

# Music to Cure MS

## Sunday, October 27, 2013, 3-5 PM

### Translations

*All translations and scene descriptions by Rebecca Burstein,  
unless otherwise noted*

#### **Una voce poco fa, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia***

*Rosina is closely watched by her elderly guardian, who wants to marry her for her money. She plots to outwit him with the handsome young student Lindoro (secretly the Count Almaviva in disguise).*

A voice a little while ago  
echoed here in my heart;  
now my heart is pierced  
and it was Lindoro who wounded it.  
Yes, Lindoro shall be mine;  
I have sworn it, I shall win.  
My guardian will refuse,  
and I will use my wits;  
in the end he will be appeased  
and I will be left happy.  
Yes, Lindoro shall be mine;  
I have sworn it, I shall win.  
I am docile, I am respectful,  
I am obedient, sweet, and loving;  
I let myself be ruled and guided.  
But if someone touches my weak spot,  
I will be a viper and set  
a hundred snares before giving in.

#### **Je dis que rien ne m'épouvante, *Carmen***

*Yielding to Carmen's seductions, Don Jose has joined a gang of smugglers. His former sweetheart Micaela hopes to bring him back to the village where they grew up, as requested by his dying mother.*

This is the smugglers' usual hideout. He is here, I will see him;  
and the duty which his mother set me I will accomplish without trembling.

I say that nothing terrifies me,  
I say, alas! that I answer for my behavior;  
but I must play the courageous woman well,  
deep in my heart I am dying of fear!  
Alone in this wild spot,  
all alone, I'm afraid, but I'm wrong to be afraid;  
you will grant me courage,  
you will protect me, Lord!

I will see that woman up close  
whose accursed tricks  
have ended in making an outcast  
of the man I once loved!  
She is dangerous, she is beautiful!  
But I don't intend to be afraid!  
No, no, I don't intend to be afraid!  
I will speak aloud before her -- ah!  
Lord, you will protect me,  
Lord, you will protect me! Ah!

I say that nothing terrifies me, etc.

Protect me, o Lord! Grant me courage!  
Protect me, o Lord! Protect me, Lord!

### **Io son l'umile ancella, Adriana Lecouvreur**

*Backstage at the Comédie-Française, the company is preparing for a performance in which both Adriana Lecouvreur and her rival, Mademoiselle Duclos, will appear. The Prince of Bouillon and the Abbé de Chazeuil enter, looking for Duclos, who is the prince's mistress. They encounter Adriana and compliment her. She replies to their compliments by humbly saying they are too much; she is only the vessel through which the muses work.*

Look here: I'm barely breathing . . .

I am the humble handmaiden  
of the creative Genius:  
he offers me the word,  
I diffuse it to your hearts . . .  
I am the accent of the verse,  
the echo of the human drama,  
the fragile instrument,  
the vassal of the hand.  
Timid, joyous, terrible  
I am called Fidelity . . .  
my voice is a breath  
which will die at the new day.  
(translation by Karen Amlaw)

### **O zittre nicht, Die Zauberflöte**

*The mysterious Queen of the Night sets Prince Tamino the task of rescuing her daughter Pamina. She promises him Pamina's hand in marriage if he succeeds.*

Do not tremble, my dear son;  
you are innocent, wise, and virtuous.  
A youth like you is best able  
to comfort this heavily burdened mother's heart.

I am destined for sorrow,  
since my daughter is gone from me.

Because of her all my happiness was lost;  
a villain fled with her.  
I still see her trembling  
with fearful shuddering,  
her anxious shaking,  
her timid struggling.  
I had to see her carried off from me.  
'Oh, help! Oh, help!'  
was all she said;  
yet her pleading was in vain,  
since my help was too weak.  
You will go to set her free,  
you will be my daughter's rescuer!  
And if I see you return in triumph,  
then let her be yours forever.

### **Come dal ciel precipita, Macbeth**

*Moments before his murder, Banquo shares his forebodings with his son Fleance.*

Watch your step, my son!  
Let us leave these shadows . . .  
I sense an unknown feeling arising in my heart,  
full of gloomy foreboding and suspicion.

How the darkness falls  
ever more deeply from heaven!  
On such a night  
they stabbed my lord Duncan.  
A thousand anxious imaginings  
foretell misfortune to me  
and obstruct my thoughts  
with phantoms and terror.

### **Habéñera (L'amour est un oiseau rebelle), Carmen**

*Carmen describes love as something wild and untameable.*

When will I love you? Truthfully, I don't know.  
Maybe never! Maybe tomorrow.  
But not today -- that's for sure.

Love is a stubborn bird that no one can tame,  
and you call it entirely in vain, if it suits it to refuse!  
Nothing helps, whether threats or entreaties;  
one man speaks well, the other is silent;  
and it's the other that I prefer:  
he says nothing, but I like him.  
Love!

Love is a child of the Gypsies, it has never, never known a law;  
if you don't love me, I love you; if I love you, watch out!

The bird which you thought to take by surprise flapped its wings and flew away;  
love is far away, and you can wait for it;  
you don't wait any longer, and it's there.  
All around you, quickly, quickly, it comes, it goes, then it comes back;  
you think to catch it, it escapes you;  
you think to escape it, it catches you!  
Love!  
Love is a child of the Gypsies, it has never, never known a law;  
if you don't love me, I love you; if I love you, watch out!

### **Liebhaber in allen Gestalten (Love in all guises)**

I wish I were a fish, so nimble and lively:  
if you came angling, I wouldn't hold back!  
I wish I were gold, always in your pocket:  
if you wanted to buy anything, I'd come running!  
But I am what I am... so take me as I am!  
If you want anything better, you'll have to cut it out for yourself!  
(translation by Marion Leeds Carroll)

### **Song to the moon, Rusalka**

*The water spirit Rusalka has fallen in love with a human prince. She asks the moon to tell him of her love.*

Moon, high and deep in the sky  
Your light sees far,  
You travel around the wide world,  
and see into people's homes.  
Moon, stand still a while  
and tell me where is my dear.  
Tell him, silvery moon,  
that I am embracing him.  
For at least momentarily  
let him recall of dreaming of me.  
Illuminate him far away,  
and tell him, tell him who is waiting for him!  
If his human soul is in fact dreaming of me,  
may the memory awaken him!  
Moonlight, don't disappear, disappear!  
(translation by Aaron Green)

### **Schlummert Ein, BWV 82 (Ich habe genug)**

Fall asleep, weary eyes,  
close softly and blissfully.  
World, I remain here no longer,  
as I have no share in you  
that can do any good to my soul.  
Here I must live in wretchedness,

but there, there I will see  
sweet peace, calm rest.

### **Suicidio, La Gioconda**

*The street singer Gioconda's life is in shambles. She is engaged to Enzo, but he no longer loves her. He instead loves Laura, who saved Gioconda's blind mother and therefore warrants Gioconda's support. Gioconda's love for Enzo, greater than her jealousy of Laura, has prompted her to offer herself to the evil spy Barnaba in exchange for Enzo's safe escape from prison. Her mother also has disappeared. Left alone Gioconda is torn between feelings of desperation and revenge; she resolves to kill herself (either by dagger or by the poison originally meant for Laura).*

Suicide!  
In these awful moments  
you alone are left to me,  
and you tempt my heart.  
Last voice of my destiny,  
last cross of my path.  
And one day light-heartedly the hours flew by,  
I lost my mother, I lost my love,  
I overcame feverish jealousy!  
Now I fall exhausted in the darkness!  
I have reached the end . . . I ask of heaven  
to permit me to sleep peacefully in the grave.  
(translation by Karen Amlaw)

### **Dove Sono, Le Nozze di Figaro**

*Count Almaviva has been pursuing his wife's maidservant Susanna, who is about to be married to the Count's servant Figaro. The Countess and Susanna conspire together to foil the Count. While she waits for Susanna to return with news of their plot, the Countess recalls the happy earlier days of her marriage and laments her husband's infidelity.*

And Susanna doesn't come! I'm anxious  
to learn how the Count  
received the proposal. The plan  
seems rather daring to me, and with a husband  
so hasty and jealous!  
But what harm is there? Exchanging my clothes  
with Susanna's, and hers with mine,  
under cover of darkness . . . Oh heaven,  
what a low, desperate condition I am reduced to  
by a cruel husband! Who after winning me  
treats me with an unheard-of combination  
of infidelity, jealousy, and anger.  
First loved, then insulted, and finally betrayed –  
now you make me seek help from one of my own servants!

Where are the lovely moments  
of sweetness and pleasure,  
where have the promises gone

of his lying lips?  
Why, if everything changed for me  
into tears and pain,  
did the memory of that happiness  
not pass away from my heart?  
Ah! if only my constancy  
in pining for love  
could bring me hope  
of changing his ungrateful heart.

**Das verlassene Mägdlein (The Forsaken Maiden), Mörike-Lieder**

Early, when the cock crows,  
before the small stars fade,  
I must stand by the hearth,  
must light the fire.

The flames' glow is beautiful,  
the sparks leap up;  
I look into it,  
sunk in grief.

Suddenly it comes to me,  
faithless boy,  
last night  
I dreamed of you.

Tear after tear then  
rushes down;  
so the day comes—  
oh, would it were gone again!  
*(translation by Sonya Taaffe)*

**Meine Liebe ist grün wie der Fliederbusch, Junge Lieder I**

My love is as green as the lilac bush  
and my love is as beautiful as the sun  
that shines down on the lilac bush  
and fills it with fragrance and bliss.

My soul has wings of a nightingale  
and sways in the blooming lilac  
and, high on the fragrance, cheers and sings  
many love-drunk songs.  
*(translation by Sonya Taaffe)*

**Riddle Trio, The Scarlet Pimpernel**

*The scene takes place during the French Revolution. An elusive figure known as the Scarlet Pimpernel has been rescuing aristocrats from the guillotine. Chauvelin, an agent of the French government, threatens to kill Marguerite's brother unless she helps him catch the Pimpernel. Neither of them knows that the Scarlet Pimpernel is actually the foppish Englishman Sir Percy Blakeney, Marguerite's husband. Percy finds them talking and is suspicious. The three contemplate secrets, betrayals, and whether they can trust each other.*

**Bring him home, Les Miserables**

*Jean Valjean has discovered that his beloved adopted daughter Cosette is in love with Marius, a young revolutionary. He goes to the barricades in the midst of an uprising in order to save him. While Marius sleeps, Valjean prays for the young man's safety.*

**I loved, Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris**

*An unconventional love song.*

**The hills are alive, The Sound of Music**

*Maria, a young novice nun, finds it hard to tear herself away from the beauties of nature and return to her duties in the abbey.*