

AN HISTORIC SCENE

Taken from "Les Messéniennes," by Casimir Delavigne English Version by Henry G. Chapman

Music by

HENRI BEMBERG

Arranged for Four-Part Chorus of Women's Voices
With Soprano Solo
And Piano Accompaniment

By
MAX SPICKER

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ARGUMENT.

JOAN OF ARC—"the Maid of Orleans"—was born at Domremy on the 6th of January, 1412. Domremy is a village on the banks of the Meuse, in the department of Vosges, France, in a vale prolific in flowers; hence the name of its chief town: Vaucouleurs (Vallis colorum).

Youths and Maidens are holding May festival. One youth, Philip, in love with Joan, laments her absence. Joan comes; but, brooding over the woes of France, ravaged by invading and civil warfare, shuns their festivities, which she leaves as summoned by voices—" The Voices" that become incentives, dear and familiar, to her career. Joan quits the village; the Youths and Maidens lament her departure. Urged by the dictates of her "Voices," Joan seeks aid of Robert de Baudricourt, Governor or Provost of Vaucouleurs, who receives her at first slightingly, but, moved by her revelations, yields aid (May, 1428). Joan, assuming man's garb (a necessary protection at this period), is clad in armor; a sword, banner, and steed are provided her. Accompanied by Jean de Novelonpont, "a brave gentleman of Metz," with another, and "four armed men," Joan journeys to besieged Orleans. Philip is one of those following her career. Their way is full of peril; the rivers are unfordable, swollen by winter rains; they sleep in woods and unfrequented spots. Gien is passed. They reach and enter Orleans; the enemy's watch at the outposts, through fear, not preventing. The siege is raised; the English and Burgundian forces retreat. Joan goes to the Cathedral to give thanks (May, 1429). Other victories follow; the hour of reversal arrives. At Compiègne, driven back from a sortie, the French fight, retreating to the drawbridge of the town, which, by treachery or cowardice, is closed on Joan, who is captured by the enemy (May, 1430). Taken to Rouen, she is tried, condemned, and led to the stake for execution (May, 1431). The Youths and Maidens of Domremy, echoing the song of May, are rebuked by the Villagers, who approach with Philip and Jean de Novelonpont, who tell the sad sequel of a history that has passed into fame.

The characters are historical, excepting Philip, the peasant vainly in love with Joan. The introduction of such a character, and such a situation, is suggested and supported by historical mention of a rejected suitor.

The scenes of the four historical Mays have been retained:—Vaucouleurs, 1428, with the May of Inspiration; Orleans, 1429, with the May of Victory; Compiègne, 1430, with the May of Fall; Rouen, 1431, with the May of Sacrifice.

NOTES TO THE VERSE.

No. r.—At the back of the cottage (Joan's birthplace) a steep path ran up a hill, through a thickly-grown vineyard. Towards the summit stood an old and magnificent beech tree, beneath whose shade welled a limpid fountain ¹ In old times the fairies had danced round it . . . festival days the young villagers hung it with garlands . . . danced round it. There was a prophecy current during that unhappy time—an old prophecy of Merlin—which the suffering people had taken and applied to their own day and their own need.² Prophecy founded on a fantastic interpretation of Merlin that a virgin should save France.¹

No. 2.—" There was no one like her in the village," said her priest.² Tradition averred the birds came down from the boughs to feed out of her hands. . . . She possessed a tenderness for infancy and old age. . . . She delighted in the sweet knell of the church bells.¹ Listening to the church bell with a dreamy passion of delight.³

No. 3.—On a summer's day, at noon, she was in her father's garden, when there appeared a great light, and out of the light a voice spoke to her. . . . Joan's voices grew more frequent and more urgent.²

No. 5.—"I must go to the king, even if I wear my limbs to the very knees. . . . I had far rather rest and spin by my mother's side." "The kingdom belongs not to the Dauphin, but to my Lord." . . . "And who is your lord?" demanded Baudricourt. She answered, "The King of Heaven." The governor, a rough and practical soldier, laughed at the young peasant in her coarse red dress. . . . At last he yielded to her urgency, and let her prepare to depart. Jean de Novelonpont and four armed men of lesser rank were to accompany her . . . they set out, Baudricourt bidding her "Go, come of it what may."

No. 7.—From Gien the news went to Orleans that a shepherd-maid had passed, whose mission it was to deliver the city.² A suit of beautiful armour was made for her. . . . She was provided with a banner after her own device. The king would have given her a sword, but her voices, she said, had told her of the only one she might use—an ancient weapon which was lying buried behind the altar in the church of St.-Catherine de Fierbois. A messenger was sent, and in the place she had told of was found an old rusty sword such as she had described. After being polished it was brought to her.² In a secret place there among old iron, appointed she hir sword to be sought out and brought her that with five floure de luces was graven on both sides.⁴

No. 9.—During the examination in the prison she was asked why, when going to war, she had looked at her ring. . . . It had been given to her by her parents. "For pleasure," she said, "and for honour of my father and mother."²

No. 10.—The brave yeomen of Henry the Fifth were learning to fear, not any visible foe, but the unseen Enemy who had sent Joan the Witch for their destruction.²

No. 12A.—They saw the Witch of France riding down upon them . . . and they turned and fled before her into their bastiles. . . . The bastile was taken.²

No. 13.—Joan re-entered Orleans, where she and her men were received with great joy, all the bells of the city ringing out the news of the victory. . . . They thronged after her into the Cathedral.²

No. 16.—Joan tried to rally her men . . . in vain. . . . All she could do was to cover the retreat. . . . Guillaume de Flavy ordered the drawbridge to be raised and the portcullis lowered. Compiègne saw her lost at its very gates. Five or six men rushed on her at once, each crying, "Yield to me!" . . . an archer dragged her from her horse.²

No. 17.—She saw beyond the soldiers a dense throng of people, most of them grieving for her, many of them lamenting that this thing should be done in their city. "Oh, Rouen, Rouen!" she cried, "is it here that I must die?"... At her trial she had said:—"What my voices tell me oftenest is that I shall be delivered with a great victory; and then they say—'Fret not thyself because of thy martyrdom. Thou shalt come at last to the Kingdom of Paradise."

¹ A. E. Bray's Joan of Arc, and the Times of Charles the Seventh, King of France.

² Janet Tuckey's Joan of Arc: " The Maid."

³ J. R. Green's A Short History of the English People,

⁴ Holinshed's Chronicles.

JOAN OF ARC.

CHARACTERS.

JOAN	OF	ARC											Soprano.
PHILI	P, a	Youth	of.	Don	nren	ıy.							TENGR.
* ROBE	RT	DE BA	ÚD	RI	COU	RT,	Pro	vost	of Ve	иисои	leurs		BARITONE.
† JEAN	DE	NOVE	LO	NPO	INC	, a (Gentle	man	of A	I etz			BARITONE.

CHORUS.

THE VOICES.
YOUTHS AND MAIDENS OF DOMREMY.
PEASANTS OF GIEN—MEN AND WOMEN.
POPULACE—MEN AND WOMEN—OF ORLEANS AND COMPIÈGNE.
FRENCH—ENGLISH AND BURGUNDIAN—MEN-AT-ARMS.
THE CHOIR: ORLEANS CATHEDRAL.

VILLAGERS OF DOMREMY-MEN AND WOMEN.

Domremy.

No. 1.—INTRODUCTION (INSTRUMENTAL).

The Voices.

List! we call thee, we call thee to come! Come to thy mission, Oh! come!

CHORUS.

Youths and Maidens.

Hail to the beautiful morning of May!—

Come, let us welcome the bright, sunny hours!

Hail to the sunbeams that come with to-day

To waken in glory the valley of flowers!

With song and the dance, and the garland to-day,

Come, let us welcome the beautiful May!

Come, hang the garlands along the beech boughs,

Over the fountain beside the vine hill.

Though never more will the fairies carouse,

And Merlin, the wizard, is silent and still!

With song and the dance, and the garland to-day,

Come, let us welcome the beautiful May!

Though the magician may come not again,

Though all the fairies have long pass'd away,

Why should we sigh for enchantment in vain,

The while in our hearts we are happy to-day!

With song and the dance, and the garland to-day,

Come, let us welcome the beautiful May!

* Does not appear after No. 6.

† Does not appear till No. 8; consequently, one singer will be sufficient for the two characters.

No. 2.—RECITATIVE.

Philip.

But where—Oh! where—is Joan?— She comes not now—she loves to be alone!

Oh! above all she is to me most dear,—

For there is no one—no one—like her here!

Yet in my heart all vain the hope still dwells—

She seems to love alone the chiming village bells!

SONG.

Philip.

There is no one like her
In the village here;
No one who can ever
Be to me so dear!
Age, with word of welcome,
Stays the maid to greet,
While the happy children
Nestle round her feet!
How her bright smile glistens
With the joy it tells,
While she stays and listens
To the chiming bells!

There is no one like her
That devotion brings,
When the matin's calling,
When the vesper rings;
While the birds that love her
Round her pathway throng,
With their song of morning,
With their evening song!
How her bright smile glistens
With the joy it tells,
While she stays and listens
To the chiming bells!

No. 3.—DUET AND CHORUS.

Joan, Philip, The Voices, and Youths and Maidens.

Youths and Maidens.

Oh! here comes the maid we all love.—

She comes to make happy our day!— Place the garland her tresses above, While we sing to the beautiful May!

Philip.

Oh! welcome the maid we all love, Who comes to our greeting at last,— Place the garland her tresses above, For our cloud to her sunshine has pass'd!

Joan.

I come—but the song and the dance I shun—for my heart is away; I weep for the fair realm of France— Oh! I would I could aid her to-day!

Philip.

How can a poor shepherd-maid,
Whose lot they all lowly will deem,
A land that is war stricken aid?—
Such hope were the light of a dream!

Joan.

'Tis will'd—and the help is at hand, I may not remain in my home,— There is freedom I know for the land! For my voices have call'd me to come!

The Voices.

Yes! we call thee, we call thee to come! Come to thy mission, Oh! come!

Youths and Maidens.

She seems some voices to hear, Oh! Heaven and the saints, be ye near!

Philip.

Voices! earth or heaven be your breath.

No matter !—I seek not to know ;— I would follow—ah! even to death! Wherever her footsteps may go!

Joan.

My voices! I come to your call!
I come—for your bidding I know—
A beam on my spirit doth fall,
Where'er that light leads, I will go!

The Voices.

The beam on thy spirit doth fall, Forth on thy mission then go!

Philip.

A light ever shines on her brow, While seeming those voices to hear!

Joan.

Angel voices! I list to your call,—
I come—the glad moment is near!

The Voices.

Come, then! Oh! list to our call,—Come, for the moment is near!

Joan and Philip.

Come is the hour, with the day,— Farewell to the valley of home!

My Thy voices, { my thy voices!
Angel voices! they call thee to come!

The Voices.

We call thee—we call thee!
Thy voices, we call thee to come!

No. 4.—CHORUS.

Youths and Maidens.

Our time of sorrow has begun;
To leave us was her choice;
Her wheel will hold the flax unspun,
The flocks await her voice!

All silent seems the maiden's home, We miss her day by day, We wait in vain to see her come, Now she has gone away.

Vaucouleurs.

No. 5.—TRIO AND CHORUS.

Joan, Philip, Robert de Baudricourt, and the Voices.

Robert de Baudricourt.

What, is this the peasant maid,
Who seeks from her home to go,
Who besieged Orleans would aid,
And would drive from France the
foe!

Philip.

This is Joan—this is the maid, From Domremy has she come; She our stricken land would aid, For this she has left her home.

Joan.

I would seek this cause to win, By my mandate I abide,— Though I'd rather rest and spin At home by my mother's side!

Robert de Baudricourt.

Maiden, now tell me wherefore
Thou would'st seek the battle fray?

Joan.

'Tis my Lord wills it,—therefore I must needs that will obey!

Robert de Baudricourt.

Who is he to whom is given
The power to speak this word?

Joan.

He is the King of Heaven, And He alone my Lord!

Robert de Baudricourt.
Then will I help thee in all;—
Go!—come of it what may!

Joan.

While my spirit voices call I must away! away!

The Voices.

Thy spirit voices, hark! they call Haste thee away! away!

Joan, Philip, and Robert de Baudricourt.

While { my thy } spirit voices call
I must away! away!

No. 6.—RECITATIVE.

Robert de Baudricourt.

May the chosen band to-day—Guarding the maid on her way—The 'leaguered city gain, With the valiant fight amain And drive the foe away!

PATRIOTIC SONG.

Robert de Baudricourt.

Who would not fight for freedom!—
Who would not fight for the land!
That one spot of earth that gave us
our birth

We will guard with our heart and our hand!

The corn on the hill may be golden,
The grape ripe in vineyard may be,
But what were the wealth all unfolden

If the land of our home be not free!
Who would not fight for freedom!—

Who would not fight for the land!

That one spot of earth that gave us our birth

We will guard with our heart and our hand!

Who would not fight for freedom,
Should foeman dare to invade,
With courage that gave the palm to

the brave,
And the fame to the warrior's blade!
Let each voice be ever repeating

This prayer,—which a freeman's should be:—

May hearts that for freedom are beating

Keep the land of our home for the free!

Who would not fight for freedom!—

Who would not fight for the land!

That one spot of earth that gave us our birth

We will guard with our heart and our hand!

Bien.

No. 7.—CHORUS.

Peasants: Men and Women.

A shepherd-maid has pass'd, In armor now she's clad,— That help has come at last Will make the nation glad.

They've given the maid a steed,
A banner with a crest,—
And for the hour of need
A sword a saint has blest!

No. 8-DUET.

Philip and Jean de Novelonpont.

Philip.

Full flows the river!—swollen by the rains,

The winds wail sadly, with a moaning sigh,—

Ling'ring awhile the sunset light remains

Where one lone star is shining in the sky!

Jean de Novelonpont.

Then let our rest through coming night be here,

Beneath the shelter of these solemn woods;

There is no sound—no human voice is near—

There comes alone the wind and swollen floods!

Ensemble.

Then let our rest be here, through coming night be here,

Full flows the river swollen by the rains.

Philip.

Full flows the river !—drift the clouds along

That hold the red fire of the sunset sky,

While murmurs low, their dark'ning forms among,

Seem to forebode the angry storm is nigh!

Jean de Novelonpont.

Here let us then for rest awhile remain,

The last light fades, the hour is growing late,—

Then on to-morrow, ere the night, we'll gain

And enter in the 'leaguered city's gate.

Ensemble.

Here let us then remain, for rest awhile remain,

Full flows the river swollen by the rains.

(Sleep—Instrumental.)

No. 9.—RECITATIVE.

Joan.

They sleep;—my thoughts are of home!—

I hear the flock—I hear the lowing kine;—

I hear a voice!—it hails my step to come!—

Mother! that voice is thine!

I touch this hand! I touch this simple ring!

To my yearning heart what joy doth it bring!

For with it comes the bright unsullied beam

That shines from childhood's life, And stills awhile the feverish battle dream,—

The hurricane of strife!

SONG.

Joan.

A ring—a simple, simple ring, A gift of early years,

To gaze upon it seems to bring A smile akin to tears!

Many a joy returns once more— Call'd by this gift they come—

From wealth the heart will keep in store,

The memories of home!

A ring—a semple, simple ring, A gift of early years,

To gaze upon it seems to bring A smile akin to tears!

In days now past, glad, happy days,
This ring could joys awake,
'Twas lighted by the purest rays,
Lov'd for the lov'd one's sake!
But though a gift when given seems
Bright in love's light to come,
That light is dim to that which beams
With memories of home!
A ring—a simple, simple ring,
A gift of early years,

(SLEEP WITH DREAMS OF STRIFE-Instrumental.)

A smile akin to tears!

To gaze upon it seems to bring

Orleans.

No. 10.—CHORUS.

Populace: Men and Women.

The Maid—she is come at last!—
The enemy's watch did not dare
To hinder,—while last night she
pass'd,—

For they cried:—"Lo! the fiend is there!"

Our army gathers in might, On this shining morning of May! Onward, see, they march to the fight, And Orleans shall be freed to-day!

No. 11.—CHORUS.

French Men-at-Arms; Populace: Men and Women.

On!—to the battle on!—
We'll meet the foeman's ire,—
While a soldier's glory's won
Under the cannon fire!
From the culverin no shot,
From the arbalist no dart,
No arrow bow has got
Can daunt a soldier's heart!
So a soldier's glory's won!—
On!—to the battle on!

A soldier's glory's won
Where'er the sacred right
Leads the gleaming falchions on,
To meet, to brave the fight!
While the best ye ever knew
On the battlefield will be:
The heart that will be true,
The hand that will be free!
So a soldier's glory's won!—
On!—to the battle on!

No. 12.—TRIO.

Joan, Philip, Jean de Novelonpont. Joan.

Lead ye on the men-at-arms,
With freedom's battle-cry!
Yea! the thrilling cry that charms
Each heart to do or die!
Lead the men-at-arms—away!
Under my banner—on!—
There to meet the battle fray,—
To fight till victory's won!

Philip.

Valor, let thy voice be heard,
While there's a foe at hand,
While we draw the freeman's sword
To drive him from the land!
Lead the men-at-arms—away!
Under thy banner—on!—
There to meet the battle fray,—
To fight till victory's won!

Jean de Novelonpont.

Heed ye not the arrow's flight,—
To the conflict onward go,—
Climb ye up the bastion's height
And downward hurl the foe!
Lead the men-at-arms—away!
Under thy banner—on!—
There to meet the battle fray,—
To fight till victory's won!

Ensemble.

Lead { ye we } on the men-at-arms,
With freedom's battle-cry!
Yea! the thrilling cry that charms
Each heart to do or die!
Lead the men-at-arms—away!
Under { my thy } banner—on!—
There to meet the battle fray,—
To fight till victory's won!

No. 12A.—CHORUS.

English and Burgundian Men-at-Arms and French Men-at-Arms.

English and Burgundian Men-at-Arms.

'Tis the witch! the fiend! again!—
The powers of hell are nigh!—
While we fight, we fight in vain;—
Fly!—from the ramparts, fly!

French Men-at-Arms.

Charge on !—with our battle-cries !— They yield—our work is done! See, the cruel foeman flies!— Our victory now is won!

In the Cathedral.

No. 13.—CHORUS.

The Choir.

Ave Maria!—Glad our thanks arise.— While on our hearts a beam through cloud is breaking;—

Oh! for the seraph wings of yonder skies

To upward bear our song in joy awaking!

Ave Maria!

Oh! bliss to know how blessings wait us near,—

How balm for woe kind Mercy's still bestowing;—

The heart that knows how Goodness guides us here

Will ever be with joy and praise o'erflowing!

Ave Maria!

No. 14.—CHORUS.

Populace: Men and Women.
She comes! Then raise each voice!
She comes! Hark! the chaunting swells!—

Rejoice! Oh! let us rejoice!— Clangs the crash of the bells!

On will her mission be,—

May Heaven the power bestow !— Besieged Compiègne to free,

And drive from France the foe!

No. 15.—INTERMEZZO (Instrumental).—(Lapsing from Joy to Sorrow.)

Compiègne.

No. 16.—CHORUS.

Populace: Men and Women.
She is lost! They have taken the Maid!
She who came to bring succor and aid.
Shame on the caitiffs who fled through
the gate,

While they left her, alone, to her fate! She is gone! And oh! woe is the day,

For the enemy's borne her away;
Shouting aloud,—while reviling her name,—

That her fate was the pile and the flame!

Rouen.

No. 17.—SOLO AND CHORUS.

Joan and The Voices.

Joan.
Is it here that I must die?—

Oh! France! beloved France! farewell!— My voices!—

Х

The Voices.

Fret not thyself to-day !--

Joan.

My heart, my thoughts, will fly
To home, where the dear ones dwell!—
Oh! farewell!—the moment's nigh!—
My voices!—I hear ye—

The Voices.

Fret not thyself to-day!—

Joan.

Lo! those angel forms I see,—
To yonder sky, they'll bear me to
yonder sky,

With victory to be free!

Oh! farewell, farewell!

The Voices.

Fret not thyself to-day,

Of thy martyrdom—thy sacrifice !— For thou shalt come at last,

Even unto the Kingdom of Paradise! Yea! thou shalt come at last,—

When all thy woe is past,—
Thou shalt come unto Paradise!—

This is thy way, Unto Paradise!—

Fret not—fret not thyself to-day!

Domremy.

No. 18.—FINALE.—CHORUS.

Philip, Jean de Novelonpont, Youths and Maidens, and Villagers : Men and Women.

Youths and Maidens.

Hail to the beautiful morning of May!—

Come, let us welcome the bright, sunny hours!—

Hail to the sunbeams that come with to-day

To waken in glory the valley of flowers!

Philip, Jean de Novelonpont, and Villagers: Men and Women.

Hush'd, oh! hush'd be the song! Oh! hush'd, all hush'd be the song!

There's a woe—there's a wail—all the valleys along!

Gone is the Maid, whom we lov'd in our home,—

Oh! nevermore! nevermore will she come!

We weep! though to weep is in vain Now the grief, now the anguish is o'er,—

But her deeds they will live and remain, They will live in the land evermore!

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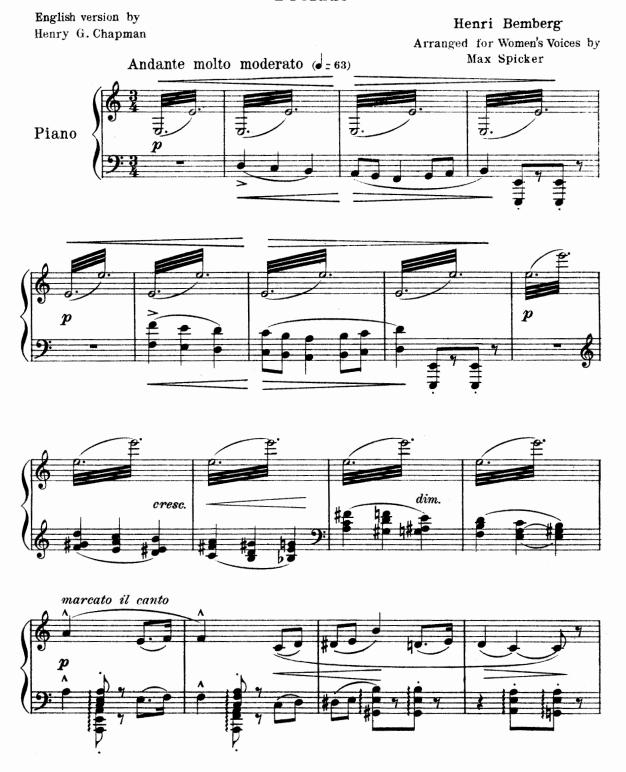
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The Death of Joan of Arc

Nº 1. Procession to the Stake

Prelude







Nº 2. Chorus



















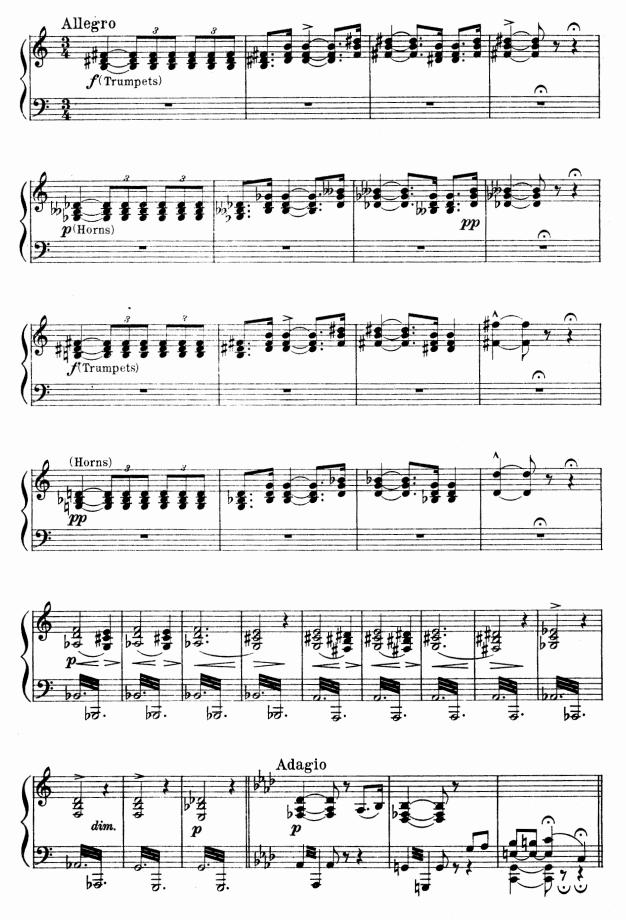












Nº 3. Arioso























Nº 4. Chorus















Nº 5. Finale















