

THE GRAND DUKE
ACT I OPENING DUET & CHORUS

LUDWIG

Pretty Lisa, fair and dainty,
Love me now and love me truly.
We're a dashing couple, ain't we?
Or am I assured unduly?
Longing for you these many months so
That a night in dreams I weave you,
I've to kiss you only once so!
If you say so, I'll believe you.

CHORUS

If you say so, etc.

"Ten minutes since"

LUDWIG

Ten minutes since I met a chap
Who bowed an easy salutation.
Thinks I, "This gentleman, mayhap,
Belongs to our association."
But on the whole, I feared the worse,
So from my role, I spoke some verse,
That chap replied (I don't embellish),
Re-versing *me* with obvious relish!

CHORUS

Why Gracious Powers!
No chum of ours
Could speak verse with obvious relish!

"At the outset I may mention" Ludwig's Act II Patter Song

LUDWIG

At the outset I may mention it's my sovereign intention
To revive the classic memories of Athens at its best,
For the company possesses all the necessary dresses
And a course of quiet cramming will supply us with the rest.
We must first convert dramatic into "Attic" democratic
And our own Teutonic dukedom to a model nation-state.
This return to classic ages from our bathos-pathos stages
Guarantees that we'll continue in our practices of late.
We shall study Grecian learning with intelligence discerning
And then master the convictions of the democratic trend.
Though we haven't keen perception in the arts of mass deception,
I've a feeling histrionics will prove useful in the end.

At this juncture I may mention
That this erudition sham,
Is but classical pretension
And the prevalence of "ham,"
Yes, this classic lore aggressive,

While politic'ly expressive
Is exceedingly impressive
When you're passing an exam.

After some consideration on the problems of the nation
I'll instruct the population to start thinking on their own
They must learn to poll and picket, and depending on the ticket,
They will place a Duke, complete with strings, upon a golden throne.

Thus my Royal declarations and extravagant orations
Shall be modified and tempered by republican design.
I'll have read on Aristotle, (not a little, but a lottle),
Aided by an aged bottle of Bavari-onic wine.

(Oh, and from Ducal potentator to Socratic legislator
Is a journey fraught with peril but I do it for their sake.
Corporations will solicit (legal piracy implicit),
But just like my fellow statesmen it's an "insult" I can take!)

And perhaps I'd better mention
That the comics we adore,
After legal apprehension
Are much better than before.
Whether Greek or ancient Persian,
Bureaucratic full-immersion,
Corresponds in mad perversion
To the comedies of yore.