

# Venetian Twins

Book and lyrics by Nick Enright

Music by Terence Clarke

Based on the play by Carlo Goldoni

*Venetian Twins* is a rollicking, fast-paced, farcical romp of mistaken identities, love, lust, chivalry, murder – and more. Oh – and it is partly told through song. Yep! It's got it all.

## Synopsis – so you get the idea!

### Scene 1

The play opens in the home of the Judge of Verona. His daughter, Rosina, is waiting to meet her fiancé, Zanetto, with her maid, Colombina. She is hoping to wed Zanetto's servant.

The Judge has arranged the marriage because Rosina is 'young and pretty', and Zanetto is 'young and pretty rich'. He is one of orphaned twins, the other twin being Tonino, who lives in Venice.

Zanetto is a 'boy from the bush', who is waiting for his money and jewels to arrive with his servant to 'get married'. When finally left alone with Rosina, he demonstrates that he is unfamiliar with how to woo a woman, and Rosina thinks he is a fool, slaps him, and he leaves.

Rosina is comforted by her father's loyal friend, Pancrazio, who secretly lusts after her. (He's a villain!)

### SCENE 2

Beatrice, a young woman who has run away from Venice, who has been waiting for her beloved, Tonino (Zanetto's twin), decides she can no longer wait for him. Tonino's friend, Florindo (who is crazy about her) doesn't want her to leave.

Enter Lelio (who is also crazy about Beatrice) and is following her around. He confronts Florindo, and they start a swordfight. Tonino arrives and disarms Lelio, who swears he'll get his revenge.

When Tonino asks where Beatrice is, Florindo lies, and says he hasn't seen her. Tonino says, he doesn't want anyone to know his name, as he has been outlawed from Venice for slapping a rival suitor of Beatrice. So, from now on, he'll call himself Zanetto, as it is the name of his twin brother who lives in the country.

Zanetto enters and is mistaken by Lelio for Tonino, who draws his sword to fight. Florindo enters and disarms Lelio. He also mistakes Zanetto for Tonino. Thinking he is talking to Tonino, he tells Zanetto to leave town because of the slap and he is an outlaw. Zanetto is unsure that the little slap (from Rosina) would make him an outlaw, but agrees he should go home. Then after Zanetto leaves, he decides he actually likes Rosina, and even though she slapped him, he'll buy her a present. But he has to wait for his servant, Arlecchino to arrive with his money and jewels. Pancrazio then enters, and convinces Zanetto that he's 'better dead than wed'!

Beatrice enters and sees Zanetto and thinks he is Tonino. When she approaches him, he turns against her and tells her he renounces the female sex and goes. Beatrice is rejected and leaves in distress.

Arlecchino, Zanetto's servant, arrives with his money and jewels. He meets Tonino, and thinks he is Zanetto, and tries to give them to him, but Tonino will not accept them.

Colombina sees Tonino and thinks he is Zanetto. She tells him that her mistress 'has changed her mind'. The Judge enters and makes Tonino an 'offer' of his daughter.

Arlecchino returns and is met by Colombina and there is instant attraction. Zanetto arrives and asks Arlecchino where his money and jewels are, and Arlecchino says he put them in 'his' room, in the inn. He has mistakenly put them in Tonino's room!

Tonino is then met by Rosina (who thinks he is Zanetto). She thinks they are betrothed, and he tells her 'he's better dead than wed', so she is distraught.

Pancrazio then enters and Tonino gives the jewels to him and says he's going back to Venice. Pancrazio is delighted he has the money he's needed to marry Rosina.

Zanetto threatens to have Arlecchino arrested if he does not give him his jewels. And does.

Then Beatrice enters and thinks Zanetto is Tonino. She implores him not to leave.

Florindo enters and thinks Tonino (who is really Zanetto) has been reunited with Beatrice. Zanetto likes Beatrice, but Florindo tells him he can't marry two women, so Zanetto leaves.

Florindo comforts Beatrice until Tonino (the real one) arrives and is reunited with Beatrice.

**This is the end of Act 1.**

**So do you get the idea?**

## Characters

From Verona	Role	Suggested age
Zanetto	Suitor to Rosina from Bergamo; twin of Tonino; Aussie country bumpkin	30+; Baritone
Rosina	Judge's daughter, betrothed to Zanetto, not to bright	20+; Soprano
Colombina	Maid to Rosina	30-40+; Contralto
The Judge	Father of Rosina	50+; Bass Baritone
Pancrazio	Friend to the Judge, villain pursuing Rosina	40+; Baritone
Arlecchino	Servant to Zanetto	40+; Baritone
From Venice		
Tonino	Venetian gentleman, twin of Zanetto, dashing and sophisticated	40+; Baritone
Beatrice	Venetian lady betrothed to Tonino	20+; Soprano
Florindo	Veronese friend to Tonino / loves Beatrice	30+; Baritone
Lelio	Judge's nephew, pursuing Beatrice – foppish fool	30+; Baritone
Policeman	(double)	
Jeweller	(double)	

## Audition pieces

Section	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
Colombina	Yes							Yes	Yes	
Rosina	Yes	Yes								
Judge	Yes							Yes		
Zanetto	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes				Yes
Pancrazio		Yes			Yes					
Beatrice			Yes			Yes				Yes
Florindo			Yes	Yes						Yes
Lelio			Yes	Yes						
Tonino			Yes					Yes		
Arlecchino							Yes	Yes	Yes	

## Section A: ROSINA, COLOMBINA, JUDGE, ZANETTO

*Colombina primps at Rosina's dressing-table. Rosina enters, half-dressed.*

- Rosina** Colombina? Colombina! How dare you! Get up this minute.
- Colombina** I'm not ready yet.
- Rosina** Neither am I. Look at me! You're paid to dress me, not sit primping yourself at my mirror.
- Colombina** I've spent all morning helping you, Signora, and now it's my turn.
- Rosina** You don't care if my fiancé sees me undressed.
- Colombina** He'll have to face it sooner or later.
- Rosina** But he'll be here any minute.
- Colombina** With his servant, my fiancé. So I have to look my best.
- Rosina** Get up! Get up!
- Colombina** Get out!
- Rosina** Daddy! Daddy!
- Judge** *The Judge enters.* Rosina! Rosina! Have you finished your toilette? Your fortune – your fiancé will be here any minute.
- Rosina** Signor Zanetto?
- Judge** Yes, Signor Zanetto. I believe I've spied him riding down the street.
- Rosina** Oh Daddy. Do you think he'll like me?
- Judge** Of course, my dear. You're young and pretty.
- Rosina** But will I like him?
- Judge** Of course, my dear. He's young and pretty rich. Sole heir to his uncle, the richest man in Bergamo. He's come into quite a fortune.
- Rosina** A fortune? He sounds perfect. Sole heir. Oh! Then he's an only child like me.
- Judge** No. I believe he has a twin brother.
- Arlecchino** *(To audience)* Tonino.
- Judge** But they're both orphans. Lost their mother and their sister on the high road, father died of grief. Terrible story.
- Rosina** Oh, poor Zanetto.
- Colombina** And the other one.
- Arlecchino** Tonino. Tonino and Zanetto.  
*There is a knock at the door.*
- Judge** There he is at our door. I'll go down myself and welcome him, then bring him up to meet his bride. *Colombina goes to follow him.* Where are you going, you hussy?
- Colombina** She's not the only one getting married. I want to check out the servant.
- Judge** He's not here yet. Signor Zanetto was riding on his own.
- Rosina** Colombina, life is so unfair. That poor Signor Tonino. I imagine my fiancé got everything, the inheritance, the charm, the intelligence -  
*The Judge ushers in Zanetto*
- Zanetto** G'day.
- Judge** Rosina, this is Signor Zanetto.
- Zanetto** You're the one are you?
- Rosina** Your humble servant, signor.
- Zanetto** Oh! *(To the judge)* Where's your daughter?
- Judge** This is my daughter.
- Zanetto** She said she's a servant.
- Judge** Merely a turn of phrase.

**Zanetto** Oh. That's a bad start.

**Judge** What?

**Zanetto** I don't want my wife turning any phrases.

**Rosina** Daddy...

**Judge** *The Judge steers her to Zanetto.* Shall we start again?

**Rosina** Signor Zanetto... I meant to show you my respect.

**Zanetto** Oh, did you now?

**Rosina** Don't you like me signor?

**Zanetto** I don't know. I only just met you.

**Rosina** I mean my appearance.

**Zanetto** What's that to me? I'm here on business.

**Rosina** Oh!

**Zanetto** I've come to Verona to get married. And as soon as my servant Arlecchino gets here with my money and my jewels -

**Rosina** But you have come here to marry me. Haven't you?

**Zanetto** Oh yeah! Oh! Have I got to do it now? Rightyoh. Give us your hand.

**Rosina** What?

**Zanetto** Give us your hand and we'll get it over and done with.

**Rosina** Daddy...

**Judge** My dear son-in-law, there's no need to be so hasty. First you must woo your fiancée.

**Zanetto** Woo her?

**Judge** Yes.

**Zanetto** How do I do that? I haven't got my money and my jewels.

**Judge** Try a few little endearments. I'm sure you can show her a trick or two.

**Zanetto** A trick or two. Do us a favour?

**Judge** Of course

**Zanetto** Get out of here. You're making me look silly.

**Judge** Just as you say my boy. (To Rosina) Remember, sole heir to a fortune.  
*He goes.*

**Zanetto** *Zanetto does a trick. Puts a tumbler on each eye.* A man with glasses!

**Rosina** What are you doing?

**Zanetto** Your Dad said to show you a trick or two.

**Rosina** He didn't mean tricks like that. He meant for you to press your suit.

**Zanetto** I had it done before I came.

**Rosina** No, silly. Press your suit to me.

**Zanetto** Yeah?

**Rosina** Go on. Press it.

**Zanetto** Right here and now?

**Rosina** Yes.

**Zanetto** In front of all these people?

**Rosina** Yes.

**Zanetto** You're sure you won't mind?

**Rosina** Of course not. Press it now.

**Zanetto** Rightyoh. *He presses against Rosina. She slaps him hard.*  
You wouldn't think she'd hit a man with glasses. *Zanetto goes.*

## Section B: PANCRAZIO, ROSINA

- Rosina** How impertinent, how improper! He seemed a fool at first, but he's worse than a fool. A beautiful young woman should never be left alone with such a man, or any man, except Signor Pancrazio. He is my father's loyal friend and constant guest, so good, so upright –  
*Pancrazio enters.*  
Here he is! See how his face reflects the virtue of his soul?
- Pancrazio** Good morrow, dearest. How your face bespeaks some sorrow that assails your maiden heart.
- Rosina** Oh, Signor! You know we have been expecting my fiancé -
- Pancrazio** (*aside*) How long that news hath stirr'd my fever'd brain!
- Rosina** He's here. And he's a fool. Worse than that, he's shameless. My father brought him in just now, and left me alone with him. And he... he...
- Pancrazio** He what?
- Rosina** He pressed his suit, very rudely, and I slapped him.
- Pancrazio** Oh, splendid, wise and prudent maiden heart,  
Heroic hand, oh, let me press my lips  
Devoutly there upon in reverence.  
*He kisses her hand.*
- Rosina** Then I was right to slap him?
- Pancrazio** Quite right to spurn the lechery of youth. And now, seek out an older, wiser, man.
- Rosina** But where?
- Pancrazio** Where fate decrees. Till then, have faith in me.
- Rosina** But, you know, there's something about signor Zanetto... I think I like him.
- Pancrazio** You like this lecherous, incautious beast? Let not your lips pronounce his name again.
- Rosina** You're sure? Then I'll go and tell Daddy I won't see him again. Aren't we lucky to have such a family friend?  
*She goes.*
- Pancrazio** My rival here? I must win her by tonight. But how? How? How?  
SONG (read with rhythm – if you can)  
I am evil to the marrow  
I am rotten to the core,  
I'm a funnel-web who's hovering  
Above the privy door,  
I'm a rake, a snake, a hypocrite,  
But where's it got me? I'm single and poor.  
So I'm getting tired of villainy,  
Hypocrisy's a chore.  
There must be a way to get the girl,  
Or what's a villain for?  
Hiss the villain.  
Go on, hiss the villain.

## Section C: BEATRICE, FLORINDO, LELIO, TONINO

*(A street. One side the judge's house, the other, an inn. Beatrice enters followed by Florindo.)*

- Beatrice** No, no, no, Signor Florindo. You have been very kind, but I must go. I am returning to Venice.
- Florindo** But why so soon?
- Beatrice** So soon? I've waited here six days for my beloved Tonino. And still there is no sign of him.
- Florindo** You are sure he said he would follow you here?
- Beatrice** I am certain. Either something has kept him in Venice, or- Fortune! He has changed his mind.
- Florindo** *(aside)* If only he has!
- Beatrice** So I must return to Venice and see for myself.
- Florindo** No!
- Beatrice** No?
- Florindo** Signora Beatrice, I cannot allow you to go.
- Beatrice** But why?
- Florindo** Why? Tonino is my friend. He has entrusted you to my care. There is no-one that I love and honour more than Tonino. He is like a brother to me. *(Aside)* I am lying. I cannot let her go because I am crazy about her.
- Beatrice** But I have left home and family for him. He's my reason for living, so I must go and find him.
- Florindo** Wait just a little longer!
- Beatrice** And lose Tonino forever?
- Florindo** But if you have lost him already, why return to Venice?
- Beatrice** Why linger in Verona?
- Florindo** Here you might meet someone else, someone... handsome, brave, strong, stylish, a natural blond perhaps... someone who could... well, help you forget Tonino.
- Beatrice** Forget Tonino? The finest man in Venice? Never. I would follow him to the ends of the earth.
- Lelio** *(off)* Signora Beatrice! Signora
- Beatrice** A voice. Could it be?
- Florindo** *(aside)* Damnation! It's that fop Lelio. He trails her like a spaniel.
- Lelio** *(off)* Signora Beatrice!
- Beatrice** It's that fop Lelio. He trails be like a spaniel. For the love of heaven do not let him find us!
- Lelio** *(off)* Signora Beatrice!
- Florindo** Hold your ground, Signora, while I drive him away. *Lelio enters.*
- Lelio** (SONG) Signor, if you're seeking trouble
- Florindo** I'll attend you on the double!  
Save your sword to trim your stubble, You are naught by froth and bubble!
- Lelio** You ruffian!
- Florindo** You popinjay!
- Lelio** You bounder!
- Florindo** You buffoon!
- Lelio** You malapert!
- Florindo** You waterfly!
- Lelio** You upstart!
- Florindo** You poltroon!
- Beatrice** Oh, stay your insults, gentlemen, they'll lead to bloodshed soon.
- Florindo** To bloodshed? No, it's all hot air within this big balloon.
- Lelio** The hand that wields this sword is dab, sir.

- Florindo** Let it jab, sir, stop this gab, sir.
- Lelio** I shall lay you on the slab, sir, Carve you up for shish kebab, sir,  
And how will you survive unscarred, sir?
- Florindo** See you feathered, sir, and tarred, sir,  
Sell your gizzards by the yard, sir.
- Lelio** Now you've gone too far! En garde, sir! *(They fight. Beatrice runs away.)*
- Florindo** *Lelio trips Florindo.)* You tripped me!
- Lelio** That was superior swordsmanship. Now, Signor – *(He draws on Florindo.)*
- Tonino** *(Tonino enters, sword drawn.)* Hold it right there! Point your sword this way.
- Florindo** Tonino. My beloved friend, Tonino.
- Tonino** No names! *(To Lelio)* Come, sir, let me see some of this superior swordsmanship.  
*(They fight. He disarms Lelio.)*
- Lelio** But you have disarmed me.
- Tonino** Yes, that is enough for me. I have saved my friend's honour. There is no need to kill you.  
Don't thank me. That is the way we do things in Venice. And now, sir, begone.
- Lelio** I shall have my revenge.
- Tonino** I am ready for you any time sir. *(Lelio goes.)*
- Florindo** Tonino! My dear friend Tonino.
- Tonino** Shh! No names. Where is Beatrice?
- Florindo** Beatrice? Who is Beatrice?
- Tonino** My betrothed. She has fled from Venice. I sent her here into your protection.
- Florindo** But Tonino -
- Tonino** Shh! No names!
- Florindo** I have not seen this Signora...
- Tonino** Beatrice. But she left Venice over a week ago.
- Florindo** She has not yet arrived in Verona.
- Tonino** Then where can she be?
- Florindo** I wish I could help you, Tonino -
- Tonino** No names!
- Florindo** No names? Why not no names? Why did you send this lady from Venice? And why have you  
come here yourself?
- Tonino** Why? I'm glad you asked. Beatrice has a rival suitor, a mere poltroon, favoured by her family,  
but repugnant to her. Beatrice and I decided to elope.
- Florindo** But you sent the lady ahead of you.
- Tonino** I am no coward. I tarried to face my rival. He insulted my honour. I did the only thing a man  
can do.
- Florindo** No!
- Tonino** Yes! I raised my strong right hand.
- Florindo** And you -
- Tonino** Yes. I slapped him.
- Florindo** You slapped him. Just like that?
- Tonino** Just like that. Open palm. Leaves no bruises.
- Florindo** You're quite a man.
- Tonino** I know. But now, in my beloved Venice, I am an outlaw.
- Florindo** And you did all that for love?
- Tonino** For love. And honour



## Section D: ZANETTO, LELIO, FLORINO

Lelio and Florindo mistake Zanetto for Tonino.

- Zanetto** *Zanetto enters. His neck is still twisted from the slap. He loosens it.*  
That's better. I'm not showing her any more tricks.
- Lelio** *Enters.*  
Aha! Now you will meet me face to face, you Venetian sewer-rat. I am come for my revenge.
- Zanetto** Eh?
- Lelio** Well might you be startled. You thought I would not return, did you?
- Zanetto** Oh, no.
- Lelio** Well, sir. Do you feel this?  
*He brandishes his sword.*
- Zanetto** Yes.
- Lelio** Put your hand on yours?
- Zanetto** On mine?
- Lelio** Yes. Yours.
- Zanetto** Not yours?
- Lelio** No, yours.
- Zanetto** On my what?
- Lelio** On your sword.
- Zanetto** Oh, my sword? My sword! Why?
- Lelio** You said you would fight me any time.
- Zanetto** Did I?
- Lelio** Yes.
- Zanetto** Must have slipped my mind.
- Lelio** Come on, signor.
- Zanetto** Go easy. You could hurt someone with that, you know.
- Lelio** You mock me, signor.
- Zanetto** Do I?
- Lelio** I know your no coward.
- Zanetto** I'm not Noel Coward.
- Lelio** Come on, signor.
- Zanetto** Aaagh! I dunno, they slap you, they poke you, they call you Noel Coward. I don't think I like this place.
- Lelio** En garde, signor.  
*He draws Zanetto into combat and brings him to the ground.*
- Zanetto** Look, are you sure I'm Noel Coward?
- Lelio** And now, for my revenge!
- Florindo** *Florindo enters.*  
Stop! How dare you take advantage of my friend?
- Zanetto** This must be Noel Coward.  
*Florindo and Lelio fight.*  
Go on Noel, stick it in him. Stick it up his nose.
- Florindo** No, my friend, I will let him live as you did last time.
- Zanetto** Yeah! Just like last time.
- Lelio** You are a worthy opponent, signor. But your friend is a disgrace to his native Venice.

*He limps away.*

**Zanetto** No, I'm not. I'm a disgrace to my native Bergamo.

**Florindo** Of course, this is part of your plan, to play the poltroon.

**Zanetto** Play the poltroon? I can't even play the kazoo. Thanks for saving me, but, Noel.

**Florindo** My friend, you must leave Verona at once. I fear that slap has made you an outlaw.

**Zanetto** You reckon? A little slap like that?

**Florindo** I fear so. And the lady? You have not see her?

**Zanetto** No, not since... you know, since...

*He mimes the slap.*

Thank goodness.

**Florindo** *(aside)* Thank goodness?

**Zanetto** And I dunno if I want to see her again.

**Florindo** *(aside)* Then Beatrice is mine. If only I can find her. *(To Zanetto)* Take my advice and go back home.

**Zanetto** That's what I'm gonna do.

**Florindo** If you must, then farewell, Toni... Zanetto.

*He embraces Zanetto.*

**Zanetto** See you, Noel.

*Florindo goes.*

Seems like a nice fella. I think he likes me. But, by jeez, this is a funny place. Noel's right, I should shoot through. But that Rosina, she's real nice, even if she did slap me. I know what I'll do. I'll buy her a really nice present.

## Section E: ZANETTO, PANCRAZIO

- Pancrazio** *(aside)* That fool Zanetto still about our door!
- Zanetto** Hang on! I can't. Arlecchino hasn't arrived with my money and my jewels. Oh, shit.
- Pancrazio** Good signor, who is it though seek'st within?
- Zanetto** My fiancée.
- Pancrazio** Zounds! Thou seek'st the maid who slapp-ed thee?
- Zanetto** Yes Rosina
- Pancrazio** Wouldst make thy peace with her, my friend?  
Thou find's her pleasing to thine eye?  
In marriage now thou seek'st her hand?  
Good signor, how I pity thee.
- Zanetto** You do?
- Pancrazio** Wouldst marry with a woman?
- Zanetto** Well, who else?
- Pancrazio** Wouldst take unto thyself a wife?
- Zanetto** Yes, well, why not? I don't get you.
- Pancrazio** Thou get'st me not? Then I must teach the straight. I'll show they now the error of thy ways. Hit it boys.  
From the moment Adam lost a rib  
And found that he was lumbered with a wife,  
He discovered that the hand that rocks the crib  
Can rock the firm foundations of a man's whole life.  
You're better dead than wed  
Death's a better end than bedding,  
If you're fool enough to lose your head,  
Choose beheading, not a wedding.

## Section F: ZANETTO, BEATRICE

Beatrice mistakes Zanetto for Tonino.

**Beatrice** My beloved, at last!

**Zanetto** Sorry. I wouldn't have done it if I'd known you were there.

**Beatrice** Ho! Playful one, when did you arrive?

**Zanetto** Sorceress! Raging fury!

**Beatrice** Oh!

**Zanetto** Hanging jury!

**Beatrice** Oh!

**Zanetto** Heartless houri!

**Beatrice** Houri?

**Zanetto** Yes, houri. I don't know what it means either.

**Beatrice** But my dearest - Am I not your promised bride?

**Zanetto** No! Better dead than wed.

**Beatrice** What?

**Zanetto** Better hanged than hitched.

**Beatrice** I beseech you -

**Zanetto** Don't you beseech me, you old houri. I renounce the female sex. Besides, I don't even know you.

*He goes.*

**Beatrice** He knows me not! Oh!

Traded and abandoned,

Despised and rejected,

Spurned and insulted,

Alone and unprotected;

This is vexing and distressing,

Not to mention unexpected...

I'll be inwardly directed.

What do I hear?

My heart says that love is a gypsy,

Wilder by far than we know, than we know,

Onward he rides, my Magyar, and I'll follow.

He is my path to Tonino.

## Section G: ARLECCHINO

**Arlecchino** So, this is Verona. I tell you, it's bigger than Bergamo. It's a big town all right. And how am I going to find Signor Zanetto in a town this size? Meet me at the inn, he says. That's all very well, but which in? There are two inns. Which inn is he in? And I've got his money, and the jewels he's going to give to Signora Whatsername.

*He asks a member of the audience.*

What's her name? Mm? Haven't you been paying attention? Signor Zanetto?

*He turns to the same person.*

I don't suppose you know where he is? No? What, are these seats for the slow people? Never, mind, just enjoy the colour and movement, I know, I know, you're wondering why I do it. Aren't you? You're wondering why a man in his right mind would be bothered lugging this thing round. Specially little fellow like me. Well, I'll tell you. If you don't work, you don't eat.

Every master needs a little man  
 For running on the double when he needs you,  
 To fetch and carry, organise and plan,  
 And if he's feeling generous he feeds you.  
 Been the same since history began  
 Two steps behind the master is the man  
 For carrying the bags, or carrying the can,  
 Believe me,  
 Every master needs a little man.

Signor Zanetto? Signor Zanetto! He's come all this way to get married; but he can't do it without the dowry, and I've got that here. Maybe I could use it for myself... yes, he's not the only one who's getting married. I'm giving it a try as well. He gets the mistress, I get the maid. But I'm not going to find her until I find him. Signor Zanetto? Hey here he comes. Watch this. I bet he won't recognise me.

## Section H: TONINO, ARLECCHINO, COLOMBINA, JUDGE

- Tonino** Still not sign of Beatrice. Can she have been waylaid?  
*Arlecchino circles Tonino.*  
What is this? It's some varlet sent from Venice by the man whose face I slapped. Come sir!  
If you were sent here to fight me, then do it like a man.
- Arlecchino** It's me. Ha ha!
- Tonino** I beg your pardon, signor.
- Arlecchino** It's me!
- Tonino** And who are you?
- Arlecchino** All right, all right, I know I'm late, but I got here didn't I?  
*He takes a jewel-box from the trunk.*  
Now do you recognise me?
- Tonino** No.  
*Arlecchino produces a purse.*
- Arlecchino** Now do you recognise me?
- Tonino** No, sir, I do not. Take them away.
- Arlecchino** After I brought them all the way from Bergamo? No way!
- Tonino** I don't want them wherever they're from.
- Arlecchino** But they're yours.
- Tonino** They're not.  
*Arlecchino thrusts the box at Tonino.*
- Arlecchino** Look, where are you staying?
- Tonino** At that inn there, if it is any affair of yours.
- Arlecchino** I'll take the trunk in there, all right?
- Tonino** It's no concern of mine.  
*Arlecchino takes the trunk off, leaving Tonino with the purse and jewels.*  
The man's a fool. He's left me with this box of jewels and this purse. He's lucky I'm a man of honour.  
*Colombina comes out of the house.*
- Colombina** Yoo-hoo. Signor Zanetto?
- Tonino** What?
- Colombina** It is Signor Zanetto?
- Tonino** Oh yes. *(Aside)* Word travels fast. I must be careful.
- Colombina** My mistress has changed her mind about you.
- Tonino** She has?
- Colombina** After all, you're a stranger here -
- Tonino** I know.
- Colombina** And a very well set-up young fella -
- Tonino** I know. She knows. They know.
- Colombina** And she's decided she trusts your honour.  
*The Judge enters.*  
Doesn't she, Your Honour?
- Tonino** Ah, Your Honour.
- Judge** No, your honour.
- Tonino** But you're Your Honour.
- Judge** Yes, but she honours your honour.
- Colombina** Your honour.
- Tonino** She honours my honour, Your Honour?

**Judge** She offers to honour your offer.  
**Tonino** She offers to honour my offer, Your Honour?  
**Judge** She felt it upon her to offer to proffer an offer to honour your offer.  
**Tonino** She felt it upon her to offer to proffer an offer to honour what offer?  
**Judge** The offer you proffered to offer to honour her.  
**Tonino** Your Honour, I made no offer to proffer an offer to honour her.  
**Colombina** Ah! You've gone off her.  
**Tonino** Offer, on her, I was never on her to get off her, Your Offer, Your Inner, You Upper, I do beg your pardon, Your Worship.  
**Judge** My dear by, do step this way.  
*They go as Arlecchino arrives.*

## Section I: ARLECCHINO, COLOMBINA

**Arlecchino** Signor Zanetto? Signor Zanetto?  
**Colombina** Can I help you?  
**Arlecchino** I'm looking for my master, Signor Zanetto.  
**Colombina** Your master? He's just gone inside.  
**Arlecchino** Oh yeah? Who lives in there?  
**Colombina** His fiancée.  
**Arlecchino** Hey, I've heard her maid is pretty cute.  
**Colombina** Cute? Try stunning.  
**Arlecchino** Yeah? What's she like?  
**Colombina** About my size...  
**Arlecchino** Yeah?  
**Colombina** About my height...  
**Arlecchino** Yeah?  
**Colombina** My complexion...  
**Arlecchino** Don't tell me, your Colombina?  
**Colombina** So they tell me.  
**Arlecchino** Guess who I am?  
**Colombina** A Hemsworth brother?  
**Arlecchino** Guess again.  
**Colombina** You're Arlecchino.  
**Arlecchino** Yeah! You're not disappointed are you?  
**Colombina** Disappointed? Are you kidding?  
 SONG  
 Every woman needs a little man  
 To cuddle and to kiss her and to hold her  
**Arlecchino** And every fella needs a little fan  
 To rest a little head upon his shoulder.  
**Colombina** Been the same since history began:  
**Arlecchino** See a little lady  
**Colombina** Spot a little man  
**Arlecchino** Wonder if you might -  
**Colombina** Wonder if you can -  
**Both** Get closer



## Section J: BEATRICE, ZANETTO, FLORINDO

**Beatrice** My dearest. Have pity on me.  
**Zanetto** Eh?  
**Beatrice** Do not leave me, I implore you. I have risked life and honour you.  
**Zanetto** For me?  
**Beatrice** Yes. I love you. I worship you. You are my entire life.  
**Zanetto** You like me?  
**Beatrice** I adore you. I beg you, give me your hand.  
*She is at my feet.*  
**Zanetto** Are you having a bit of trouble getting up?  
**Beatrice** The hand of a husband. Do not deny me my one wish?  
**Zanetto** What's that?  
**Beatrice** Give me your hand.  
**Zanetto** You can have them both if you'll let go of my pants.  
*Florindo enters.*  
**Florindo** *(aside)* Damnation. Tonino has found Beatrice  
**Beatrice** Ah! We have a witness. Signor Florindo!  
**Florindo** At your service, Signora.  
**Beatrice** Will you witness our betrothal?  
**Florindo** Of course, I would be delighted. Could I just have one word with the lucky man?  
**Zanetto** *(To Beatrice)* Don't go away. I'll be back in a flash.  
**Florindo** Aren't you being a little hasty?  
**Zanetto** I dunno. She's a lot keener than the other one.  
**Florindo** The other one?  
**Zanetto** In there, the old fella's daughter. She wouldn't do it on the spot like this one.  
**Florindo** You want to marry the Judge's daughter?  
**Zanetto** I had it in writing.  
**Florindo** In writing. Now you want to marry -  
**Zanetto** This one. Yes.  
**Florindo** But you can't.  
**Zanetto** Why not?  
**Florindo** This is not Turkey. You're allowed one wife.  
**Zanetto** OK then. I'll have this one.  
**Florindo** But the Judge will have you arrested.  
**Zanetto** What for?  
**Florindo** For breach of promise. He's got it in writing.  
**Zanetto** But I like her. She likes me.  
**Florindo** Tell that to the Judge.  
*He goes back to Beatrice.*  
**Zanetto** Sorry, it's off.  
**Beatrice** My dearest?  
**Zanetto** It's off. The wedding's off.  
**Beatrice** But why?  
**Zanetto** Because this isn't Turkey.