

“Devant la maison,” (Outside the House)--Méphistophélès's “Serenade,” from *La Damnation de Faust*, Part III, by Hector Berlioz, 1846,

SYNOPSIS: Mephistopheles sings an ironic “moral” serenade to Marguerite and Faust, both to taunt and tempt the would-be lovers.

MÉPHISTOPHÉLÈS

Devant la maison
De celui qui t'adore,
Petite Louison,
Que fais-tu dès l'aurore?
Au signal du plaisir,
Dans la chambre du drille,
Tu peux bien entrer fille,
Mais non fille en sortir.
Devant la maison . . .

Outside the house
of the one who adores you,
little Louise,
what are you doing at dawn?
At pleasure's loud call,
Into the happy fellow's bedroom,
you may well enter, pure,
but that's not how you'll come out.
Outside the house...

Il te tend les bras:
Près de lui
Tu cours vite.
Bonne nuit, hélas!
Ma petite, bonne nuit.
Près du moment fatal
Fais grande résistance,
S'il ne t'offre d'avance
Un anneau conjugale.

He stretches out his arms;
and you're quick
to respond.
Good night, alas!
My little one, good night.
As the fatal moment nears,
do your best to resist,
if he doesn't offer you first
a proper wedding ring.

From “Romanticism,” a course for UCSC Lifelong
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