

“Depuis le jour” (Since that bright day) LOUISE, Act III, music by Gustave Charpentier, libretto by the composer, 1900.

SYNOPSIS: Despite her parents’ outrage and refusal to accept her decision, Louise has moved in with her lover, Julien. As she looks out over Paris from the heights of Montmartre, she revels in her new-found love and freedom.

LOUISE

Depuis le jour où je me suis donnée,
toute fleurie semble ma destinée.
Je crois rêver sous un ciel de féerie,
mon âme encore grisée.
de ton premier baiser.
Oh, Quelle belle vie!
Mon rêve n’était pas un rêve!
Ah! je suis heureuse!
L’amour étend sur moi ses ailes!
Au jardin de mon coeur
chante une joie nouvelle!
Tout vibre, tout se réjouit
de mon triomphe!
Autour de moi tout est sourire,
lumière et joie!
Et je tremble délicieusement
au souvenir charmant
du premier jour
d’amour!
Quelle belle vie!
Ah! je suis heureuse! trop heureuse...
Et je tremble délicieusement
au souvenir charmant
du premier jour
d’amour!

Since that bright day when you became my lover,
destiny seems full of flowers for me.
I think I’m dreaming under magical skies,
my soul still drunk with pleasure
from your first warm embrace.
Oh, my life is happy!
My dream wasn’t just a dream!
Ah! how glad I am!
For love spreads out its wings to cover me!
In the garden of my heart
a new-found joy is singing!
All things are thrilled, all things rejoice
at my good fate!
Surrounding me are only smiles,
bright light and joy!
And I tremble, lost in exquisite bliss,
as I recall the charm
of that first day
of love!
My life is happy!
Ah, I’m so contented! Too contented!...
And I tremble, lost in exquisite bliss,
as I recall the charm
of that first day
of love!

From a “Young Artists Showcase Series” concert, sponsored by Santa Cruz Opera Society, Inc. (SCOSI), © 1988 Miriam Ellis