

“Je marche sur tous les chemins....Obéissons quand leur voix appelle...” (I go wherever I please... Let’s obey when their voices call), Gavotte; MANON, Act III; music by Jules Massene; libretto by Henri Meilhac and Philippe Gille, based on the novel by the Abbé Prévost, *l’Histoire a Chevalier Des Grieux et de Manon Lescaut*.

SYNOPSIS: Manon has yielded to the temptation of living a luxurious life with a wealthy “protector” and is the toast of Parisian society. In this scene, set in Cours-la-Reine before a large crowd, she boasts of her pleasure at the adulation she now receives and the joys of being beautiful, rich, and young—urging her listeners to enjoy their youth before it vanishes.

MANON

Je marche sur tous les chemins
aussi bien qu'une souveraine.

On s'incline, on baise ma main,
car par la beauté je suis reine!

Je suis reine!

Mes chevaux courent à grands pas
devant ma vie aventureuse.

Les grands s'avancent chapeau bas...

Je suis belle, je suis heureuse!

Je suis belle!

Autour de moi tout doit fleurir!

Je vais à tout ce qui m'attire!

Et, si Manon devait jamais mourir,
ce serait, mes amis, dans un éclat de rire!

Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah!

I go wherever I please
as if I were truly a queen.

Men bow to me and kiss my hand
for my beauty lets me rule them!

Lets me rule them!

My fine horses gallop along
as I live my free-wheeling life.

Great men come near and bow low,
for I’m lovely, and I’m happy!

Yes, I’m lovely!

Around me, everything must bloom.

I only do the things I like.

And if one day Manon must die,
It will be, my friends, with a

laugh, not a sigh!

Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

Obéissons quand leur voix appelle
aux tendres amours, aux tendres amours.

Toujours, toujours, toujours,
tant que vous êtes belle,
usez sans les compter vos jours,
tous vos jours!

Profitons bien de la jeunesse,
des jours qu'amène le printemps;
aimons, rions, chantons sans cesse,
Nous n'avons encor que vingt ans!

Le cœur, hélas! le plus fidèle,
oublie en un jour l'amour, l'amour,
et la jeunesse ouvrant son aile

Let’s obey them when their voices call us
to tender love. to tender love.

Always, always, always,
as long as you’re a beauty,
don’t keep track of passing days,
of passing days!

Take advantage of your youthful beauty,
of the time when spring is all around.

love and laugh and always try to smile.

We’ll still be twenty for a while.

The heart, alas, that seems most faithful
forgets its love in just a day,
while youthful charm has taken wing

a disparu sans retour, sans retour.
Profitons bien de la jeunesse,
bien courte, hélas ! est le printemps!
Aimons, chantons, rions sans cesse,
nous n'aurons pas toujours vingt ans!

and evermore has flown away.
Take advantage of your youthful beauty
all too quickly, spring will disappear!
We must love and sing and laugh with pleasure
before our twenties slip away.

JEUNES GENS

Profitons bien de la jeunesse!

Take advantage of your youthful beauty!

MANON

*Profitons bien de la jeunesse!
Aimons, chantons, rions sans cesse,
profitons bien de nos vingt ans!,etc.*
Ah! Ah!
(*=repeat)

Take advantage of our youthful beauty!
We must love and sing and laugh with joy.
*Let's make the most of being young!
Ah! Ah!

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