

“Je suis seul...Ah, fuyez, douce image” (I’m alone...Ah, depart, image fair) MANON, Act III, music by Jules Massenet, libretto by Meilhac and Gille, 1884; based on *l’Histoire du chevalier Des Grieux et de Manon Lescaut*, by the Abbé Prévost.

SYNOPSIS: The young Chevalier Des Grieux, hopelessly in love with Manon, who has left him for a life of luxury, has decided to take orders, in an effort to forget his unhappiness. He is about to be ordained when the memory of Manon returns to torment him. He struggles to cleanse his soul of this obsession, by attempting to eradicate the past.

DES GRIEUX

RECITATIVE:

Je suis seul, seul enfin! C’est le moment suprême.	I’m alone, finally alone! It’s the supreme moment.
Il n’est plus rien que j’aime, que le repose sacré que m’apporte la foi.	I love nothing any more, except the holy repose that my faith brings to me
Oui, j’ai voulu mettre Dieu même entre le monde et moi.	Yes, I’ve tried to put God himself between the world and me.

ARIA:

Ah! Fuyez, douce image, à mon âme trop chère.	Ah! Begone, set me free, dearest image that haunts me.
Respectez un repos cruellement gagné,	Show respect for the calm, earned with the cruelest pain,
et songez, si j’ai bu dans une coupe amère, que mon coeur l’emplirait de ce qu’il a saigné.	and believe, if I drank from such a bitter vessel, that my heart filled it full with all the blood it shed.
Ah! Fuyez, fuyez! loin de moi.	Ah! begone, begone, far from me! Ah, begone!
Que m’importe la vie et ce semblant de gloire?	What do I care for life and this semblance of glory?
Je ne veux que chasser du fond de ma mémoire un nom maudit!	I want only to chase from mem’ry’s greatest depths a name that’s damned!
Ce nom qui m’obsède et pourquoi?	That name which consumes me, oh, but why?
Mon Dieu! de votre flamme, purifiez mon âme et dissipez à sa lueur l’ombre qui passe encore dans le fond de mon coeur!	Dear Lord! With your fire, purify my soul, and dispel with its light the shadow which still lurks in the depths of my heart!
Ah! Fuyez, douce image, à mon âme trop chère,	Ah, begone, set me free, dearest image that haunts me.
Ah! Fuyez, fuyez, loin de moi, ah fuyez!	Ah, begone, begone, far from me, begone!
Loin de moi, loin de moi...	Far from me, far from me...

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