

“Ma Fanchette est charmante” (My Fanchette is charming), Act I, trio for tenor, soprano, and mezzo, ANGÉLA, by François-Adrien Boiëldieu and Mme Gail, 1814

SYNOPSIS: Thibaut is in love with Fanchette and worried about the appeal of Frontin, a superior competitor for her affections.

THIBAUT

Ma Fanchette est charmante
Dans sa simplicité,
Et sa mine piquante
Vaut mieux que la beauté.

My Fanchette is so charming
In all her honest ways.
And her piquant little face
is more precious than beauty.

THIBAUT & FRONTIN

Ma (ta) Fanchette, etc.

My (Your) Fanchette, etc.

FANCHETTE

M. Frontin me vante
Tant il a de bonté.
Je suis bien sa servante,
Ainsi que ma beauté.

Mr. Frontin speaks nicely
because he is so kind.
I’m truly at his service,
just as are my good looks.

FRONTIN

Vraiment, elle m’enchante!

Truly, she enchants me!

THIBAUT

Allons, v’là qu’elle l’enchante!

Already she enchants him!

FRONTIN

Quel teint! Quelle fraîcheur!

What skin! What fresh appeal!

THIBAUT

J’nons t’y pas de malheur!

I’m gonna burst from pain!

THEY REPEAT THE ABOVE TEXT VARIOUSLY. THEN:

FRONTIN, FANCHETTE

Ce soir au bosquet!

This evening in the grove...

THIBAUT

Hein?

What?

THIBAUT, FRONTIN

Ma (sa) Fanchette, etc.

My, (his) Fanchette, etc.

--From “Bel canto, the French Connection,” course for Osher Lifelong Learners Institute, UCSC, 2011

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