

THE ABDUCTION FROM THE SERAGLIO

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Libretto by Christoph Friedrich Bretzner, adapted by Gottlieb Stephanie (the Younger)

Characters

Constanze (soprano)

Blonde (soprano)

Belmonte (tenor)

Pedrillo (tenor)

Osmin (bass)

Pasha Selim (actor)

ACT I

Belmonte, a young Spanish nobleman, arrives at the palace of the Pasha Selim to search for his beloved Constanze, who was captured by pirates and sold into slavery along with Belmonte's servant, Pedrillo. After unsuccessfully questioning Osmin, the Pasha's overseer, Belmonte finds Pedrillo, who has become the Pasha's gardener, and learns that Constanze lives at the palace. When the Pasha arrives with Constanze, Belmonte conceals himself, and Pedrillo tells the Pasha that he knows of an excellent architect the Pasha should employ. Interested, the Pasha agrees to interview the gentleman. Pedrillo and Belmonte manage to sneak by Osmin and into the palace.

ACT II

Osmin tries to woo Blonde, Constanze's perky maid and Pedrillo's sweetheart, but she spurns him. Constanze, forever faithful to her Belmonte, refuses the Pasha's love. Pedrillo informs Blonde of the rescue plan that he and Belmonte have devised. Pedrillo then plies Osmin with wine and once the drunken overseer falls asleep, Belmonte and Constanze are reunited, and Constanze and Blonde assure Belmonte and Pedrillo of their fidelity.

ACT III

After night falls, Belmonte and Pedrillo help Constanze and Blonde escape from their rooms. However, the racket rouses the groggy Osmin from his stupor. The four fugitives are captured and brought before the Pasha, who discovers that Belmonte is the son of his enemy, Lostados. But the Pasha decides to return good for evil, and sets the captives free, much to the horror of Osmin. All praise the Pasha's clemency and their good fortune.