No. 13. "Take a pair of sparkling eyes" Solo Marco





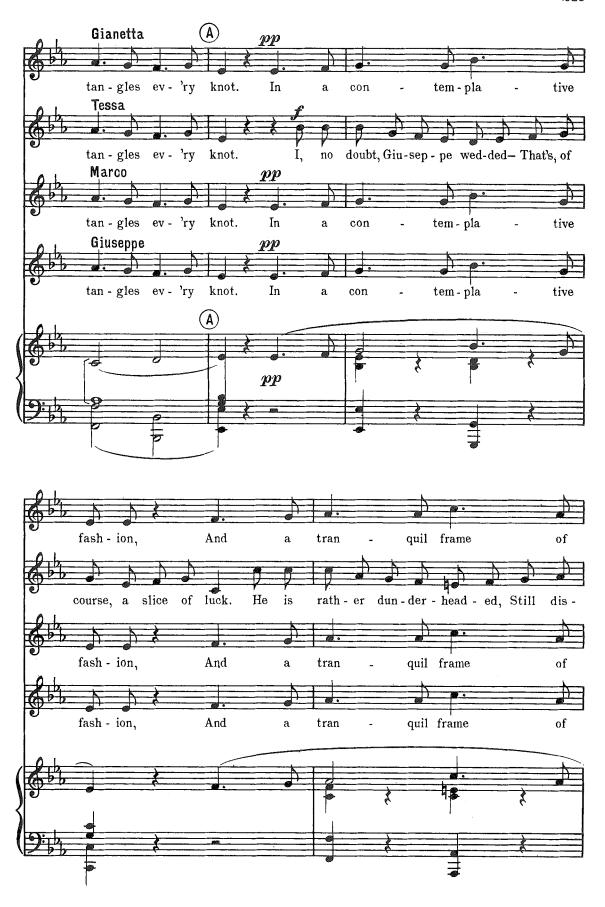




No. 17. "In a contemplative fashion" Quartet

Gianetta, Tessa, Marco, and Giuseppe





Marco: But which is it?

Don Alhambra: What does it matter? As you are both Republicans, and hold kings in detesta-

tion, of course you'll abdicate at once. Good morning! (going)

Gianetta & Tessa: Oh, don't do that! (Marco and Giuseppe stop him.)

Giuseppe: Well, as to that, of course there are kings and kings. When I say that I de-

test kings, I mean I detest bad kings.

Don Alhambra: I see. It's a delicate distinction.

Giuseppe: Quite so. Now I can conceive a kind of king- an ideal king- the creature of

my fancy, you know - who would be absolutely unobjectionable. A king, for instance, who would abolish taxes and make everything cheap, except gondolas-

Marco: And give a great many free entertainments to the gondoliers-

Giuseppe: And let off fireworks on the Grand Canal, and engage all the gondolas for the

occasion-

Marco: And scramble money on the Rialto among the gondoliers.

Giuseppe: Such a king would be a blessing to his people; and, if I were king, that is the

sort of king I would be.

Marco: And so would I!

Don Alhambra: Come, I'm glad to find your objections are not insuperable.

Marco & Giuseppe: Oh, they're not insuperable.

Gianetta & Tessa: No, they're not insuperable.

Giuseppe: Besides, we are open to conviction.

Yes; they are open to conviction.

Tessa: Oh! they've often been convicted.

Giuseppe: Our views may have been hastily formed on insufficient grounds. They may

be crude, ill-digested, erroneous. I've a very poor opinion of the politician who

is not open to conviction.

Tessa: (to Gianetta) Oh, he's a fine fellow!

Gianetta: Yes, that's the sort of politician for my money!

Don Alhambra: Then we'll consider it settled. Now, as the country is in a state of insurrec-

tion, it is absolutely necessary that you should assume the reins of government at once; and, until it is ascertained which of you is to be king, I have arranged that you will reign jointly, so that no question can arise hereafter as to the va-

lidity of any of your acts.

Marco: As one individual?

Don Alhambra: As one individual.

Giuseppe: (linking himself with Marco) Like this?

Don Alhambra: Something like that.

Marco: And we may take our friends with us, and give them places about the Court?

Don Alhambra: Undoubtedly. That's always done!

Marco: I'm convinced!
Giuseppe So am I!

Tessa: Then the sooner we're off the better.

Gianetta: We'll just run home and pack up a few things (going)—
Don Alhambra: Stop, stop—that won't do at all—ladies are not admitted.

All: What!

Don Alhambra: Not admitted. Not at present. Afterwards, perhaps. We'll see.

Giuseppe: Why, you don't mean to say you are going to separate us from our wives!

Don Alhambra: (aside) This is very awkward! (aloud) Only for a time - a few months. After

all, what is a few months?

Tessa: But we've only been married half an hour! (Weeps.)



Marco: Gentlemen, we are much obliged to you for your expressions of satisfaction and good feeling- I say, we are much obliged to you for your expressions of satisfaction and

good feeling.

All: We heard you.

Marco: We are delighted, at any time, to fall in with sentiments so charmingly expressed.

All: That's all right.

Giuseppe: At the same time there is just one little grievance that we should like to ventilate.

All: (angrily) What?

Giuseppe: Don't be alarmed-it's not serious. It is arranged that, until it is decided which of us two is the actual King, we are to act as one person.

Giorgio: Exactly.

Giuseppe: Now, although we act as one person, we are in point of fact, two persons.

Annibale: Ah, I don't think we can go into that. It is a legal fiction, and legal fictions are solemn things. Situated as we are, we can't recognize two independent responsibilities.

Giuseppe: No; but you can recognize two independent appetites. It's all very well to say we act as one person, but when you supply us with only one ration between us, I should describe it as a legal fiction carried a little too far.

Annibale: It's rather a nice point. I don't like to express an opinion off-hand. Suppose we reserve it for argument before the full Court?

Marco: Yes, but what are we to do in the meantime?

Marco & Giuseppe:

We want our tea.

Annibale: I think we may make an interim order for double rations on their Majesties' entering into the usual undertaking to indemnify in the event of an adverse decision?

Giorgio: That, I think, will meet the case. But you must work hard-stick to it-nothing like work.

Giuseppe: Oh, certainly. We quite understand that a man who holds the magnificent position of King should do something to justify it. We are called "Your Majesty", we are allowed to buy ourselves magnificent clothes, our subjects frequently nod to us in the streets, the sentries always return our salutes, and we enjoy the inestimable privilege of heading the subscription lists to all the principal charities. In return for these advantages the least we can do is to make ourselves useful about the Palace.