

**William Vincent Wallace (1812-1865)**  
**Maritana (1845)**

An opera in three acts  
Libretto by Edward Fitzball (1792-1873) and Alfred Bunn (1796-1860)

*Maritana, a gypsy girl* - Majella Cullagh, Soprano  
*Lazarillo, an apprentice boy* - Lynda Lee, Mezzo-soprano  
*Don Cæsar de Bazan* - Paul Charles Clarke, Tenor  
*Don José de Santarém, minister to the King* - Ian Caddy, Baritone  
*Captain of the Guard/Alcade* - Damien Smith, Baritone  
*Charles II, King of Spain* - Quentin Hayes, Bass  
*Chorus of Soldiers, Gypsies and Populace* - RTÉ Philharmonic Choir

**CD 1**

**[1] Overture**

**Act I: A Square in Madrid**

**[2] Chorus**

Sing, pretty maiden, sing  
Sing that lovely song again  
Sing, pretty maiden,  
The thrilling airs of Spain  
Sing of love and beauty,  
Bow'r or tented plain,  
Sing, sweet Maritana,  
Sing that song again,

**[3] Maritana**

It was a knight of princely mien,  
One blue and golden day,  
Came riding thro' the forest green,  
That round his castle lay;  
And there heard he a Gipsy maid  
Her songs of love reveal,  
Like a spirit of light,  
She enchanted the Knight,  
'Twas a King!

**Chorus**

'Twas a King!

**Maritana**

'Twas the King of Castile

**Chorus**

Sing, Maritana! No delay,  
Love's minstrel, Maritana,  
we will pay, thus we pay

**[4] Maritana**

I hear it again,  
'Tis the harp,  
'Tis the harp in the air!  
It hangs on the walls  
Of the old Moorish halls;  
Tho' none know its minstrel,  
Or how it came there  
Listen! There!  
'Tis the harp in the air!

**Chorus**

Listen pilgrim list,  
'Tis the harpin the air!  
There! There! There! There!

**[5] Chorus**

Angels that around us hover,  
Guard us till the close of day;  
Our heads, oh! let your white wings cover,  
See us kneel, and hear us pray!

**[6] Maritana**

Of fairy wand had I the power,  
Some palace bright my home should be,  
By marble fount, in orange bower,  
Dancing to music's melody.

**Don José**

Those lovely eyes, those ruby lips  
Might win a brighter home for thee,  
Than crystal hall, where Fairy trips  
Lightly to echo's minstrelsy

**Maritana**

Of fairy wand had I command,  
At moonlit hour,  
In silken bow'r,  
To music's note,  
On air I'd float,  
In golden sheen  
And jewels gay,  
Of pleasure, Queen, I'd laugh and sing,  
And dance and play.

**Don José**

Those sparkling eyes  
Are brighter prize  
Than gems that glow  
On Kingly brow;  
Of those avail,  
Ere yet they fade,  
For joy will quail,  
When time o'er shade,  
Then laugh while love  
And beauty aid.

**Maritana/Don José**

He thinks, as others oft have done,  
My wild fantastic thoughts are vain  
Are visions all now here, now gone,  
Like dreams that rise and fade again.

Thus woman's heart is ever bought,  
Fold brightly gleams but in her eyes'  
So, by the lamp, the moth is caught,  
Burneth its giddy wing, and dies.

**Don José**

Think of the splendour the golden glory  
The bright career which waits your future steps,  
One round of triumph!

**[7] Captain**

See, the culprit,

**Lazarillo**

Mercy!

**Captain**

Quick, arrest him!

**Lazarillo**

Mercy!

**Captain**

See, the culprit, quick arrest him!  
Why my orders disobey?

**Lazarillo**

Mercy!

**Don Caesar**

List, I pray you!  
If a mere child's poor entreaty  
Fail to move that heart of thine:  
If his voice excite no pity,  
Brother soldier list to mine.

**Captain**

Come, your duty quickly seek

**Don Caesar**

Oh! if 'twere not Holy week!

**Captain**

Pray'rs and tears won't make me civil!

**Don Caesar**

Gallant Captain!

**Captain**

Loose my cloak!

**Don Caesar**

Rage consumes me!  
I shall choke!

Know, Sir, who I am; Count de Carofa,  
Don Caesar de Bazan;  
Who, in the presence of his Monarch,  
Cover'd hath a right to appear.  
You have insulted me beyond all bearing;  
Redress I seek.  
Hence, to the devil, with the Holy week,  
Thus I chastise, thy daring!

**Captain**

A challenge! vengeance!

**Don Caesar**

A challenge! forward!

**Chorus**

A challenge! the Edict! horror!

**Lazarillo**

Oh! forbear, indeed you must,  
Be this frightful quarrel staid,  
If for me your life were lost,  
ever more would grief upbraid.

**Don Caesar**

Oh! you soon shall bite the dust,  
Honour's debt is quickly staid,  
Oh! that by a cut and thrust,  
Dunning creditors were paid!

**Captain**

Come, you will not prove the first  
Braggart whom this blade hath staid;  
Only with a single thrust,  
Your account is quickly paid.

**Don José**

Don't forget before you thrust,  
Holy week who dares invade,  
Be his quarrel e'er so just,  
By the halter will be paid.

**Chorus**

See this combat, all now must,  
Blow for blow, and blade to blade,  
Happy he who falls who falls the first,  
Conquest by the hangman paid.

**[8] Chorus**

Pretty Gitana, tell us,  
What the fates decree?  
Shall we happy be?  
Pretty Gitana, shall I married be?

**Maritana**

Yes, the language of the skies  
With ease can I impart;  
But plainer read, in starry eyes,  
The language of the heart.  
With whom begins the charm?

**Chorus**

With me!

**Maritana**

Young Soldier, first your palm let me see!

**Soldier**

Willingly

**Maritana**

You love a pretty dame?

**Soldier**

That's true.

**Maritana**

You are to blame!  
Beware of wooing an old man's wife,  
Her youth and beauty will cause you strife.

**Chorus**

Beware of wooing an old man's wife,  
Her youth and beauty will cause you strife!

**Maritana**

Who next, pursues the charm?

**Chorus**

Tell me!

**Maritana**

Good Father, now your palm

**Old Man**

Cheerfully,

**Maritana**

You have a handsome bride

**Old Man**

That's true!

**Maritana**

Of beauty she's the pride.  
When weak old dotards to young maids wed,  
Young men do sometimes make love instead.

**Chorus**

When weak old dotards to young maids wed,  
Young men do sometimes make love instead.

**Don José**

In turn what say you; shall I tell your fortune?

**Maritana**

With all my heart.

**Don José**

Attend, I pray you.  
It is, indeed, a fortune I now impart!  
To you I promise rank,  
A carriage! A splendid Equipage!  
And speedy marriage!

**Maritana**

Ah! more than that, within my hand

**Don José**

Ah! better than that, within your hand

**Maritana/Don José**

Almost a sceptre, high command,  
A princely heart a palace home,  
The mirror'd hall the glit'ring dome.

**[9] Don Caesar**

Farewell, my gallant Captain;  
I told you how 'twould be;  
You'll not forget the lesson due to me.

**Alcade**

Stay! In the name of the King I you arrest, Sir.

**Maritana/Lazirillo/Don Caesar/Don José/Alcade**

**Maritana**

'Midst of this tumult and strife,  
Scarce half awake I seem,  
The words that you have said  
Still paint the golden dream.

**Lazirillo/Chorus**

Why, in the name of the King  
A noble Lord thus stay  
I/We Don Caesar defend  
If he the word but say

**Don Caesar**

Well, in the name of the King  
Since you arrest, I stay;  
My sword I thus resign,  
And now the laws obey,  
Desist, I pray, Yes I obey.

**Don José**

Yes, by the name of the King  
Swear I, the golden dream,  
Whene'er you wak'st again,  
Shall on thee brightly beam.

**Alcade**

Your sword at once resign,  
And now the laws obey, Away!

**Maritana**

Ah! what do my eyes behold?  
Free the gallant captive, pray;  
I tomorrow shall have gold,  
Gladly I'll his ransom pay.

**Lazarillo/Chorus**

Oh! misfortune, for this quarrel,  
Must his life ignobly pay?

**Don José**

I forewarn'd him, for this quarrel  
He with life must surely pay.

**Maritana**

Free the gallant captive, pray,  
Gladly I'll his ransom pay,

**Don Caesar**

Gen'rous creature, they'll not hear you;

**Maritana**

I'll with gold his ransom pay;

**Don Caesar**

All good angels hover near you,  
All must die of something some day,  
'Tis a debt we all must pay.

**Act II, Scene 1: In a cell in one of Madrid's prison fortresses**

**[10] Lazarillo**

Alas, those chimes so sweetly stealing,  
Gently dulcet to the ear,  
Sound like pity's voice, revealing  
To the dying, "death is near."  
Still he slumbers, how serenely!  
Not a sigh disturbs his rest;  
Oh! that angels now might waft him  
To the mansions of the blest,  
Yes, those chimes, so softly swelling,  
As from some holy sphere,  
Sound like hymns of spirits telling  
To the dying "Peace is here,"  
Come! abide with us in heaven,  
Here no grief can reach thy breast;  
Come approving angels wait thee  
In the mansions of the blest.

**[11] Don Caesar**

Hither as I came, one poor old man,  
With silver hair, and teardrops in his eyes,  
Wept that my life was wasted to a span,  
And mercy importun'd with bitter cries

**Lazarillo**

Thy Father?

**Don Caesar**

Frantic were his looks, that poor old man,  
With silver hair, grief's accents on his tongue,  
Lost in despair, grief's accents on his tongue,  
Lost in despair, before the guard he ran,  
And held a document, at least, so long!

**Lazarillo**

His sad petition, thee to guard from ill?

**Don Caesar**

It was, alas! An unpaid Tailor's bill!  
Ha! Ha! Ha! This one eternal dun,  
Torment of earth, I shall at least outrun.

**[12] Don Caesar**

Turn on, old time, thine hourglass,  
The sand of life, why stay?  
Quick! Let the gold grain 'd moments pass,  
'Tis they all debts must pay;

**Lazarillo**

Stay, fleeting Time, thine hourglass,  
The tide of life, of stay!  
Nor let the golden moments pass,  
Like worthless sand away.

**Don Caesar/Lazarillo**

Of what avail are grief and tears,  
Since life must go?  
Quick! let the gold grain'd moments pass  
'Tis they all debts must pay.

Of what avail are grief and tears,  
Since life which came must go?  
And brief the longest tide of years,  
As waves that ebb and flow

**Don José**

Despite, old Time, thine hourglass,  
Turn quickly as it may,  
His sand of life not yet shall pass,  
If he my wish obey.  
Of life there are full happy years,  
If well the die we throw,  
For Mayday smiles and autumn tears  
Are waves that ebb and flow.

**[13] Don Caesar**

Yes! Let me like a Soldier fall,  
Upon some open plain;  
This breast expanding for the ball,  
To blot out ev'ry stain.  
Brave, manly hearts, confer my doom,  
That gentler ones may tell,  
Howe'er forgot, unknown my tomb,  
I like a Soldier fell! I only ask of that proud race,  
Which ends its blaze in me,  
To die, the last, and not disgrace  
Its ancient chivalry!  
Tho' o'er my clay no banner wave,  
Nor trumpet requiem swell,  
Enough, they murmur o'er my grave,  
He like a Soldier fell!

**[14] Don José**

In happy moments day by day,  
The sands of life may pass,  
In swift but tranquil tide away  
From time's unerring glass.  
Yet hopes we used as bright to deem,  
Remembrance will recall,  
Whose pure and whose unfading beam  
Is dearer than them all.  
Though anxious eyes upon us gaze,  
And hearts with fondness beat,  
Whose smile upon each feature plays,  
With truthfulness replete  
Some thoughts none other can replace,  
Remembrance will recall,  
Which in the flight of years we trace,  
Is dearer than them all.

**[15] Don Caesar/Don José/Lazarillo/Maritana/Chorus**

Health to the Lady, the lovely bride,  
Length of years to her be given.  
Like this brightly sparkling nectar,  
Radiant with the light of heaven!  
Life on her each bliss bestow,  
May her hours with joy o'er flow  
Like this cup of rosy nectar.  
May her hours with joy o'er flow!  
Health to the Lady, the lovely bride,

**Don Caesar**

By this hand so soft and trembling,  
By those locks so sunny bright;  
'Neath that cruel veil dissembling,  
Youth and beauty hide their light

**Maritana**

Like the mist upon the mountain,  
So this veil obscures my sight,  
From this bosom palpitating,  
Closing ev'ry beam of light.

**Maritana/Lazarillo/Don Caesar/ Don José/Chorus**

Hark! The organ hope inspiring,  
Calleth to the hallow'd rite!

**Ensemble**

Maritana  
Ah! what mystery? No escaping!  
I must be a bride tonight!

**Lazarillo**

Like a spirit seems to murmur,  
No! He shall not die to night!

**Don Caesar**

Ah! what my mystery! no escaping!  
I must wed, and die tonight!

**Don José**

Time is flying, quick, be stirring,  
You must wed, and die tonight!

**Chorus**

Ah! what hear we? Task revolting!  
He, by us, must fall tonight.

CD 2

**Act II, Scene 2: A Saloon in the Palace of the Marquis de Montefiori.**

**[1] Chorus**

Oh! What pleasure! the soft guitar,  
And merry castanet,  
Beguile the hours,  
While balmy flowers  
And sparkling wine,  
With eyes that shine,  
Like wand'ring stars together met,  
Chase from the heart all Sad regret!  
Let true delight each bosom cheer,  
Since not a care can enter here.

**[2] Waltz**

**[3] King**

Hear me, gentle Maritana,  
By the magic of thy beauty,  
Hear me, swear, too, fair Gitana,  
This fond heart beats but for thee.  
Captive 'neath thy chains delighted,  
Tho' its doom be dark and heavy  
By a smile of thine requited,  
Would not, if it could, be free.  
The Mariner in his barque,  
When o'er him dim clouds hover,  
With rapture thro' tempest dark,  
Beholds one star above;  
Sweet hope then his bosom swells,  
His ev'ry care seems over,  
A smile, as from heaven, tells  
Of home, delight, and love.

**[4] Don Caesar**

There is a flow'r that bloometh,  
When autumn leaves are shed,  
With the silent moon it weepeth,  
The spring and summer fled.  
The early frost of winter,  
Scarce its brow have overcast,  
Oh! pluck it ere it wither,  
'Tis the mem'ry of the past!  
It wafteth perfume o'er us,  
Which few can e'er forget,  
Of the bright scenes gone before us,  
Of sweet, tho' sad regret.  
Let no heart brave its power,  
By guilty thoughts o'er cast.  
For then, a poison'd flower  
Is the mem'ry of the past.

**[5] Don Caesar**

That voice!  
'Tis hers, I swear!  
With whom I at the altar knelt!  
I'll seek my wife.

**Don José**

Caesar! beware!

**Don José**

Ere all thy danger yet be felt,  
'Twill cost thy life.

**Don José**

Lo! A criminal before you,  
Fled from justice, guard with life.

**Don Caesar**

But an instant,  
I implore you just to know who is my wife!

**Don José**

No, it must not be!  
Away!

**Don Caesar**

Her let me see,  
Stay!

**Don José**

Her arrest too,  
Alguazils there,  
Him to prison,  
Her that way bear, to the Villa d'Aranjuez, away!

**Maritana/Don José/Don Caesar/Chorus**

What mystery why thus control?  
What horror now awaits my soul!

**Don José**

With mystery their steps control;  
This meeting would distract my soul!

**Don Caesar**

What mystery must now control?  
It tortures, it distracts my soul!

**Chorus**

What mystery doth thus control?  
Not darker clouds, when thunders roll.

**Maritana**

Who is he?  
Ah! let me see  
I will be free!

**Don Caesar**

Her let me see  
Ah! let me see,  
Ah! let me free, I will be free!

**Don José**

Away!  
No, it must not be!

**Chorus**

What terror dread each heart control!  
What consternation fills each soul!

**Act III: A magnificent apartment in the Villa d'Aranjuez**

**[6] Maritana**

How dreary to my heart is this gay chamber!  
Those crystal mirrors and those marble walls,  
Add to my gloom, while sweetly sad remembrance  
The joyful hours of liberty recalls  
My lonely form reflected as I pass,  
Seems like a spectre on my steps to wait,  
Enquiring from the gold enwreathed glass,  
"Can mighty grandeur be thus desolate?"

**[7] Maritana**

Scenes that are brightest  
 May charm a while,  
 Hearts which are lightest,  
 And eyes that smile;  
 Yet o'er them, above us,  
 Tho' nature beam,  
 With none to love us  
 How sad they seem!  
 Words cannot scatter the thoughts we fear,  
 For tho' they flatter,  
 They mock the ear.  
 Hopes will still deceive us,  
 With tearful cost,  
 And when they leave us,  
 The heart is lost.

**[8] Don José**

So! My courage now regaining,  
 Banner waving, trumpet sounding,  
 Nobly daring, my gage maintaining,  
 Forward, heart of Chivalry!  
 So the wounded knight untiring,  
 On his gallant steed rebounding,  
 At his lady's feet expiring,  
 Dies for love and Victory.

**[9] Don Caesar**

Surely, as thou art Don Ceasar,  
 Yes, I am King of Spain

**King**

Insolent! Thou the King of Spain!  
 I can't my mirth restrain.

**Don Caesar**

You marvel, Signor, at this hour  
 We unattended, here are seen,  
 So near a pretty woman's door,  
 That woman too, is not the Queen!  
 But Kings, you know, like other men  
 Sometimes a little thus give way,  
 Kings are but mortal,  
 Don Caesar,  
 Of course, you'll not your King betray?

**King**

Of course!

**Don Caesar**

Don Caesar, now, I remember well,  
 A witty, brawling, mad-brain'd sot!  
 Beneath his weapon 'twas that fell,  
 the Captain of the guard, was not?  
 Be kind enough to make it clear,  
 If shot, as order'd t'other day;  
 And being dead, how came you here?  
 Of course, I shall not you betray.

**King**

Of course!  
 But Sire, your memory is short;

**Don Caesar**

What forget we?

**King**

A most important thing  
 Don Caesar at eight o'clock receiv'd  
 The pardon of the King!

**Don Caesar**

Unhappy fate!  
 The pardon arriv'd at eight,  
 And I was shot at seven!

**King**

You, to denounce me, were too late,  
 You see I am forgiven!

**Don Caesar**

'Twere useless longer to retain  
 A title not my own

**King**

Then, Sir, you are not King of Spain?

**Don Caesar**

No, I my dignity forego,  
 No, I own my title vain  
 And doff my borrowed plumes again  
 To cry aloud, Vive King of Spain

**King/Don Caesar**

Ha! I can't my grief restrain!  
 So very brief has been your reign!  
 Most high and mighty King of Spain!

Most high and mighty King of Spain!

**[10] Maritana**

A stranger here!

**Don Caesar**

Is it thus we meet?

**Maritana**

That voice,

**Don Caesar**

Once more we meet!  
 'Tis Maritana!

**Maritana**

Yes, Maritana.

**Don Caesar**

Oh, Maritana! Wild wood flow'r,  
 Did they but give thee a prouder name,  
 To place thee in a kingly bower,  
 And deck thee with a gilded shame!

**Maritana**

No, Maritana, though in this bow'r  
 Lips the most pure, shall never blame;  
 A captive in a stranger's power,  
 Shall perish ere she yield to shame!

But who art thou, my conduct thus to scan?

**Don Caesar**

I am thy Husband, Don Caesar de Bazan!

**Maritana/Don Caesar**

My/Thy Husband!  
 Yes, yes he is the man' yes, my Husband,  
 Nevermore to part,  
 Thine forever, is this faithful heart

**Maritana**

But first to prove it?  
Dost thou remember those words which at  
the altar thou said'st to me?

**Don Caesar**

Yes, yes I'll prove it,  
I said "Remember,  
The rest of my existence  
I devote to thee!"

**Maritana**

Yes, yes of joy!  
'Tis he!

**Don Caesar**

Thy Husband

**Maritana**

My Husband!

**Maritana/Don Caesar**

Yes, Mine!/Yes, Thine!

**Maritana**

This heart, with joy o'er flowing  
Like nectar sparkling wine,  
In sunlit crystal glowing,  
Seems inspir'd by rays divine.

**Don Caesar**

This joy my heart o'er flowing,  
Like nectar sparkling wine  
Sweet magic round me throwing,  
Wakes in ecstasy divine.

**[11] Maritana/Lazarillo**

Sainted Mother, guide his footsteps,  
Guide them at a moment sure;  
Let the wicked heart then perish,  
And the good remain secure,  
Sainted Mother, oh, befriend him,  
And thy gentlest pity lend him!

**[12] Maritana**

With rapture glowing,  
Bounds this heart o'er flowing,  
With rapture glowing,  
Kind friends around approve.  
Hence with sadness, welcome gladness,  
Love and treasure, welcome pleasure,  
Welcome joy and peace,  
Welcome joy and love.

**Chorus**

Viva, Maritana!  
May thy name be great in story,  
May thy fame be bright in glory,  
Maritana! Viva!