (Bazzo

(Bazzo crawls out from under the table

and stands up) That doesn't sound so bad. "You

looked into her face... You struck him down...

For this you will be Schmooooood."

You looked into her face

You struck him down

For this you will be Schmooooood

That doesn't sound so bad

...it's probably not so good

Either way, it certainly fits the mooooood

Choir

It doesn't sound so bad

(Entourage)

it is probably not so good

I certainly would not want to be him

Bazzo

Schmood, Schmood

Who is this prude anyway

Choir

<u>It doesn't sound so bad</u>

(Entourage)

it is probably not so good

He actually sounds a little bit rude

Bazzo

Schmood, Schmood

We should leave

this horrible place

Choir

(Entourage)

We should leave

this horrible place

Bazzo & Choir Sire,

come along

Let us feast-







-















King Adami —Stop! (takes hold of Bazzo and shakes him)

Chicane Schmood? I think it is of another language.

Zeal, you must speak twenty. What does it mean?

Zeal I've never heard such a word.

Amicus (crawls up under where Bazzo's candle had illuminated the dark space below the table and peers in) Wait. There is more, Sire.

King Adami Then speak of it! Am I surrounded by fools?

Amicus

(tilts the flame) It says, Schmood...

Importers of Lumber and Trade. (looks at

Bazzo, who has stepped away from the king)

You idiot, Bazzo. You were looking at the

label on the table leg.

King Adami

(waving his arms up and down, he chases everyone out)

Get out

Get out

Get away from me you fools

<u>I'm surrounded by idiots</u>

<u>by jesters</u>

<u>by mules</u>

I command you, go

Get away!

Send for the Bishop, he's from Rome

Unlike you, he will know

what it should say.





-





=







King Adami

Get out! —Send for the Bishop. I want this resolved. If I am to be taken tonight,

I want to know how! ■





## MUMM, WATCH YA BE DOIN' ON A NIGHTS LIKE DES, KEEP'INS YOUR HANDS UNCOVERED AND ALL?

## YOU'LL KETCH'A YOU'LL KETCH'A

-MANDOLIN

## ACT 2 - SCENE 2 2



## SCENE SETUP

Mary runs home and presses up against the cottage door before falling through and onto the floor, shivering and forlorn. Inside you see an old woman her father had taken in from the cold named Mandolin; she is holding the baby by the fire.

SCENE — USING THE FIREPLACE FROM THE PALACE, A COTTAGE ROOF AND BACK WALL IS LOWERED TO BECOME THE COTTAGE INTERIOR.

Mary

(Mary runs to the cabin door. it falls open. she is cold and beaten)

Mandoline

Mumm, whatch ya be doing on a nights like dis, keepings your hands uncovered and all. You'll ketcha a death to ya. Here, now. (her crumpled and twisted hands press the door shut as she turns and scoops her sighs to sees what has happened to the girl)

Gott sakes, girl. Whersh ya been with yours?

A spirt's been dancin' on ya.

Mary

(Mary's pleas fall to a long cry as she pulls herself into a ball and tries to squeeze the sadness away. sobbing)

Mandoline

(setting the sleeping infant down, Mandoline hustles over and pulls the girl into her warm chest) Now, now, sweets. You shan't cry or you'll make me do such, and no good would come of it if we both be aching. Not on a night as tis. Shhee, now. It'ld be the feast in a sleep and I've been working on a gift fors yas. Been talking to me man, ya mights say. Ones yadl never be ables to believe if I'd tell yas, so stops your cry'in and let's gets ya cleaned up, as ya be.

(presses her lips to the side of Mary's head and blows softly as if warming a mitten)
We'll evens throws a bit extra in yor hair for the morn reunion. It'll be wonderful for yas again. You'll see. It's the Eve.

Mary (slowly stops sobbing)

Mandoline Now gerl, tells me what's become of ya before

I get your papa's sord meself and discover

the hoodlems.

Bonhomie Who knows who'd get the best of that encounter.

(blacksmith, Bonhomie, enters through back door)

Mary Father...

The king has gone mad

We must leave, We must hide

Bonhomie <u>I've heard. Do not worry</u>

Adie will not leave your side

Mary <u>But the heir has fallen</u>

his horse threw a shoe

He slipped from the edge

The King now blames you

Bonhomie <u>It was an accident</u>

an awful mishap

Mary <u>I will speak with the king</u>

<u>I will take up the case</u>

No

He's gone mad

The prince is now dead

<u>He wants Adie</u>

your grandson

in his sted

He is not the same

We must leave!

We must flee!

Bonhomie <u>I still don't believe it</u>

He's a God-fearing man

This is our home

This is our land

Mary <u>No!</u>

He's gone mad

He wants your grandson

...in his sted.







Bonhomie

-No! (slams his hand down on the table and stumbles as if lightheaded. drops onto a chair)

Mary

(cups her mouth in shock and surprise) Papa what has happened? Your leg is bleeding.

Bonhomie

(a stream of blood shows itself at the edge of her father's boot as he stumbles, slightly faint)
An accident, my dear. I will wrap it and it will be fine. (Mary kneels and presses her head against his lap) Now speak no more. I must think.

Apprentice

(the side door swings open with a smack against the inside wall as her father's apprentice charges in and slams it shut) Three knights have taken position down the path near the bridge. I can see them against the moon. (he Looks across the room) What have you done this time, Mandolin?

Mary

(Mary lifts her father's pant leg) Oh, Papa, it's bleeding so... Get me something to wrap it with!

Mandoline

(singing speech) It in't as bad as it seems, it seems. No sirree. No sirree. (stepping forward, her arms around the little boy, she begins to sing again and dance in a tight circle) It in't as bad as it seems, it seems. It's the night, tonight, tonight.

Mary

Stop it, Mandolin. This is no time for—.

Mandoline

No! (stops dancing and smiles before beginning again) No thinking needed. All is taken care of. My gift to you.

Mary

You're mad as the rest. (turns to her father and continues to wrap his leg) We must leave.

Papa, listen to me. Please, Papa. We must leave.

Bonhomie

There must be some mistake. I will talk to the king. He has always been a reasonable man.

I will—

Mandoline

(Mandolin humming in the background)

Mary

-He is no longer the man you knew, nor his soldiers. Something has happened to them. A beast I've never seen before has been released. Please, Papa. He is no longer the man you knew.

Bonhomie

What is my choice? I can't let you take the blame for something they believe I did. You know I can't allow— (slips back faint, stumbling back onto the straw bed at the side)

Mary

Papa!

Mandoline

(Mandolin continues to sing her song in the background — singing speech - as she lowers herself into a rocking chair with the baby in her arms)

It in't as bad as it seems, it seems.

It in't as bad as it seems.

■



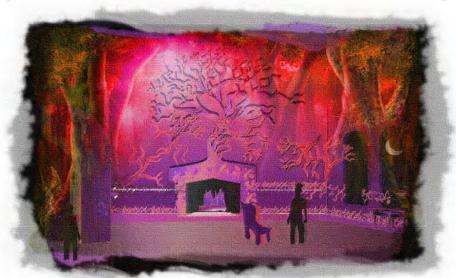
# WHO HAS CARVED THIS MASTERPIECE, SO BEAUTIFUL?

\_RICHNP

# A MAN MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU OR 1

-KING ADAMI

ACT 2 — SCENE 3 FINE 3



#### SCENE SETUP

Candles lit, the parlor in all of its beauty surrounds the king, now slumped in his throne, brought forth and set at the center of the room. Doors to the parlor are swung wide as Bazzo bows to the passing of the venerate guest of the king, the bishop.

SCENE - The King faces the cold logs that have burned to glowing coals below the Brilliant mantel.

Ranthial

(& Choir of Priests)

Who has carved

this masterpiece

...so beautiful?

Choir of Priests

Who has carved

this masterpiece

...so beautiful?

King Adami

A man more powerful and capable

than you or I.







Ranthial

(wielding himself around and toward the blasphemy,
he catches himself and gains his composure)
You are truly in need, my child. You look scared,
Adami. I do not believe I have ever seen such
emotion on your face.

King Adami

It is of death, for nothing in my life shall ever be the same.

Ranthial

A child's passing is a thing to grieve, not to imitate.

King Adami

-You are so wise, yet we shall see how so.

Ranthial

(the bishop turns to look at the work on the walls that he has not yet examined. he can tell that the king's veins hold little in the way of patience.) You have a spiritual dilemma, my friend, and I am here to solve it for you. (steps toward the wall next to the mantel) But you must understand I am not sure if I can. What you see as prophecy, I see as mortal deception. Games played and trickery fool even the wisest when

allowed to seep into the imagination as God's hand. And I assure you, I shall not fall into the trap that has captured you. (voice becomes strong as if lashing a lesser person who has pulled rank, yet remaining calm and almost graciously presented)

King Adami

I do not ask that you step from grace. All I ask is a word missing from the text. No more. No less. If these are God's words, then I assume you are the one to give me the answer. If they are not from the Almighty, tell me, and I shall forget them.

Ranthial

(lifting a section of split oak from the pile at the side of the hearth he drops it on top of the dying embers in the fireplace) What is it that you ask, Adami? If it is by the hand of God, I will give you your answer. But if it is the work of a demon, you shall not find me your shield.

King Adami

No arrows will you take for me. A single word

is my desire. (remains slumped in the chair)

Ranthial (ster

(steps around the room reading the wall before turning and facing the king)

How I preached to you

and still, you ignore it

Have you not learned a thing?

King Adami

-Stop this prideful impudence!

Here on earth

I am still your king

If I possess the demon

that will hang but a child

...would I not swing my sword at you?

<u>Without your scornful banter</u>

are these the words of God?

Tell me, are they true?

Ranthial

(angry at being treated this way)

Yes. Oh yes, God's words, they are so!

(the king is vulnerable. this is my chance
... for Rome)

King Adami

Then all I ask is a single word

...a single word I cannot find

And if you know it not

Leave my sight

for it will be proven

you know God no more than I

Ranthial

You ask for an answer that saves you from hell

I cannot provide some false word

to relieve you from this spell

King Adami

Stop your prideful rank!

Ranthial

Do you not listen to yourself?

(places his hands on the king's shoulders)

Fall on your knees

I cannot beg for your life to be spared

if you will not pay the fee

King Adami

(takes hold of his hand and twists it loose)

King Adami <u>I have fallen to my knees</u>

You need not to tell me this

I have read and responded to it

It echoes in my quivering fists

Ranthial <u>Have you not learned a thing</u>

Do you not listen to yourself

I cannot beg for your life

to be spared

King Adami <u>I can feel it surrounds me</u>

Like a million sighs

Tell me...

will I die?

Ranthial <u>I shall die</u>

You shall die

<u>Did you believe yourself a god?</u>

King Adami <u>Damn you!</u>

Tell me

the word-















#### Ranthial

#### -Counted!

...You looked into her eyes, and you struck him down. For this you will be... (beat) ...counted. (his voice is less than irrefutably presented the second time)

#### King Adami

(the king's eyes drop to his open hands, waiting for something to happen) Explain.

#### Ranthial

(steps toward the window and studies the fine carvings where the words end) As written by this wood-smith, as left uninscribed, it is clear, there is no simple answer, even if you wish for one.

#### King Adami

Counted?

Ranthial

Are you listening to me? (spit tears from his mouth in a shimmer of scathing pronouncement)

Counted! You will be counted one of the fools who will burn in hell if you do not obey ... me.

King Adami

(the king studies his flesh as he turns and twists his hands and the Bishop steps up to him)

Ranthial

The child must be spared

Thy son

And you, Adami

from this moment, say I

step down and beg forgiveness
...from me

And if you do not heed

these words that I seed

You shall be counted a sinner

indeed...



Ranthial ...Anything less will be your damnation.

I assure you, this is the message this

prophet carries to you.

King Adami (king Adami contemplates the price of

condemnation and penance) Counted a sinner?

Ranthial (closes his eyes and bowed his head in

acknowledgment... and waits)

King Adami You speak of things made by man

For this reason I will let you

amend your plea

What of my soldiers, dead in the fields

away from your water?

Though they have kneeled

do they perish by death?

For all sin, I attest

Are they damned to hell

no matter how they plea?

What a busy place hell must be

next to Faust, Naust, and now me
For I assure you, I shall not beg thee
Getaway, Bishop

<u>Go!</u>

Get away from me.







Ranthial —You ask me and I have answered.

King Adami I find your answer unacceptable, though

I do not hold it against your faith.

Ranthial How dare you, Adami-

King Adami Never again shall you call me by that name!

I can see now that "I" am your king, though

I do not ask you to kneel before me.

Ranthial (the bishop shakes with a rage that quickly

turns to fear. he closed his eyes and lowers

his head as his lips tatter in prayer)

You asked and I have answered.

King Adami If you were correct, the floor would have

opened and I would have been swallowed,

for I will never bow to you.

Ranthial (having calculated the response, the bishop

pulls a handful of shattered white porcelain

from his pocket, part of the shattered

crucifix, and drops it to the floor)

Do not forget the words that were written

Ranthial

long before this day 'You struck him down!"
...for this, you will be ... counted.

King Adami

(he can see that the pieces had once been part of the crucifix toppled in the priory — above him on a screen a video replays the moment it shattered on the ground)

(King Adami steps forward and grinds his foot against the white shards below his sole)

But an Idol.

Ranthial

(Ranthial trembles with rage. with a sweep of his robe and glittering golden braids, he spins and pounds out of the room in haste, leaving Adami)

Bazzo

(Bazzo steps up to the open door)

King Adami

(King Adami slowly lowers himself to a kneel and sifts his hand through the white porcelain dust the bishop left behind)

Bazzo

Is there anything you require, Sire?

King Adami (beat)

Bazzo Sire?

King Adami Yes.

Bazzo Is there anything you require?

King Adami (beat) Send for Medea.

Bazzo (surprised by the request, Bazzo hesitates)

But Sire, you banned her from the kingdom.

The Bishop will not allow my petition—

King Adami —The Bishop is not in charge. (rubs his

fingers on the floor, stirring the small

pieces of broken porcelain before scattering

them with a broad swipe)

...and that is not a request.

It is

a command!

SHHHH, NOW
CLOSE YOUR EYES
AND LEAVE YOUR CARES,
LET THEM RISE. TO
WAVE THEM ALL GOODBYE...

WHERE THE SPRINGS
ARE ALL BLUE,
AND RAINBOWS OF DEW
GLISTEN LIKE STARS,
BRIGHT AND
NEW

-MARY

### ACT 2 - SCENE 4 4



SCENE SETUP

Mary sits on the wooden stool next to her father, who is lying on the straw mattress, his hand in hers. Mandolin is asleep in the rocking chair, and the child sits next to her on the floor in a basket, also asleep.

SCENE - PEACEFUL CONTRAST TO THE PREVIOUS SCENE, SHOWING MARA GAINING STRENGTH AND NOW IN CONTROL.

Mary

Shhhh, now close your eyes

and leave your cares

let them rise

to wave them all goodbye

Where the springs are all blue rainbows of dew

glisten like stars

bright and new

### 

### <u>Like weaves of thread</u>

that cover your bed

and keep you safe and sound.





Mary

(Mary Looks around the room, noticing that Mandolin is asleep in the rocker and her son is asleep in a basket on the floor next to the rocker. she Looks back at her father and suddenly drops her face down, placing his hands on his chest and begins to sob.

he is gone)

# BANISHED HAVE LEARNED YOU BEG MY RETURN. WHY?

-MEDEA

ASK THE DEMONS
YOU CALL. IF YOU CANNOT
SEE MY PAST, THEN
YOU ARE NO
SEE'R OF

-KING ADAMI

## ACT 2 - SCENE 5 5

#### SCENE SETUP

The king awaits Medea, sourcerer of the woods. The room has taken on a slightly different coloring making it appear on fire, blood red.

SCENE - MEDEA, ALONG WITH HER DEMONS, SLITHERS THROUGH THE DOOR AND HUGS THE DARK WALL, HER BULGING EYES COWER WHERE THE LIGHT FALLS AND SHE SHRINKS BACK WITH ITS TOUCH.



Choir of Demons <u>Keeee Keeee</u>

Medea Banished I have learned

you beg my return

Choir of Demons Why?

King Adami Why? Ask the demons you call

If you cannot see the past

...then you are no see'r of all

Medea Your council has failed

and I'm the last one to be haled

Choir of Demons Keeee, I see ...like a god ...your despair

Medea This prophet sent by the one

He reads from the air

...I understand your despair

This chiseler of wood

<u>leaves</u> a tale not understood

King Adami Do not tell me what I know

Mornings light is soon to show

Medea <u>But like chill in the rain</u>

I can't relieve you, your pain

<u>I cannot… Besides…</u>

I'd rather burn in my pot

than loosen this carpenter's knot

I alone will light the fire

and with these hands, hold you below

Now... Demon, what must I know?

Choir of Demons You will perish and no one shall care

King Adami So you assume this word holds my fate

revealing revenge for my hate

Choir of Demons <u>Keee</u>

King Adami But make no mistake, damned Seer of fear-

Medea —Do not confuse Bazzo and me

A simple messenger, I am not he

Choir of Demons Bats and vipers, vipers and bats

which shall be deployed

with powers over you

that have you destroyed

King Adami You foul creature of the night

tell me the word or leave my sight

Medea Dear Adami, I see, it is as easy as can be

Do you not find it but a muse

what this carpenter has done?

Chiseled in wood before the idol was struck

and you demanded her son

Choir of Demons <u>Clear your eyes and you shall see</u>

King Adami No, you cannot have my soul

Release me you Viper

I demand you release your hold

Medea You shall know your fate

...but you must first agree

On return of the heir

he'll have no power over me

Promise my place, returned, next to the throne

Or I shall not tell you this word he hath sewn

King Adami My God, She does not know

She cannot see as I believed so

Leave me, Leave this place

No longer I embrace

Medea Now you shall see

Choir of Demons Keee, I see at the base of the cliff

you have fallen as one

King Adami Foul creature, do not speak

Hold fast to your tongue!

You serpent, do not speak

Slink back to your hole

Medea & Choir <u>Keee, I see</u>

...I see your fate

King Adami Wings meet my fold

Death I'm not ready

<u>release</u> your hold

Medea You shall perish

No one shall care

Choir of Demons You struck the girl

...demanded her son

King Adami <u>No! You cannot have my soul</u>

Release me your hold

Medea <u>At the base of the cliff</u>

you have fallen as one

King Adami You have seen the heir

You have seen... but a son

Medea A son?

No Adami, I see you

Just as your wife's death

...came true

## My site is now clear Just as the other I knew I saw you

As you are now...

## <u>Fallen!</u>







=



=











-











-





=



























Medea You are no more!

King Adami (King Adami drops to the floor)■



## ACT 2 — FINALE $\rightarrow$

## SCENE SETUP

The parlor is cold and blue, and the prophecy is unlit. Through the windows, the horizon is beginning to show signs of mornings first light.

SCENE - THE KING'S FACE IS BURIED BETWEEN HIS OUTSTRETCHED ARMS AS HE REMAINS PROSTRATE TO THE WORDS ON THE WALL AND THE COLD THAT HAS ENTERED THE ROOM.



King Adami

(the king lies on the blueish lit cold floor as light begins to glow by the door and you see Mary step in with the child in the basket, now cradled in her arms. it takes a moment for the king to realize she is standing there, but once he does, he begins the slow process of pulling himself from the floor and rising to his knees to meet his guest. no servant is present)

(weakly spoken) You have brought the child?

Mary

As bid, Sire. (she holds the basket with her child and slowly walks to where the king is and hands the basket to him) ...in exchange.

King Adami

(King Adami peers into the basket)

Mary

(she steps back, Leaving the basket in the king's hands)

King Adami

And your father? Did he not choose to take the boy's place?

Mary

I bring word that he has found a better place...

and that he will no longer be able to tend to your

soldier's needs. (she does not cry or drop her

head in memory. her eyes remain on the king's

shadowed face)

King Adami

I am sorry to hear such a thing, as would be my son. (climbs to his feet and falters in step, re-securing his tenuous position upright)

I now believe he would never have blamed his misfortune upon another. Please accept my apology. (he studies the baby in the basket)

When we first met, you said his name. Adi.

(Lifts the basket from the floor and then looks at Mary) I was wrong. It is not short for Adami, but Adonai, Your king. (looks back into the basket)

It is like staring into one's own mind when simple words and pure thoughts still held our attention.

How I wish they were all I knew right now, those simple thoughts of a child.

Mary

(Mary does not appear frightened by the king's ghostly appearance or his quivering grasp upon her child) If that were the case, Sire, you would never understand your fortune.

King Adami

(steps to the center of the room and sets the basket with the child on the seat of his throne) May I ask you a question?

Mary

(places her hands in front of herself and holds them together) At your request, Sire.

King Adami

A carpenter gave me a gift last night for which he demanded no payment, nor word of thanks. (as he speaks and steps around the room, he touches a carved knotted branch set against the wall) But it was a trick, concealing a riddle that my counsel could not decipher, and yet I am sure to know its wrath in a moment. (weakly, his hand points toward the dim light that now presents itself at the edge of the front garden, through the window) Can you tell me what they were unable?

Mary

(beat) Beauty can be deceptive when attached to an ultimatum (she strolls the length of the room. her pure white dress bobs with each step, though she remains in gentle stride)

Tell me this riddle, Sire?

King Adami

(lost in the light that now brightens through the window and across the frozen palisade on the far side of the garden he begins)

Fall on your knees

and hear the angels sing

This night is divine

even for those

that have forgotten him

For mercy will be shown

not as granted

(stops again as he stares out the window,
watching the sunrise)

Mary Please continue, Sire

(continuing to walk around the room)

King Adami

<u>Under a star, the Child was born</u>

and you believed it to be true

For this, you were blessed with kingdom

But this night, you looked into her face

...and struck him down

For this you will be...

Mary

(Mary steps in between the king and the

window, shielding him from the morning light)

What does it say to you, Sire?

King Adami

What I have done cannot be willed away

I struck him down and now I shall pay

Mary

The words are of life

...are of love

You are free

King Adami

I don't think so

Mary

<u>There is no riddle</u>

It is of hope. You are a lucky man

(Mary circles back to the main door)

King Adami Hope? You speak words that I never thought I would

hear again, but I hear no hope in them

Mary <u>Then surely your priests</u>

have taught you nothing

You were pardoned, Sire.

(suddenly the door behind Mary creeks. startled, the king steps backward as he shouts)

-Present yourself, Demon!
Behind the door!

Show yourself to me!

...Take me!

Child (the door creeks again, but no ghost confers.

from the edge of the thin panel, the tiny

wet eyes of the king's granddaughter cautiously

peeks out. her tender features float above a

clean white sleeping garment, lined with

colorful lace flowers. she runs and throws

herself into her grandfather's arms, shielding
her doll so it is not crushed further)

They told me that papa is not coming home?

(tears and sorrow's wail mix to form a serum
for agony, and yet the king does not succumb)

King Adami

No, he is not. But you must understand, your father was needed ahead, to care for grand-mother. (she does not respond immediately in word, but her sobbing softens and she appears to consider the words) And he has requested that I now care for you. (he wipes her tears and places her head on his shoulder)

(looks up at the woman) You have come a long way; you must be hungry. "Bazzo!" (his voice rises to address his servant but the servant does not respond or enter) My messenger will take you to the kitchen and give you whatever you desire. Please return and take your son home with you when you are finished... with my apologies. (again, he calls his servant but still no response) "Bazzo."

Mary I will find my way, Sire.(turns to Leave)

Child (the little girl lifts her head and looks

toward the woman) I saw you in my dreams. Are

you my father's angel? You look like an angel.

Mary (smiles) My father used to say I was his.

Child My father used to tell me that I was his,

but I have forgotten how it feels to hear

him say it.

Mary It is like warmth against cold, as your

grandfather will attest. It is more sweet than

honey. And when you hear those words, you know

you are home. (the little girl turns and places

her head in her grandfather's chest) Wouldn't

you agree, Sire?

King Adami Yes.

Mary And may I ask where you got such a beautiful

doll? (King Adami Looks down into the little

girl's hand as Mary turns and walks out, her arm hanging by her side as if leading a child by the hand)

King Adami Yes, where did you get such a beautiful doll?

Child I found it on the table over by the window.

The carpenter left it for me.

King Adami Where? (king Adami Looks over to where the

words stopped)

Child By the window, and see, she was holding a

basket with a baby in it... like the one

that lady left on your chair.

King Adami (carefully, he sets the little girl down and

lifts the doll and basket from her hands)

Where did you find it?

Child Over here. (she runs over to the table and

points at the table top) By the window. I

remember because the carpenter set the little

wooden basket in her arms and said "For this, you will be ..." and smiled. (smiles)

King Adami

(King Adami examines the basket again - beat - and then slowly turns it over ...and stumbles back before he drops to his knees and his arms and hands fall to his sides, and his head drops forward)

Child

(the little girl runs up to the king, her grandfather, and lifts the basket from his hand as Bazzo enters the parlor)

Bazzo

What is it, Sire? (speaks from the door.)

Child

(the little girl looks at the bottom but cannot read the word and hands it to Bazzo as he approaches)

Bazzo

(he looks down and reads the word whittled
into the bottom of the wooden basket)
"Forgiven." (he glances around and smiles as
he repeats...) For this, you will be Forgiven.

(he smiles) That's a lot better than Schmood!
This is good news, Sire!

King Adami

(The king looks up and stands as he lifts the child) More than good, Bazzo! Bring me the woman. Bring our guest back to us!

Bazzo

(Bazzo appears confused) Guest, Sire?

King Adami

Yes. Bring our dear guest back, at once.

Bazzo

(beat) Medea has left, your highness?

King Adami

No! The blacksmith's daughter that just stepped out of the room! Mary.

Bazzo

I am sorry, Sire? No one left this room.

I have been standing by the door all night,
and no one has entered or left. (Bazzo Looks
confused as he peers around the room and other
staff start to enter and stand behind Bazzo)

Child

(runs over to the basket) Look, grandpa? She

left her basket... (she Looks into the basket and sees that it is empty, ...except for a note)

Bazzo (stepping over to the basket, he looks inside.)

There is a note. (takes it from the child)

King Adami What does it say?

Bazzo (Bazzo Looks at the audience as if not sure if he

should be the one to read it.) It says! (stops and

looks back up uncomfortably as if returning to the

moment he read the word "shmood.")

It says, "Celebrate."

King Adami (The king stands and looks around and then peers

down upon his hands. the rest of the "staff" enter)

Child Grandpa, is everything all right?

King Adami (king Adami Looks down on her.) Yes, my dear.

Everything is... (Looks from face to face until he ends on Bazzo.) Bazzo, take word to the town that there is to be a gathering at the cathedral when

the sun is high. It is to be attended by all, young and old.

Bazzo

(hesitantly, Bazzo steps back and looks at the little girl and then at the king with a worried look on his face)

King Adami

What is it, Bazzo?

Bazzo

(beat) Is it to be a hanging?

King Adami

(his heart flutters as he stoops and picks up his granddaughter and looks into her eyes and then toward Bazzo)

No Bazzo,

it is

to be

a celebration!





<u>Tonight</u>

The towns of the land

will take in their hand
the King bestowed

Tonight is the night,

<u>Tonight we shall raise</u>

our cups to the King,

and the God that we know

The candies

The blessings

...for the young and the old

The cider

The wheat

...and most certainly the gold

Tonight is the night

Tonight we shall sing

the praise of his glory

to the God of our King.

















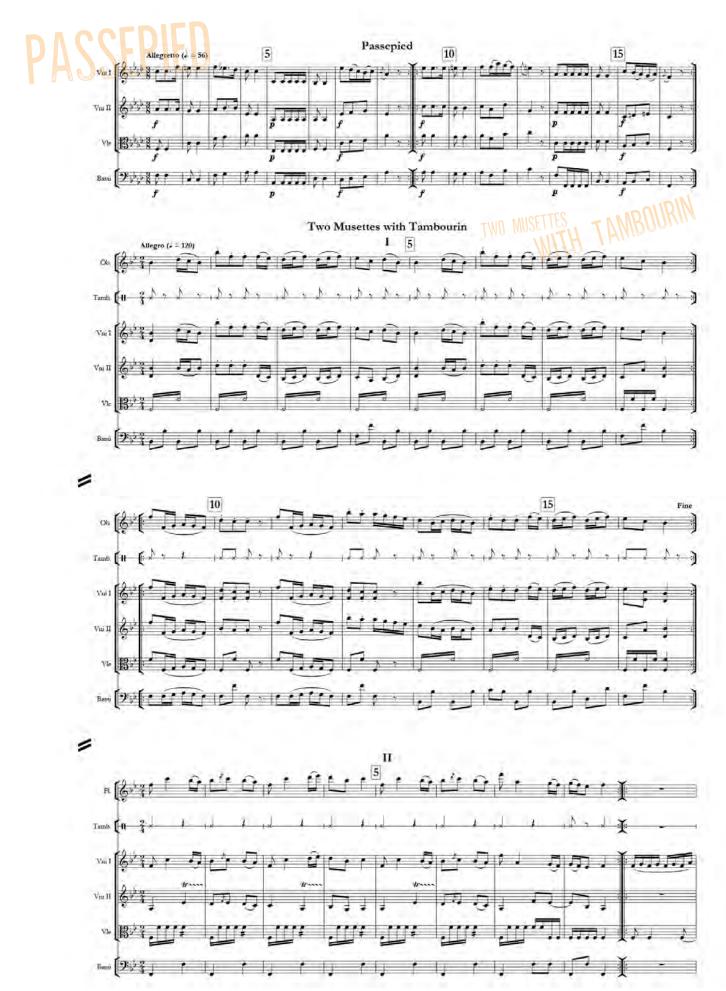


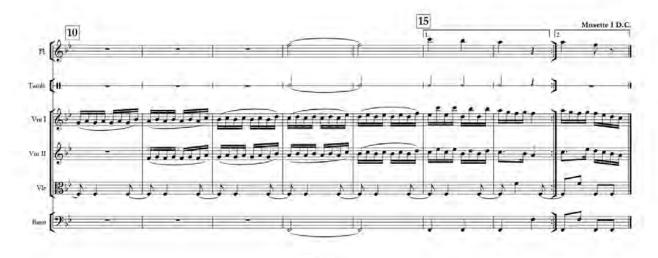














VAUDEVILLE

Mary/Bazzo/ Carpenter <u>Light the candles</u>

<u>Light the lanterns</u>

Filled with glory and clear is this night

So clear at last

Choir

Filled with glory and clear is this night

So clear at last

Carpenter

I have carved, and I have whittled

I've said what I've said

But remember the message

You never know who will be next

Mary/Bazzo/ Carpenter Light the candles

Light the lanterns

Filled with glory and clear is this night

So clear at last

Choir Filled with glory and clear is this night

So clear at last

Bazzo Now look on the bright side

There's drinks

There's food

Our king is safe

<u>He is safe</u>

...and forgotten about shmood

Choir The King has returned

Returned to his fold

And forgotten about schmood

Mary <u>'Tis all about love</u>

## and all about joy

<u>Lift up your hearts</u>

Lift them high

Mary/Bazzo/ Carpenter <u>Light the candles</u>

<u>Light the lanterns</u>

Filled with glory and clear is this night

So clear at last

So clear at last.

Choir

Filled with glory and clear is this night

Vaudeville

Andiantioo (\* = 144)

S

10

22

15

Fig. 128

Fig. 12











Choir

<u>Celebrate in celebration</u>

<u>He has returned</u>

<u>He reigneth</u>

He is King

<u>Fallen</u>, he has risen

and arisen he has returned

<u>Celebrate in celebration</u>

He has returned, and he shall reign

<u>All hail our King</u>

<u>Our King is King.</u>















=

Timor

(Timor slinks across stage, turns of the tape recorder, as all of the lights on the stage except on him suddenly go black, and the stage goes silent, looks at the audience understanding that he has lost his appeal and wanders off stage as a rumbling growl rises from behind, and the timpani ends with a bang)





## THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

## ENJOY THE SHOW!



