FRANK LOESSER

Vocal Score and Libretto

THE MOST HAPPY FELLA



Vocal Score and Libretto

FRANK LOESSER'S MUSICAL

THE MOST HAPPY FELLA

Based on SIDNEY HOWARD'S "THEY KNEW WHAT THEY WANTED"

Music, Lyrics and Libretto by FRANK LOESSER

Orchestration by DON WALKER

Orchestra and Choral Direction by HERBERT GREENE

Choreography by DANIA KRUPSKA

Costumes by MOTLEY

Scenery and Lighting by JO MIELZINER

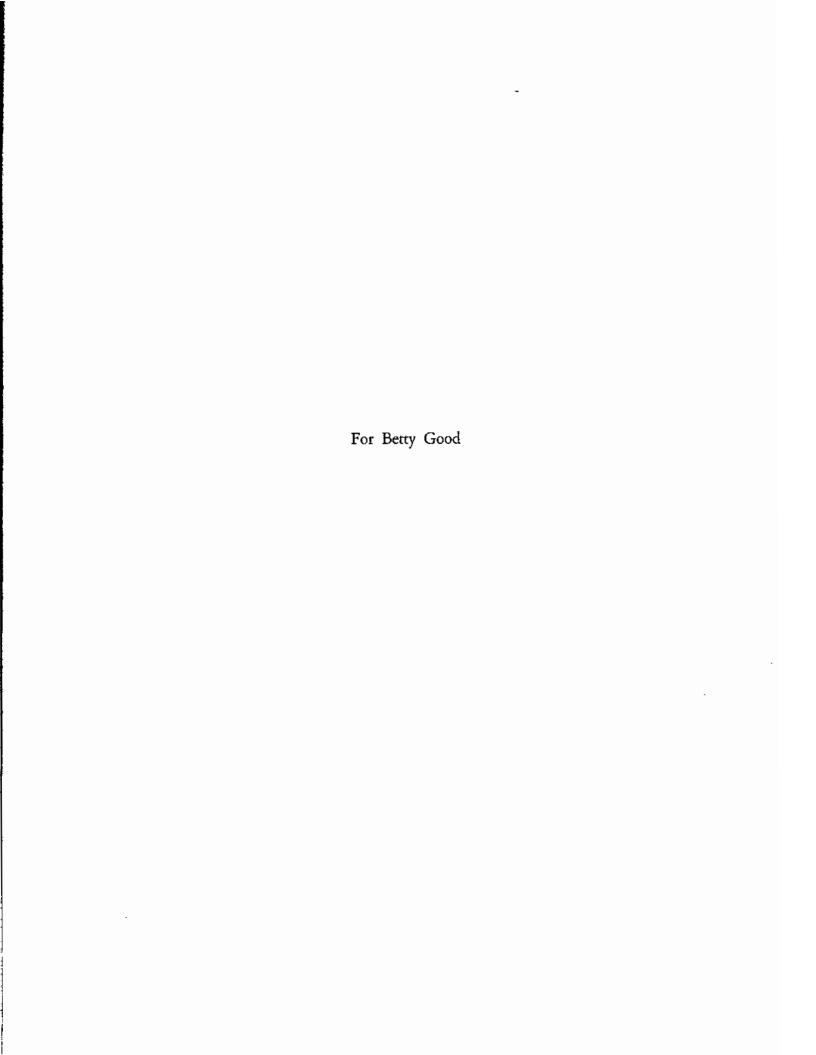
Directed by JOSEPH ANTHONY

FRANK MUSIC CORP.

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"Happy To Make Your Acquaintance..."

The writing of this show took several years time. In volunteering to tackle a libretto as well as the music and lyrics, I was aware that I would need constant help with the organization of an enormous quantity of music, with the trying-out of many complex vocal passages, with my study of the Italian language and its dialects, with getting my pencils sharpened and properly lined up, and my coffee poured at comfortable intervals. The help came enthusiastically from many people, some of them employees — all of them friends. So I guess this is the point at which to express my warm thanks to Polly Damrosch Howard, Samuel Taylor, Betty Good, Alice Crump, William Ellfeldt, Maxene Andrews, Lucille Norman, Michael Guarini, Marjory Gans, Harold Orenstein, Lucy Greene and Hedy Clark. With equal gratitude and in profound admiration, I salute the editors of this edition of the show. It has been a mountain of tedious work for them, requiring their formidable skill and experience. Bless Sam Snetiker, Tommy Goodman, Abba Bogin, Lou Singer, Richard Torigi and Mathilde Pincus.

Trank Coesse

THE MOST HAPPY FELLA was first presented by Kermit Bloomgarden and Lynn Loesser at the Imperial Theatre, New York City, on May 3rd, 1956, with the following cast:

THE CASHIERLee Cass
CLEO Susan Johnson
ROSABELLA Jo Sullivan
Marlyn Greer
Martha Mathan
THE WAITRESSES Myrna Aaron
Meri Miller
Beverly Gaines
THE POSTMAN Lee Cass
TONY Robert Weede
MARIE
MAXLouis Polacek
HERMAN Shorty Long
CLEM
JAKE
AL
JOE Art Lund
GIUSEPPE Arthur Rubin
PASQUALE
CICCIO John Henson
THE COUNTRY GIRL Meri Miller
THE CITY BOY
THE DOCTOR Keith Kaldenberg
THE PRIEST
TESSIE Zina Bethune
GUSSIE
Helon Blount
Myrna Aaron
THE NEIGHBORS Beverly Gaines Henry Director
Henry Director
Hunter Ross
Bob Daley
Lillian Shelby
THE NEIGHBOR LADIES Lois Van Pelt
Marjorie Smith
THE BRAKEMAN
THE BUS DRIVER

ALL THE NEIGHBORS, AND ALL THE NEIGHBORS' NEIGHBORS

Helon Blount, Thelma Dare, Carolyn Maye, Genevieve Owens, Lillian Shelby, Marjorie Smith, Toba Sherwood, Lois Van Pelt, Betsy Bridge, Theodora Brandon, Art Arney, Ken Ayers, Lanier Davis, Henry Director, Ralph Farnworth, Alan Gilbert, Russell Goodwin, Norris Greer, Richard Hermany, Walter Kelvin, Roy Lazarus, Louis Polacek, Evans Thornton, Myrna Aaron, Patti Schmidt, Beverly Gaines, Marlyn Greer, Martha Mathes, Meri Miller, Bob Daley, Athan Karras, Jerry Kurland, Arthur Partington, Hunter Ross, John Sharpe.

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By FRANK LOESSER



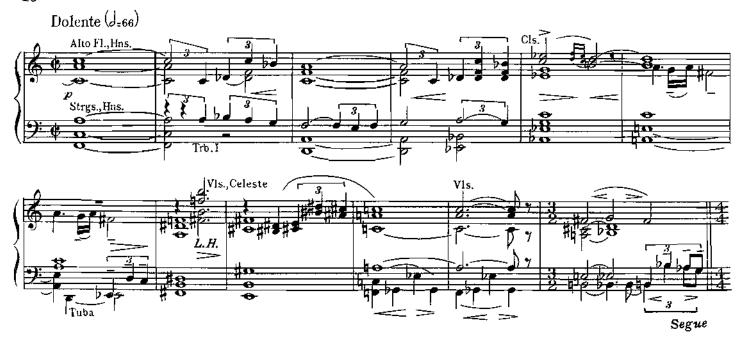






ACT ONE SCENE ONE

A middle class San Francisco restaurant at closing time late of a January evening in 1927. Most of the tables show cloths and debris as if having been dined at recently. At a couple of others, customers finish a last swallow of coffee. One or two more are at the CASHIER'S desk at the left, already paying their checks and exiting. At the extreme-right, we see the employees' coat rack on which hang the waitresses' modest coats, hats, bags, etc. Downstage of this is seen the edge of a sort of portiere, matching one similarly draped downstage of the CASHIER'S desk at the left. The place is rather gloomily lighted by a series of tall lamps of the period. At curtain rise, in addition to the departing customers we see a collection of weary young WAITRESSES, some clearing already vacated tables and others fretfully waiting for the last diners to get up and go. Presently they do indeed go and assemble for a moment at the CASHIER'S desk where they pay their checks and take hats and coats from a customers rack near the desk. The CASHIER, a somewhat unattractive man in his middle 30's, sports a hair comb which would indicate that he thinks himself pretty urbane and slick. He adopts a professionally pleasant attitude toward the departing diners as he stands behind his desk taking checks, making change, etc.



CASHIER: Thank you, good night. Thank you, good night, Hurry back now. Out of ten. Here we are, Thank you, good night. (The CASHIER ultra-courteously escorts the last lady customer on her exit. Then he turns back toward the group of fatigued WAITRESSES on stage. His manner has changed to one of loud and rude authority.) All right, it's closing time. Save the lights. Well, come on, let's get these tables cleaned up and get out of here. Closing time! (In response, while the CASHIER sternly exits to another part of the restaurant, the tempo of the action increases slightly and becomes a deadly almost mechanical process as the girls finish their table clearing.)



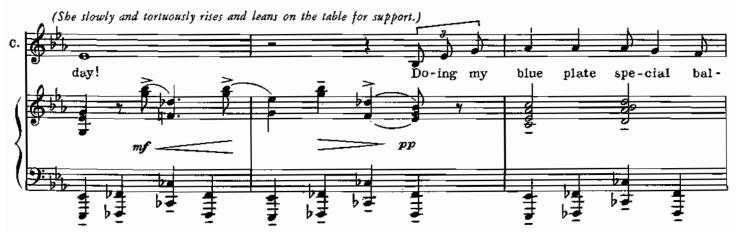
(CLEO emerges from the action. She is a generously built red-head somewhere in her late 20's, with a jocular vulgarity which does not obscure her warmth and kindness. She is critical and sometimes sarcastic, but never really bitter. She has seen some life and rarely hesitates to philosophize, in a southwestern accent, on any facet of it. At the moment she is wearing one shoe as she limps forward wearily to a downstage restaurant chair. She is carrying a tray bearing her other shoe as if to show the world a symbol of her present distress. She places the tray on an adjacent table and wearily flops into the chair. Now she takes the shoe from the tray and makes a gingerly, but futile effort to put it back on her foot. Instead, she eases off her other shoe, leans back and sighs.)













(A group of WAITRESSES and a BUS BOY upstage begin a frivolous mock ballet as they gather table cloths. The CASHIER re-enters and interrupts the employees' hi-jinks, sternly shooing them off toward the kitchen. He now approaches a downstage debrisladen table next to CLEO'S. In his slickest manner he straightens his tie and for a moment scans the restaurant as if looking for someone.)





CASHIER: (To CLEO) Hey, where's what's her name? You know—Station 27. (CLEO points up behind the employees' coat rack. The CASHIER looks in that direction, sees what he is looking for and starts to cross wolfishly off toward his objective.) Oh, say 27. Listen dear, I want to ask you something . . . (he exits as CLEO waits, gently rubbing one foot with the other. There is the sound of a slap from behind the coat rack and a second later the CASHIER comes reeling backward into the scene holding his hand to his face. A china tea cup flies into the scene missing him narrowly. And now ROSABELLA appears, hands defiantly on her hips as she pursues the CASHIER. She is small physically, but with resolute bearing and independent attitude of chin by which she tries to deny that she is lonely. She is pretty and blonde but not imposingly sexy. Her language and pronunciation would indicate that she is from somewhere in the northern part of the U.S. but that she is not a hig-city virl.)

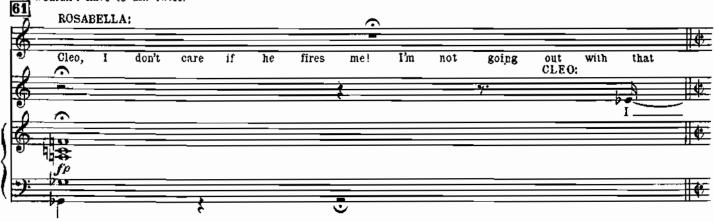


CASHIER: Okay! Okay! You know there's a lot of waitresses laying off all over town just begging to date up a guy in my position. (The CASHIER bends down to pick up a customer's lost glove from the floor. ROSABELLA can't resist the impulse to kick him in the behind, and prepares to do just that.)

ROSABELLA: (Mischievously) A guy in your position is just begging for something — (CLEO quickly holds ROSABELLA back, stopping her just in time.)

CLEO: (Protectively, in a whisper) Uh uh! The room rent! (The CASHIER, unaware of the recent menace to his person and pride, straightens up and walks off toward the kitchen.)

CASHIER: (Resentfully to ROSABELLA as he exits) You know a guy like me wouldn't have to ask twice.









CLEO: Huh?

ROSABELLA: He left me a piece of jewelry! It's a man's tie pin! (She hands the tie pin to CLEO, CLEO takes the tie pin and examines it critically.)

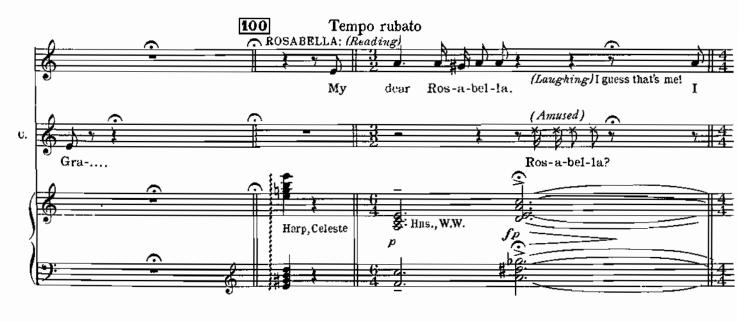
CLEO: Looks like amethyst. Must be glass. What did he look like?

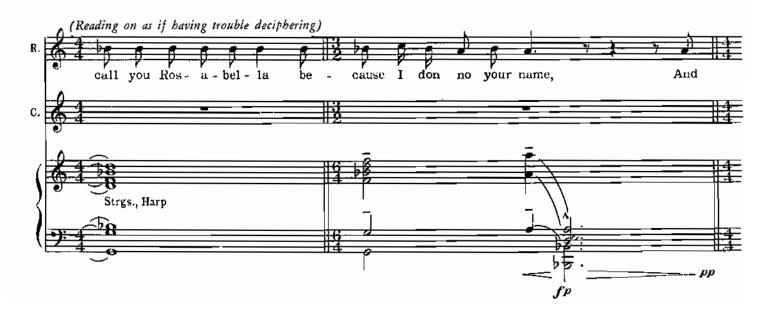
ROSABELLA: I don't remember anybody.

CLEO: Didn't you see him? Didn't he talk to you?

ROSABELLA: No. Tonight the place was so busy! And you know me, I never notice a face or listen to a voice, I just hand them the menu—(She carelessly flips the menu out in front of her as an example.) Hey! there's some writing on it. (There is a pause as she reads. Then she laughs.) It's a mash note! It's in kind of a funny broken English.

CLEO: (First looking about spookily) Honey, I think I'd better walk you home tonight.

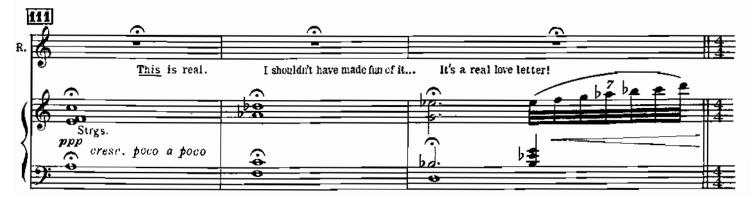




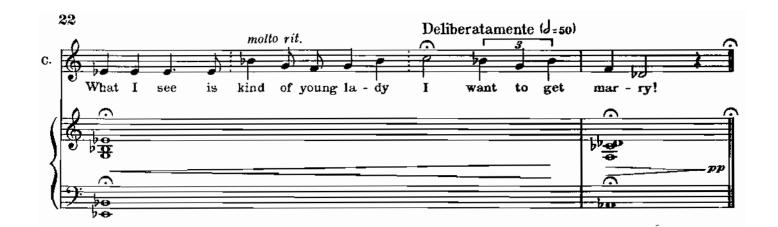


CLEO: I wonder if it is real. Say, if it is, maybe a hock shop would give you a hundred dollars for it. Did you ever see a hundred dollar bill? Back home in Dallas they're known as Texas callin' cards. (As CLEO speaks ROSABELLA reads silently and her manner changes to one of somewhat romantic wonder.)

ROSABELLA: Cleo, it doesn't matter if the stone is real . . .







Yeah! (She looks up in pleased realization.)

(Now both look at the menu as CLEO continues reading.)

I live on my grape ranch with my sister. R.F.D. Eleven, Napa Valley. Oh, I forget to tell you, my name is Antonio Esposito.

ROSABELLA: (Romantic) Esposito. Please send me a postcard just to say hello and you make me very happy. Yours truly, Tony.

CLEO: (Musing) Tony.

ROSABELLA: (Dreamily) That's a nice name. (The CASHIER suddenly re-enters now dressed in his hat and overcoat. He pulls the cord which closes the portiere panel in front of his desk. He startles the girls out of their mood.)

CASHIER: All right, you two! This is no ladies club! I'm lockin' up! (The CASHIER exits angrily. BOTH GIRLS rise quickly, CLEO walks to the coat rack as other WAITRESSES re-enter from the kitchen and join her there.)

CLEO (Sotto voce) Somebody ought to lock him up. (Along with the other girls, they take off their aprons and caps and put their coats on. CLEO examines the coat she is putting on, and babbles to ROSABELLA.) Oh, I gotta get this damn coat lining fixed.

TWO WAITRESSES: Goodnight.

CLEO: Goodnight, girls. (Babbling on) Back home in Dallas it seemed like you never needed a coat lining. Seems like you never needed anything. (A WAITRESS in hat and coat crosses and exits.)

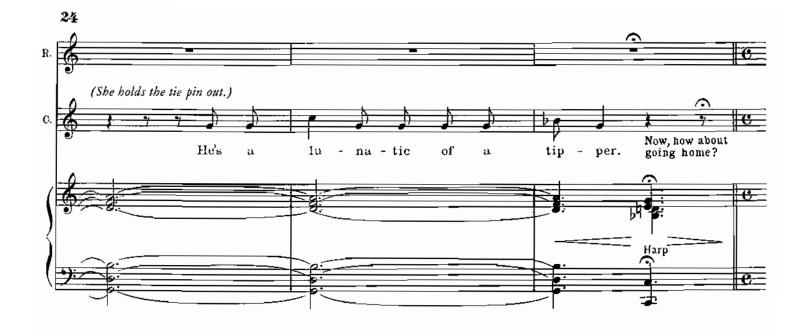
WAITRESS: Good night.

CLEO: (Absently) I guess I should have stayed there and married that chiropodist.

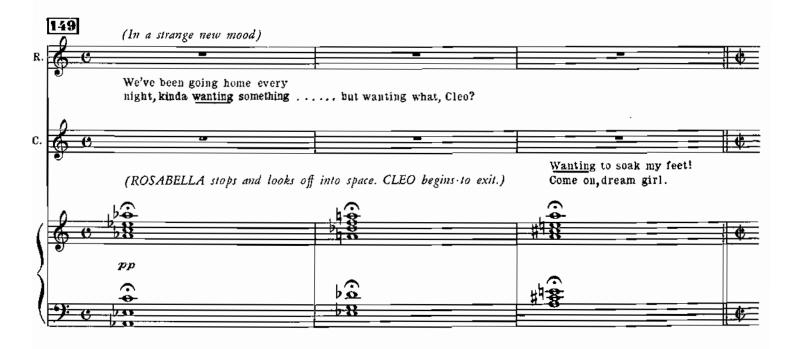
WAITRESS: (Crossing) Good night.

CLEO: Goodnight, Maud. (The last WAITRESS exits. CLEO reaches her hand in the coat pocket and draws something out. She walks toward ROSABELLA while talking.) Say, you know the name of this fuzzy gray stuff that you kinda collect in the bottom of your pocket? You know what the name of that is? That's called "gnrrr". G-N-R-R. Or some people call it smirgles. S-M — Oh, I don't know how you spell that. It gets in men's trouser cuffs too. Nobody knows where it comes from. Fella back home used to save it in a cigar box — (ROSABELLA has been completely detached from all of her friend's idle twaddle. She is still dreamily holding the menn. CLEO notices her mood.) Say, honey, what's the matter with you?





(CLEO gives the tie pin back to ROSABELLA. She takes ROSABELLA'S hand and starts pulling her toward the exit.)



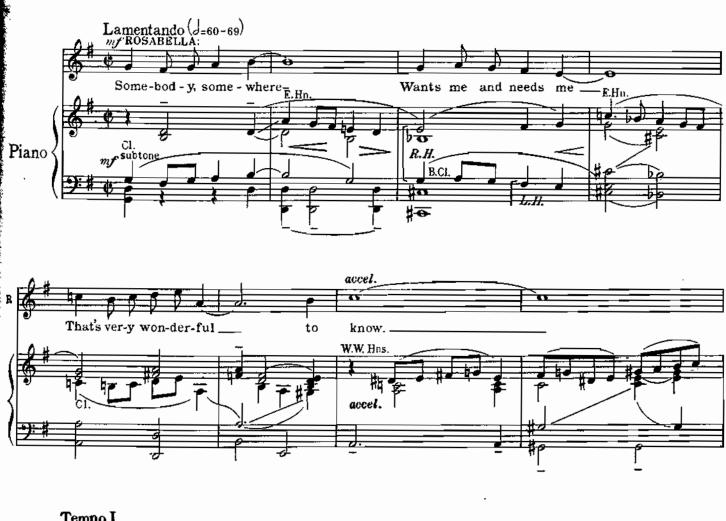
(She exits leaving ROSABELLA standing there trying to find her own answer to the question. Presently a look of soulful realization comes to her face.)







SOMEBODY, SOMEWHERE



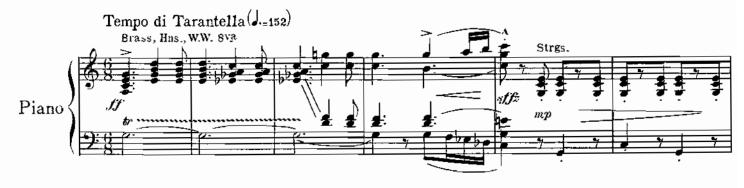






SCENE TWO

The main street corner of Napa, California, in April. It is midday. At stage right we see the facade of the Post Office. Back at center is a grain and feed establishment, and the edge of another store is visible downstage left. In the distance behind the entire street scene we see the rolling California grape lands bathed in sunlight. Running diagonally up and off between the three buildings are streets now populated with various Napa townspeople, walking, talking, shopping, etc. The people are dressed in western rural style. Among those crossing the stage is MAX, the town peddler and part-time photographer, who pushes a cart advertising "Photographs While You Wait".



(The POSTMAN emerges from the crowd and walks down center. He is a rural-type past middle age with a scraggly moustache, eyeglasses, and a beat-up old hat. He carries his mail sack slung over one shoulder. A packet of letters are in one hand, as with the other he lifts his whistle and blows it shrilly calling to attention the people in the scene.)















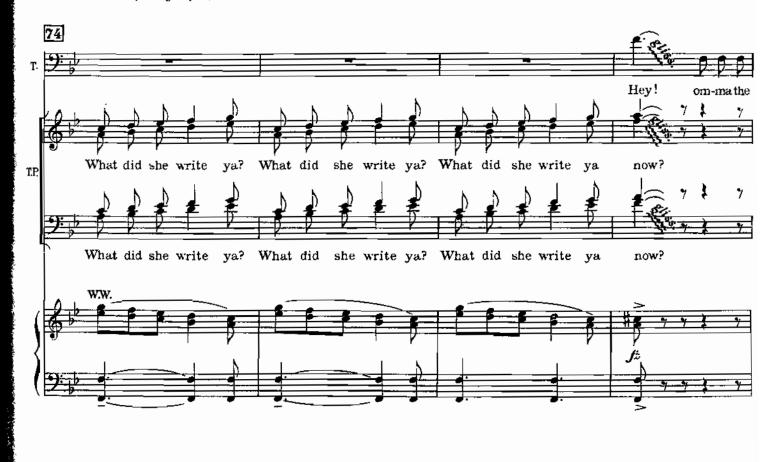
(There is a sudden breaking up of the crowd as TONY comes through them buoyantly. He is a big, exuberant Italian grape farmer in his late 50's. In contrast to the rural American dress of his neighbors, he wears a green corduroy suit of foreign persuasion. His vest boasts a giant gold watch chain and his shirt is violently magenta. He is bouncy and self-confident as he shouts. He has the accent and choice of language typical of the immigrant from southern Italy.)



(As TONY comes forward, the POSTMAN gives him an envelope which he quickly opens. He gazes at the contents in rapture as the CROWD gathers closer inquisitively.)



(TONY hands a snapshot to various TOWNSPEOPLE who have been trying to peer over his shoulder for a glimpse.)

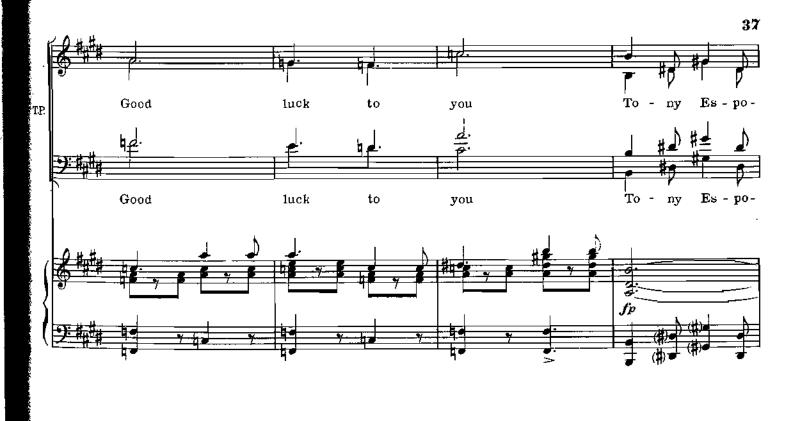


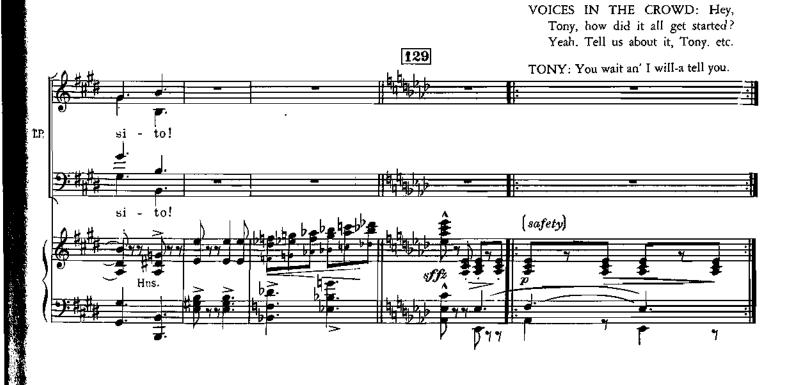








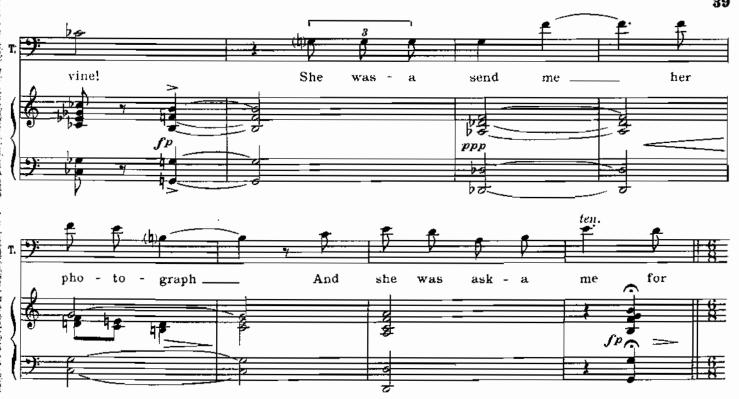












(The TOWNSPEOPLE drag MAX, the photographer, into the scene and he prepares to set up a camera and flash powder tray, as some of the ladies assist TONY in adopting the proper pose for a photograph.











(The TOWNSPEOPLE start dispersing, MARIE enters. She is a woman possibly fifteen years younger than TONY. She is dressed in the peculiar sombre conservative style of the immigrant Italian matron, with a dark shawl across her shoulders and the inevitable small earrings. She carries a mesh utility shopping bag. There is the air of motherly concern in her expression as she watches TONY'S final antics.)



TONY: (Seeing MARIE) Oh, hallo, Marie.

MARIE: Hello, Tony. (MARIE has only an Italian intonation but no actual accent. A WOMAN from the dispersing CROWD passes by.)

WOMAN: Mornin', Miss Esposito.

MARIE: (Absently) Oh, hello, Gladys. (The WOMAN exits as MARIE turns to TONY.) I just been to the market. Look what's for supper. (MARIE lets TONY peer into her shopping bag.)

TONY: Oh, fresh finocchi, 'At's-a nice. (MARIE takes TONY'S arm.)

MARIE: Come on, Tony, let's go home now. You need your nap.

TONY: Ma, omma gotta wait for Max. He's-a develope-a my snapa-shoot.

MARIE: I know. But, Tony, don't be in such a hurry about that pretty little chippy in Frisco.

TONY: (Indignantly) She's-a no chip!

MARIE: So first you give a strange girl real jeweiry — And then you write each other a lot of letters. But what do you know about her? (TONY moves a step or two away from MARIE, as a strangely beatific mood seems to come over him. MARIE watches and listens with growing concern.)



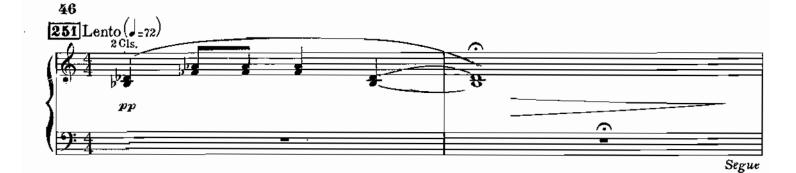


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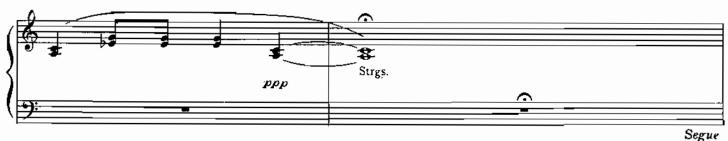
MARIE: At your age? You gotta realize, you ain't young no more! (MAX enters carrying the developed photograph, to give to TONY.)

MAX: Here you are, Tony. (MARIE intercepts it and takes a look.)

MARIE: And you ain't good-lookin'! And you ain't smart! You want to send her (She indicates ROSABELLA'S photograph in TONY'S hand) a picture of you? (MARIE indicates photograph of TONY which she puts in his other hand. TONY gazes first at the picture of ROSABELLA and then at his own, reacting very unhappily at the sight of the latter. MARIE watches him as she starts to exit.) Mamma wouldn't want you to do nothin' foolish. (Now with a patient sigh) I'll wait for you in the truck. (MARIE exits. TONY crosses gazing at ROSABELLA'S picture.)



TONY: Ah, Rosabella, what's-a use? If I was-a send you my pitch (He now shifts his glance to his own photograph) it's-a no make love, it's-a jus' make laugh. (TONY disconsolately tears his own picture in half. Groups of TOWNSPEOPLE enter from various streets, cross and exit. One group remains on stage. They are CLEM, JAKE, AL and HERMAN. HERMAN is a perenially happy young man. There is no time when he does not smile lovingly at the entire world. He is willing even to smile about his own weaknesses and failures. The GROUP spies TONY.)



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HERMAN: Hi, Boss.
TONY: Hallo, Herman.

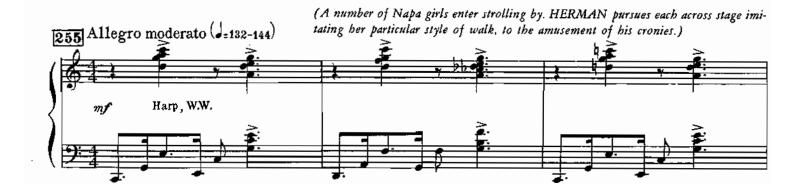
HERMAN: Congratulations!

AL: Yeah! I seen her picture. It's beautiful!

CLEM: Good luck, Tony.

JAKE: Congratulations, Tony. (TONY acknowledges the congratulations absently and walks off in gloomy thought. HERMAN and his three friends have formed a group downstage.)

HERMAN: I wish I could get a gal like the boss got. But he's a man of action. Me, I'm a dreamer. I never get one. I just keep lookin' at 'em.







(Soon HERMAN joins the boys and as a final girl ambles into view, they ogle ber dreamily until she has gone.)



STANDING ON THE CORNER

















SHERIFF: All right. Break it up, you guys! (HERMAN and the BOYS disperse and exit. the SHERIFF after them.)





(TONY re-enters and sits dejectedly on a packing crate in front of the Post Office. He is gazing sadly at ROSABELLA'S picture as JOE enters with two girls. He sees TONY and dismisses the GIRLS.)

JOE: See you later, girls. (JOE is big and young and strong — and in an animal sort of way, he is handsome. Although his disposition and manner seem friendly and even generous, there is something cold and possibly brutal behind the smile in his eyes. He is dressed in western blue jeans and a checkered shirt and a black felt sombrero. He carries a new travelling bag by its shoulder strap.) Hey, boss. I've been lookin' for you. I gotta — (He notices TONY'S dejected attitude, and sits down on the crate beside him. TONY pockets the picture of ROSABELLA.) Hey, what's the matter with you? You don't look so good.

TONY: (Ruefully) Yeh. 'At's-a right. Omma no look so good.

JOE: Well, I don't want to add to your troubles, but I guess I'll be quittin' the job soon, boss. See, I just got me a travel bag. (JOE shows TONY the travel bag.)

TONY: (Absently) When you wanna go, Joe?

JOE: Maybe two weeks. Maybe a month, (There is a pause as he regards TONY'S glum attitude.) You're not sore, are you? You can find a new foreman. (JOE rises from the crate and walks behind TONY and props his travel bag.) Me, I'm gettin' restless. You know me. If it wasn't you were such a great guy to me, I wouldn't have stuck with you this long. But now, it must be spring or somethin'. I don't know. Every night I kinda feel it in the wind, when I drop into my bunk and I blow out the light. (JOE pantomimes blowing out a kerosene lamp and simultaneously he is framed in a spotlight as the rest of the stage darkens.)

















(The lights come up again. JOE picks up his travel bag as TONY, having listened to him, now keenly observes him.)

JOE: (Fondling the bag) Hey, Tony, what's the Italian for a travel bag like this?

TONY: (Still preoccupied) 'At's-a "valigia".

JOE: "Valigia", eh. Boy, I sure learned a lot of Dago from you! Lemme see now. (TONY stands behind JOE and as he watches and listens an idea seems to come over him.)

Comprato. Yeah! Ho comprato un valigia. . . I mean — una belissima valigia. Ho comprato una belissima valigia. That's it!

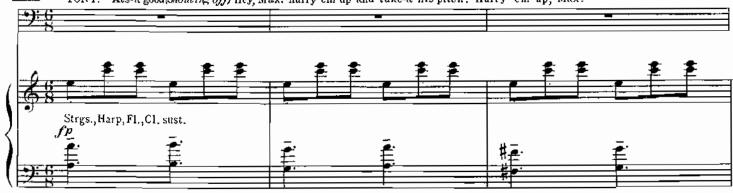
TONY: (Interrupting) Joe. Listen, Joe, listen.







Vivace (J.=176-188)
TONY: 'At's-a good (Shouting off) Hey, Max! hurry 'em up and take-a his pitch'. Hurry 'em up, Max!

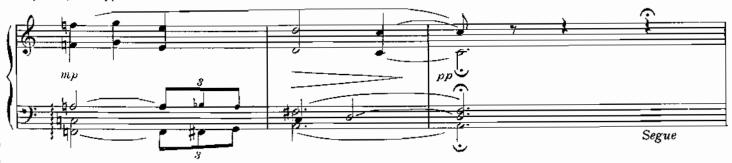


(MAX enters. TONY carries the crate nimbly to the base of the Post Office porch. He poses JOE on it as MAX quickly prepares the camera and flash powder tray. TONY watches the process with great anxiety.)

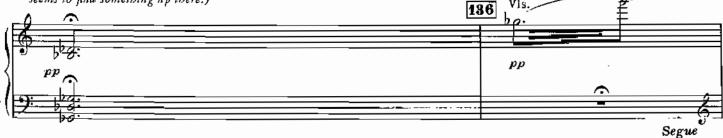




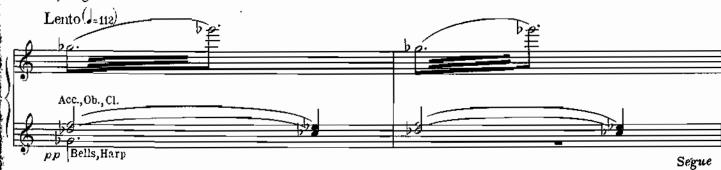
TONY: Grazie! Joe, Grazie! An' listen, Joe, any time you wanna quit da job 'at's-a al! right wit' me. Omma no gonna get mad. Omma no wanna stop you. You jus'-like you say 'disappear''.



JOE: (Smiling) Well, thanks, boss. That's nice of you. I'll see you up at the ranch. (JOE exits. TONY looks after JOE pleased with his accomplishment, but now a look of remorse comes over his features as he searches skyward with his eyes. He seems to find something up there.)



TONY: Mamma. Mamma. I know it's-a wrong what omma do. Ma, I gotta do. 'Cause I ain't young no more.



An' I ain't good lookin'. An' I ain't smart. An' sometime soon I wanna send-a for Rosabella to come down here to Napa an' get marry. I gotta send-a Joe's pitch!



ROSABELLA









Inside TONY'S barn at twilight a few weeks later. The entire scene is backed by a pair of massive sliding doors of richly seasoned wood. At present they are closed. Inserted in one of the huge sliding doors is a small hinged door. The scene is dark except for the fitful flashing of the guide bulb atop a primitive portable electric generator of the time. Its motor is sputtering in a hesitant effort to get started, as two men appear in silhouette before it attempting to adjust and encourage the machine. Presently it works in earnest and high overhead there appear, spelled out in brilliant blue electric bulbs, the words "Welcome Rosabella". The scene is now brighter, and we observe that one of the silhouettes has been that of PASQUALE, who now reels backward from the generator as if shocked and surprised, as the second figure, in electrician coveralls, laughs at him.

Moderato (=96)
Ad lib. hammering on lead pipe, cowbell and choked hi-hot for machine poises)



ELECTRICIAN: That's the way to work a generator!

(PASQUALE and the ELECTRICIAN wheel off the generator together, and simultaneously CICCIO and GIUSEPPE, in white caps and aprons, appear from the other side of the barn carrying in a long heavily laden banquet table. It bears floral trimmings on its pink cloth, dishes full of cheeses, cakes, sandwiches, party favors, etc., and a huge punch bowl surrounded by a border of gay chianti bottles. CICCIO and GIUSEPPE bring the table proudly to center as PASQUALE reappears and joins them.) PASQUALE: (Calling) Ciccio! Giuseppe! (The three are TONY'S servants. CICCIO, the handyman. GIUSEPPE, the ranch watchman, and PASQUALE, cook and paymaster. It is obvious that he is the head servant and a notch superior to the other two. He extracts from his shirt pocket a piece of paper, places himself upstage of the table and eyes its contents and trimmings. Now checking every detail, he calls off items from his list as the other two respond from either side, indicating that each item of food, drink, etc., is in its proper place.)

ABBONDANZA



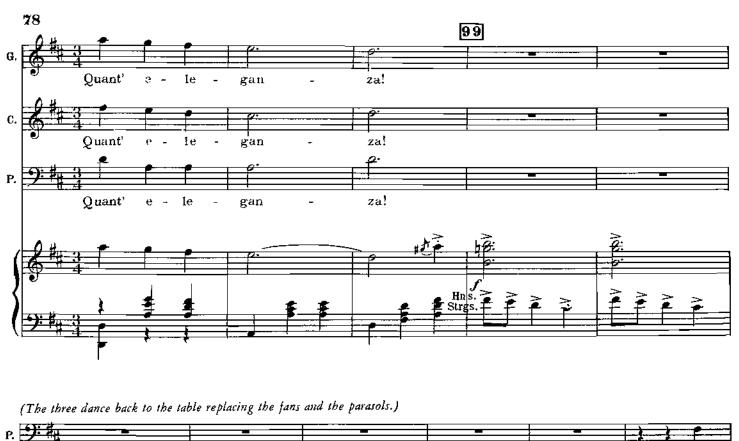




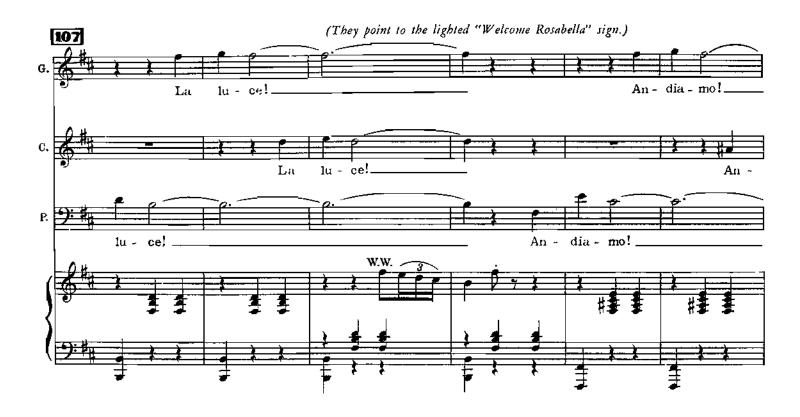






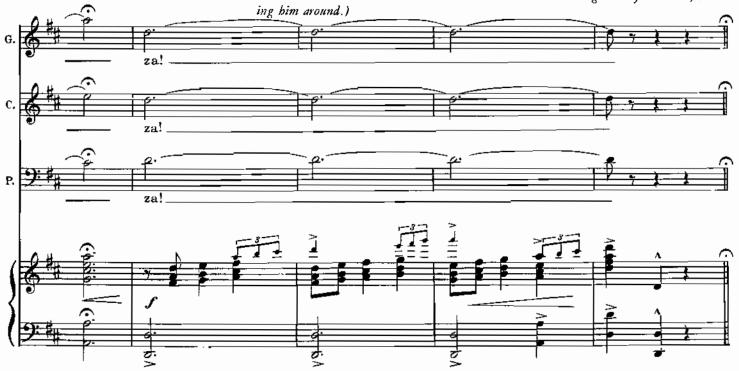








(The THREE strike a triumphant pose and then resume last minute fussing at the table as the COUNTRY GIRL and CITY BOY enter. She is leading him by the hand, showing him around)



COUNTRY GIRL: And this is Tony's barn.

CITY BOY: (Looking curiously) Uh huh.

COUNTRY GIRL: And that up there is the hay loft, See?

CITY BOY: (Interested) Oh, a hay loft!

COUNTRY GIRL: You're new around here, ain't ya?

CITY BOY: Uh huh.

COUNTRY GIRL: Then you never been to a Sposalizio?

CITY BOY: What's that?

COUNTRY GIRL: Why that's a big Italian wedding banquet.

CITY BOY: Oh — with eatin' and drinkin' and dancin' and all?

COUNTRY GIRL: (Looking him over, sizing him up) And all! (She takes his hand and drags him off. Some of the TOWNSPEOPLE enter. They are wearing their Sunday clothes and some are carrying gifts.)

FARMER: (Carrying a new chintz covered rocking-chair) Hey, Giuseppe, where will I put this? It's a surprise for the bride. (GIUSEPPE leads the FARMER off stage. A neighbor's two children enter, a girl of 11 and a boy of 6, with a WOMAN, the PRIEST and a MAN. The latter carries a wine jug and now drinks from it. The WOMAN pushes him off, a little angrily.)

WOMAN: You kids wait here. I got to get your father away from that wine. (The PRIEST and the children have stopped at the table to examine its wonders, as TONY enters dressed for his wedding. He spies the children.)





TONY: (To the little BOY) Hallo Dooglas Fairbanks! (The little BOY bows.) An' Queen Maria from Rumania! (The little GIRL curtseys. TONY does a little dance with her for a moment.) You all dressed up for my party, huh? (The little GIRL snnggles affectionately up to TONY as the little BOY climbs piggy-back to TONY'S shoulder.) An' tomorrow you gonna get dressed up again for my wedding? So nunja spill no spumoni on you clothes tonight!

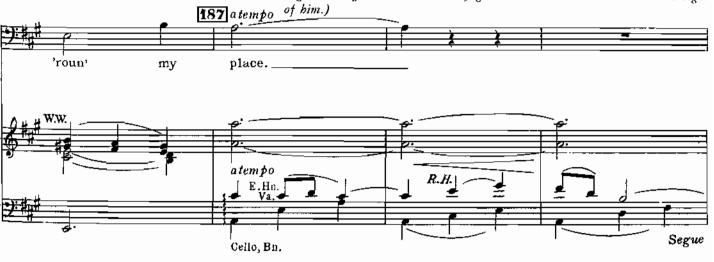
LITTLE GIRL: When's Rosabella coming?

TONY: She's-a gonna come right away tonight on da eight o'clock train. Look! (He points off) I gotta my truck all decorated up wit' da flowers an' omma gonna drive down da back road to da station an' pick her up at eight o'clock. Den you gonna see da most beautiful bride! (TONY dismisses the CHILDREN amiably and watches them skip off. The PRIEST remains.)

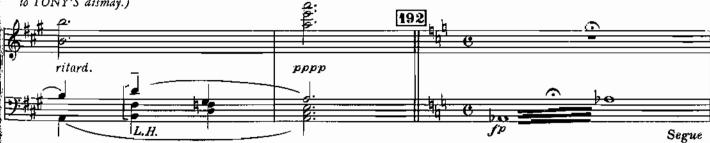




(The PRIEST smilingly approves of these sentiments and exits. At the same time JOE enters through the little hinged barn door. He is wearing a city suit and the perennial black sombrero. Slung on his shoulder is the leather travelling bag now stuffed with his worldly goods. TONY turns in alarm at the sight



JOE: Hey! Boss! I just saw the yard. The way you've got the whole place decorated! Wow! The lights — (He indicates the "Welcome Rosabelld' sign.) — and all this food! (He points to the gaily laden banquet table, and putting down his travel bag and removing his suit jacket, promptly samples some of the goodies, to TONY'S dismay.)



TONY: Hey! I was t'ink you was-a go dis mornin'! You ain't go yet! What's-a matter you ain't go yet?

JOE: I hate to travel on an empty belly. So I thought I'd wait around for the big feed. Boy! I sure enjoy a big feed!

TONY: You gonna stay?

JOE: Sure I'm gonna stay — for tonight. I wanna dance! — with the bride! (TONY, in a state of great alarm at this, nervously consults his watch.)

JOE: (Looking at the watch) Say, ain't you kinda late to pick her up at the station? It's about eight o'clock now. (Whereupon JOE resumes ogling the banquet table.)



TONY: You gonna stay? (The THREE SERVANTS enter hurriedly.)

PASQUALE: Hey! Padrone! E tatdi! (Together with GIUSEPPE and CICCIO, PASQUALE shoves TONY toward the waiting truck. With a last nervous glance at IOE, TONY allows himself to be pushed off. The SERVANTS wave after his exit. At the same time there can be heard the loud pounding of many hands on the barn doors and the muffled sound of a group of gay people gathering behind them.)

JOE: (Shouting above the noise) Hey Pasquale! Half the town's out there already, breaking down the doors! (Spurred into activity with this announcement and at the sounds they hear, the THREE SERVANTS station themselves happily and proudly behind the banquet table. At the same moment, the huge doors slide open revealing



SCENE FOUR

part of the yard in front of TONY'S house, the next moment. The front porch and facade of the house itself may be seen extending diagonally from the extreme right. A wing of the house extends far upstage against the background of TONY'S rolling grape field. Extending laterally for about 8 feet from the upstage side of the white trellised porch, is a low picket fence. Downstage at the left may be seen the wooden gate marking the the main entrance to the premises. The place has been superdecorated for a party. Paper festoons drape the main gate and floral decorations dot the place. Tables similar to the one we have seen have been placed at convenient points in the yard, their flamboyant pink cloths adding to the festive feeling of the scene. The "Welcome Rosabella" remains in view adding a specially gay light against the twilight sky and the fields in the background. The friends and neighbors have already begun pouring into the scene from all directions and are greeting IOE and each other and the trio of SERVANTS proudly proclaim the opening of the festivities.)







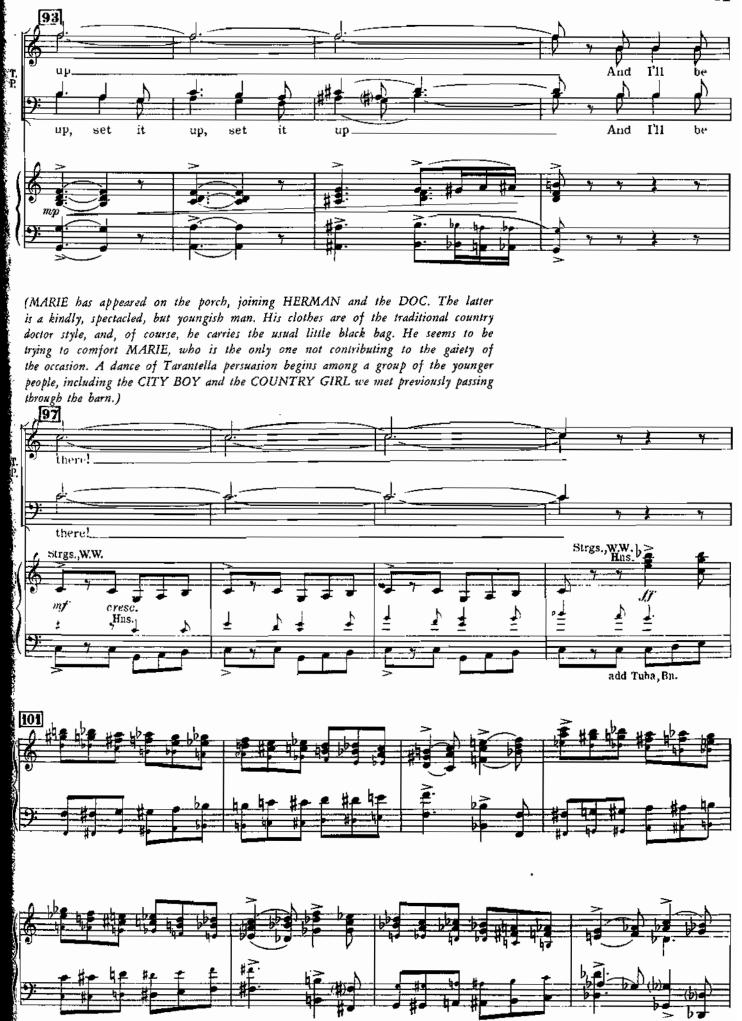






























(Overcome by their own strenuous gaiety, the entire group on stage collapses in a state of merry exhaustion on the final note. This includes JOE who has contributed enthusiastically to the spirit of the scene. Soon, collecting themselves, the TOWNS-PEOPLE form in couples and small groups and disperse to other parts of the yard



DOC: And what's the matter with you, Marie? Smile, Marie. Tomorrow's your brother's wedding day! (MARIE shrugs sadly, and like a martyr exits into the house. This leaves the DOC with the moment's chance to observe the surroundings, which include the two supine figures downstage. With good-humored righteousness he approaches the CITY BOY and COUNTRY GIRL and gives the BOY an authoritative kick, calling upon him to observe the proprieties. The two kids look up in alarm at the DOC and decide on another locale for their association.)

CITY BOY: (Dragging her quickly to her feet) Come on! I wanna show you somethin' in the barn!

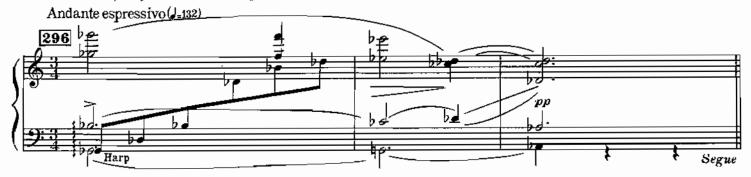
COUNTRY GIRL: (Willingly arising) I told you the barn! (They exit for the barn in a great hurry, obviously to resume their private communication, as the DOC smilingly observes.)

MAN'S VOICE: (Calling from offstage) Hey, Doc, wanna get in the bocci ball game?

DOC: Sure Arty, comin' right over! (He exits in the direction of the voice, leaving the stage empty of people. The POSTMAN strides in through the main gate beckoning someone offstage to follow him.)



(ROSABELLA enters carrying a fairly modest and well-worn suitcase. She is dressed in a cheap, but new, light gray coat and matching hat. She takes a few frightened tentative steps toward the center of the stage looking about her at the house, the party decorations, and finally the "Welcome" sign above her head.)

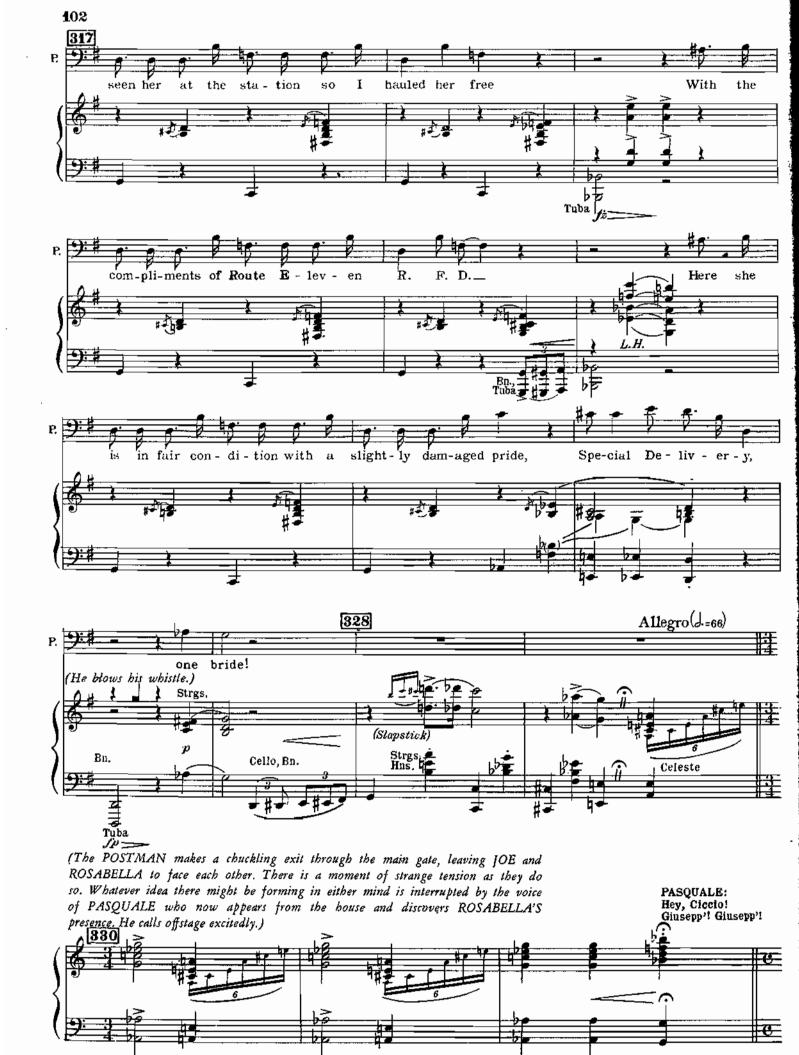


POSTMAN: You ought to be proud. Look at the way he got the place all fadoodled up for ya. Looks like he's gonna feed the whole town tonight. (He takes a passing look at the banquet tables as he approaches the house and peers into its interior, from which JOE appears. JOE crosses the porch and spies ROSABELLA.)

JOE: (In pleasant surprise) Hey! It's Rosabella! Welcome! Welcome!







(GIUSEPPE and CICCIO join him quickly and with him stare in servile admiration at the bride-to-be.)



BENVENUTA

(The THREE SERVANTS nervously try to arrange themselves in preparation for welcoming ROSABELLA officially. When they have lined themselves up on the porch, they ceremoniously take off their cooks' caps. PASQUALE, the leader as always, steps down from the porch and addresses ROSABELLA with poetic extravagance.)





(JOE, amused, leans against one of the tables to listen while ROSABELLA sits on her suitcase, somewhat puzzled at the servants' performance.)



(PASQUALE suddenly remembers he has forgotten something and claps his hand to his head. Then he dashes to the little fence from behind which he fetches a tiny bouquet of flowers and runs back to present them ceremoniously to ROSABELLA.)

(CICCIO, not to be outdone, pours a glass of water and offers it to ROSABELLA. She accepts graciously before she has had time to accept the flowers.)



(ROSABELLA takes the flowers this time. Meanwhile, GIUSEPPE has dashed into the house and emerges with the brand new chintz covered rocking-chair. He places it at center stage, snatches off the fancy gift ribbon, and with it dusts off the seat.)



(The THREE SERVANTS lead ROSABELLA to the chair and sit her down. She is beginning to enjoy herself as the SERVANTS surround her adoringly.) Ca- ra spo- sa. Ben- ve- nu- ta, Ca - ra spo - sa. Ben- ve- nu- ta, Ben-ve nu-ta_ nu-ta, ca-ra, ca-ra bel-la ca- ra spo-sa._ accel. Bel -Ben nu - ta in ve ca spo sa, uccel. Bel - Ia Ca sa spo sa, accel. Ca spo sa5a 🚤 accel. poco rit. più lu mi vos-tra che sa - rà lu - mi - no sa! \mathbf{sa} no poco rit. $\hat{}$ sa! più sa - rà vos - tra che mi lu - mi lu -ΠQ no poco rit. 6 vos - tra che sa - ra più_ lu mi no - sa Iu mi no sa! poco rit. # 4







(ROSABELLA is now feeling very much more at home. She gratefully acknowledges the SERVANTS' offering, as they exit howing to her. She now gets up from the chair and, fondling the shawl, she approaches JOE.)

ROSABELLA: It's very lovely. (She is about to say more when the TWO CHILDREN re-enter in the course of a game of tag. The LITTLE GIRL spies her.)



LITTLE GIRL: Ooh, look, it's the bride! Ain't you the bride, lady?

ROSABELLA: (Smiling) Hello.

LITTLE GIRL: Gee, you're beautiful! Ain't she, Gussie? (The LITTLE BOY nods agreement, but in a strangely glum tight-lipped manner.) We're comin' to your wedding tomorrow. Ain't we, Gussie? (The LITTLE BOY again nods. The LITTLE GIRL shakes him to get an answer.) (Explaining) He don't smile much lately. Well, goodbye now.

ROSABELLA: Goodbye now. (The LITTLE GIRL exits. The LITTLE BOY starts after her as if to resume the tag game, but before his exit he stops and turns to ROSABELLA and favors her with a wonderfully warm welcoming smile revealing that he has three front teeth missing. Both ROSABELLA and JOE laugh as the LITTLE BOY exits. We can see that ROSABELLA is now affected by the pleasantness of her surroundings. She turns toward JOE, who has seated himself in the vacching-chair.)









(There is a moment of shocked silence. Then ROSABELLA, numbed and hurt. removes the shawl from her shoulders and lets it drop to the floor. Then she picks up her suitcase.)

ROSABELLA: Well, thank you very much. It's been charming. (She is about to exit the premises haughtily, but then stops herself.) Let me ask you something! (She flips open the suitcase. In an attempt to reach for something she reveals among its contents a wedding veil which is, at this moment, a source of bitter embarrassment to her. Quickly she shoves the veil back into the suitcase and extracts a small snapshot. She hands the snapshot to IOE.) If this isn't you — who is it?

JOE: (Recognizing it, looks bewildered) It's me, all right! Yep, it's me, all right. I guess he must have sent you my picture instead of his.

ROSABELLA: Why would anybody do that?

IOE: (Musing) Why, the foxy grandpa!

ROSABELLA: The what?

JOE: (Now slapping his thigh in anusement) The foxy grandpa!

ROSABELLA: (Rising) He's an old man. Isn't he? Isn't he an old man?

JOE: (Reassuringly, realizing that a trick has been played) Tony's a wonderful feller. (He points offstage) Look over there. That's Tony's friends come to meet you. How many guys you know got a yard full of friends. Yeah, Tony's a great feller. Couldn't you tell from his letters?

ROSABELLA: What do vou know about his letters?

JOE: Well, I helped him with a few of 'em. Spelling, you know, him being a foreigner -

ROSABELLA: (Mortified) Then you read my letters?

JOE: (With a knowing smile that is almost a leer) Some.

ROSABELLA: (In tearful terror rushing for her suitcase) I'm getting out of here. (She snaps the suitcase shut, stops for a brief second to tear the photograph to bits, and starts to cross in front of IOE.)

JOE: Tony's a fine feller. Just you wait till you see.

ROSABELLA: (Angrily) I'm not waiting to see! Not me! Not on your life! I'm not gonna stay here and be made a fool of! (As she passes in front of IOE, he grabs her arm, stopping her momentarily in her flight.)

JOE: (With a patronizing smile) Sorry you wasted all that time dreamin' about me. (ROSABELLA angrily pulls away from him.)

ROSABELLA: (In white heat) Be sure and tell all your friends! (She continues her exit toward the gate. Before she can reach it, a group of five or six party guests arrive, led by the LITTLE GIRL who first discovered her presence.)

LITTLE GIRL: See Mama? I told you she was here! See? It's Rosabella!

WOMAN: Well, we've all certainly been anxious to meet ya!

MAN: How de doo and welcome, ma'am. Why you're even prettier than your picture!

YOUNG MAN: Welcome to Napa!

LITTLE GIRL: Look at her hair! Ain't it beautiful!

WOMAN: Certainly is!

YOUNG LADY: How do you do. I'm Agnes Jones. And this here's my Uncle Harry. (ROSABELLA, surrounded, forces a nervous smile acknowledging these greetings. There is no polite avenue of escape. One of the MEN rushes to center stage and calls off to the rest of the guests.)

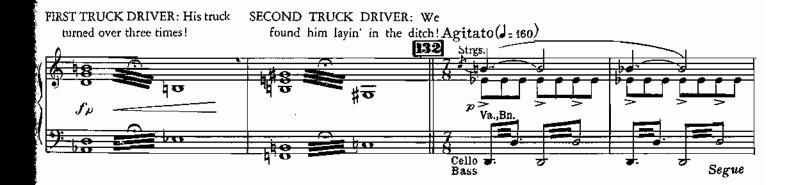
MAN: Hey people! It's the bride! It's Rosabella!

(Suddenly the horrified scream of a WOMAN is heard. ROSABELLA and the group around her look in alarm, as from the other side of the stage the WOMAN appears, backing into the scene, her hands hysterically covering her face. Following her come two TRUCK DRIVERS, bearing on a battered metal truck door, the limp and lifeless form of TONY. As the make-shift stretcher is brought to the porch, the rest of the CROWD rushes in. JOE is the first to realize what has happened.)

Mosso (d. -72)







JOE: (Running across stage yelling) Doc! Hey, Doc! (The DOC enters and hurries over to TONY, pushing his way through the knot of people surrounding the body. These include the THREE SERVANTS piteously begging TONY to stir or speak.)

GIUSEPPE: (As MARIE enters from the house) Signorina!

MARIE: Madonna mia!

PASQUALE: (Imploringly to TONY) Padrone!





(JOE is holding back a group of eagerly curious guests at the other side of the stage. Near him stands ROSABELLA, her suitcase still in her hand—lost and frightened and aimlessly searching for some means of escape from the trap she is in. At this point the action of the scene freezes, and against the husbed background of the CROWD tensely straining and waiting while the DOC examines TONY. ROSABELLA distractedly looks about her.)







DOC: Step back everybody. Give me a little room, please! (The CROWD spreads back a little. The two TRUCK DRIVERS begin to leave.)

ROSABELLA: (Grabbing one DRIVER by the arm) Say, could you two fellas give me a lift to the station?

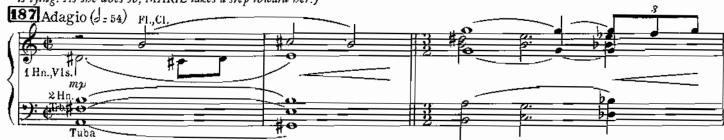
FIRST TRUCK DRIVER: Sorry, lady, we're drivin' the other way. (They exit. Some of the CROWD now notice ROSABELLA'S presence.)

VARIOUS TOWNSPEOPLE: (To each other) It's Rosabella! That's the bride standing there. How did she get up here? I guess that must be Rosabella. There she is with the suitcase. Isn't it terrible her coming here and him having the accident.

TONY: (In pain) Rosabella. (ROSABELLA instinctively takes a tiny step away.) Nunja go 'way. Come here, Rosabella. (ROSABELLA stops and the CROWD leans forward gazing at her, sensing her feeling of indecision. PASQUALE and a few others make appealing gestures in her direction. The DOC comes to her.)

DOC: Please, ma'am. Won't you do what he's askin'? Please?

(Despite the disappointment and shock of the last few minutes, ROSABELLA feels the tug of sympathy from the CROWD and slowly walks toward the porch where TONY is lying. As she does so, MARIE takes a step toward her.)



MARIE: (Quietly) I'm his sister. (There is something about MARIE that repels ROSA-BELLA, and she backs away



TONY: (Weakly, to the DOC) Hey, Doc. You gimme needle fulla medicine for make-a me sleep. How soon omma gonna sleep?

DOC: About ten minutes.

TONY: (In a little stronger voice) 'At's-a okay. We got time for da wedding. Right now!

MARIE: (Alarmed, appeals first to the PRIEST, then to the DOC.) No! He can't! He's hurt too bad. Ain't he, Doc?

DOC: Plenty bad. But maybe we ought to do what he wants. How about it, Padre?

TONY: Right now, tonight! Omma don' wanna wait for tomorrow. Maybe's gonna be no tomorrow.

MARIE: (Shocked) No! Tony!

JOE: (Approaching ROSABELLA) Maybe Rosabella wants time to think it over. What do you say, Rosabella?

ROSABELLA: (Defiant at JOE'S knowing tone, she stiffens and hisses up at him.)
Anything Tony wants. (She pauses and turns in resignation, but not without symbols, to TONY.) Any time. (She walks toward the porch.)

TONY: (Weakly, but with great joy) 'At's-a my Rosabella!

DOC: (To the PRIEST) Padre, this man can't be moved to the church. Let's have a quick ceremony in the house.

PRIEST: (Nods) I'll call the Chancellery. (The PRIEST exits into the house.)

MARIE: (In panic) No! He can't! He's hurt too bad! He's too sick ---

(TONY and the DOC speak simultaneously.)

TONY: Marie! —

DOC: Take it easy, Marie!

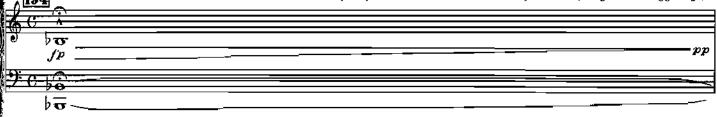
MARIE: (Now struggling hysterically with the DOC) — He can't get married! You

just gave him dope! He ain't in his right mind! He ain't in —

TONY: (Shouting with all possible strength) Shut up, Marie!

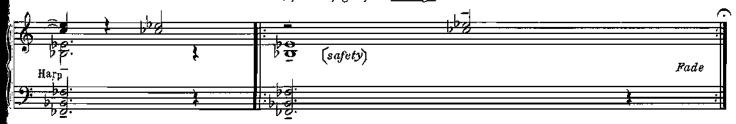
(There is a moment of frozen silence. MARIE has backed away from TONY hurt and dazed.)

DOC: (Adressing the CROWD) All right, folks. I guess the party will have to be some other time. Everybody home. (The CROWD slowly and sadly begins to straggle off.)





DOC: (Quietly to ROSABELLA) All right, in the house. (The DOC places the gift shawl on ROSABELLA'S shoulders, and she walks slowly and thoughtfully into the house following the SERVANTS who have carried TONY inside. He calls into the house.) Make it a short one, Padre. I gotta have three quarters of the poor man in splints before midnight. (Now he turns to MARIE.) Come on, Marie. After all, you only got your feelings hurt.



(The sound of the PRIEST'S voice may be heard from within the house as he starts intoning the marriage ceremony.)

PRIEST: Ego conjungo vos in matrimonium, in nomine Patris, et Filii, et Spiritus Sancti. Amen

(The DOC leads MARIE into the house while JOE hustles the guests straggling homeward. Among the guests are the CITY BOY and the COUNTRY GIRL last seen heading for the barn. They have returned hand-in-hand across the stage, and we now observe that the COUNTRY GIRL has a good deal of straw stuck to her hair and the back of her dress.)

JOE: Okay, kids. Like the Doc says, go on home now. (They exit.)

(A GUEST comes out of the house bearing the battered truck door and props it up against the little picket fence. We now see the lettering painted on it. "Tony Esposito, Proprietor". Now JOE is alone on stage. Moodily, he picks up the travel bag he had put down earlier. There is bitter disappointment on his face as he stares at it. HERMAN comes out of the house, and crossing behind JOE, observes his evil mood.)

PRIEST: Adjutorium nostrum in nomine Domini qui fecit caelum et terram. Domine, exaudi, orationem meam et clamor meus (Music begins when JOE picks up travel bag.)



HERMAN: Well, Joey, it looks like you're gonna have to stick around now and run the ranch till Tony gets on his feet again.

(Suddenly, in great anger, JOE hurls the travel bag across the stage and it crashes against TONY'S truck door.)

JOE: Yeah, I know.

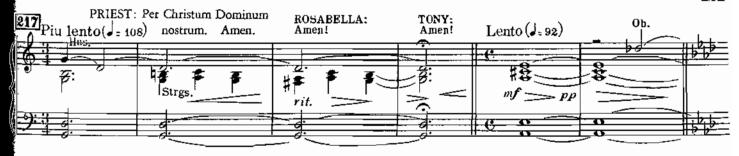
PRIEST: ad te veniat. Bene Dic Domine, annulum hunc, quem nos in tuo nomine bene dicimus. At que eum gestaverit



HERMAN: (Smiling, but reprovingly) The boss has treated you pretty good, Joey. (HERMAN exits, as JOE, in resignation, lights a cigarette, ambles across the stage and sits down on a beer keg. At this point we hear the final words of the PRIEST, ROSA-BELLA and TONY within the house.)

PRIEST: fidelitatem integram suo sponso tenens. In pace et voluntate tua permaneat Atque in mutua caritate semper vivat



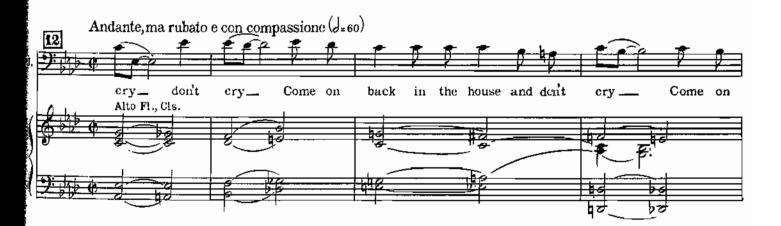


DON'T CRY

(As JOE sits glumly on the beer keg, ROSABELLA reappears on the porch. Slowly she crosses it, slipping off the shawl and letting it drop to the ground. Limp and forlorn, she walks across the yard toward the rocking-chair which has been overturned by the rushing CROWD. JOE watches as she kneels by the chair and sobs. Night has now fallen fully and the decorative lights have been turned out leaving the scene with an ominous bluish feeling. JOE has gotten up from the beer keg and now looks at ROSA-BELLA with a degree of sympathy.)











JOE: (Reassuringly) And you'll never be sorry. (He turns her toward him and holds her. This time with an attitude a little-stronger than one of brotherly sympathy. ROSABELLA senses this and tries to wriggle away.)

ROSABELLA: Take your hands off me!

JOE: (Taking her closer in his arms again) You know I had nothing to do with that photograph.

ROSABELLA: No, but you're laughing about it.

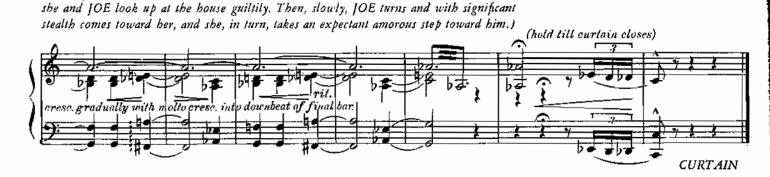
JOE: No, kid, no.

ROSABELLA: Inside you're laughing about how I got myself stuck with a — (She looks up at IOE'S face. There is a brief, significant silence. Suddenly a strange discomfort tells her to end it and she breaks away.) Take your hands off me!









ACT TWO

PRELUDE





SCENE ONE

A clearing at the edge of TONY'S vineyard. It is morning, a week later. The vines in the distance are pruned quite low. As the curtain rises, we see the vineyard WORKERS busy at various chores. Some are passing large grain sacks to each other, while some are sawing logs, honing axes, painting wooden stakes, etc. A couple of FARM WOMEN are seen, one with a wash basket, the other busy with a piece of embroidery. Downstage, we see a community water pail with the handle of a dipper protruding from it. Nearby sits ROSABELLA busily operating a foot pedal sewing-machine of the period. The entire scene is one of continual industrious activity.

FRESNO BEAUTIES



















(The WORKERS and the WOMEN start to gather up their tools and filter offstage to the left leaving ROSABELLA at her machine. As the last worker exits behind her, THREE NAPA BIDDIES enter from the right and pass before her. They stop as they hear something offstage to the left.)



(The DOC enters pushing a wheelchair bearing a very much bandaged TONY. His left leg is in a cast and his left arm is in splints. Through the opening in his Navajo wool bathrobe may be seen the corner of a chest bandage. Across his lap is spread a blanket. His undamaged right arm gesticulates wildly brandishing a folded newspaper at the DOC.)

TONY: Ma che specie di medico e? Sono incarcerato! Maledetto dottore! (The THREE BIDDIES watch and listen to the tirade.) Hey! Dottore! What da hell you say? Twelve weeks?

DOC: (Nodding confirmation) Twelve weeks.

TONY: (Flabbergasted) Twelve weeks? Ma che brutta sorte! Ma che specie di medico e? (The THREE BIDDIES have gathered at the wheelchair attempting to soothe TONY.)

BIDDIES: Good morning, Tony.

TONY: Good-a mornin'? E's-a son-a-bitch-a mornin'! (The BIDDIES back away shocked at his language.) He says omma gotta stay in da wheelchair for twelve weeks. Twelve goddam weeks! (The BIDDIES retreat and disappear, passing ROSA-BELLA, who remains to observe TONY'S impatient scene with the DOC.) A ci picchia! Caspita! (Tony throws the newspaper down on the floor with disgust. Then he throws the blanket to the ground.) Orrore! Maledette dottore! Omma-no sick! Hurry up quick! Gimme da medicine, gimme da pills!

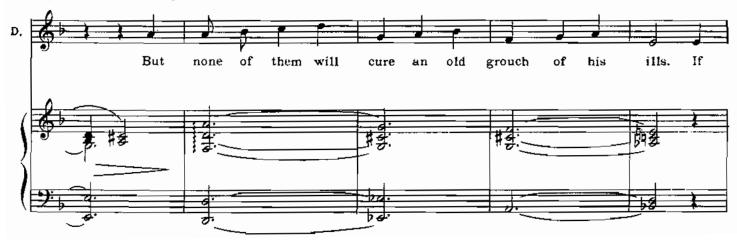
DOC: (Soothing him) Take it easy, please.

TONY: (Struggling to get out of his chair) Omma no care!

DOC: Please, Tony!



(ROSABELLA has gotten up and retrieved the newspaper. TONY, facing the other way, is not aware of her presence.)

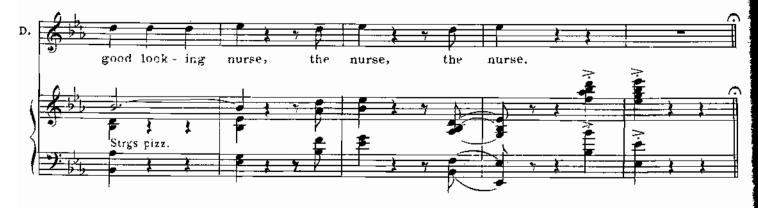




rit.







(The DOC exits leaving the scene to an embarrassed ROSABELLA and a sheepish TONY.)

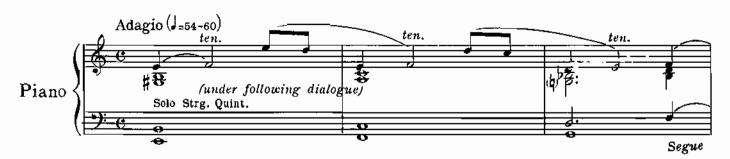
TONY: (After a pause, awkwardly) Hey!

ROSABELLA: (Softly) Yes?

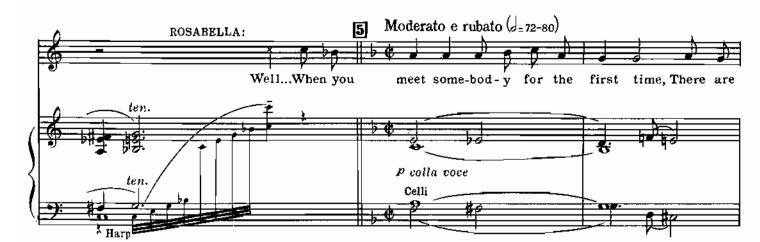
TONY: You mad at me? (ROSABELLA does not answer.) Omma send you wrong fella's pitch. If I was-a send you my pitch you no come here. No? (He waits through a thoughtful silence.) Omma sorry about da pitch.

ROSABELLA: (Correcting him) Picture.

HAPPY TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE



TONY: (Trying to say it) Picture. (ROSABELLA smiles a little smile at his effort. He is encouraged.) We friends now, huh? (ROSABELLA smiles a little more.) (Extending his good hand) We start all over. Okay? Omma meet you for da first time? Hallo! (THEY shake hands. It is a little over-vigorous for ROSABELLA, but she accepts it with good humor.)











ROSABELLA: That's very good. Very — (ROSABELLA is startled to see CICCIO enter and cross the stage carrying a suitcase and a pair of strangely familiar shoes with which he is beckoning someone on. A moment later CLEO appears in her stockinged feet, otherwise dressed in her best.)



CLEO: Hello, honey. What's the matter? You look like you didn't expect me?

TONY: (Beaming) Surprise!

ROSABELLA: What happened? Why is she here?

TONY: I send for her. I give her job pastin' labels on my grape boxes.

CLEO: No walking, It's in my contract,

TONY: 'At's-a right. Sit down all day.

CLEO: All day.

ROSABELLA: Gosh, I'm glad to see you!

CLEO: And me, you.

ROSABELLA: That's a new outfit, Turn around, (CLEO turns around modeling it.)

CLEO: Like it?

ROSABELLA: What did you do to your hair?

CLEO: I rinsed it in the Friday Special.

TONY: Hey, now you got old friend keep you company. (Nudging ROSABELLA) Do

like you say — "intrafaduce" me,

ROSABELLA: Oh, I'm sorry. Cleo, this is Tony. (CLEO and TONY shake hands.)

CLEO: How are you?







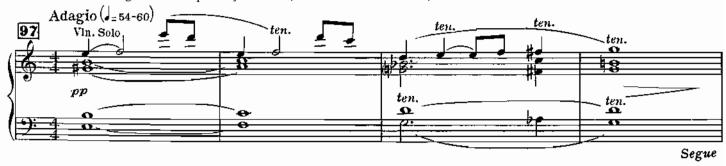
TONY: Oh, Marie. (To CLEO) At's-a my sister, Marie.

CLEO: Oh, I'm happy to make your acquaintance.

TONY: (To ROSABELLA) See? She catch on quick, too.

MARIE: (To CLEO) I'll take you into the house.

CLEO: Thanks, I'll get cleaned up. See you later! (MARIE and CLEO exit.)



ROSABELLA: Tell me something? Why did you send for Cleo?

TONY: (A little shyly) Ma, I was-a t'ink maybe you lonesome.

ROSABELLA: (Thoughtfully) Oh.

TONY: So omma send for you friend you was-a tell me about.



ROSABELLA: (After a pause) You know something? I'm not so lonesome. I guess I like it here.

TONY: (Beaming) 'At's-a nice.

ROSABELLA: And you know something else? (She is now kneeling close to the wheel-chair.) You're a nice kind man. (She gently puts her hand on his arm. He, in turn, slowly puts his hand over hers as they smile companionably at each other.)



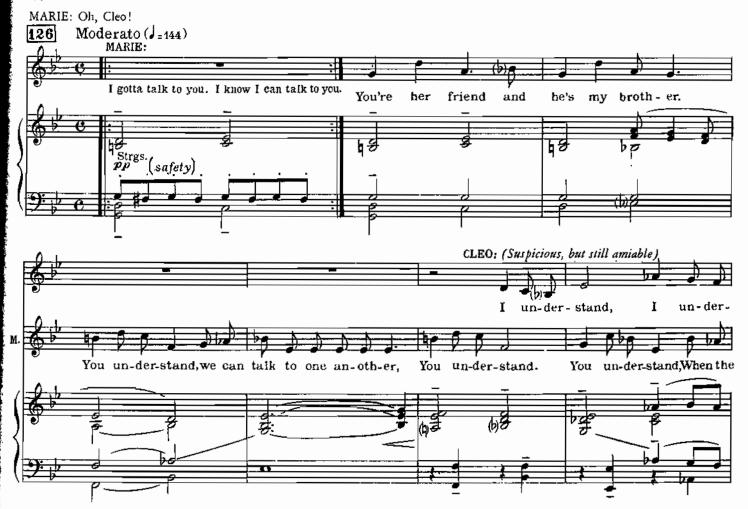




(PASQUALE, GIUSEPPE and CICCIO enter carrying a cross-legged make-shift table. PASQUALE carries a sack of silver dollars and a pistol. As GIUSEPPE and CICCIO set the table down. PASQUALE fires a shot in the air, and places the money sack on the table.)

WORKERS VOICES: (Offstage, approaching) Pay day! There's Pasquale with the money bags!

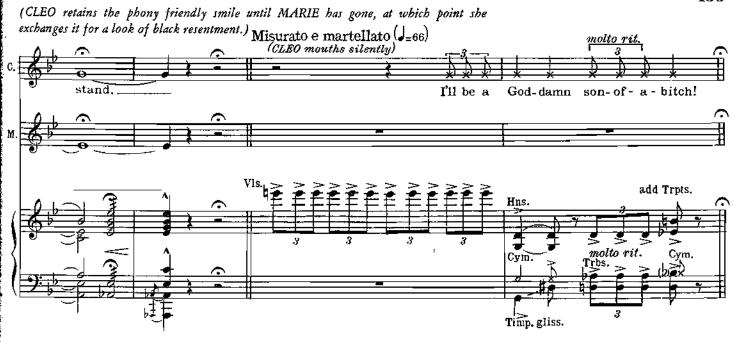
(HERMAN is the first in line at the pay table as the workers quickly assemble behind him. The first one of these jocularly grabs HERMAN'S hat and tosses it away. HERMAN, good-naturedty, retrieves his hat, but now cannot get back in place in the pay-line and must go all the way to the end of it. He accepts this joke smilingly. CLEO enters from the house, having changed her clothes. She is gratified to see so many ablebodied men in the vicinity, but is interrupted in her musing on the subject as MARIE appears behind her.)









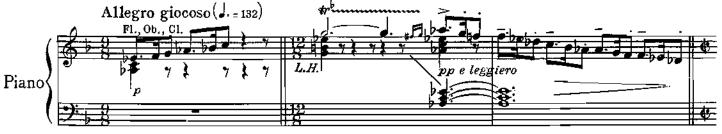


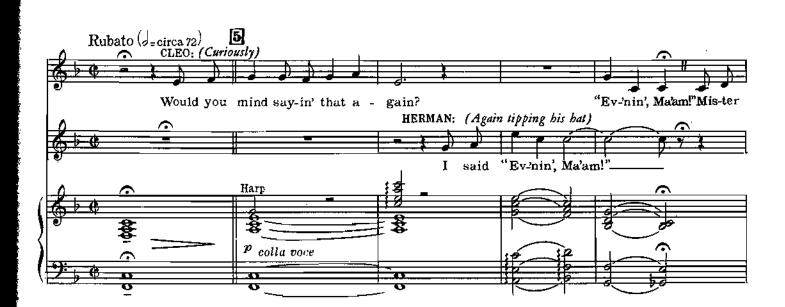
(During the scene the pay line has gradually shortened, finally leaving HERMAN the last payee on the stage. Now pocketing his money, he crosses toward center and almost bumps into CLEO stalking angrily from the opposite direction. They narrowly miss a collision, at which point, HERMAN politely lifts his hat and smiles.)

BIG D

HERMAN: Ev'nin' Ma'am.

(CLEO acknowledges this as they pass each other. Then, each is suddenly arrested by a thought. They reverse their steps until they are standing close together.)























(The VINEYARD WORKERS, attracted by the sound of CLEO and HERMAN'S Texas-style meeting, come in and start gathering curiously around the couple.)



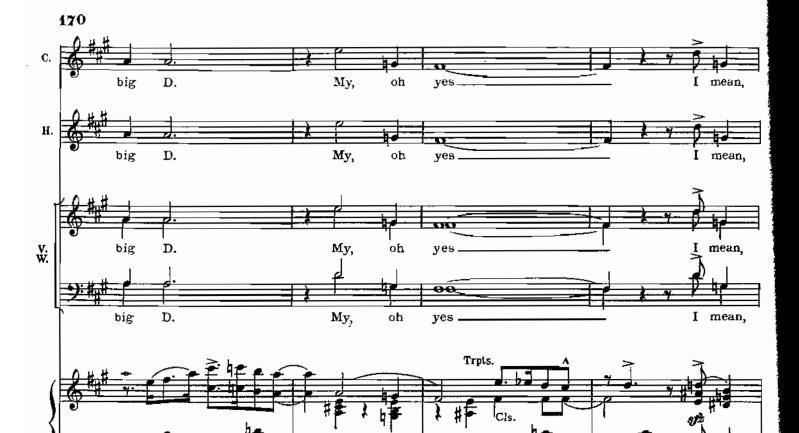




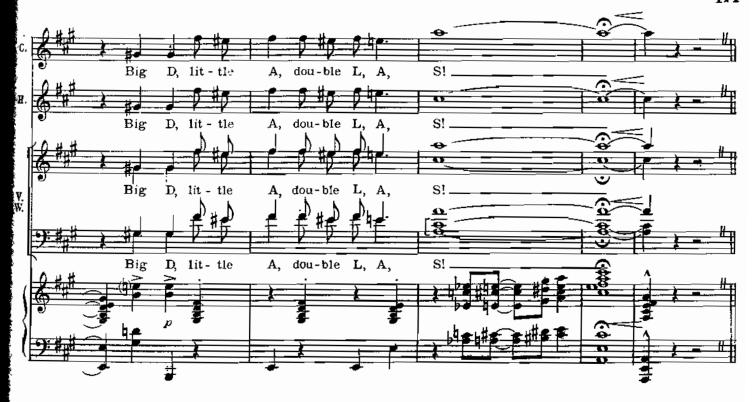












(The WORKERS dance off to the right and left. CLEO and HERMAN retreat upstage



through the barn doors, which now close in front of them. After a brief pause, these



doors open just far enough to reveal the picture of CLEO and HERMAN enjoying an



affectionate kiss. Now they turn, startled at being observed by the audience, and hasten to shut the barn doors once more — setting the stage for —

the barn a little later in May. There are patches of sunlight filtering through a gay pattern of leaves and striking the left barn door with a happy golden midday light. Into this area ROSABELLA enters wheeling on TONY. TONY is draped in a white sheet from which protrudes one leg still in a cast, and one shirt-sleeved arm with which he holds a small hand mirror. Now ROSABELLA produces scissors and a comb and proceeds to give his hair a trim. Apparently they are continuing an Italian lesson.

HOW BEAUTIFUL THE DAYS

TONY: Domenica.

ROSABELLA: Domenica.

TONY: 'At's-a mean Sunday, Monday, at's-a Lunedi.

ROSABELLA: Lunedi.

TONY: An' today is Tuesday. 'At's-a Martedi.

ROSABELLA: Martedi. Do you mean to say it's Martedi already? (Now sort of

dreamily) Whatever happened to Lunedi?

TONY: (Happily puzzled) Maybe today is Lunedi? Omma don' know.

ROSABELLA: (Aniably mimicing his accent) Omma don' care! (BOTH smile up at the sky.)















(ROSABELLA wheels the chair back and off to the left, as the leafy daylight glow dims and the barn doors open once more revealing —

SCENE THREE

the vineyards a month later. We see that the vines in the distance have grown much higher and greener. Into the scene come the boys and girls of the younger set of workers dancing and cavorting with youthful abandon. TONY appears in the wheelchair pushed on by the DOC. He is in better shape now with only a sling in which to rest his left arm and a small cast on his foot replacing the huge one that covered the entire leg. TONY beams appreciatively as he watches the antics of the YOUNG PEOPLE.)











(A BOY and GIRL beckon ROSABELLA to join the dance. Momentarily she hesitates. Urged again, she accepts. And while TONY waves his indulgent consent, the BOY whirls her away into the dancing group. Now the entire body of dancers sweep merrily offstage as TONY waves good-naturedly after them.)



YOUNG PEOPLE

(MARIE comes behind TONY'S chair.)

MARIE: (Smiling) Just look at 'em. Don't they look young and healthy dancing all over the place? Seems like it happens around here the same way every spring.



MARIE: They're supposed to be in the barn nailing the boxes, but I guess you just can't hold them young kids down.





MARIE: You mean they're sorry for old people. (Now significantly) And for people who can't get around.



(The dancing GROUP reappears with ROSABELLA, as MARIE leaves TONY with a look of sadness and doubt on his face.)

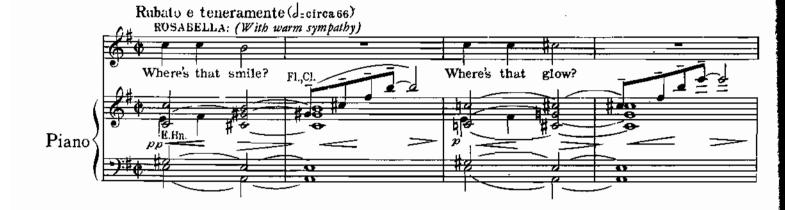


(ROSABELLA notices TONY'S depression and with concern comes over to him, abandoning her dancing friends who once more sweep offstage.)

Segue



WARM ALL OVER









(TONY has managed a feeble smile as he looks up at ROSABELLA who is now very close to him. The smile vanishes, however, as the YOUNG PEOPLE reappear and take ROSABELLA off, despite an apparent reluctance on her part to leave TONY.)







(Once more ROSABELLA returns with the crowd of YOUNG PEOPLE, whirling gaily in the arms of one of the boys.)







(TONY despondently watches the gay, youthful scene. He nods and waves to the whirling ROSABELLA. She is too engrossed in the innocent hi-jinks to see that TONY'S smile is one of feeble resignation. The lights dim as the barn doors close.)



SCENE FOUR

Inside the barn. HERMAN pushes on a dolly containing up-ended empty grape crates. On the right side of the surface formed by the crates, at about desk height, is a stack of box labels. To the left is a glue pot. CLEO has come riding on, seated on the dolly behind the crates. She is wearing a green working smock and holds a glue brush in her left hand. Having pushed the dolly to a point near center stage, HERMAN walks over and stands behind CLEO.

HERMAN: Now you've got to look out for this label glue 'cause it's real sticky ol' stuff. (CLEO'S reaction is one of pleased curiosity.) Now first you dip your brush over here in the sticky ol' stuff—(HERMAN guides her left hand with his, pushing it right across her body toward the glue pot. This puts them in what might be called a huggy position and CLEO starts to enjoy it. HERMAN now belps her dip the brush in the pot.)—but don't forget to shake it out like this—(HERMAN illustrates and the shaking process becomes very interesting to CLEO. HERMAN hastens to explain) You don't want to get too much glue on the brush. (He gives the brush and CLEO another few shakes.)

CLEO: I didn't quite get that. I think you better show me again.

HERMAN: (Repeating the same business) You don't want to get too much glue on the brush.

CLEO: I'm not very bright. I think you better show me slower. (His right hand now guides her right hand across her body to the left toward the labels. They are now really in quite a clinch. Now they place a label on one of the crates in front of them.)

HERMAN: Now you go 'way over here and grab a label — Then —

CLEO: (Breathlessly) Yeah . . . (Still guiding her hand, he withdraws the brush and swabs a crate surface three times. This results in a swinging amorous development of the clinch.)

HERMAN: You go . . . mm — mm — mm

CLEO: (Repeating the action but with a dreamy emphasis) Mm - mm - mm

HERMAN: Then you put the brush back — (He guides the brush to the pot, which returns them to their huggy position.)

CLEO: (Beaming) Yeah, don't forget to put the brush back. (HERMAN now guides both her hands toward the corners of the label.)

HERMAN: Now you pick up the label. Easy now. Look out for that sticky ol' stuff . . . and you slip it over on the crate . . . and then you smooth it out . . . (He guides her hands in these movements.) and now you wipe off all the sticky ol' stuff . . . (Still guiding her hands he does a gentle but candid wiping-off job on her bosom. CLEO does not know whether to be shocked or pleased. So she remains a little of both.) . . . and there you are: "Esposito Ranch". (HERMAN gazes fondly at the legend on the label. CLEO also gazes.)

CLEO: God bless our home.

(HERMAN finally releases her hands and crosses behind her toward center stage.)

HERMAN: Now do you want to try it alone?

CLEO: (Shaking her head in a slow definite "No") Mmm-mm - mm -

(PASQUALE enters from the left feeling his pockets for a cigarette and is annoyed at not finding one.)

HERMAN: Oh, hello, Pasquale.

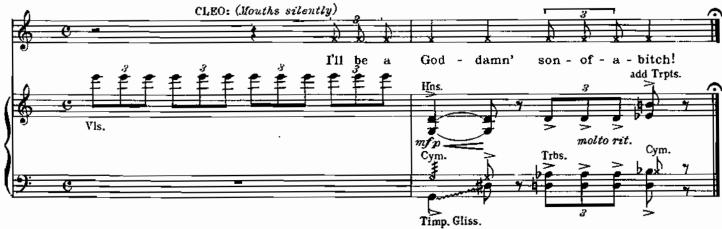
(PASQUALE stops to feel HERMAN'S pockets and locates a cigarette pack which he extracts while HERMAN stands smiling complacently. PASQUALE takes the last cigarette and throws the crumpled pack to the floor. Now snapping his fingers he demands a match. HERMAN eagerly obliges, strikes it and hands it to PASQUALE who lights his cigarette and throws the burned match to the floor. Now he takes a deep drag from the cigarette, which makes him cough. He gives HERMAN a resentful look, crushes out the cigarette on one of the crates and tosses the crumpled butt to the floor. Now he crosses to the little hinged door, which he opens and from behind it he retrieves a dustpan and broom which he hands to HERMAN, who accepts it pleasantly.)

PASQUALE: (Indicating the mess on the floor) Spazzate!

HERMAN: Why, sure.

(PASQUALE exits and HERMAN begins to sweep up. CLEO has been watching the scene with rising indignation.)

Misurato e martellato (1:66)



HERMAN: Did you say something?

CLEO: (Angrily getting up) Herman, what's the matter with you? Don't you ever get mad at anybody?

HERMAN: No, can't say that I do, darlin'.

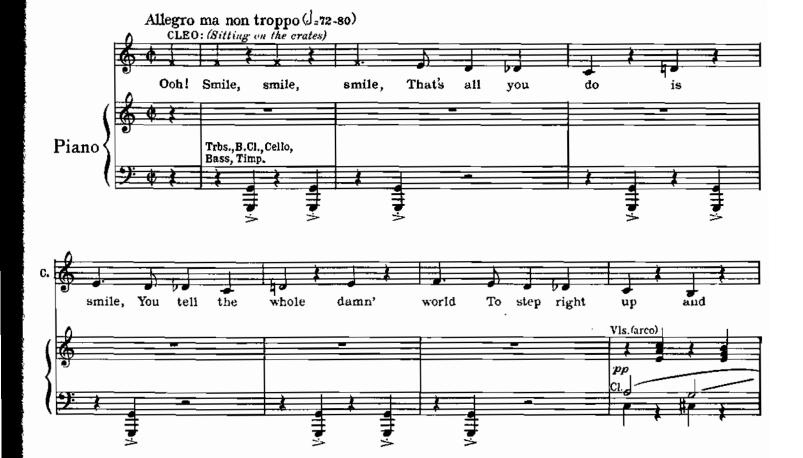
CLEO: Why do you let that guy push you around?

HERMAN: Nobody's pushing.

CLEO: But you let everybody push you around. Like Pasquale just now.

HERMAN: He's not pushing me. I like him. (He smiles broadly.)

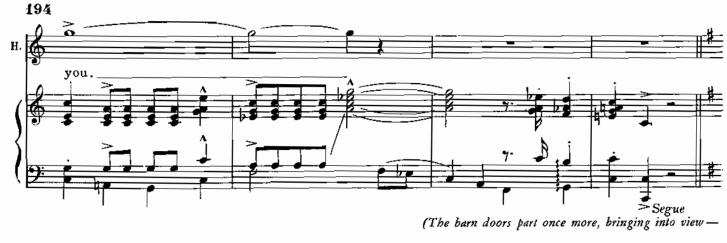
I LIKE EV'RYBODY











SCENE FIVE

The vineyards. It is an afternoon in July. The harvest has been picked and we see in the foreground baskets of freshly gathered grapes. The wheelchair stands, now empty, at center stage. JOE enters from the left dressed once again for traveling and carrying the leather bag. He scans the horizon as he slowly crosses the stage.)

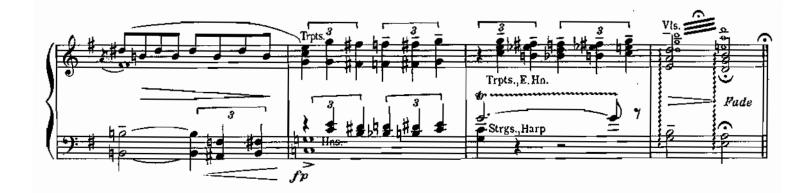






(When he reaches the wheelchair, he gives it a farewell look, and then once more gazing off into the distance, he slowly exits to the right. A moment later CLEO and ROSABELLA enter from the left. ROSABELLA is wearing the wedding shawl. CLEO walks over to the wheelchair and gaily spins it around.)





CLEO: Isn't it wonderful? The doctor's got him on his feet teaching him to walk again.

(ROSABELLA sits disconsolately in the wheelchair.)

ROSABELLA: I wish he'd teach him to walk toward me.

CLEO: (Sitting on the wheelchair arm) What's the matter with you, honey?

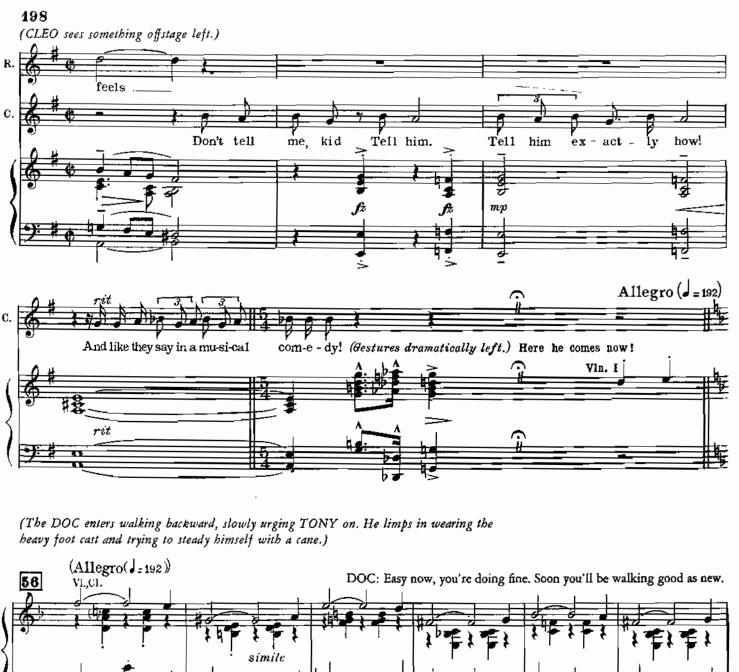
ROSABELLA: Oh nothing -- nothing at all, it's just that --

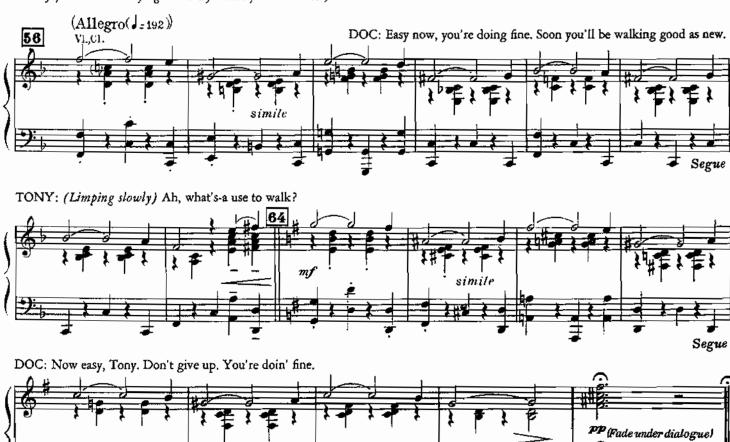
CLEO: What is it?



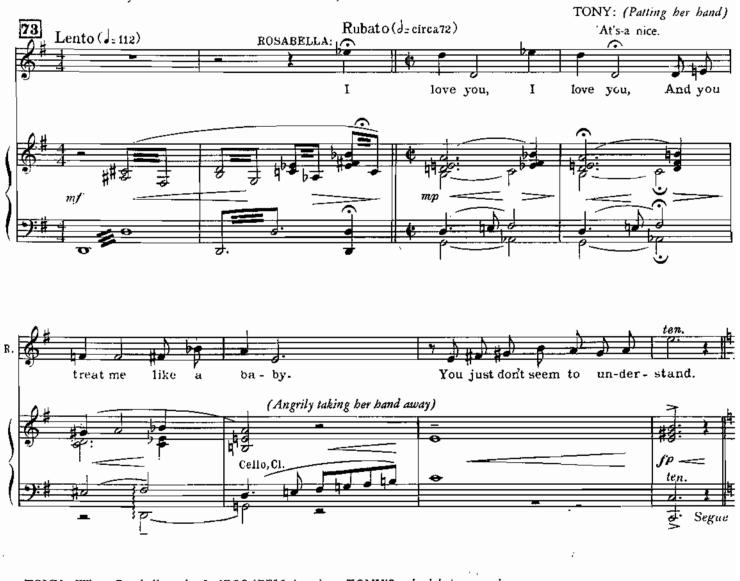








TONY: (Disgustedly) Ah, lemme sit down. (TONY collapses into the wheelchair. CLEO takes the DOC by the arm and walks him offstage.) What's-a use to walk? I ain't goin' no place. (ROSABELLA remains somewhat upstage and to the left of TONY. She has an attitude of determination as she looks at him. TONY turns to speak to her and notices this.) Hey, Rosabella, what's-a matter? You look at me like-a you was... (ROSABELLA violently tears off the shawl and throws it to the ground. Then with steady determination, advances on TONY.)



TONY: What, Rosabella, what? (ROSABELLA swings TONY'S wheelchair around from left to right and stands close to him.)



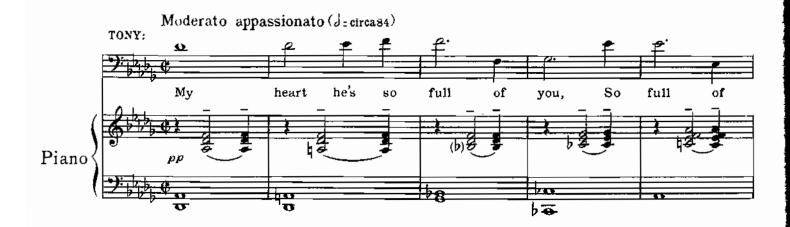




(They are now standing in a semi-clinch. Once on his feet, TONY seems to have lost his awkwardness. He is experiencing a great exhilaration.)



MY HEART IS SO FULL OF YOU

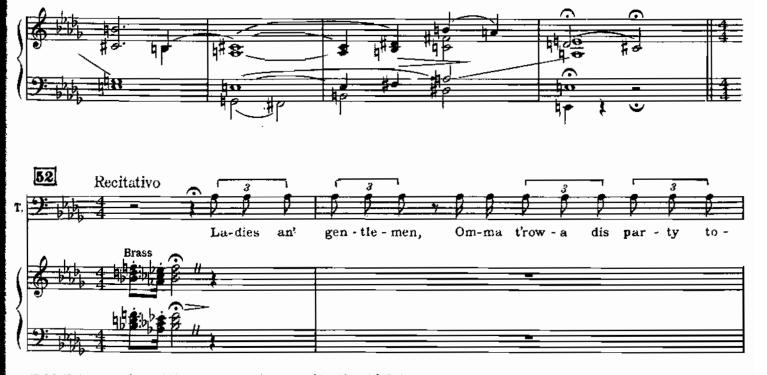








TONY: (Coming out of the clinch) Carissima! I wanna tell everybody. Everybody in da whole beautiful world! Tonight we give-a big party. Da Sposalizio! Everybody was-a miss da Sposalizio ficause I was-a have accidente. Now, tonight, we gonna have it. (TONY goes upstage as ROSABELLA runs left to retrieve his cane.) Then omma gonna get up an' make a speech. A speech like-a dis:



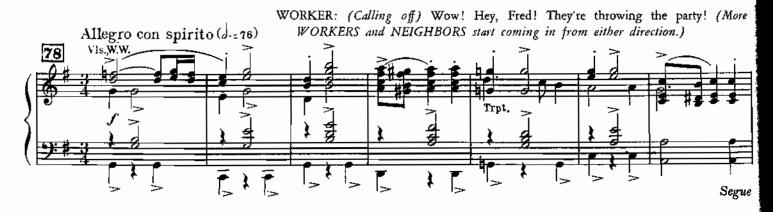
(ROSABELLA picks up TONY'S cane and runs to his side with it.)





(They embrace passionately, TONY sees someone offstage. A few WORKERS enter happily.)

TONY: (Shouting) Hey, paesan! We gonna have big party tonight! Tell everybody come. We gonna have da Sposalizio!



WOMAN: Did you hear that? Tony and Rosabella's party!

YOUNG MAN: They're finally going to have the big feed!

MOTHER: Alice! Get somebody to mind the kid!

MAN: (Shouting to TONY) Hey, Tony, you're a great guy! Thanks for the invite!

ANOTHER MAN: Atta boy, Esposito!

YOUNG MAN: What a night this is gonna be! Anybody feel like dancing?

FIRST GIRL DANCER: Yeah!

SECOND GIRL DANCER: Hooray! Let's go! THIRD GIRL DANCER: Come on, Rosabella!



(The scene fills with WORKERS and NEIGHBORS and there begins a festive sort of hoe-down to which TONY and ROSABELLA contribute. TONY wheeling himself in the chair through the intricate formations with great gaiety.)

















(The dance features various stunts of a rough bucolic nature. One of these involves tossing young ladies high in the air, catching them and whirling them around. The strong young farm hands toss the first girl up, to the wild applause of the gathered crowd. Then the second girl. Finally, it is ROSABELLA'S turn. She is lifted high in the air for the toss. We notice that she seems uncomfortable and dizzy. Just before she is to be tossed, she collapses and falls lifelessly toward the ground. One of the farm boys catches her just in time. There is a shocked silence. TONY wheels over in alarm.)



TONY: Rosabella! What's-a matter? You get hurt! (ROSABELLA is coming to.)

CLEO: (Calling offstage) Doc! Oh, Doc! (The DOC appears.) Doc! She almost fainted.

DOC: Better come with me, young lady, and let's have a look at you. (The DOC helps ROSABELLA to her feet and leads her off. They are followed by CLEO.)

TONY: (Angrily to the group of WORKERS): Hey! What's-a matter! Too much rough-house! You hurt my Rosabella! You make-a my Rosabella sick! Se sei un stupido cavallone non tentare di fare troppo il furbone. (Still furious) 'At's-a mean — if you big clumsy farm horse — nunja try jump around like li'l circus pony!

(Some of the WORKERS ease away sheepishly.)

FIRST WORKER: We're sorry, Tony.

SECOND WORKER: We were only playing, Tony. Just having fun.

THIRD WORKER: I'm sorry, Tony.

TONY: (Still seemingly angry) Andate a lavarci e ci vediamo stassera a la festa. (Now be breaks into a smile.) 'At's-a mean go tell Joe give you half-day off. Wash-a you hands an' face an' come to da party tonight.

THIRD WORKER: Thanks, Tony. (The remaining GROUP smiles in relief as they exit.)

TONY: (Calling off) Doc! Oh, Doc! My Rosabella she get hurt? Huh? (The DOC re-enters slowly and thoughtfully.)

DOC: (He speaks hesitantly) Just a little dizzy from all the excitement.

TONY: Dizzy! My Rosabella she dizzy, huh? Ma she's-a okay, huh, Doc?

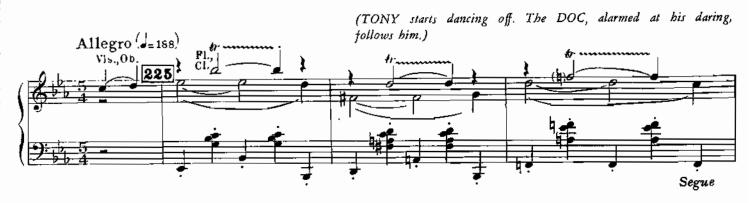
DOC: (Evasively) Just dizzy.

TONY: (Getting out of the wheelchair) She's-a no gotta have medicine? (The DOC crosses toward the left, shaking his head. TONY is following the DOC.)

TONY: I tell my Rosabella take it easy, huh, Doc?

DOC: (Absently) Yes. Sure. (The DOC observes that TONY is standing, leaning on his cane. Pointedly, with a sense of warning) You'd better sit down.

TONY: (Langhing confidently) Oh, no, Doc. Look-a me, omma no gonna sit down no more. (TONY does a little limping dance.) Tonight omma gonna dance.



(They exit. A moment later ROSABELLA enters slowly from the right. She is numb with distraction. CLEO enters behind her, with great concern. They stop near the wheelchair.)

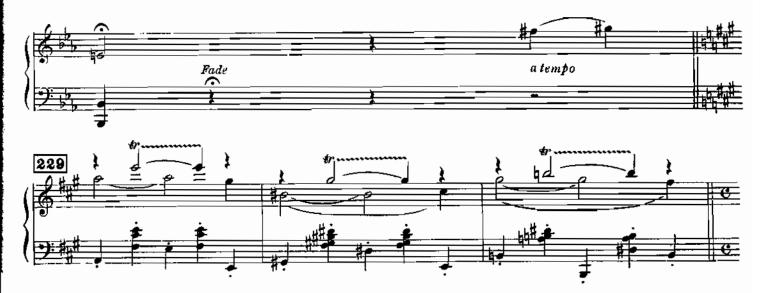
ROSABELLA: What am I going to do? Cleo, what am I going to do?

CLEO: (Lost) I don't know how it is. Don't ask me.

ROSABELLA: A baby!

CLEO: I don't know how it is, I just don't know.

ROSABELLA: Oh my God, a baby. (CLEO silences ROSABELLA with a gesture as TONY re-enters still doing his happy limping dance. As CLEO helps him to his chair, he sees ROSABELLA but does not notice her mood.)

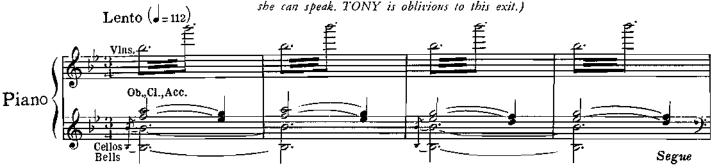


TONY: Rosabella, you feel better now, huh? Da Doc says you take it easy, so you go in da house an' rest so you feel good for da party tonight. (ROSABELLA comes slowly toward TONY, then crosses behind his chair and stops. CLEO has gone further to the left and watches apprehensively.)



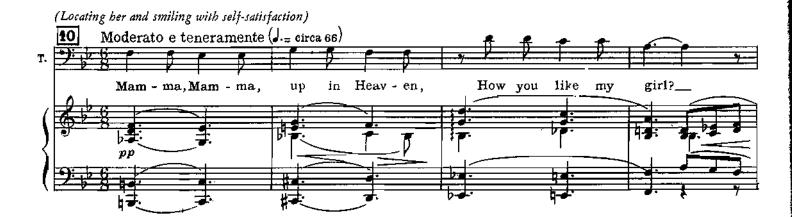
MAMMA, MAMMA

TONY: Ah, omma don' know, when omma look on my beautiful wife, omma so happy omma t'ink omma gonna bust. (Now seeing that ROSABELLA wants to tell TONY something, CLEO impetuously runs to her and hurries her out of the scene before she can sheek TONY is oblivious to this exit.)



TONY: Omma don' know why omma so lucky fella. (TONY comfortably seated in his wheelchair, full of the good feeling that the day has brought him, now looks up once more toward "Mamma".)











ACT THREE PRELUDE



PASQUALE, dressed in his cook's hat and apron, enters excitedly through the center of the show curtain and addresses members of the audience now returning from the intermission, urging them with eloquent gestures to hurry and take their seats.

PASQUALE: Eh! Signore! Signori! Venite tutti e! Venite dentro! La festa e pronta!

GIUSEPPE: (Joining PASQUALE on the left) Venite tutti e sedetevi!

CICCIO: (Joining them from the right) Vieni qua! Vieni qua! Eh! Paesan! Senti la











(The THREE SERVANTS wave the show curtain up, and there is revealed a section of TONY'S barn containing the huge wine vats, stored cheeses, etc. Upstage there is a wide aperture which allows us to see through the barn into a golden twilight sky. A crowd has already gathered in the barn, most of them seated on the floor or on kegs or boxes and conversing animatedly.)





(HERMAN is present, smiling as usual. A group of the boys, with PASQUALE as ringleader, surround HERMAN and quickly tie his arms to his sides with the string of electric bulbs which formerly spelled out "Welcome Rosabella". When they have tied him up securely, they put a basket over his head, and having accomplished this practical joke, the entire CROWD disperses leaving HERMAN to stagger helplessly around the barn bumping into things.)





HERMAN: (Pleading, but good-naturedly) Fellas? Hey, fellas. (CLEO enters furtively. She is dressed for travel and is carrying two suitcases, one is hers and the other is ROSABELLA'S. She puts them down as she sees HERMAN.) Hey, fellas! (CLEO comes over and lifts the wicker basket off HERMAN'S head.) (Pleasantly surprised) Hi, sweetheart. Look what happened to me! (He turns around to show her how he is tied up.)

CLEO: Shhh!

(CLEO now returns to the suitcases and hides them behind a pile of boxes at the left. HERMAN notices the luggage.)

HERMAN: Hey! Where you goin'?











(The WORKERS and NEIGHBORS come piling into the scene again full of horseplay and jocularity. TONY, leaning on his cane, limps amiably into the scene and is greeted by everyone. He is helped to a packing case where he sits. He is in shirt sleeves, carrying his jacket which he now places on a wooden saw horse next to him. CLEO has beat a retreat at the sight of TONY. The CROWD is babbling, dancing, climbing over the vats, and having a general good time, as the DOC enters the scene,)



DOC: Folks! (The babble subsides somewhat.) Folks! (The CROWD is now quiet.) Before the party begins, I've got a little suggestion to make. Tony and Rosabella haven't had a minute together all day, and it's his first time out of the wheelchair up and around. It's really like the beginning of their honeymoon together... and as I said, before you folks start trampling all over their house, drinking their wine, singing loud songs in their ears and keeping them up late... why don't we all kinda take a walk down to Clancy's Bar and give them a little time alone together? (There is murmured agreement from the CROWD, most of which has now formed a group among the wine vats upstage of TONY and the DOC.) Just the two of them. I think they'd like that, I think they need to be alone right now. It's that kind of night. A beautiful night. You can hear it in the air.

SONG OF A SUMMER NIGHT















(The DOC and others gently pull the barn doors shut. TONY and ROSABELLA are alone together. TONY notices her traveling clothes.)

TONY: Carissima! What's-a matter you ain't dressed for da party?

ROSABELLA: Tony . . . I'm not going to be at any party.

TONY: What? (He laughs.)

ROSABELLA: Tony, listen to me. I've got to tell you something. Something terrible.

(She goes to a packing case and sits down.)

TONY: Nunja tell me not'ing terrible, Rosabella.

ROSABELLA: I'm . . . going away. I'm leaving here.

TONY: (Incredulous) You go 'way?

ROSABELLA: When I tell you what happened, it's going to hurt you something awful.

TONY: What? Rosabella? Where you go?

ROSABELLA: When I tell you the truth you'll throw me out anyhow.

TONY: Da trut'? What's-a matter? What's-a happen?

ROSABELLA: (After a deadly pause) Tony . . . I'm gonna . . . have a baby. (There is a silence during which TONY only half believes what he has heard. At the same time, if he has indeed heard it, he realizes that he couldn't possibly be the father.)

TONY: (Deadly) Cos' hai detto?

ROSABELLA: I'm gonna have a baby. I had to tell you the truth. I just had to. I guess I could have just run away, but I...

TONY: (Interrupting with a wild shout) Who? (He now grabs her right shoulder. Louder) Who?

ROSABELLA: (After a silence) Joe.

(TONY is shaken. He loses his balance from the shock and staggers backward.)

TONY: Joe! Dio! Dio mio!

ROSABELLA: It just happened, that's all. It was . . . crazy.

TONY: (Full of urath) You been Joe's woman!

ROSABELLA: It was crazy.

TONY: You been goin' in da bed wit' Joe!

ROSABELLA: (Interrupting) It didn't mean anything to me. I sweat I haven't even spoken alone to Joe since that night.

TONY: What night?

ROSABELLA: (After a pause, ashamed) Our wedding night, The night I came here.

TONY: (Raising his cane to hit her) Goddamn you! (He hesitates, unable to strike her, and in his frustration stomps over to the wooden saw-horse at center and knocks it over with his cane.) (Deadly) Get out!

(ROSABELLA gets up slowly. She takes the amethyst tie-pin from the lapel of her coat and walks toward the overturned wooden saw-horse.)

ROSABELLA: (Meekly) Here's the tie-pin back. (She stoops to pin it on to the coat.)

When you left it for me, it mean't you kind of trusted me. I wasn't worth it. (She gets up and walks to where her suitcase has been hidden. The anguished TONY stands rigid and speechless facing away from her. She comes back with the suitcase and starts to walk past him.)

PLEASE LET ME TELL YOU







(TONY has not moved. ROSABELLA sadly exits to the right. A moment later CLEO enters from the left, picks up her suitcase and crosses following ROSABELLA'S exit. TONY remains in an abyss of gloom. PASQUALE enters from the left. One look at TONY tells him that something is wrong.)

PASQUALE: Ma che c'e'? Cos' e' successo? Sei pallido come un morto!

TONY: (Grimly) Pasquale. Tell Joe . . . get off my property! Digli d' allontanarsi subito!

PASQUALE: (Bewildered) Joe? Che cosa?

TONY: (More forcefully) Tell Joe get da hell off my land, off my ranch. Digli d'

allontanarsi. Subito!

PASQUALE: Ma . . . Joe he's-a go!

TONY: (Puzzled) He's-a go?

PASQUALE: Omma see Joe. Downtown.

TONY: Downtown?

PASQUALE: He was-a wait around da station for da train.

TONY: Now?

PASQUALE: . . . wit' da valigia . . . an' cioccolata! Big fancy box-a cioccolata candy!

TONY: (Seizing PASQUALE) Wit' da valigia? Da travel bag? - Adesso? Now?

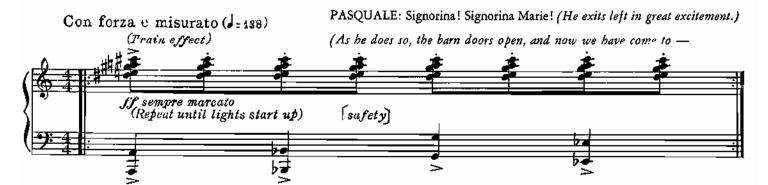
PASQUALE: Proprio! Adesso!

TONY: (Funing) She tol' me goddam lie! PASQUALE: (Frightened) Bada! Padrone!

TONY: (More forcefully) Dammela! Gimme da pistola!

PASQUALE: (Trying to retreat) No! Cosa vuoi fare? Padrone! (TONY grabs the pistol from PASQUALE'S holster, takes the jacket from the floor and puts the pistol in its pocket. TONY has now crossed to the right, his cane in one hand and the jacket over the other arm.) (Plaintively) Ma, dimmi cos' e' successo!

TONY: (Muttering as he exits) You wait, quul bestia . . . and you son-a-bitch I gonna catch up wit' you, an' you gonna die! (He limps off right while PASQUALE watches helplessly. In great panic, PASQUALE shouts off wildly to the left.)



SCENE TWO

The Napa depot a little later. Downstage to the left we see the back end of a rickety bus bearing the legend "Napa-San Francisco". Surrounding the bus are various pieces of luggage ready to be piled on the racks on its top. To the right, is the edge of the station building, and in the background we see the long shed-covered station platform itself against an ominous night sky. A station hand is standing on a pile of boxes at center waving a lantern, while a brakeman appears and carries away a packing case from the foreground. IOE appears with a young lady of the neighborhood hanging on to his arm. Under his other arm he carries a large fancy box of gift candy. AL, CLEM and IAKE follow behind IOE, who dismisses the young lady with a cool farewell. Now he turns to the boys.)

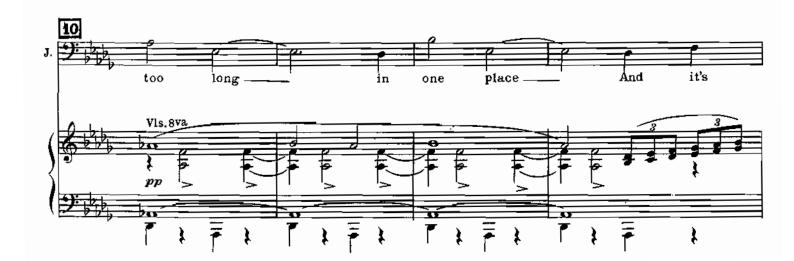


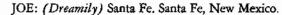
AL: So you're finally gettin' out of town. Huh, Joey?

CLEM: Yeah. Guess you've had enough of those Fresno Beauties.

JAKE: You been here almost a year.





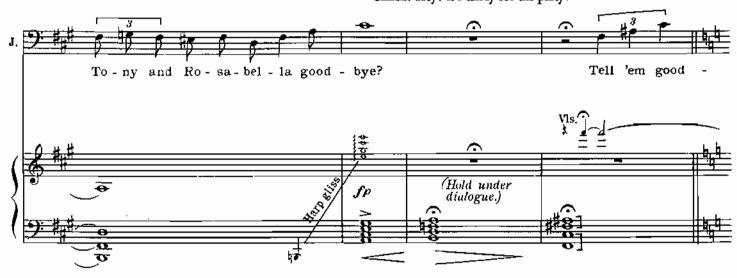




CLEM: Sure. (The other boys nod.)

JOE: This is for them. (JOE hands CLEM the box of candy.)









(The BOYS exit, waving after JOE. The BUS DRIVER appears from behind the bus as CLEO and ROSABELLA enter. CLEO takes ROSABELLA'S suitcase along with hers to him, setting both bags down among the assorted luggage.)

CLEO: Two for San Francisco, please. (CLEO and the BUS DRIVER go through the business of purchasing tickets and making change, while ROSABELLA remains at center stage, her face the picture of sadness and shame.)

BUS DRIVER: Bus leaves in about ten minutes, ma'am.

CLEO: (Returning to ROSABELLA) Go on, honey. Get in the bus. Get in the bus and wait for me. (She urges her toward the bus.) I've got to go find Herman and say goodbye. Go on, honey. Please. (ROSABELLA exits into the bus, while CLEO addresses CLEM, AL and JAKE, who have re-entered from the right.) Oh, fellers. Have you seen Herman?

BOYS: No, ma'am. Not this evenin'.

CLEM: He may be with Doc and the folks over to Clancy's. (He points.)

CLEO: Oh, Thanks (Now calling) Herman! Herman! (CLEO exits in the direction of Clancy's. The THREE BOYS now sit down on the bench alongside the station. TONY enters from the right. He is terribly worn out and even with the help of the cane he has difficulty walking, but there is great tension in his bearing and his left hand grips the pocket into which we saw him put the pistol.)

CLEM: (Spotting him) There's the boss. Look.

JAKE: Hey, what's the matter with him?

AL: Wonder what he's doin' way down here?

TONY: (Exhausted, but full of poisonous energy) Where's-a Joe?

JAKE: Joe just left town.

AL: Just a minute ago.

CLEM: Just went off on the southbound train. (TONY impulsively starts as if to pursue the train. Then he stops and turns to the boys searchingly.)

TONY: Who else was-a go? (The BOYS look at each other and shrug.)

CLEM: We didn't see nobody else but Joe.

AL: Say, Boss, Joe left you and the missus a message.

TONY: Me an' da missus?

JAKE: Yeah. He said to tell you goodbye for him.

CLEM: He said it smelled like the time he ought to be on his lonesome way.

AL: That's the way he told us.

CLEM: (Offering the box of candy) He left this for the both of you. (TONY, puzzled, retreats from the proffered candy box.)

AL: (Concerned) Hey, Boss. What's the matter?

JAKE: What are you doin' on your feet way down here away from the house?

CLEM: (Offering the box of candy again) Boss! Don't you want the candy?





(TONY recognizes ROSABELLA'S suitcase on the ground behind the bus. Slowly and painfully he climbs up behind the bus and looks through its back window, and for an intent moment, peers.)



(Then, climbing down, he lurches angrily forward toward the train station. Realizing the futility of any pursuit of IOE, he collapses wearily on a crate where he remains in piteous silence, thinking over the events of the past. The PRIEST and the DOC have entered, and from the shadows behind TONY, observe his desolate manner. Other TOWNSPEOPLE gather with them in the background and watch TONY for a moment, expressing curiosity and concern. Soon the PRIEST and the DOC gently shoo the TOWNSPEOPLE out of the scene and exit along with the last of them with the kindly purpose of leaving TONY with his thoughts, Presently the gloomy resignation on TONY'S face gives way to a look of realization.)











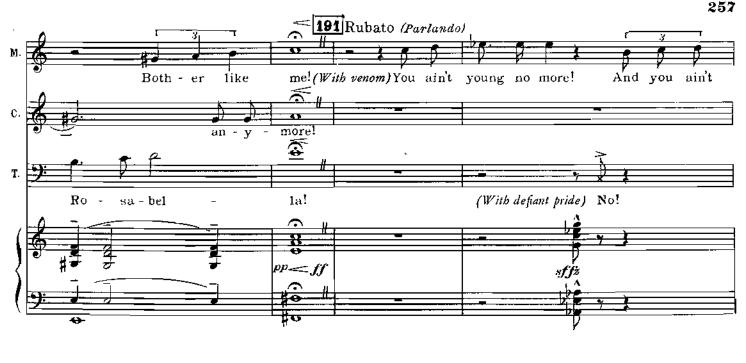














TONY: (Calm, powerful) Gimme my cane. (MARIE backs away a step.) Gimme my cane, Marie. (MARIE stands there.)

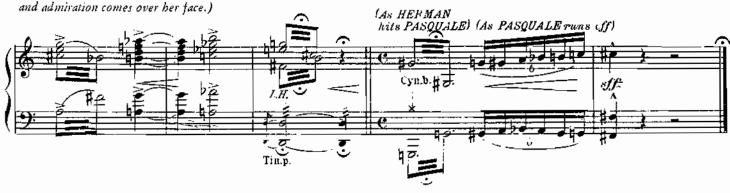
CLEO: (Strong and deliberate) Give him his cane!

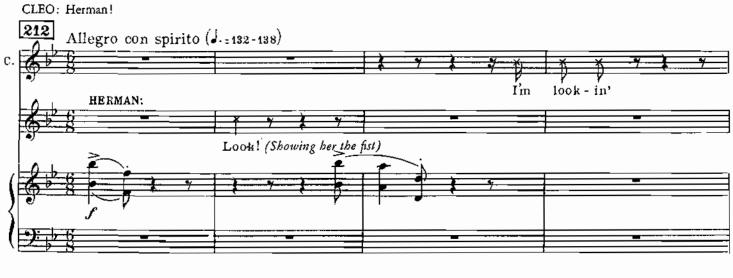


(As MARIE refuses, CLEO leaves TONY to lunge at MARIE. The two women struggle violently for the cane. PASQUALE enters and watches the scene, as CLEO finally grabs the cane and quickly hands it to the staggering TONY, who now uses it to walk off behind the bus. The enraged MARIE advances on CLEO and the fight continues, featuring hair-pulling, biting and screaming. PASQUALE steps in to separate the two tigresses and manages to push them apart. A glance toward the bus tells MARIE that she is defeated and she exits in tears. But CLEO, we notice, is sprawled on the ground, having been shoved a little too roughly by PASQUALE.)



(We also observe that HERMAN has entered and watched this ungentlemanly act, and that his face has an unusually dark and angry expression. Promptly he hauls off and slugs PASQUALE, who falls to the ground, HERMAN stands over him threateningly and PASQUALE heats a dazed and frightened retreat off. With growing wonder, CLEO has been watching. Now she looks at HERMAN'S still brandished fist and a look of surprise















(The BUS DRIVER re-enters and starts piling suitcases into the rack on top of the bus. ROSABELLA enters slowly and shamefacedly from the bus. She is followed by TONY. As he sees the BUS DRIVER starting to lift ROSABELLA'S luggage to the rack, he signals him to set it down. Now, gently, he approaches her. The BUS DRIVER has exited and they are alone.)

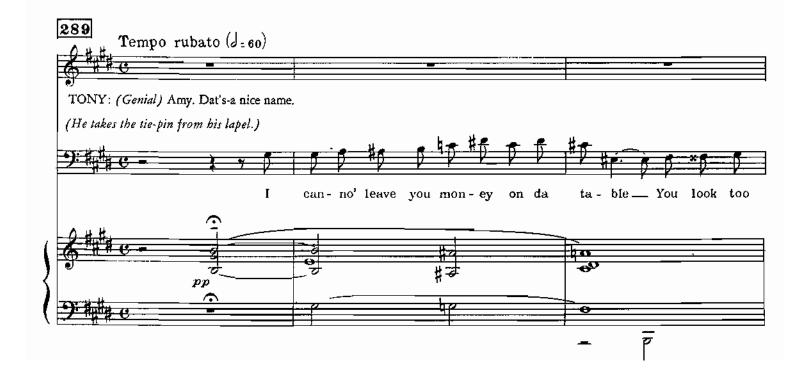


TONY: He's gonna be Tony's bambino. We tell ev'rybody he's-a Tony's bambino! Then ev'rybody say Tony is so goddam young an' strong he's-a break all his-a bones an' havin' baby jus' da same. Who's-a gonna know? Who?

ROSABELLA: (Guilty, apprehensively) You'll know . . . you'll know and you'll hate me, and you'll hate the baby. I'm . . . scared.

TONY: (Very gently) Nunja be scared, Carissima. It's-a bad to be scared. Me, Tony, I was-a scared one night last springtime. Omma scared to drive down da station to meet my Rosabella. Omma scared omma too old, an' omma talk funny. So omma drive da truck too fast an' have accidente. Maybe dat same night . . . dat same night last springtime you was-a be scared too an' you was have accidente. An' before dat, I was-a all da time scared. I was-a so scared omma send you wrong fella's pitch, pitch young handsome fella. First time omma see you in da ristorante in Frisco, I should-a no left a sneaky li'l note onna bill o' fare. I should-a knew what I want an' say what I want. Now, tonight, we start all over. (TONY takes his bandkerchief and dries the tears from ROSABELLA'S eyes. He then sits down on a crate, tucking his bandkerchief under his chin as he would a napkin.) I sit in da ristorante. You wait on me. Omma no scared. Omma say: Young lady — what's-a you name? (ROSA-BELLA falls in to the scene standing beside him as a waitress would while taking an order.)

ROSABELLA: (Meekly) Amy.







(They embrace as the DOC, the PRIEST, and the POSIMAN enter and watch the reunion. The POSIMAN gleefully blows his whistle summoning the TOWNSPEOPLE, who arrive and surround TONY and ROSABELLA. All are relieved now and gay at the happy turn of events.)

TONY: (Shouting to all) Hey! You late for da big party! Come on ev'rybody up to da house!!

CROWD: Hooray! Etc.

TONY: (Silencing the joyful exclamations) Ma, before we start... in case you was-a worry... ficause me an' Rosabella was-a have li'l argumente... (He embraces her closely, looking proudly at the crowd of TOWNSPEOPLE around them.) I wanna make big announcement...







