

MOZART

BASTIEN AND BASTIENNE

English Version by Donald Pippin

NARRATOR: The scene is a green blossoming meadow, bees buzzing, birds chirping and an imposing castle barely visible in the distant background. A sparkling spring day, but all is not well. Bastienne, an exceptionally pretty young shepherdess, is in tears, heartbroken at the recent behavior of her beloved Bastien. So much so that she is unable to find consolation even in her little sheep.

1. ARIA

BASTIENNE

Gone is my love;
I'm left forsaken.
Taken forever is sleep and rest.

Sad and distressed,
By loss oppressed,
Nothing can soothe my troubled breast.

Laden with grief
Beyond relief,
What can I fear
With death so near?

2. ARIA

BASTIENNE

I wander in the meadow forlorn
And seek a place to weep,
Not even finding comfort
In tending little sheep.

Loving in vain
Has brought nothing but pain.
All I know is torment and woe.
Loving in vain, only pain,
Tears of pain.
All I know is torment and woe.

NARRATOR: Colas, local philosopher, magician and fortune teller, enters playing on his bagpipe.

4. ARIA

COLAS

The fortune teller prophesies
The wonders of tomorrow.
But lovesick eyes cannot disguise
Their secret joy or sorrow.

No need for hunting high and low
To gather all I need to know.
I owe my reputation
To a loving generation.
For magic is a simple art
When youthful players take part.

NARRATOR: Into this learned and sympathetic ear, Bastienne pours out her agony and distress, leading to the unthinkable question.

5. ARIA

BASTIENNE

Bastien roaming in my garden
Stole a flower, but all in sport.
When he came to ask a pardon,
For his theft I gave my heart.

Can he now be fascinated
By the eyes of someone fair?
As I've plainly indicated
All I have I'd gladly share.
I have offered him my treasure,
Leaping lambs and fertile farms,
Though I'd feel but little pleasure
If he's in another's arms.
From my treasure little pleasure
If he's in another's arms.

NARRATOR: Colas has to break the bad news: her fears are well founded. Bastien has indeed left her for someone else. Worse yet, that someone is no less than the rich and elegant lady of the castle, who has lured him on with flattery and lavish gifts. Horrified, Bastienne undergoes an inner crisis that leads her to a conclusion from which we all might profit.

6. ARIA

BASTIENNE

**Were I like some other foolish lady,
Flattered by a stranger's charming smile,
I would seek my fortune in the city,
Stealing hearts and flirting all the while.
But I love my Bastien, oh so dearly!
All too clearly, him alone have I adored.**

**Now, now, now I know!
Even in my sad confusion,
I have come to one conclusion:
Virtue is its own reward.**

NARRATOR: Colas advises her that there is only one way to win back her faithless sweetheart: she must pretend to be equally fickle, let him know that two can play his game. In short, she must take up flirtation and frivolity, like the ladies in the city.

7. DUET

**COLAS: Bear in mind what I have told you;
All will surely turn out right.**

**BASTIENNE: Friend, in such regard I hold you,
I shall practice day and night.**

**COLAS: (So naïve! Ah, so naïve!)
Tears of sadness
We'll convert to smiles of gladness.
Go and flirt with a man or two.**

BASTIENNE: That is just what I must do.

COLAS: Go and flirt with some young man.

BASTIENNE: Yes indeed, I like the plan.

NARRATOR: Bastienne, greatly encouraged, goes off to work on her frivolity, and we finally meet the scoundrel who has cost her so many tears. Surprisingly, he turns out to be not the cold, callous brute we might have expected but a likable enough young fellow who has had his fling and has now come to a momentous decision.

8. ARIA

BASTIEN

Grateful thanks I come to offer,
Grateful thanks, good Colas, my wise old friend.
With maturity and vision
I have looked into my life,
And I've come to this decision:
Sir, I need a loving wife.

Other girls no longer matter,
For they only flirt and flatter.
Bastienna's lovely eyes
Tell me where my future lies.

NARRATOR: Once again, Colas is the bearer of bad news: too late. Bastien has missed the boat. Bastienne has moved on, found new interests, *and* another boyfriend, who happens to be rich, handsome, charming, *steadfast*, and devoted. Each word is a stab at the heart. Bastien is stunned. He reels, he staggers.

9. ARIA

BASTIEN

Go! Your gossip's past believing!
Bastienna still is mine.
She is helpless at deceiving.
From her eye the truth will shine.

When I give her loving kisses
Her delight is clear to see.
Then she knows what burning bliss is,
For she's caught the fire from me!

NARRATOR: Bastienne lost! Bastien can hardly believe his ears. But surely Colas in his vast wisdom, must know some way to bring her back, perhaps a secret magic formula. Is it still possible to hope? Colas ponders for a moment, then reaches for a musty volume. As he scans the crumbling pages, seeking to decipher the highly technical language, his brow furrows. The sky darkens.

10. ARIA

COLAS

**Diggy, daggy, schurry, murry,
horuy, harem, lirim, l;arem,
Raudi, naudi, giri, gari, posito,
Besti, basti, Saron froh,
Fatto, matto, quid pro quo!**

NARRATOR: The answer is yes! Well, *maybe*. Bastienne just might be his again, but only if he promises this time to value her at her true worth and to take better care of her than he did before.

11. ARIA

BASTIEN

**My beloved's lovely blushes
May I once again behold.
All is beauty that she touches;
For her hand I'd scorn mere gold.**

**Take your splendor, take your pleasure.
Their rewards are not for me,
For my darling is my treasure;
All the rest is vanity.**

**Dearest, how I'd love to wander
Through the meadow before.
You grow colder, I grow fonder,
Bound to love forevermore.**

**Take your splendor, take your pleasure.
Their rewards are not for me,
For my darling is my treasure;
All the rest is vanity.**

NARRATOR: The signs are not reassuring. In fact, when Bastienne returns, she is so thoroughly indifferent to Bastien that she fails to recognize him. Though he does dimly remind her of a boy that she was once fond of:

12. ARIA

BASTIENNE

**A lad was so filled with devotion –
His name I can barely recall.
His love was as deep as the ocean;
He found me the fairest of all.**

**The eyes of others moved him not;
He turned to me, no matter what,
Each day and hour revealing
A wealth of tender feeling.**

**Parading in the latest style,
Fine ladies failed to win a smile.
His target of attention
I hardly need to mention;
He wanted me and me alone.
But now his heart is turned to stone.**

**Can tender love fade like a flower?
A stranger entices him now.
Discarded in less than an hour –
So much for love's sweet vow.**

NARRATOR: Grasping at straws, Bastien chooses this inopportune moment to propose marriage. Her reply is withering: fine thing! A faithless husband! Just what I need! We are suddenly plunged into the midst of a quarrel, which leads to a finale fraught with suspense.

13. DUET

BASTIEN: Enough! Leave off that foolish clamor!
The castle lies not far away;
There I'll return, this time to stay.
I'll go back to my lady's chamber;
There shall I love the livelong day.
There shall I love all the livelong day.

**Then shall my lady be delighted,
Finding her love so well requited.**

BASTIENNE: Be off! I'll go into the city,
For here's a game that two can play.
Your own example shows the way.
It's easy when you're young and pretty.
I, too, can love for a good long day.

Someone one I'm sure will be delighted,
Finding his love so well requited.

14. RECITATIVE AND ARIOSO

BASTIEN: Your scorn increase with my sorrow.
I see there's no more hope.
I'll beg or borrow
A dagger, knife and rope.

BASTIENNE: Good luck!

BASTIEN: Yes, a dagger, knife and rope.

BASTIENNE: Good luck!

BASTIEN: I'll hang myself tomorrow.

BASTIENNE: Good luck!

BASTIEN: Ah, so misunderstood!
I'll drown and end my sorrow.

BASTIENNE: Good luck! A bath will do you good.

15. DUET

BASTIENNE: Go, go, go! Fickle hearted!
It's time we parted.
What are you waiting for?
It's time we parted
Now that we know the score.
Goodbye, for I love you no more.

BASTIEN:
Ah, would I perish!
She whom I cherish
Treats me with such disdain
I cannot, cannot stay,
Nor can I bear the pain.
I'll leave without delay.

BASTIENNE: Monster! You're going?

BASTIEN: Yes, if I leave you

**Why should it grieve you?
Now that our love is gone,
I'd best be getting on.**

**I wait in agony!
Is there no hope for me?
No ray of hope for me?**

BASTIENNE: Bastien! Bastien!

**BASTIEN: Ah, you called me?
Yes, you called me!**

**BASTIENNE:
No, you mistook.
Your look reads like an open book,
A foolish story.**

**BASTIEN:
Where now the happy time
When love was play and fun?
Where now the happy time
When love was all sublime
And I your only one?**

**BOTH: Oh, vanished day of glory!
We've finished love's sweet story.
Go, go, go, stop delaying.
Why are you staying?
For now that all is over,
I'll seek a pretty face,
Someone to take your place.
With a new lover
I'll soon recover.
Another love will do,
And if not one, then two.**

BASTIEN: But if you could be ...

BASTIENNE: But if you would be ...

BASTIEN: My sweetheart once more ...

BASTIENNE: That's all I live for!

**BOTH: Love me again and I
Am yours until I die!**

BASTIEN: Forever yours alone ...

BASTIENNE: Forever let me be your own!

**BASTIEN: Give me again your heart;
We'll never part.
Oh, hug me, do! And kiss me, too!
I love but you!**

**BASTIENNE: O bliss, O bliss!
What paradise is this!**

**BOTH: Love, I renew
My vow to be true,
And faithful with every breath,
Yours only until death.
Star above! We're in love,
Until death.**

**True love has won out.
See now the sun out,
Ending our heavy night
In golden rays of light,
Warm golden rays of light.**

16. TRIO

**COLAS: Children, children!
After stormy weather
Shines a clear and brighter hour
Blessings shower on you together,
Joined by my magic power.**

**Come! Come! Seal with a kiss!
Swear to love in joy forever.
Come! Come! Love and take care.
May you never know doubt and despair.**

**BASTIEN & BASTIENNE:
Happy, happy! Praise the wondrous magic
Of Colas, the best of men.
Gone are cares, no longer tragic;
Praise again his wondrous magic!**

He has made us love again.

**Come! Come! Praise him again.
Colas! O what a wonderful man!
Hail! Hail! Hail to the man!
Wrongs are righted, we're united!**

**TRIO: Hail! Hail! Hail! Hail!
He has offered all lovers a plan.
Sing his praises as loud as you can.
O wonderful man! O wonderful man!**

THE END