

ACT TWO - SCENE 1

ANNA and JOSEPH enter. JOSEPH is holding his score.

ANNA

At least we were allowed to change back into our clothes.

JOSEPH

No ticket price would be too exorbitant to see you in that toga.

ANNA

You're sweet, thank you.

JOSEPH

He's not here. He must have gone back to his apartment.

ANNA

Would you mind going over?

JOSEPH

I don't think that's a good idea.

ANNA

Why not?

JOSEPH

The other night I was helping the maestro compose my aria to better suit my voice. He's a little hard of hearing so I availed myself by singing toward him. He threw me out.

ANNA

Who told you he was hard of hearing?

JOSEPH

Jakob did.

ANNA

And Jakob told you to sing toward the maestro?

JOSEPH

I thought Jakob was doing me a favor. Now the maestro hates me.

ANNA

He has a lot going on.

JOSEPH

Like what?

ANNA

This opera for one and his new symphony.

LUDWIG enters unnoticed by JOSEPH.

JOSEPH

I don't know why he bothers composing symphonies. Symphonies are boring. Do you know what the reviewer of the Elegant World said about his last one? He called it a hideously writhing wounded dragon in its last agonies that in its final movement bleeds to death.

ANNA

(She points to LUDWIG)

Ouch!

JOSEPH

(looks over shoulder surprised)

There you are! We were looking for you.

ANNA

We were concerned.

JOSEPH

Maestro, I must apologize ...

LUDWIG

Accepted.

JOSEPH

What?