JACK AND THE BEANSTALK adapted by Denise Page Caraher copyrighted material-use by express permission only

Music from Gounod's FAUST

CHARACTERS: Narrator, Giant's wife –mezzo Jack-tenor Jack's mother, Fairy- soprano Old lady, Giant-baritone

EXCERPT:

Narrator: This is the story about Jack ...

Jack: (interrupting proudly) Jack and Jill went up the hill to fetch a pail of...

Narrator: (slightly ticked) Not that one.

Jack: (swinging arms enthusiastically) Jack be nimble, Jack be quick, Jack jump over the...

Narrator: (turning on Jack) Not that one either! Now, stop it! This is about Jack...

Jack: (mumbling, sometimes loudly inspired) Jack O'Lantern...Jack the Ripper...Jack Rabbit...Jumping Jack Flash...Jack Black...Jackie Chan

Narrator: (continuing over Jack's mumblings) This – is – the – story- about – Jack – (long pause)...and the Beanstalk.

Somber pianist grandly marches to center stage and shows Jack the flower pot with the twig. Jack stares in disbelief.

Jack: Jack and the beanstalk? (Pianist nods and takes pot to piano) You've got to be kidding me. I HATE beans!!

Piano intro.

Narrator: Jack and his mother lived a long time ago. (mother enters) They were very poor. All they had in the world was a house that was falling apart and an old cow who was very close to falling apart. (Jack gets cow.)

Song (Ainsi Que) Mother and Jack:

Jack:

I AM JACK AND THIS IS MY MOM, WE LIVE ON A POOR LITTLE FARM, GOT NO PIGS AND GOT- NO PLOW, ALL WE'VE GOT IS ONE POOR OLD COW. Mother:

DON'T TELL JACK, T'WOULD WORRY HIM SO, BUT THAT COW HAS GOT- TO GO,

SHE'S DRIED UP, AND NO MILK WILL GIVE, WE MUST SELL HER, SO WE CAN LIVE, WE NEED MONEY! LIFE'S NOT SUNNY, OH DEAR ME, IT'S NOT SO FUNNY, POOR OLD BESSIE, HOPE IT'S NOT MESSY, OH, SHE HAS GOT TO GO! Jack:

I LOVE BESSIE! SHE'S A GOOD COW, SHE'S PART OF THE FAM'LY NOW, I LOVE BESSIE, SHE'S A VERY GOOD COW, GOOD COW, COW!

During end of accompaniment, Jack dances around with cow. Mother reluctantly gets involved in merriment. At end of song, Mother visibly gathers her courage to tell Jack the bad news.

(Avant de Quitter)

Mother: (sadly, melodramatically)

JACK, I HAVE TO TELL YOU NOW, WE HAVE GOT TO SELL OUR COW,

TAKE HER TO MARKET, IF YOU WOULD, SELL HER, BUT GET A- PRICE THAT'S GOOD. Jack:

EVEN MY BRAVE HEART WILL SWELL, IN THE MOMENT OF FAREWELL,

LOVING SMILE OF BOVINE KIND, QUIET HOME YOU LEAVE BEHIND,

OFT SHALL I SADLY THINK- OF- YOU SO FAR- A- WAY, FAR AWAY! (sobs)

WEAK AND STRONG ALL BOW BEFORE ME, I AM KING O'ER ALL I SEE, WITH MY GOLD AND WITH MY GREED, NEVER WILL I FILL MY NEED, NEVER WILL I FILL MY GREED, NEVER WILL I FILL MY NEED, I WANT GOLD, I WANT MORE GOLD, I WANT IT ALL! I WANT GOLD, I WANT MORE GOLD, I WANT IT ALL....(repeat I WANT section) Wife: HE WANTS GOLD, HE WANTS MORE GOLD, HE WANTS MORE GOLD, HE WANTS IT ALL HE WANTS GOLD, HE WANTS MORE GOLD, HE WANTS MORE GOLD, HE WANTS IT ALL!

Wife: Oh husband, why is it that gold is the only thing that is important to you? We have more gold than we could ever spend, but we are not happy. We have no friends, we have no family. You love nothing but your gold, and your other possessions. Those things will never love you back. Those things will never bring us happiness.

Giant: Hush, woman! You know not to interrupt me while I am with my gold. Ah, my precious gold. I need nothing but you. Kindness is for the weak of heart. I am strong. I am rich.

Wife: He may be strong. He may be rich, but he is a fool. And what does that make me?
(Spinnning Song) AH, UNHAPPY WIFE, AH, UNHAPPY LIFE, I MUST TRY TO CHANGE HIM, TEACH HIM HOW TO LOVE, I WISH I COULD CHANGE HIM, TEACH HIM HOW TO LOVE, HE WANTS ONLY GOLD-, CARES NOT FOR HIS SOUL-, HE'LL TAKE ANYTHING, HE'S SO CRUEL, SO MEAN, ALAS, I AM SO UNHAPPY, WILL HE LEARN TO LOVE?

Giant: Quit your daydreaming, you silly woman! I'm going out in the garden and do a little weeding—a few seem to have popped up since yesterday's rain. Then I'm going back to the vault to get my other treasure, and when I get back, your chores had better be done! (exits)

Jack sneezes.

Wife: Who's there??? Who is it, now??? Come out, come out, wherever you are. (Jack timidly emerges) Why, you're just a boy! You poor child, if my husband finds you, he'll eat you!

Jack: (to audience) I think I'm having a very bad day.

#1- Mother and Jack (Ainsi Que)

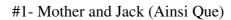
Gounod/Caraher

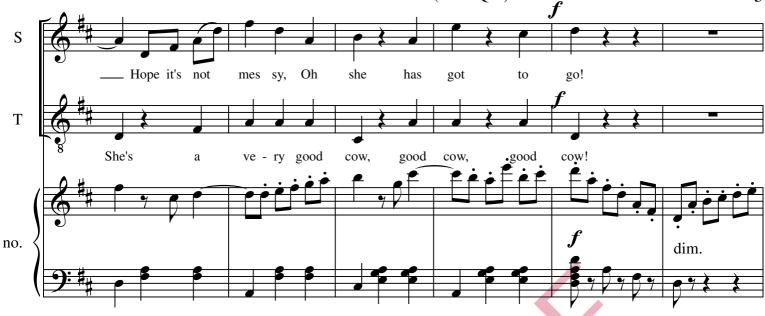












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#2 - Mom (Avant de quitter)

Gounod/Caraher







#6 - Giant & Wife

Gounod/Caraher

















Wife: Oh, husband, why is it that gold is the only thing that is important to you? We have more gold than we could ever spend, but we are not happy. We have no friends, we have no family. You love nothing but your gold, and your other possessions. Those things will never love you back. Those things will never bring us happiness.

Giant: Hush, woman! You know not to interrupt me while I am with my gold. Ah, my precious gold, I need nothing but you. Kindness is for the weak of heart. I am strong. I am rich.

Wife: He may be strong. He may be rich, but be is a fool. And what does that make me?

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