

AUDITION #7—DO YOU MAIDENS LOVE THEM?—FEATURED SOLOS + CHORUS

FOR BOTH MALES AND FEMALES.

Memorize the lines for one of the characters (Boy 1, Boy 2, Girl 1 or Girl 2).

You will be asked to read your lines more than one time, trying different approaches each time.

Be prepared to read your lines in these different ways:

- Romantically
- Flirtatiously
- As an upper-class snob
- Jokingly
- Impatiently
- Angrily

Boy 1: (*Bowing*) Good morrow, pretty maids, for whom do you prepare these extraordinary flowers?

Girl 1: For Marco and Giuseppe Palmieri—the most beautiful of ALL the gondolieri.

Girl 2: We've heard that they are coming here—to choose two brides.

Boy 1: Among all of you lovely Contadine? Oh! the choice will be difficult.

Boy 2: Do you maidens love them?

Girl 1 and Girl 2: Passionately!

Boy 1: These gondoliers are to be envied, indeed! But what of us, who one and all adore you?

Boy 2: Have pity on our passion, we implore you!

Girl 1: These gentlemen must make their choice before you.

Girl 2: In the meantime, we tacitly ignore you. (*Both girls turn their backs*)

**AUCTION #6— WE WANT OUR TEA!—MEN’S SOLO FEATURED ROLES + MEN’S CHORUS
(+ MARCO & GIUSEPPE)**

**FEATURED ROLES: MEMORIZE AS MANY DIFFERENT MEN’S ROLES AS DESIRED.
MAR AND GIU BE PREPARED TO READ THESE FOR CALLBACKS.**

*Audition Sides for featured soloists: Antonio (baritone), Francesco (tenor), Giorgio (bass-baritone).
Speaking roles: Annibale, Benedetto, and Men’s Chorus.*

*In this scene, Marco and Giuseppe are serving as dual kings in the palace, and have established
Republican principles (no monarch). They are acting more like servants than kings. They’ve
given everyone a crown to wear, and no one pays much attention to them. (Select the role you learn
according to your vocal range and desired song solos.)*

[Below, “ALL” refers to all men on stage except MARCO and GIUSEPPE.]

FRANCESCO. *(Reaching for a glass as GIUSEPPE serves him)* I’ll have another!

ANTONIO. and BENEDETTO. *(MARCO serves them)* Good man!

[ALL but MARCO and GIUSEPPE are talking loudly to each other.]

MAR. Gentlemen... We are much obliged to you for your expressions of
satisfaction and good feeling

[MEN continue talking] I say, we are much obliged to you for your expressions of
satisfaction and good feeling.

ALL. We heard you!

GIU. At the same time there is just one little grievance that we should like to
ventilate.

ALL *(surprised)*. What?

GIU. Don’t be alarmed--it’s not serious. Until it is decided which of us two is
the actual King, we are to act as one person.

GIORGIO. Exactly.

GIU. Now, although we act as one person, we are, in point of fact, two persons.

ANNIBALE. Ah, I don’t think we can go into that. It is a legal fiction, and
legal fictions are solemn things. Situated as we are, we can’t recognize two
independent responsibilities.

GIU. No; but you can recognize two independent appetites. It’s all very well
to say we act as one person, but when you supply us with only one ration
between us, *(showing the single plate)* I should describe it as a legal fiction carried a
little too far.

ANNIBALE. It’s rather a nice point. I don’t like to express an opinion off-
hand. Suppose we reserve it for argument before the full Court?

ANTONIO. Capital idea. We shall meet next month. Now, on to...

MAR. *[Interrupts]* Yes, but what are we to do in the meantime?

MAR. and GIU. We want our tea!

ANNIBALE. I think we may make an interim order for double rations on their
Majesties entering into the usual undertaking to indemnify in the event of an
adverse decision?

GIORGIO. That, I think, will meet the case. But you must work hard—stick
to it—there’s nothing like work.

ALL. Hear! Hear!

GIU. Oh, certainly. We quite understand that we must earn our title of King.

ANTONIO. *(Beginning to exit. Stops to slide his crown over to Giu’s arm.)* Good! You
can start by polishing our coronets!

MAR. *(During this speech, the others slide their crowns on Mar. and Giu’s arms, not listening
to the speech.)* We are called “Your Majesty”; our subjects frequently nod to us
in the streets; the sentries always return our salutes; The least we can do is to
make ourselves useful about the Palace.

BENEDETTO. *(The last to exit. Stops to address MAR. and GIU.)* Oh, and the
sentry at the private entry wants you to relieve him at sundown while he goes
into town. *(Exit Benedetto.)*