

A COMIC OPERA IN ONE ACT BY SEUMAS GAGNE

LIBRETTO BY SEUMAS GAGNE

ORIGINAL PREMIER NOVEMBER 1987

THIRD EDITION © JUNE 2023

FOR SOPRANO, MEZZO-SOPRANO, BARITONE, MIXED CHORUS, VIOLIN I, VIOLIN II OR FLUTE. AND BASSO CONTINUO

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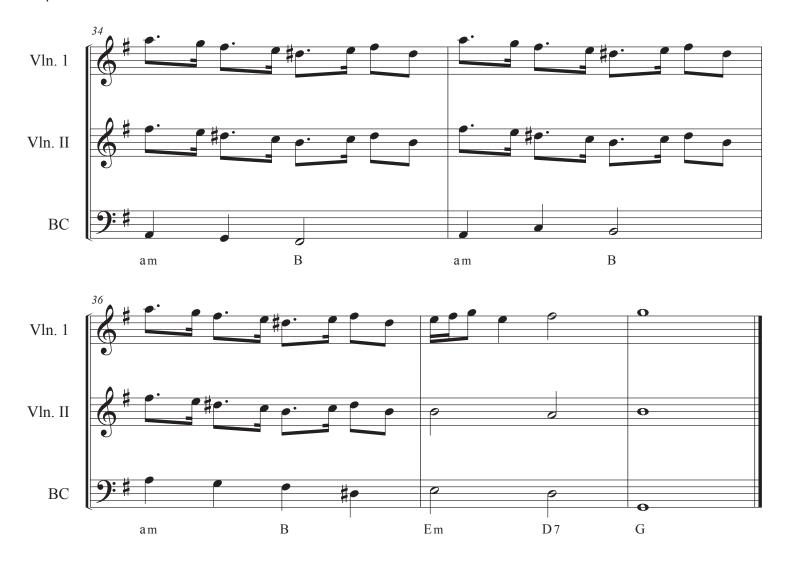
The Woman Driven

1. Overture

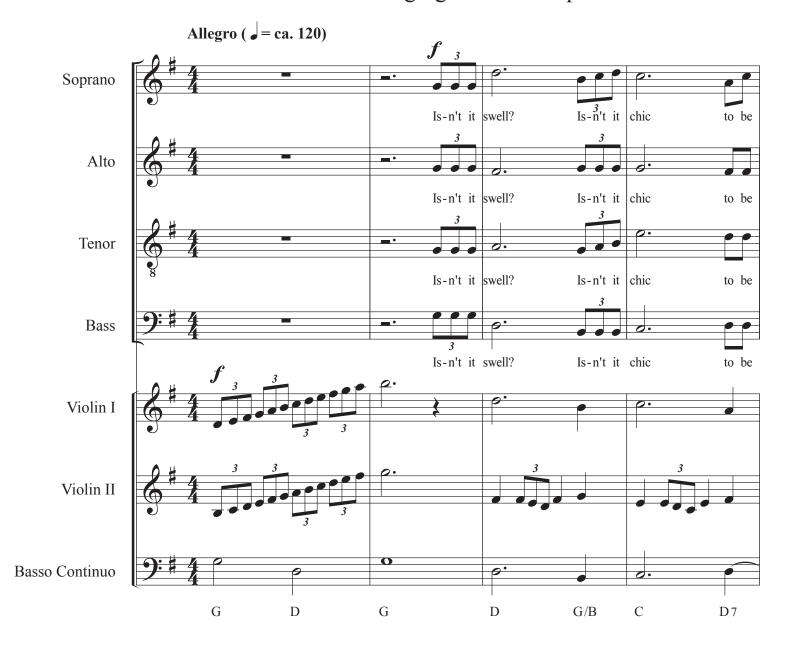






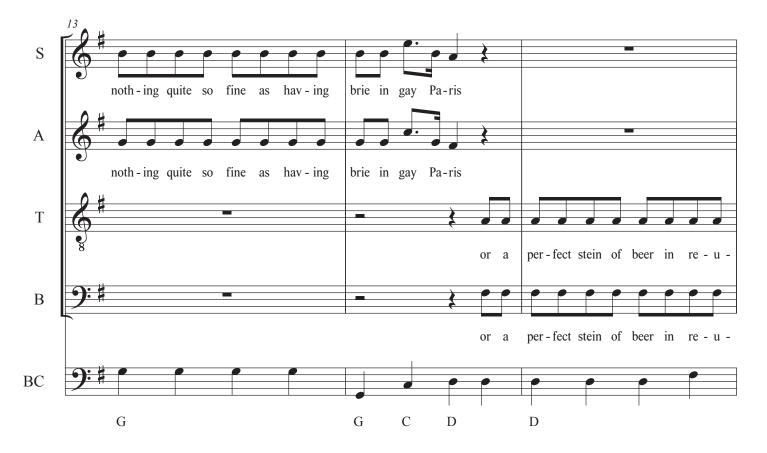


2. Chorus: Hanging Out in Europe



















3. Dance: Piazza Waltz





4. Aria: My Darling Brother

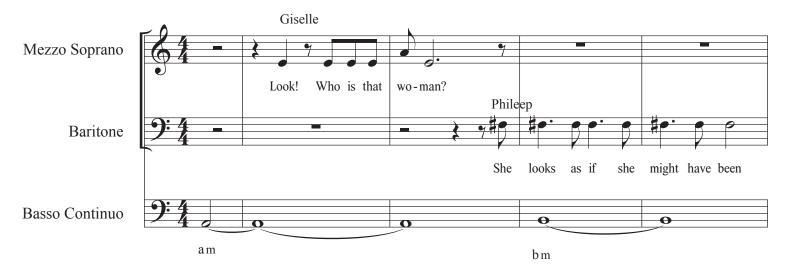








5. Recitative: Who Is That Woman?



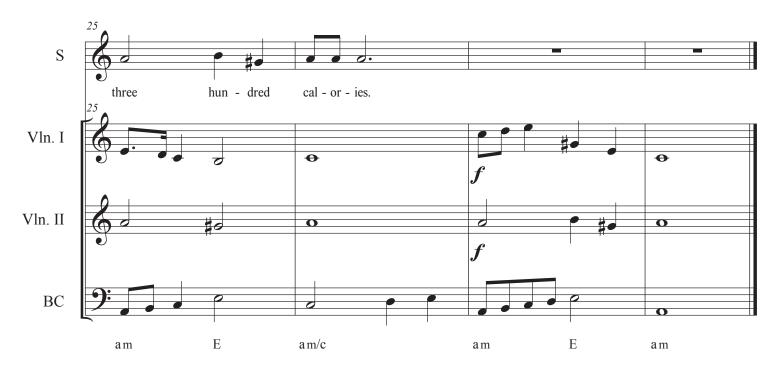


6. Aria: A Woman Driven

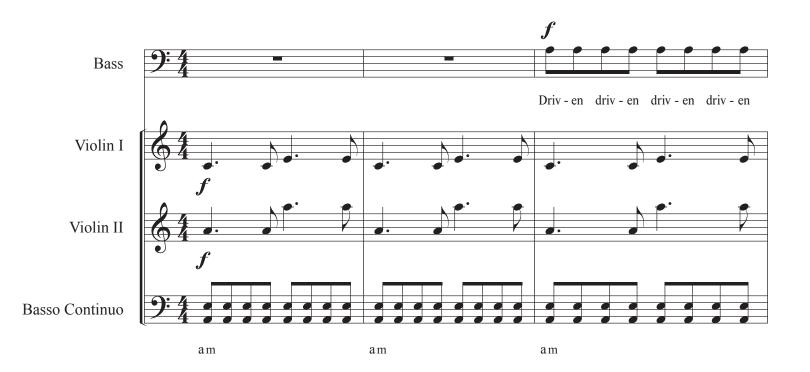








6. Chorus: Driven Like a Leper

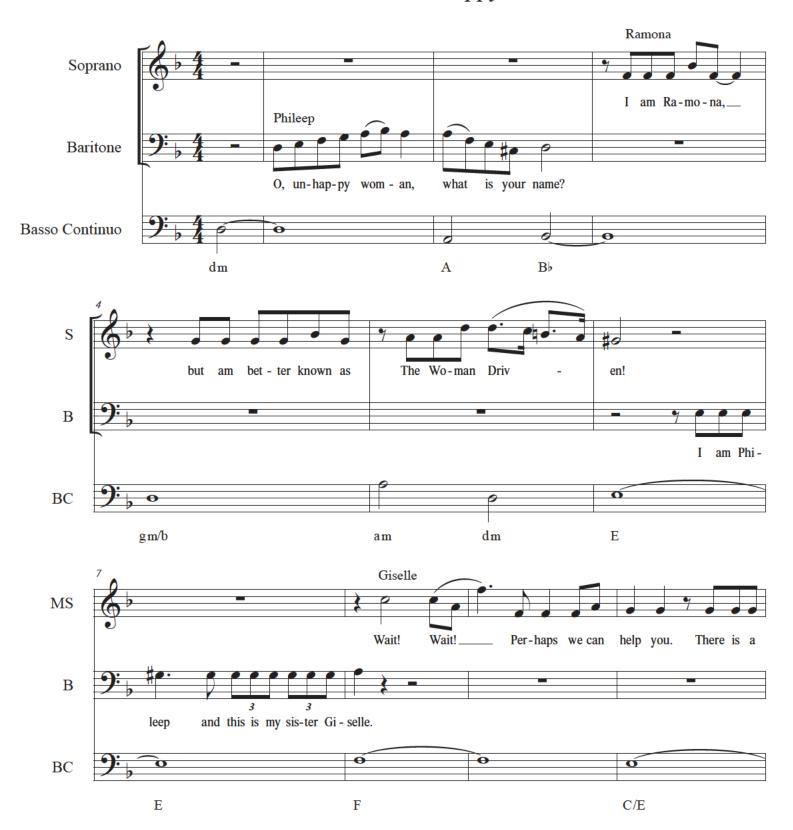








8. Recitative: Unhappy Woman





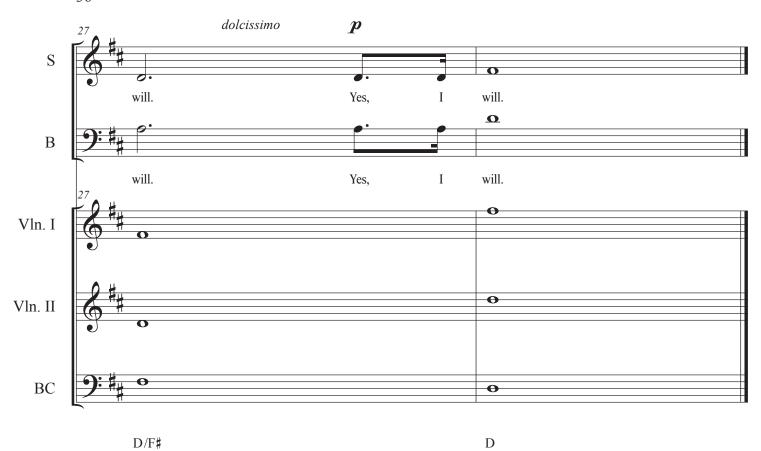


9. Duet: How Long I Have Waited









10. Recitative: How They Do Go On



11. Aria and Trio: Two Slices

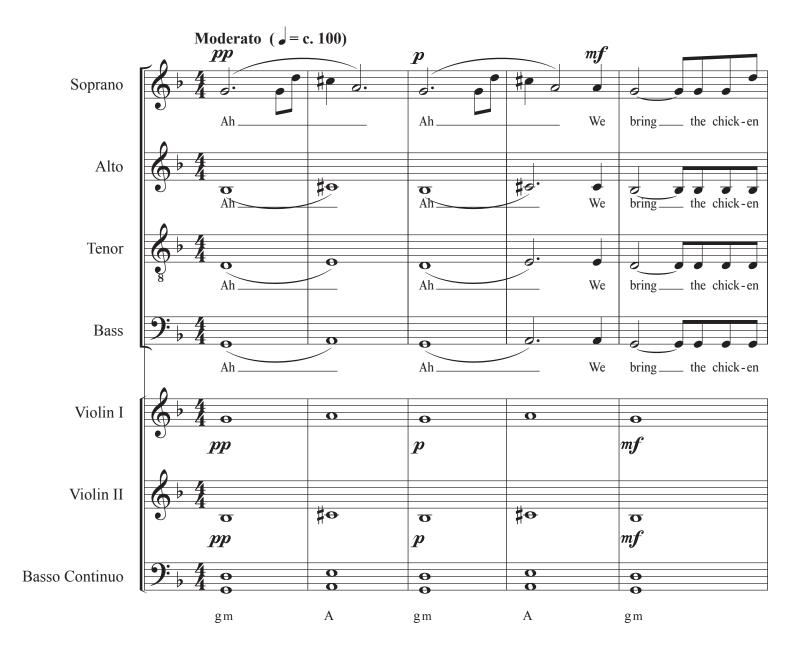








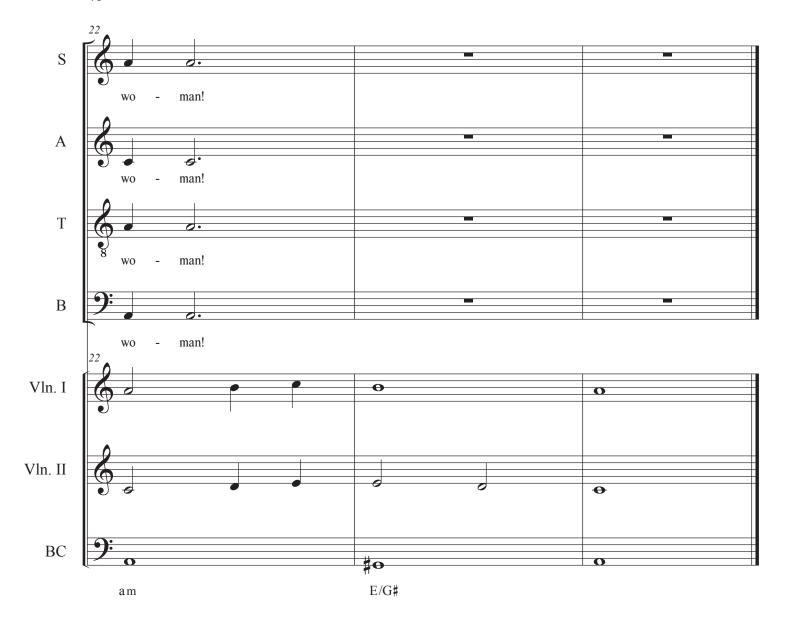
12. Chorus and Recitative: The Chicken Sandwich





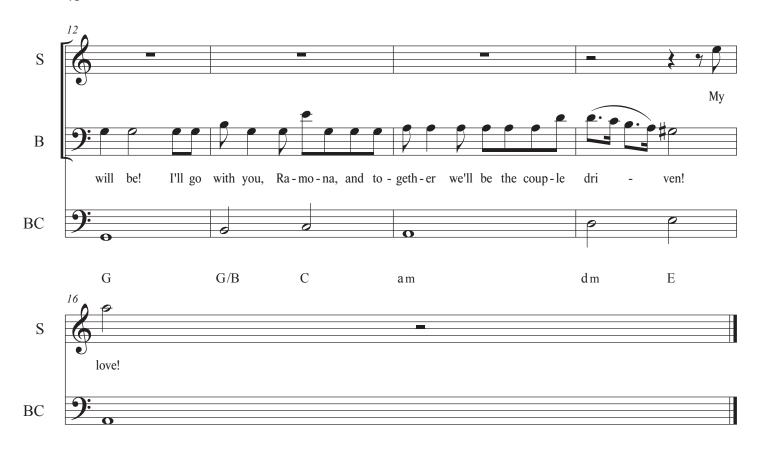






13. Recitative: Weep Not For Me





am

14. Finale: The Couple Driven











End of the opera

ROLES

Ramona | soprano Phileep | baritone Giselle | mezzo-soprano Their friends | mixed chorus

LIBRETTO

CHORUS:

Isn't it swell? Isn't it chic to be hanging out in Europe? There's not a care to be found where bread is long and cheese is round!

There's nothing quite so fine as having brie in gay Paris or a perfect stein of beer in reunited Germany.

The kindly folks in Rome will make you feel at home and the cafés in old Amsterdam will help you to get... anyway!

Isn't it swell? Isn't it chic to be hanging out in Europe? And it's great just to know that there's no 'x' in 'espresso'

GISELLE:

O my darling brother, you're the jewel of my heart. You aren't very handsome so it's lucky that you're smart. Your love life's a disaster so of course you are distressed but listen to your sister and we'll sort out all your mess.

The way to true contentment isn't science, Dear, but art.
Until you find the love you seek you've got to act the part!
Stand up tall and smile. Fine some joy in every day.
Love yourself and I love you and you're sure to find your way!
Fake it 'til you make it, Bro, and love will come one day!

Look! Who is that woman?

PHILEEP:

She looks as if she might have been driven across the face of the Earth like a leper!

RAMONA:

Yes, it's true.

I am a woman driven across the face of the Earth like a leper.
I am unloved. I am unloving. Unloved and unloving but noble is my quest!

I seek! I search! Je cherce! Ich suche! I want the ultimate chicken sandwich! I seek, I search! I must have the ultimate chicken sandwich under three hundred calories.

CHORUS:

Driven like a leper! She's been driven across the Earth like a leper!

RAMONA: Yes! **CHORUS:** Are you unloved? RAMONA: Yes! CHORUS: Are you unloving? RAMONA: Yes! CHORUS: Poor dear wretched woman! PHILEEP: O, unhappy woman, what is your name? RAMONA: I am Ramona, but am better known as The Woman Driven! PHILEEP:

I am Phileep, and this is my sister Giselle.

GISELLE:

Wait! Wait! Perhaps we can help you. There is a place not far from here that sells and excellent chicken sandwich. Our friends will to and get you one.

RAMONA:

Could it be at last?

PHILEEP:

Perhaps!

RAMONA:

You have been so kind!

PHILEEP:

You are so lovely and so brave!

O, how long I have waited to find a love to call my own, but if I follow her I must now forsake all I've ever known.

RAMONA:

My road I have walked in solitude; my quest my only friend, but if I stay with him I must now abandon my search before it's reached its end.

PHILEEP AND RAMONA:

O, how long I have waited (searched) to find a love to call my own.

At that moment, will I give up all I've ever known?

Yes, I will.

GISELLE:

O, how they do go on! Worrying about things that might never be.

Enough of that, you two!

Now, Ramona, dear; tell us what comprises
the ultimate chicken sandwich.

RAMONA:

Well, let's see...

Two slices of lightly broiled breast of chicken on a sesame seed bun.

The lettuce must be cold. If the tomato is not firm,

if the mayo is too fattening, then it's not, no it's not the ultimate chicken sandwich.

RAMONA, GISELLE, AND PHILEEP:

Two slices of lightly broiled breast of chicken on a sesame seed bun. The lettuce must be cold!

CHORUS:

We bring the chicken sandwich; an excellent chicken sandwich!

RAMONA:

The lettuce is warm!

CHORUS:

Poor dear wretched woman! Poor dear Ramona! Poor dear wretched woman!

RAMONA:

Weep not for me dear friends for the sadness in my heart comes only from the knowledge that we soon must part.

GISELLE:

Will you continue on your quest?

RAMONA:

Yes. I must. But what joy to know that I am loved, and that I am last am loving!

PHILEEP:

And you always will be! I'll go with you, Ramona, and together we'll be The Couple Driven!

RAMONA:

My love!

RAMONA, PHILEEP, GISELLE, AND CHORUS:

We'll be The Couple Driven across the face of the Earth like lepers, But we'll be loved, and we'll be loving. We'll be loved; we'll be loving and noble is our quest. We'll seek! We'll search, and someday we'll find it; the ultimate chicken sandwich and live happily every after!