

ROBERT LE DIABLE, “Robert, toi que j’aime,” (Robert, you whom I love) music by Giacomo Meyerbeer, libretto by Eugène Scribe and Germain Delavigne, Act IV, 1831.

SYNOPSIS: Robert, Duke of Normandy, is the son of a mortal woman and a devil, who disguises himself as Bertram and pretends to help Robert. However, he makes the young man engage in evil actions, with serious results. Robert falls in love with Isabelle but her hand is won in a tournament by his rival. Angry and frustrated, Robert tries to seduce her through magic, but by her pleading and assertions of love, she dissuades him from this violent act.

ISABELLE

Robert, toi que j’aime  
Et qui reçus ma foi,  
Tu vois mon effroi :  
Grâce pour toi-même,  
Et grâce pour moi !  
Quoi ! ton cœur se dégage  
Des serments les plus doux ?  
Tu me rendis hommage,  
Je suis à tes genoux.  
Robert, toi que j’aime  
Et qui reçus ma foi,  
Tu vois mon effroi :  
\*Grâce pour toi-même,  
Et grâce pour moi !  
Grâce, grâce, etc..  
(\*=repeat)

Robert, you whom I love  
and to whom I pledged myself,  
you see my great fear:  
Take pity on yourself,  
and pity me as well!  
What! Your heart is rejecting  
the sweetest vows you swore?  
You pledged your love to me;  
I’m on my knees before you.  
Robert, you whom I love  
and to whom I pledged myself,  
you see my great fear:  
Take pity on yourself,  
And pity me as well!  
Pity, pity, etc.

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