

ANNA

Says you. Come on.

*ANNA and JAKOB exit as LUDWIG and  
EMANUEL enter.*

LUDWIG

The critics are going to blame me.

EMANUEL

At this point in time we must move forward with the story as is.

LUDWIG

But there are issue here.

EMANUEL

You need to stop doubting yourself. I know you're still finding your voice as a composer, and despite what critics think, you're work shows great promise.

LUDWIG

Thank you?

EMANUEL

The music for Vestal Flame is very good.

LUDWIG

Of course it is. I wrote it. The problem is your silly libretto.

EMANUEL

(sarcastically)

No. Please. Tell me what you really think.

LUDWIG

It could have been written by apple-women.

EMANUEL

I was being sarcastic.

LUDWIG

Those street vendors.

EMANUEL

I know what apple-women are. So what, in your opinion, is so silly?

LUDWIG

Stories about magic are for children.

EMANUEL

For every failed production I need to produce five successful ones. Magic is tried and true. Theater is magic!

LUDWIG

It's hackneyed. Art must be revolutionary; transcendent!

EMANUEL

I'm not gambling my money on your emotional needs. Okay, so what else is silly?

LUDWIG

You handle attempt-at-suicide scenes like an everyday occurrence. There's no pathos!

EMANUEL

My Pamina suicide scene ach ich fühl's is genius. Maestro Mozart even said so.

LUDWIG

Mozart is dead!

EMANUEL

How dare you, sir. He was my friend.

LUDWIG

I mean I'm not Mozart.

EMANUEL

Indeed you are not. If you're implying something come out and say it.

LUDWIG

Since my early childhood, people have been comparing me to Mozart.

EMANUEL

It's a compliment. You have all the charm and sophistication of an unlicked bear cub.

(laughs)

I understand opera is new to you. Who cares if your music has a few foibles.

LUDWIG

There are no foibles in my composition.

EMANUEL

Lord knows how much I worried about Flute before its premiere.

LUDWIG

ACHOO! ACHOO!

EMANUEL

Come on. Maybe someone put my snuffbox in the green room.

*EMANUEL and LUDWIG exit.*

