

LE POSTILON DE LONGJUMEAU

Music by Adolph-Charles Adam

Libretto by Adolphe De Leuven & Brunswick

First Performance: Opéra-Comique, Paris, October 13, 1836

Act I. In the village of Longjumeau. The postilion Chapelou, who possess a fine voice, is celebrating his marriage with Madelaine, when the Marquis de Corcy appears. A wheel of his carriage, is broken, and the smith, Bijou, who is envious of Chapelou, hastens to repair it, in order to disturb the feast, since Chapelou, as postilion, is compelled to drive. De Corcy, the manager of the royal amusements, who is on a voyage of discovery for a new tenor, hears Chapelou sing, and makes him such a brilliant offer, that he leaves Madelaine and accompanies the marquis. (Scene, chorus, Chapelou, Madelaine: "Prosperous and happy be this hour"; Madelaine's song: "Dear husband, believe me"; Duet: "That is wonderful"; Ensemble: "A happy pair"; Rondo of Chapelou-song of the postilion: "Friends, hear the story"; Trexett and finale, marquis, Chapelou, Bijou: "Do not turn away your luck"; Madelaine, Bijou and chorus: "Come, sweetheart.")

Act II. A chamber in the garden. Chapelou has become a great singer under the name of St. Phar. Bijou has also followed him, but remains a member of the chorus. Madelaine, who has been living with her aunt, returns as a rich heiress and wins St. Phar's love as Madame de Latour. He has become a great admirer of the fair sex and promises her marriage, but as he cannot keep his word, on account of his previous marriage with Madelaine, he induces the opera singer Bourdon to array himself in the garb of a priest, in order in this way to enjoy the love of Madame de Latour. The Marquis de Corcy, who has suffered severely from the caprice of St. Phar, also woos Madelaine. She has become aware of the trick and engages a real priest. (Aria of Madelaine: "I will see him again"; Chorus and ensemble of the royal singers: "Oh, what misery"; Romance of St. Phar: "From early dawn"; Aria of Alcindor (Bijou): "By the chorus of our stage"; Duet, St. Phar and Madame de Latour: "Oh most beautiful women"; Chorus and finale: "My wishes are fulfilled.")

Act III. An apartment in the country house. The marquis discloses the cheat of St. Phar, and when he and his associates have been duly frightened, Madelaine reveals her identity to the happy Chapelou. (Chorus and scene: "O what joy"; Aria of St. Phar, Alcindor, Bourdon: "Hanged! hanged!" Duet, Madame de Latour and St. Phar: "You see me in anguish"; Finale: "Quick, in the name of king.")