

Phantom Of The Opera

"Poor Fool He Makes Me Laugh"

Visit "[Poor Fool He Makes Me Laugh](#)" on MotoLyrics.com

A PERFORMANCE OF 'IL MUTO' BY ALBRIZZIO

(During the overture RAOUL, ANDRE and FIRMIN take their respective seats - RAOUL in Box Five, the MANAGERS in a box opposite)

RAOUL

Gentlemen, if you would care to take your seats? I shall be sitting in Box Five.

ANDRE

Do you really think that's wise, monsieur?

RAOUL

My dear Andre, there would appear to be no seats available, other than Box Five . . .

(The front cloth rises to reveal an 18th Century salon, a canopied bed centre-stage. The COUNTESS is played by

CARLOTTA. SERAFIMO, the page boy, is disguised as her maid and is played by CHRISTINE. At this point they are hidden behind the drapes of the bed, which are drawn.

In the room are TWO EPICENE MEN: one a

HAIRDRESSER and one a JEWELLER. The

JEWELLER is attended by MEG. There is also an OLDER

WOMAN, the COUNTESS' confidante. All a part from
MEG are gossiping with relish aboutt he COUNTESS'
current liaison with SERAFIMO)

CONFIDANTE

They say that this youth
has set my Lady's
heart aflame!

1ST FOP

His Lordship sure
would die of shock!

2ND FOP

His Lordship is
a laughing-stock!

CONFIDANTE

Should he suspect her
God protect her!

ALL THREE

Shame! Shame! Shame!

This faithless lady's
bound for Hades!

Shame! Shame! Shame!

(The canopy drapes part and we see the COUNTESS
kissing SERAFIMO passionately. As the recitative
begins, the lights and music dim on stage, and our
attention turns to the MANAGERS in their box)

IN THE BOX

ANDRE

Nothing like the old operas!

FIRMIN

Or the old scenery . . .

ANDRE

The old singers . . .

FIRMIN

The old audience . . .

ANDRE

And every seat sold!

FIRMIN

Hardly a disaster beyond all imagination!

(They chuckle and nod to RAOUL in the opposite box.

He acknowledges them)

ON STAGE

COUNTESS

Serafimo - your disguise is perfect.

(A knock at the door)

Who can this be?

DON ATTILIO

Gentle wife, admit your loving

husband.

ATTENTION BACK ON STAGE

(The COUNTESS admits DON ATTILIO. He is an old fool)

DON ATTILIO

My love - I am called to England on affairs of State, and
must leave you with your new maid. (Aside) Though I'd
happily take
the maid with me.

COUNTESS (aside)

The old fool's leaving!

DON ATTILIO (aside)

I suspect my young bride is untrue to me. I shall not
leave, but shall hide over there to observe her!

DON ATTILIO (to COUNTESS)

Addio!

COUNTESS

Addio!

BOTH (to each other)

Addio!

(He goes, pretending to leave, then hides and
watches the action)

COUNTESS (CARLOTTA)

Serafimo - away with this pretence!

(She rips off SERAFIMO'S skirt to reveal his manly
breeches)

You cannot speak, but kiss me in my
husband's absence!

Poor fool, he makes me laugh!

Haha,

Haha! etc.

Time I tried to get a better better half !

COUNTESS AND CHORUS

Poor fool, he doesn't know!

Hoho,

Hoho! etc.

If he knew the truth, he'd never, ever go!

(Suddenly from nowhere, we hear the voice of the

PHANTOM)

PHANTOM'S VOICE

Did I not instruct that Box Five was to be kept empty?

MEG (terrified)

He's here: the Phantom of the Opera . . .

(General reaction of bewilderment.

CHRISTINE looks fearfully about her)

CHRISTINE

It's him . . . I know it . . . it's him . . .

CARLOTTA (Finding a scapegoat in CHRISTINE,

hisses at her)

Your part is silent, little toad!

(But the PHANTOM has heard her)

PHANTOM'S VOICE

A toad, madame? Perhaps it is you

who are the toad . . .

(Again general unease. CARLOTTA and the

CONDUCTOR confer and pick up from the opening of

the

scene)

CARLOTTA (As the COUNTESS)

Serafimo, away with this pretence!

You cannot speak, but kiss me in my croak!

(Instead of singing she emits a great croak like a toad.

A

stunned silence. CARLOTTA is as amazed as anyone
but

regains herself and continues. More perturbing,

however, is a new sound: the PHANTOM is laughing -

quietly at first, then more and more hysterically)

CARLOTTA (as the COUNTESS)

Poor fool, he makes me laugh -

Hahahahaha!

Croak, croak, croak,

croak, croak, croak, etc.

(As before. The PHANTOM'S laughter rises. The

croaking continues as the chandelier's lights blink on

and off. The PHANTOM'S laughter, by this time

overpowering, now crescendos into a great cry):

PHANTOM'S VOICE

Behold! She is singing to bring down the

chandelier!

(CARLOTTA looks tearfully up at the MANAGERS ' box

and shakes her head)

CARLOTTA

Non posso piu . . .

I cannot . . . I cannot go on . . .

PIANGI (rushing on)

Cara, cara . . . I'm here . . .

is all right . . . Come . . . I'm here . . .

(ANDRE and FIRMIN hurry out of the box onto the stage. PIANGI ushers the now sobbing CARLOTTA offstage, while the MANAGERS tackle the audience)

FIRMIN

Ladies and gentlemen, the performance will continue in ten minutes' time . . .

(He addresses Box Five, keeping one eye on the chandelier as it returns to normal)

. . . when the role of the Countess will be sung by Miss Christine Daae.

ANDRE (improvising)

In the meantime, ladies and gentlemen, we shall be giving you the ballet from Act Three of tonight's opera.

(to the CONDUCTOR)

Maestro - the ballet - now!

(The MANAGERS leave, the stage is cleared and music starts again. The BALLETT GIRLS enter as a sylvan glade flies in. They begin the Dance of the Country Nymphs.

Upstage, behind the drop, a series of threatening shadows of the PHANTOM. MEG is aware of them and

dances out of step. When this culminates in one
gigantic, oppressive, bat-like shadow, the garotted
body

of JOSEPH BUQUET falls onto the stage, causing the
sylvan glade to fly out. Pandemonium.)

CHRISTINE (calling for help)

Raoul! Raoul!

(RAOUL runs on stage and embraces her)

RAOUL (to CHRISTINE, leading her away)

Christine, come with me . . .

CHRISTINE

No. . . to the roof. We'll be safe there.

(CHRISTINE and RAOUL hurry off)

FIRMIN (Attempting to placate the audience as STAGE-
HANDS and POLICEMEN crowd onto the stage)

Ladies and gentlemen, please remain in your seats. Do
not panic. It was an accident . . . simply an accident .

Visit [Phantom Of The Opera](#) page on MotoLyrics.com, to get more lyrics and videos.