

Marco & Giuseppe Palmieri



We are jolly gondoliers, the sons of Baptisto Palmieri, who led the last revolution. Republicans, heart and soul, we hold all men to be equal. As we abhor oppression, we abhor kings: as we detest vain-glory, we detest rank...

-Marco Palmieri, Act 1 (to Don Alhambra)

Voice Part: Tenor (Marco) and Baritone (Giuseppe)

Twin brother gondoliers whose happy marriage to Tessa and Gianetta is disrupted by the revelation that one of them is the reigning king of Barataria, forcing both to leave Venice (and their wives) to rule Barataria jointly until the rightful king is found. Handsome, jovial, and while not the smartest nor the most convicted gentlemen, both are courteous and generous to a fault (unless you presume to rank higher than them).

Tessa & Gianetta



Ah me, you men will never understand

That woman's heart is one with woman's hand!"

-Tessa, Act 1

Voice Part: Soprano (Gianetta) and Mezzo-Soprano (Tessa)

Two young Venetian peasant women who are chosen via a game of blind man's buff to be Marco and Giuseppe's wives. Deeply caring women, they

love their husbands dearly, and will stop at nothing to ensure their marriages remain stable and happy (even if it means slapping a wandering eye back into place).

The Duke of Plaza-Toro



My child, the Duke of Plaza-Toro does not follow fashions—he leads them.

-The Duke, Act 1 (to Casilda)

Voice Part: Comic Baritone

Proud, deeply vain, and broke (for now!), the Spanish grandee will happily boast of his 95 quarters of noble blood and of his brave military service, wherein he valiantly hid from the enemy for an entire war—never once engaging his regiment in battle. Although in straightened financial circumstances (for now), he is banking on his transformation into a public company and the arranged marriage between his daughter, Casilda, and the King of Barataria to restore him and his wife to their former wealth.

The Duchess of Plaza-Toro



It was very difficult, my dear; but I said to myself, “That man is a Duke, and I will love him.” Several of my relations bet me I couldn’t, but I did — desperately!

-The Duchess, Act 2 (to Casilda)

Voice Part: Contralto

Headstrong, defiant, and unerring in her aims, she is the wife (and husband) of the Duke of Plaza-Toro, though she has little affection for her husband. Like the Duke, she will stop at nothing to regain their former wealth, although much of that work involves simply getting her infernal husband to shut up and move along. She is, however, an expert performer and PR representative, having earned the couple much money through helping dubious aristocrats whitewash their reputation and sponsoring middling dress makers...for a fee.

Casilda



Gentlemen, I am bound to listen to you; but it is right to tell you that, not knowing I was married in infancy, I am over head and ears in love with somebody else.

-Casilda, Act 2 (to Marco and Giuseppe)

Voice Part: Soprano

Openly cruel, secretly tender, Casilda is the daughter of the Duke and the Duchess as well as the secret lover to their drummer boy, Luiz. Her affair is cut short by the revelation that she was engaged as an infant to the son of the king of Barataria, who was stolen away as an infant by the Grand Inquisitor of Spain, Don Alhambra. However steadfast she may be, she will have to acquiesce to her parents demands, though she hopes to delay the inevitable for as long as possible.

Don Alhambra del Bolero, Grand Inquisitor of Spain



My young friend, a Grand Inquisitor is always up to date.

-Don Alhambra, Act 1 (to Luiz)

Voice Part: Bass-Baritone

Scheming, mysterious, a staunch believer in hierarchy and order, Don

Alhambra, a resident of Venice and head of the Spanish Inquisition, was

responsible for the planned abduction of the king of Barataria's infant son

after a religious conversion within the kingdom. Despite all of this, he is not the sharpest tool

in the shed, and tries desperately to keep his elaborate schemes from falling apart (which

they frequently do).

Luiz



But stay — the present and the future — they are another's; but the past — that at least is ours, and none can take it from us. As we may revel in naught else, let us revel in that!

-Luiz, Act 1 (to Casilda)

Voice Part: Lyric Baritone

A charming, handsome young gentleman: charismatic, romantic, tender,

and a drummer boy to the Duke and Duchess. He is also the lover of Casilda, with whom he

must part due to her recently revealed arranged marriage. Ironically, his mother, Inez, was

the one tasked to hide the royal baby, and who is now being held in a torture chamber (with

plenty of magazines!) by Don Alhambra. Something, however, seems odd about his origins and his mother...but it's probably nothing to worry about for now.