

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE

Top

L2
M2

#1A	Overture	(Orchestra)
#1B	Opening — Act I	(Orchestra)
#1C	Good Morning, Good Day	(Sipos, Arpad, Ritter, Kodaly, Georg)

ARA Violin Solo

L3

Curtain up
after trumpets

(AT RISE: The front of MARACZEK'S Parfumerie. A city in Europe. The 1930s. It is early morning in midsummer. The stage is empty. Then LADISLAV SIPOS ENTERS, his nose buried in a newspaper. SIPOS is about 45 — but he looks older. A moment later, ARPAD ENTERS, riding a bicycle. ARPAD is 15 or 16 — and indefatigable)

1:35 (drop before bell)

L4

ARPAD

GOOD MORNING.

SIPOS

GOOD DAY.

ARPAD

HOW ARE YOU THIS BEAUTIFUL DAY?
ISN'T THIS A BEAUTIFUL MORNING?

SIPOS

VERY.

ARPAD

HEY, SIPOS —
HOW'S THIS?

SIPOS

THAT'S AN AWFULLY ELEGANT POSE
BUT IS ALL THAT ELEGANCE NECE —
'SARY?

ARPAD

And why not? I represent Maraczek's, don't I? We're not a butcher shop — or a hardware store... we're a parfumerie. That means we're... we're...
(HE looks for the word)

SIPOS

WE'RE STYLISH.

MARACZEK

Thank you, Mr. Kodaly.

KODALY

You're welcome, sir.

(KODALY returns to his counter)

standby
m11-m16

MARACZEK

All right, Georg — now I'll make you a bet. I'll bet you — ten-and-six — we'll sell the first of these boxes within one hour.

GEORG

I don't want to take your money —

MARACZEK

Ten-and-six — one hour — no more — no less. Is it a bet?

GEORG

Well —

MARACZEK

Ah ha! He's not so confident now!

GEORG

It's a bet.

m11

#7 You Will Pay Through The Nose (Maraczek)

MARACZEK

(Sings the music box melody)

YOU WILL PAY THROUGH THE NOSE,
YOU WILL PAY THROUGH THE NOSE...

m12

(The door opens, the bell rings and the FIRST CUSTOMER ENTERS. MARACZEK goes to her)

Good day, madam. May I help you?

FIRST CUSTOMER

I'd like a large tube of Mona Lisa.

MARACZEK

Mona Lisa Cold Cream. Certainly, madam.

KODALY

Right this way, madam.

MIC

(MARACZEK EXITS. AMALIA BALASH ENTERS. SHE is attractive, very bright and very, very nervous)

#11 Amalia's Entrance (Orchestra)

GEORG

(To AMALIA)

Good day, madam. May I help you?

AMALIA

No. Yes! —

GEORG

We have a complete stock of perfumes, soaps, shampoos.

AMALIA

No!

GEORG

Bath oils, bath salts.

AMALIA

No!

GEORG

Cold creams, face creams, nail polishes.

AMALIA

No!

GEORG

Brushes — hard, soft and medium —

AMALIA

No!

GEORG

Toilet water? There's a special — this week only — on "Roses of Italy." I'll show it to you...

SCENE TWO

#16A The First Letter — Summer (Georg)

(Set turns to show the outside of the shop. GEORG ENTERS, writing a letter)

m22
S 1 on

GEORG

Dear Friend:

WHEN A DAY BRINGS PETTY AGGRAVATIONS
AND MY POOR FRAYED NERVES ARE ALL ASKEW,
I FORGET THESE UNIMPORTANT MATTERS
POURING OUT MY HOPES AND DREAMS TO YOU.
AS I REST MY PEN AND LOOK AROUND ME,
I CAN SEE THE SUMMER DISAPPEAR.
OH, DEAR FRIEND — ALL AT ONCE — AUTUMN'S HERE.

L10

(GEORG EXITS as ARPAD and RITTER ENTER)

S 2 off

ARPAD

Good morning, Miss Ritter.

RITTER

Good morning, Arpad.

ARPAD

Look!

(Leaves fall)

Autumn!

(ARPAD EXITS as KODALY ENTERS)

#16B The Second Letter — Autumn (Georg)

KODALY

Good morning, Ilona. Here you are on this first October day — the quintessence of autumn. I hope you've forgiven me about our little misunderstanding last night. I can't bear it when we quarrel. Can you, darling? Truthfully?

RITTER

Go to hell.

(THEY EXIT into the shop. More leaves fall. GEORG ENTERS, wearing his coat and reading a letter aloud)

Georg enters

GEORG

L11
S3 on

Dear Friend:

WITH NOVEMBER JUST AROUND THE CORNER,
I'VE A FEELING YOU MAY ALSO SHARE.
DO YOU FEEL AN UNDERTONE OF DISCORD
AND A SENSE OF TENSION IN THE AIR?

L12

(MARACZEK ENTERS angrily)

MARACZEK

L13
S4 off

Mr. Nowack — must this sidewalk always be covered with leaves?

GEORG

No, sir. But... Mr. Maraczek, Mr. Maraczek...

(MARACZEK goes into the shop and slams the door. ARPAD ENTERS with a broom and starts sweeping the leaves)

S5 on

IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOUR ENDEARING LETTERS,
I'D BE FLYING SOUTH WITH ALL THE GEESE!
BY THE WAY, HAVE YOU READ "WAR AND PEACE"?

(AMALIA ENTERS. GEORG quickly ducks the letter)

L14
S6 off

AMALIA

Good morning, Mr. Nowack.

GEORG

I see you're on time today, Miss Balash. Congratulations.

(SIPOS ENTERS and watches)

AMALIA

I'm sorry to disappoint you.

GEORG

Oh, but I'm not disappointed. Far from it. Let's just call it surprised.

(Their argument continues softly)

ARPAD

(To SIPOS)

They always argue — why is that?

SIPOS

A simple chemical reaction. You see — sometimes when two people like each other very much...

(AMALIA goes into the shop, slamming the door in GEORG'S face. Then GEORG goes in)

ARPAD

They like each other?!

SIPOS

I think so.

ARPAD

They like each other very much?

(SIPOS nods)

Don't you think we should tell them?

SIPOS

Arpad — my boy — they'd never believe us!!

ARPAD

Look!

(Icicles come down)

Winter!

LIS

(ARPAD and SIPOS go into shop. We hear GEORG'S voice. Then AMALIA ENTERS, reading a letter)

ST on

#16C The Third Letter — Winter (Georg, Amalia)

GEORG

Dear Friend:

HAVE YOU SET YOUR CALENDAR FOR TUESDAY,
WHEN WE BRING THIS

AMALIA, GEORG

CHAPTER TO A CLOSE?
WHEN I MEET MY LADY OF THE LETTERS
WHO PUTS TINY FACES IN HER "O'S."

(GEORG fades out)

IN THE FREEZING WEATHER OF DECEMBER
I'LL BE WARMLY WAITING FOR OUR DATE.

AMALIA

UNTIL THEN — COUNT THE HOURS —

Oh! I'm late for work! I'm late! *Amalia exits*

SS off

(AMALIA runs into the shop)

Actors on stage

L16

Good morning.

ALL

Good morning.

AMALIA

Am I very late? Did Mr. Nowack say anything?
(SHE takes off her coat and starts into the workroom)
Where is he?

RITTER

In the workroom. You're all new! The shoes — the dress — the hat —

AMALIA

Top to bottom. I'm surprised you recognized me. Do I look all right?

SIPOS, RITTER, KODALY, ARPAD

(Ad libbing)

Lovely! Very nice! Wonderful! etc...

AMALIA

It took me three hours to get dressed. That's why I'm so late.

KODALY

I have a feeling our little Miss Balash must be in love.
(To AMALIA)

And you have a rendezvous with him — this evening...