

“Asile héréditaire...Amis, amis, secondez ma vengeance)” (Ancestral home, I greet you...My friends, my friends, follow me to take our vengeance) GUILLAUME TELL, Act IV, Gioacchino Rossini, libretto by Étienne de Jouy and Hippolyte Bis, 1829; based on the play by Friedrich Schiller.

SYNOPSIS

After a long absence, Arnold returns to his family home, vacant since the death of his beloved father. His musings are interrupted when a group of villagers, turned rebels, come to seek his aid in freeing their leader, William Tell, who has been captured by Gesler, cruel commander of the occupying forces. Gesler has threatened to kill his prisoner.

ARNOLD

Asile héréditaire, où mes yeux s’ouvrirent au jour, hier encore, mon abri tutélaire offrait un père à mon amour. J’appelle en vain, douleur amère !* *J’appelle, il n’entend plus ma voix ! Murs chéris qu’habitait mon père, Je viens vous voir pour la dernière fois! *Je viens vous voir* pour la dernière fois.	Ancestral home, I greet you; here my eyes first saw the day, for his lifetime, my guarding shelter harbored a father whom I loved. In vain I call, in bitter pain! *I call him!; he cannot hear my voice! Cherished home where my father lived, I see you now, for the final time. I see you now, for the final time.
Asile héréditaire, Où mes yeux s’ouvrirent au jour, Murs chéris qu’habitait mon père, *Je viens vous voir *pour la dernière fois !*	Ancestral home, I greet you; here my eyes first saw the day, cherished home where my father lived, I see you now, for the final time.

(The villagers arrive and tell Arnold about the imprisonment of William Tell. He responds in a stirring call to action.)

CABALETTA

ARNOLD

Amis, amis, secondez ma vengeance. ***My friends,*** follow me to take our vengeance:

Si notre chef est dans les fers, C’est à nous qu’appartient sa défense; *d’Altdorf les chemins sont ouverts. Suivez moi ! suivez moi ! D’un monstre perfide *trompons l’espérance homicide.	If our chief is held in chains, It’s our duty to let him go free. The road to Altdorf isn’t closed. Follow me, follow me! Of a treacherous beast, let’s destroy the murderous plot,
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Arrachons Guillaume à ses coups!

CONFÉDÉRÉS

D'un tyran cruel et perfide,
trompons l'espérance homicide !

ARNOLD

Aux combats !

CONFÉDÉRÉS

Trompons l'espérance homicide,
D'un tyran cruel et perfide.

Cette tâche est digne de nous.

*Suivons-le aux combats, etc.

ARNOLD

Aux combats, vengeance!

and rescue William from his power!...

REBELS

Of a tyrant, cruel and vile,
let's destroy the murderous plot!

ARNOLD

On to fight!

REBELS

Let's destroy the murderous plot
of a tyrant, cruel and vile.

It's our rightful duty to act.

Lead us, Arnold, to the fight, etc.

On to fight! Revenge!

--For "Bel Canto Masters, " a class for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UC Santa Cruz. ©2014, Miriam Ellis

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