

# Prima Donna

## Andrew Lloyd Webber

ANDRE:

Your public needs you!

FIRMIN:

We need you, too!

CARLOTTA:

(unassuaged) Would you not  
rather have your  
precious little  
ingenue?

ANDRE/FIRMIN:

Signora, no!  
the world wants you!

(The MANAGERS adopt their most persuasive attitudes)

ANDRE/FIRMIN:

Prima donna  
first lady of the stage!  
Your devotees  
are on their knees  
to implore you !

ANDRE:

Can you bow out  
when they're shouting  
your name?

FIRMIN:

Think of how they all  
adore you!

BOTH:

Prima donna,  
enchant us once again!

ANDRE:

Think of your muse . . .

FIRMIN:

And of the queues  
round the theatre!

BOTH:

Can you deny us the triumph  
in store?

Sing, prima donna, once more!

(CARLOTTA registers her acceptance as the MANAGERS continue to cajole and the OTHERS reflect variously on the situation)

RAOUL:

Christine spoke of an angel . . .

CARLOTTA:

(to herself, in triumph)

Prima donna  
your song shall live again!

ANDRE/FIRMIN:

(to CARLOTTA)

Think of your public!

CARLOTTA:

You took a snub  
but there's a public  
who needs you!

GIRY:

(referring to CHRISTINE)

She has heard the voice  
of the angel of music . . .

ANDRE/FIRMIN:

(to CARLOTTA)

Those who hear your voice  
liken you to an angel!

CARLOTTA:

Think of their cry  
of undying  
support !

RAOUL:  
Is this her angel of music . . . ?

ANDRE:  
(to FIRMIN)  
We get our opera . . .

FIRMIN:  
(to ANDRE)  
She gets her limelight!

CARLOTTA:  
Follow where the limelight  
leads you!

MEG:  
Is this ghost  
an angel or a madman . . . ?

RAOUL:  
Angel or madman . . . ?

ANDRE/FIRMIN:  
(aside) Leading ladies are a trial!

GIRY:  
Heaven help you,  
those who doubt . . .

CARLOTTA:  
You'll sing again,  
and to unending  
ovation!

RAOUL:  
Orders! Warnings!  
Lunatic demands!

GIRY:  
This miscasting  
will invite damnation . . .

ANDRE/FIRMIN:  
Tears . . . oaths . . .  
Lunatic demands

are regular occurrences!

MEG:

Bliss or damnation?  
Which has claimed her . . . ?

CARLOTTA:

Think how you'll shine  
in that final encore!  
Sing, prima donna,  
once more!

GIRY:

Oh fools, to have flouted his warnings!

RAOUL:

Surely, for her sake . . .

MEG:

Surely he'll strike back . . .

ANDRE/FIRMIN:

Surely there'll be further scenes -  
worse than this!

GIRY:

Think, before  
these demands are rejected!

RAOUL:

. . . I must see  
these demands are rejected!

MEG:

. . . if his threats  
and demands are rejected!

ANDRE/FIRMIN:

Who'd believe a diva  
happy to relieve a chorus girl,  
who's gone and slept with the patron?  
Raoul and the soubrette,  
entwined in love's duet!  
Although he may demur,  
he must have been with her!

MEG/RAOUL:  
Christine must be protected!

CARLOTTA:  
O, fortunata!  
Non ancor  
abbandonata!

ANDRE/FIRMIN:  
You'd never get away  
with all this in a play,  
but if it's loudly sung  
and in a foreign tongue  
it's just the sort of story  
audiences adore,  
in fact a perfect opera!

RAOUL:  
His game is over!

GIRY:  
This is a game  
you cannot hope to win!

RAOUL:  
And in Box Five  
a new game will begin . . .

GIRY:  
For, if his curse is on this opera . . .

MEG:  
But if his curse is on this opera . . .

ANDRE/FIRMIN:  
Prima donna  
the world is at your feet!  
A nation waits,  
and how it hates  
to be cheated!

CARLOTTA:  
The stress that falls upon a  
famous prima donna!  
Terrible diseases,  
coughs and colds and sneezes!

Still, the dryest throat  
will reach the highest note,  
in search of perfect  
opera!

MEG/GIRY:  
. . . then I fear the outcome . . .

RAOUL:  
Christine plays the Pageboy,  
Carlotta plays the Countess . . .

GIRY:  
. . . should you dare to . .

MEG:  
. . . when you once again . . .

ALL:  
Light up the stage  
with that age old  
rapport!  
Sing, prima donna,  
once more!

PHANTOM'S VOICE:  
So, it is to be war between us! If these demands are not  
met, a disaster beyond your imagination will occur!

ALL:  
Once more!

(Taken directly from script)

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