

SCENE 5

10. - INCIDENTAL MUSIC

As the two leave, JAKOB gestures to ANNA to be quiet; HE makes sure they have left then goes to the costumes and pulls out a box of chocolates.

JAKOB

(aside to audience)

While over at the Berg Theatre, Herr Direktor instructed me to sneak off and purloin the costumes while he kept the Baron occupied. When I spied these chocolates simply lying on his desk I filched them as well because chocolate is my only weakness. I do as instructed. The world is not always kind to my kind and the Theatre an der Wein provides safety and other advantages. I can be myself in this place where others pretend to be someone else. He is Mr. Papageno the bird-catcher and I ... I'm the bird in his gilded cage who dreams of far off lands.

Takes box to ANNA and opens lid.

(to ANNA)

Care for a Dutch chocolate?

ANNA

(takes chocolate)

How very kind. Thank you. Who's this Carl Ludwig Gieseke fellow?

JAKOB

My predecessor.

ANNA

(eats chocolate)

But who is he?

JAKOB

This jack-of-all-trades fellow. The Baron has it in his head that he is the real author of The Magic Flute and that Herr Direktor killed Mozart to silence Gieseke.

ANNA

Why?

JAKOB

In order to keep all the proceeds.

ANNA

What a yarn.

JAKOB

Here, have another.

ANNA

I don't want to eat all your chocolates.

JAKOB

Oh, they're not mine. They're complements of the Baron.

ANNA

You stole them?

JAKOB

Purloined.

ANNA

You're so naughty. Who wrote the libretto then?

ANNA tries to decide which one.

JAKOB

Very good question. Gieseke, Herr Direktor, and the director's wife were a team back then in more ways than one if you catch my meaning.

ANNA

You tell the most salacious stories.

JAKOB

After a falling out Gieseke fled.

ANNA

Fled where?

JAKOB

Scandinavia.

ANNA

To do what?

JAKOB

Arctic exploring.

ANNA

You're having me on.

JAKOB

Oh that I were. Imagine having the wherewithal to just leave it all behind.

ANNA

None of this makes any sense.

JAKOB

(picking one for her)

For Heaven's sake! Here, try this one. You can't tell anyone, okay? About three years ago, the Direktor and his wife had a heated argument in his office. I was in the back locking up and heard her shout: *You have scarce notion how close I came to being your widow!*

ANNA

Odd.

JAKOB

Someone I use to know told me she wanted her husband out of the picture and planned to take over the theater with Gieseke's help.

ANNA

I'm not following.

JAKOB

Gieseke always refilled the decanter of wine Herr Direktor keeps at his desk. Wolfgang came to discuss the Queen of the Night's second aria and drank the poisoned wine intended for Herr Direktor.

ANNA

Shut the front door.

JAKOB

Gieseke knew it was only a matter of time so he packed his things and moved in the middle of the night.

ANNA

No, I'm sorry. Even if he were eluding justice, why travel all the way to the Arctic?

JAKOB

Who knows? Now it looks as though Herr Direktor may lose the theater anyway.

ANNA

Why? What's happening?

JAKOB

Don't tell anyone, but Herr Direktor needs to defer a loan payment until after opening night. He has a meeting with the city's officer at noon. The lease is in arrears.

ANNA

The theater isn't going into receivership. Herr Direktor has imperial privilege.

JAKOB

I guess you're right.

ANNA

Besides, some wealthy patron will probably step in.

JAKOB

It wouldn't be the first time.

LUDWIG and EMANUEL can be heard approaching from off-stage. JAKOB hands ANNA the box of chocolates.

JAKOB

Here.

ANNA

I don't want them.

JAKOB

You're an accomplice after the fact.

