

# HARMONY

A New Musical

Music by Barry Manilow

Book and Lyrics by Bruce Sussman

SAMPLE SCRIPT

the  
**Licensing**  
HOUSE

October 10, 2025

**HARMONY**  
**A New Musical**

Music by Book and Lyrics by

Barry Manilow Bruce Sussman

For Ari Leshnikoff, Erich Collin, Erwin Bootz, Robert Biberti, Harry Frommerman, and  
Cantor Josef Roman Cykowski,

--THE COMEDIAN HARMONISTS--

whose memory we attempt to serve, and whose quest for harmony inspired our quest.

"Oh star...May your pale flame direct the worst in us through chaos with the passion of plain  
day."

--Derek Walcott, "The Gulf"

*A PROGRAM NOTE ABOUT THE COMEDIAN HARMONISTS*  
*The Comedian Harmonists were indeed the toast of Europe from*  
*the late 1920's through the early War years. The events of*  
*their career are dramatized here largely as they occurred.*  
*Some license has been taken with regard to chronology and*  
*locale. The characters of historical merit--politicians,*  
*performers, men of science and letters-- all indeed factored*  
*in the story. The uncanny meeting on the train, dramatized in*  
*our second act, happened*

## ACT 1

### 1. OPENING SEQUENCE CARNEGIE HALL, 1933/ BERLIN, 1927-1929

"CONCERT AT CARNEGIE HALL" .....THE GROUP

"HARMONY" .....RABBI & THE GROUP

"THE AUDITIONS" .....RABBI & THE GROUP

### 2. STREETS AND ALLEYWAYS IN BERLIN, LATE AUTUMN 1929

"AND WHAT DO YOU SEE?" .....MARY

"THIS IS OUR TIME" .....YOUNG RABBI, MARY, RUTH  
HARRY, THE GROUP & RALLIERS

### 3. CLUB CINDERELLA, NOVEMBER 1929

"YOUR SON IS BECOMING A SINGER!" .....ERICH & THE GROUP

### 4. KOTT'S TAILOR SHOP, DECEMBER, 1929

"EVERY SINGLE DAY" .....YOUNG RABBI

### 5. THE BARBARINA CLUB, JANUARY 1930

"HOW CAN I SERVE YOU, MADAME?" .....LESH & THE GROUP

### 6. THE BERLIN SYNAGOGUE, 1933

"THE WEDDING" ..... RABBI, A CANTOR,  
CHOPIN, RUTH, YOUNG RABBI, MARY & CONGREGATION

### 7. RALLIES IN GERMANY, 1933 / TOUR OF THE WORLD, 1933

"TOUR OF THE WORLD" ..... THE GROUP

### 8. CARNEGIE HALL, DECEMBER 1933

"HOME" .....BOBBY & THE GROUP

"THRENODY" (Part I)" .....RABBI

## ACT 2

### 1. ZIEGFELD FOLLIES OF 1934, NEW YORK

"WE'RE GOIN' LOCO!" .....JOSEPHINE, THE GROUP & THE  
ZIEGFELD FOLLIES COMPANY

### 2. BERLIN PHILHARMONIC HALL, JANUARY 1934

"HUNGARIAN RHAPSODY #20" .....LESH & THE GROUP

### 3. TIVOLI PARK, COPENHAGEN, A FEW MONTHS LATER

"COME TO THE FATHERLAND!" .....HARRY & THE GROUP

### 4. ADJACENT HOTEL ROOMS, COLOGNE, SEPTEMBER 1935

"WHERE YOU GO" .....MARY & RUTH

5. A MOVIE SET IN COLOGNE, TWO DAYS LATER  
"IN THIS WORLD" .....CHOPIN, THE GROUP &  
THE FILM CAST  
"THE LIST" .....RABBI

6. THE NIGHT TRAIN TO MUNICH, NOVEMBER 1935  
"THRENODY" .....RABBI

7. THE NATIONAL THEATER, MUNICH, NOVEMBER 1935/  
CALIFORNIA, 1988  
"STARS IN THE NIGHT" .....THE GROUP

## ACT 1 SCENE 1

*(OPENING SEQUENCE. We see a proscenium-filling art deco poster featuring an image of six men in tails. It reads, "The Comedian Harmonists... Carnegie Hall... December 16, 1933." A 1930s-era NBC microphone stands downstage, right.)*

### #1 OVERTURE

*(House lights down. WE hear the NBC signature chimes. Then a timpani roll. A RADIO ANNOUNCER takes his place at the microphone.)*

### RADIO ANNOUNCER

Welcome to Live from Carnegie Hall! And this our final radio broadcast of the 1933 season. Tonight, Sol Hurok and the National Broadcasting Company are proud to present...the international sensations... stars of stage and screen... the top-selling recording artists in Europe...making their American debut...The Comedian Harmonists!

*(The poster disappears, revealing THE GROUP, dressed in tails, gathered around a grand piano. THEY sing a wordless fanfare, imitating the sounds of brass instruments.)*

### #2 HARMONY

### THE GROUP

*(as a calliope)*

### LESH/HARRY/CHOPIN

BA BA BA BA BA  
BA BA BA BA BA  
BA BA BA BA  
BOP BA BA  
BOP

### YOUNG RABBI/ERICH/BOBBY

BAAA  
BA BA BA BA  
BA BA BA  
BA BA BA BA

### YOUNG RABBI

BAP BA DAH DUT DUT DAH

### BOBBY

BAP BA DUH DUT DUT DAH

### ERICH

BAP BA DAH DUT DUT DAH

**CHOPIN**  
BAP BA DAH DUT DUT

**HARRY**  
BAP BA DAH DUT DUT DAH

**LESH**  
BAP BA DAH DUT DUT

**THE GROUP**  
BOP BAH

**YOUNG RABBI**  
Hello New York! We are The Comedian Harmonists!

*(YOUNG RABBI steps back into THE GROUP who sing—)*

<b>ALL BUT BOBBY</b>	<b>BOBBY</b>
PAW PAW PAW PAW	BUM BUM
PAW PAW PAW	BUM BUM BUM PA

**THE GROUP**  
HARMONY,  
WE SING IN HARMONY  
LIKE THE ROBINS IN HERALD SQUARE

<b>ALL BUT BOBBY</b>	<b>BOBBY</b>
DEEDLE EE	
DEEDLE EE	BA DOOM TWEEDLE DEEDLE

**THE GROUP**  
HARMONY  
THE THING IS HARMONY

<b>YOUNG RABBI/ERICH</b>	<b>LESH/HARRY/CHOPIN/BOBBY</b>
ALWAYS	
KNOWING THERE'S	OHH

**THE GROUP**  
THERE'S SOMEONE THERE

**THE GROUP (CONT'D)**

BI-DA-LID-LE-LID-LE  
IN THIS JOINT  
ALL ENCOUNTERS WITH COUNTERPOINT

**LESH/HARRY/CHOPIN**

**YOUNG RABBI/ERICH/BOBBY**

END IN HARMONY

COUNTERPOINT THEN HARMONY

**THE GROUP**

AND IT'S CLEAR  
NO MAN'S A SOLO HERE  
NOT EVEN

**BOBBY**

ME!

**ERICH**

ME!

**YOUNG RABBI**

ME!

**HARRY**

ME!

**CHOPIN**

ME!

**LESH**

ME!

**THE GROUP**

NO SOLO MIO!  
JUST HARMONY

*(There is a lighting and music shift as an OLDER MAN suddenly appears. HE is RABBI, the older incarnation of YOUNG RABBI. RABBI turns to US as THE GROUP continues to perform at Carnegie Hall, but THEY are muted and stylized.)*

**RABBI**

The Comedian Harmonists! A cockamamie name, no? A mouthful. Co-mee-dee-ann Har-mo-nistsss? That'll bend your dentures. But the name didn't hurt us none. No, no. For a long time there, we were hot as horseradish. A sensation! Around the world! Why we...

**RABBI (CONT'D)**

*(looking out)*

Never heard of us, huh? That's okay. There's a reason for that. But it's a story, oh what a story. And it's true!

*(taking it in, spoken)*

Carnegie Hall! What a night that was! Yes, I remember...

*(HIS mood darkens, but then—)*

I remember eating a pastrami sandwich the size of a Steinway--right around the corner from Carnegie Hall. Oh, was that delicious. What was the name of that deli...

**BOBBY**

The Carnegie Deli! Geez!

**RABBI**

The Carnegie Deli. Geez! Funny what you forget.

**HARRY**

You're doin' fine. Keep going.

**RABBI**

These are my friends. My buddies. I don't think human beings can get any closer. You see, before all the hoopla, the movies, the concerts... before we even made our first record... back in Berlin in the early days of the Depression...No. The inflation! Right. A wheelbarrow full of money bought a slice of cheese. That's when we met for the first time.

**LESH**

BAH

**HARRY**

BAH

**CHOPIN**

BAH

**YOUNG RABBI**

BAH

**ERICH**

BAH

**BOBBY**

BAH



**RABBI**

Yes, first there was...

HARMONY, UNFORGETTABLE

**RABBI & THE GROUP**

HARMONY

**RABBI**

**THE GROUP**

HARMONY  
DID WE HAVE HARMONY!

HARMONY  
HARMONY!

**RABBI**

BUT THAT'S JUST ABOUT ALL WE HAD

**THE GROUP**

AAH OOH

**RABBI**

SUDDENLY  
A LITTLE

**RABBI**

**THE GROUP**

HARMONY

HARMONY

AND THE POVERTY'S NOT SO BAD

AH AH

THIN, WE WERE

**RABBI/THE GROUP**

POOR AS SIN IN BERLIN, WE WERE!  
PATCHES ON OUR PANTS

**RABBI**

**THE GROUP**

MERCIF'LLY, WHEN YOU'RE IN  
HARMONY  
YOU'RE IN A  
TRANCE...  
OTHERS WENT MARCHING  
  
NOT US, WE'D DANCE!

BUT WE HAD  
HA  
HARMONY  
  
BOO BOO  
WAH  
TA RA RUN TA TA TUN TA TA  
TA

**RABBI**

Believe it or not, I was a rabbi before all this started!

*(doing a move)*

Can your rabbi do that?

**THE GROUP**

THEN DID WE  
OH SO SPLENDIDLY BLEND, DID WE  
LIKE A SPELL HAD COME  
IT WAS CLEAR  
THAT ALL OF US COULD HEAR  
A DIFFERENT

**BOBBY**

DRUM

**ERICH**

DRUM

**YOUNG RABBI**

DRUM

**CHOPIN**

DRUM

**HARRY**

DRUM

**LESH**

DRUM

**THE GROUP**

OUTSIDE, THEY HOLLERED!  
BUT WE HAD...HARMONY!

*(The orchestra swells. THE GROUP exits as images begin to appear on the screens, slowly at first, then more rapidly. Other characters appear on stage. Among them—)*

**TITUS & ROSA**

This is our time, people!

**ROSA**

Freedom!

*(It is as if the pages of the calendar are flying by in reverse. We are traveling back to 1927. RABBI is intrigued but then it becomes overwhelming.)*

**RABBI**

SLOW DOWN!

*(The images land on 'Berlin, 1927')*

Slow down.

*(singing, hesitantly)*

HARMONY. FIRST THERE WAS HARMONY...

*(HE's got it, happily)*

LIKE THE HARMONY HARRY WROTE

*(A battered piano rolls out. It is piled high with clutter. At the keyboard is HARRY, dressed humbly and a bit disheveled.)*

*(to audience)*

Harry! This is a genius. He was arranging and orchestrating by the time he was seven years old!

*(HARRY rifles through the clutter looking for the phone.)*

**HARRY**

*(into the phone)*

Tiergarten three double two.

*(while HE's waiting)*

F natural...not F sharp. Yes.

*(into the phone)*

Hello? Berliner Daily? Yes. I'd like to place an advertisement, please. Tuesday? What's that date?

**RABBI**

July 12th 1927.

**HARRY**

Ready for the copy? Audition announcement...

**RABBI**

Seeking five young men interested in performing in a new modern singing group. Must be able to sing...

**RABBI AND HARRY**

Harmony.

**RABBI**

That simple. One small ad in the Berliner Daily. You know what he got? A waiter!

*(LESH appears. HE wears a waiter's jacket and smokes a cigarette.)*

**LESH**

*(auditioning for HARRY)*

HOW CAN I SERVE YOU...MA.....DAME!

*(LESH takes a drag of his cigarette)*

**RABBI**

A chain-smoking Bulgarian tenor with a high E above C. Meshugah, no?

**HARRY**

Ari Leshnikoff.

**LESH**

They call me Lesh. Will this make me famous?

**HARRY**

Lesh, I want to make you the most famous Bulgarian since... I can't think of a famous Bulgarian.

*(As LESH, steps aside)*

**RABBI**

HARMONY, WITH TWO THERE'S HARMONY  
WHERE THERE ONCE WAS A SINGLE NOTE

A doctor!

*(ERICH enters)*

**ERICH**

Excuse me. Pardonez-moi.

**HARRY**

Doctor Erich Collin...

**ERICH**

A medical student, Maestro.

*(HE bows)*

My final year. Thank God.

**HARRY**

I see. So, Doctor, I guess my question for you is...what is a doctor doing here?

**ERICH**

As Plato said, "Music is the medicine of the soul."

**HARRY**

And what are you doing here?

**ERICH**

*(cornered, a beat, then —)*

I can't stand the sight of blood.

*(ERICH steps aside and joins LESH)*

**RABBI**

ALL ABOARD!  
TWO IS COMPANY  
THREE'S A CHORD!

A pianist!

*(CHOPIN enters wearing a worn leather jacket. HE sits at the piano and starts to play.)*

**HARRY**

Beautiful. What is it?

**CHOPIN**

Just wrote it. I don't do words.

**HARRY**

Sounds like stars. Stars in the night. That phrase, there...

**CHOPIN**

STARS IN THE NIGHT...

I like it.

**HARRY**

*(reviewing the resume)*

Erwin Bootz...

*(CHOPIN slams the keyboard)*

**CHOPIN**

Terrible, huh? Erwin Bootz. I hate it. Always have. And then I started playin' some gigs around town, and one day this blond says to me,

*(as the blond)*

"Hey, you play like Chopin!" And it kinda stuck.

*(seeing HARRY is puzzled)*

Chopin. The name. I like it. And who's gonna know I got it from playin' in a whorehouse?

*(CHOPIN joins LESH and ERICH)*

**RABBI**

FOUR CAN BE  
GETTING INTERESTING  
OR CAN BE  
SIMPLY GETTING LOUD

A bass from the Comic Opera!

*(BOBBY enters reading a newspaper. HE sings a wordless bass solo featuring the very bottom of his range.)*

**BOBBY**

BUH BUH BUH BUH BUH BUH BUH BUH  
BUH BUH BUH BUH BUH BUH BUH BUH  
BUH BUH BUH BUH BUH BUH BUH BUH BUH  
BUM BUM BUM BUM BUM

**HARRY**

Robert Biberti. Very impressive... Offenbach...Lehar...

**BOBBY**

What's the pay.

**HARRY**

No pay just yet.

*(reaching for the stack of music on his piano)*

But take a look at these-- I've arranged an entire act for...

*(BOBBY grabs the charts out of HARRY's hands)*

**BOBBY**

*(as he peruses them)*

Any financing?

**HARRY**

No.

**BOBBY**

You did all of these?

*(HARRY nods)*

This bass solo here...I can do that an octave lower.

**HARRY**

I bet you could. Robert, I'd love to have you join us and...

**BOBBY**

*(as HE joins the OTHERS)*

You can call me Bobby.

**RABBI**

**HARMONY**

JUST THE FIVE OF...NO, WAIT

WE WERE SIX

*(RABBI appears to be stymied. YOUNG RABBI enters.)*

*(“of course!”)*

A rabbi! Me!! God I was gorgeous!

**YOUNG RABBI**

SHALOM.....ALEI.....CHEM

**YOUNG RABBI (CONT'D)**

ALEI CHEM

**HARRY**

Wonderful. Truly. Rabbi Josef Roman Cyckowski. Rabbi?

**YOUNG RABBI**

That's what they call me. I was training to become a rabbi. Back in Poland. But you can call me Joe, if...

**HARRY**

No. I like Rabbi.

**YOUNG RABBI**

Oh, you do. Oh.

*("Wait...are you Jewish?")*

Oh?

*("You are!")*

Oh!

**HARRY**

My father is a cantor.

**YOUNG RABBI**

Mine too!

**HARRY**

So tell me, one cantor's son to another...why leave the shul?

**YOUNG RABBI**

*(stalling)*

It would be nice to sing in a major key for a change?

*(YOUNG RABBI and HARRY join the others)*

**RABBI**

A Bulgarian singing waiter, a doctor, a bass from the Comic Opera, a musical prodigy, a whorehouse pianist...and a Polish Rabbi...

*(cheekily)*

Walk into a bar...



**RABBI (CONT'D)**

*("but seriously")*

Walk into a miracle!

*(An abandoned subway station. A train passes. The GROUP is dressed in overcoats. It's snowing above. Winter 1928. CHOPIN blows into a pitch pipe. THE GROUP sings haltingly—)*

**THE GROUP**

HARMONY! WE SIX IN HARMONY!

**HARRY**

You're getting it.

**BOBBY**

BA BA BA  
BA  
BA BA BA BA BA

**ALL BUT BOBBY**

BA BA BA  
BA BA BA  
BA BA BA

**HARRY**

And softer, Bobby!

*(A train passes. Spring 1928. They're in shirt sleeves.)*

**THE GROUP**

THERE YOU ARE, BEING BARELY AWARE  
YOU ARE SUDDENLY IN TUNE

**HARRY**

Yes!

*(A train passes. Summer 1928.)*

**ALL BUT HARRY**

HARMONY!  
HARMONY!

**HARRY**

HARMONY!  
WE SING IN HARMONY!

**ALL**

AND THERE'S ONE OTHER THING  
WE DO, WE DO!

*(THEY dance. As the dance climaxes)*

**HARRY**

Here we go! Harry!

Bobby! **BOBBY**

Erich! **ERICH**

Rabbi! **YOUNG RABBI**

Chopin! **CHOPIN**

Lesh! **LESH**

Harry! **HARRY**

Bobby! **BOBBY**

Erich! **ERICH**

Rabbi! **YOUNG RABBI**

Chopin! **CHOPIN**

Lesh! **LESH**

**THE GROUP**

WHERE YOU FIND,  
YOU'RE IN HARMONY  
THERE YOU FIND  
SHELTER IN A STORM  
EVERY NOTE  
A BUTTON ON THE COAT  
THAT KEEPS YOU WARM

**YOUNG RABBI**  
STARS HAVE THE HEAVENS...

**THE GROUP**

BUT WE'VE GOT...HARMONY!

**HARRY/YOUNG RABBI/ERICH**

OH WE'VE GOT HARMONY

**BOBBY/LESH/CHOPIN**

HARMONY

**HARRY/YOUNG RABBI/ERICH**

HARMONY

OH YES, WE SING IN HARMONY

**BOBBY**

NO HARM! NO HARM!

**HARRY/ERICH**

HARMONY! OH, WE GOT HARMONY

OH WE GOT

**LESH/CHOPIN/YOUNG RABBI**

HARMONY! HARMONY!

**THE GROUP**

TROUBLES DISAPPEAR

WHEN WHAT YOU FEEL IS WHAT YOU HEAR

NOT WHAT YOU SEE!

*(A street in Berlin. YOUNG RABBI tosses his hat, the kitty, down center.)*

*(RABBI appears)*

**RABBI**

Yes! First there was...

**RABBI AND THE GROUP**

HAR-MO-NY!!!

*(music button)*

<b>#2A HARMONY PLAYOFF</b>
----------------------------

## SCENE 2

A STREET IN BERLIN

**CHOPIN**

Ruthie!

*(a beautiful brunette, RUTH, excitedly crosses to THE GROUP)*

**RUTH**

You guys are getting good! Really good!

*(to CHOPIN)*

And you've always been good, you talented, sexy, unkosher thing, you. Do you know how many sins I'm committing?

**CHOPIN**

Well, let's see, last night there was...

**RUTH**

Chopin!

**CHOPIN**

Wait, what happened to your eye?

**RUTH**

Oh, it's nothing. I fell.

**CHOPIN**

On someone's fist?

*("come clean")*

Ruthie?

**RUTH**

I had a disagreement with a member of the opposition and she took a swing at me.

**CHOPIN**

What did you call her?

**RUTH**

A fascist swine.

**CHOPIN**

Ruthie!

**RUTH**

C'mon, we'll be late for the rally.

*(beat)*

You're not wearing red. It's a Bolshevik rally and I am the speaker. If you're coming with me, you have to wear red.

**CHOPIN**

I can't go, Ruthie. We finally got an audition, how 'bout that!

**RUTH**

*(after a beat of disappointment)*

Go to your audition. That's important. But what I do is important to me, too. So... next time, ok? Ok.

*(HE kisses her. RUTH exits. CHOPIN rejoins THE GROUP.)*

**HARRY**

*(to YOUNG RABBI)*

I heard her speak at a rally. She's wonderful.

*(As the others exit, LESH and ERICH lag behind. ERICH spots a beautiful REDHEAD approaching)*

**ERICH**

Lesh, brace yourself. Look.

**LESH**

WOW!! Erich, what is it about redheads?

*(As ERICH and LESH exit, following HER)*

**ERICH**

I'm pretty sure it's their hair.

<b>#2B MARY'S ENTRANCE</b>
----------------------------

*(MARY appears, carrying a coat. SHE crosses to YOUNG RABBI.)*

**RABBI**

Mary! The world was crumbling around us and Mary appeared, like a rose in December.

*(MARY helps YOUNG RABBI put on the coat)*

**MARY**

Here. A customer brought it into the shop a year ago to have the lining mended, and never picked it up

*(a cappella)*

EVERY NOTE,  
A BUTTON ON THE COAT  
THAT KEEPS YOU WARM...

There.

**YOUNG RABBI**

You're beautiful, you're brilliant, and you listen to the lyrics! Do you have any idea how happy you make me?

**MARY**

Yes. Odd, isn't it? How do two people find happiness in times like these?

**YOUNG RABBI**

I think it just...happens.

**MARY**

We didn't just happen, Rabbi. I decided we should meet and made sure we did.

**YOUNG RABBI**

What?!

**MARY**

That's right. The group performed every Tuesday in front of my shop window. Right? And every Tuesday I'd come out and drop a little something in your kitty.

**RABBI**

Buttons.

**YOUNG RABBI**

Buttons! You always left buttons! And I asked you why.

**MARY**

Did you notice me?

**YOUNG RABBI**

Yes.

**MARY**

Then it worked.

**RABBI**

She's right. She was always right.

**YOUNG RABBI**

Look.

*(pulling a button from his pocket)*

I even saved the first one.

**MARY**

See? We didn't exactly 'just happen.' I think you have to fight for happiness. Are you a fighter, Rabbi?

<b>#3 AND WHAT DO YOU SEE?</b>
--------------------------------

**YOUNG RABBI**

I think I see our train coming.

*(RABBI exits)*

**MARY**

Ah. And what else do you see?

*(SHE sings)*

EVERY DAY, AS I SIT AND SEW AT MY WINDOW  
I LOOK OUT ON A WORLD THAT'S TEARING APART.  
THIS IS WHAT I SEE  
AND WHAT DO YOU SEE?  
TIME GOES BY AND THE TIMES GROW WORSE  
THROUGH MY WINDOW  
STILL I WATCH AS THE MADNESS DARKENS THE HEART  
THIS IS WHAT I SEE  
AND WHAT DO YOU SEE?  
TELL ME HOW DO WE LIVE  
IN A WORLD THAT IS CRUMBLING AWAY--  
AND BE HAPPY AS WE ARE TODAY?  
PEOPLE SAY, "MARY, TURN AWAY  
FROM THE WINDOW  
ALL THE WORRY IN ALL THE WORLD  
DOESN'T PAY."  
AND STILL I WONDER  
WHAT KIND OF FUTURE STARTS THIS WAY?  
FOR YOU...AND ME?  
AND WHAT DO YOU SEE?  
AND WHAT DO YOU...SEE?

**#4 THIS IS OUR TIME**

**YOUNG RABBI**

I know, Mary,

I SEE  
THIS IS OUR TIME, MARY,  
THIS IS OUR TIME  
BAD TIMES, SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW?  
WHERE I GREW UP THE PEOPLE THREW  
A POGROM EVERY MONTH OR TWO  
YA WANNA KNOW WHAT HAPPINESS IS?  
TRUST ME, THAT AIN'T IT, BUT THIS IS  
OUR TIME, COULD IT BE A GOOD TIME?  
I KNOW, WOULDN'T THAT BE STRANGE?  
SOMEHOW, WHEN I'M NOT REELING  
I FIND MYSELF FEELING  
THAT EVERYTHING'S READY TO CHANGE!

**MARY**

YOU THINK A BETTER BRIGHTER DAY IS WAITING RIGHT THERE

**YOUNG RABBI**

Yes!

**MARY**

JUST NEVERMIND, THE WORLD IS TOTALLY INSANE

**YOUNG RABBI**

*("scary..." )*

Ooooh....

**MARY**

YOU THINK THE END OF EV'RY TUNNEL HAS A LIGHT THERE  
YOU'D NEVER THINK "ONCOMING TRAIN!"

**YOUNG RABBI**

HERE'S TO OUR TIME,  
CHANGING TO THE BEST TIME!

**MARY**

WHO KNOWS, IF IT ONLY COULD—



**YOUNG RABBI**

WITH A HAPPY SURPRISE IN  
A CLEARING HORIZON  
AND EVERYTHING CHANGED FOR THE GOOD!  
THIS IS OUR TIME--'CAUSE I LOVE YOU!  
HERE'S TO OUR TIME...

**MARY**

I DO LOVE YOU!

**BOTH**

THIS IS OUR TIME!

*(RUTH rushes on. A YOUNG WOMAN and MAN, both dressed in red, hand out flyers to a crowd. THEY are CLARA and TITUS.)*

**RUTH**

Clara! Titus! There you are! I thought the rally was on Friedrichstrasse. What happened?

**TITUS**

Some other bunch beat us to it.

**RUTH**

Who?

**CLARA**

I dunno. Anarchists, Nazis, monarchists, who knows.

**TITUS**

They had guns. And they didn't know what to make of the likes of me.

**RUTH**

*(handing CLARA flyers)*

Here. I'll take the other side of the street.

*(BOBBY leads THE GROUP on joining RABBI and MARY)*

**BOBBY**

I never heard of this place. The Cinderella Club? And who's this girl singer?

**HARRY**

He didn't say.

**BOBBY**

He didn't say. Did you ask?

**HARRY**

Bobby, I finally got us an audition. What's the bad news here?

**BOBBY**

The bad news, Harry, is you've got great ideas, but you don't know how to deliver. You always manage to piss it all away.

**HARRY**

You're right. That's why I need you, Bobby.

HELP IT HAPPEN. DRAW THE PLAN.  
YOU CAN'T DO IT--NOR CAN I--  
BUT BOBBY, WE CAN!

**YOUNG RABBI**

THIS IS OUR TIME!

**HARRY**

BOBBY, THIS IS OUR TIME!

**YOUNG RABBI**

OUR WORLD...

**BOBBY**

IF THE WORLD SURVIVES!

**YOUNG RABBI**

THEN WE'VE GOT TIME!

**LESH**

AND MAYBE...

**ERICH**

IT COULD BE...

**CHOPIN**

OH, BABY!

**ALL**

THIS IS OUR....

*(RUTH appears)*

**RUTH**

TIME IS ON OUR SIDE!

**RUTH (CONT'D)**

RISE UP, PEOPLE, RISE UP!  
THE OLD REGIME HAS FAILED!  
THE PUPPETS OF THE BOURGEOISIE  
HAVE ONCE AGAIN DERAILED  
THE COFFIN CAN BE NAILED  
IT'S TIME TO WAKE  
THE PROLETARIAT!  
LET US MAKE  
THESE TIMES OUR CHARIOT!  
RISE UP, COMRADES, RISE UP!

**BOLSHEVIKS**

THIS IS OUR TIME!

**RUTH**

PEOPLE, THIS IS OUR TIME!

**BOLSHEVIKS**

FREEDOM!

**RUTH**

REVOLUTION COMES!  
THE UPPER CRUST WHO FED US CRUMBS, IGNORED THE CRIES AND  
BUILT THE SLUMS, WHO WOULDN'T LET US NEAR THE TABLE...  
NOW WE GET TO CLEAR THE TABLE!

**BOLSHEVIKS**

OUR TIME!

**RUTH**

COMRADES, THIS IS OUR TIME!  
WHERE THERE'S DIGNITY DEPRIVED FOR  
THE WORKERS, THE NEEDY  
THE SLAVES OF THE GREEDY

**ALL**

MY BROTHERS, OUR TIME HAS  
ARRIVED!  
THIS IS OUR TIME  
MAYBE IT'S THE LAST TIME  
WHO KNOWS, BUT AT LEAST IT'S  
OURS!

AND IT WON'T BE THE FIRST

**ALTO/TENORS**

LAST TIME

BUT AT LEAST IT'S OURS

**ALL (CONT'D)**

TIME  
THAT MAN PICKED THE WORST  
TIME  
TO LIFT UP HIS EYES TO THE STARS!

**YOUNG RABBI**

THIS IS OUR TIME, MARY  
THIS IS OUR TIME!

**RUTH**

THIS IS OUR TIME, PEOPLE

**BOLSHEVIKS**

THIS IS OUR TIME!

**THE GROUP**

THIS IS OUR TIME, FELLAS  
THIS IS OUR TIME!

**ALL BUT RUTH**

THIS IS OUR.....

TIME

**RUTH**

NOW THE JOURNEY BEGINS!

LET US MAKE HISTORY,  
THIS IS OUR DESTINY!  
NOW'S THE HOUR, PEOPLE  
NOW IS

**ALL**

OUR TIME!

*(segue to scene 3)*

### SCENE 3

CLUB CINDERELLA, NOVEMBER 1929

*(Club Cinderella takes shape. RABBI leans against the proscenium, taking it all in. We see and hear THE GROUP singing an accompaniment as if they were instruments.)*

#### #5 LOST IN THE SHADOWS

**LESH/HARRY/CHOPIN**

BWAH BWAH BWAH BWAH  
BWAAAAAH  
BWAH BWAH BWAH BWAH

BWAH (BWAH BA DA)

**BOBBY/YOUNG RABBI/ERICH**

BWAH BWAH BWAH BWAH  
BWAH BWAH BWAH BWAH  
BWAH BWAH BWAH BWAH BWAH  
BWAH  
BWAH BWAH BWAH BWAH

**ALL**

BWAH BWAH BWAH BWAH  
BWAAAAAH  
BWAH BWAH BWAH BWAH BWAH  
BWAH BA DAH BOOWAH  
OOH

**RABBI**

Ah, yes. Club Cinderella.  
Sounds like a magical place,  
doesn't it? It was a dive.  
When people applauded,  
plaster fell from the ceiling  
into their drinks. And the  
owner. A real character. What  
was his name...

*(RABBI produces a toupee from his pocket and places it on his head)*

BWAH BWAH BWAH BWAH

Fritz Kruger, at your  
service.

*(FRITZ takes his place behind the panel. We see HIM in silhouette and hear.)*

**FRITZ (V.O.)**

BWAH BWAH BWAH BWAH  
BWAH BWAH BWAH BWAH  
BWAH BWAH BWAH BWAH

Wasn't she wonderful, ladies  
and gentlemen! Miss Marlene  
Dietrich!

*(applause)*

**ALL (CONT'D)**

BOO WAH OOH  
THUM THUM THUM THUM  
WAAAAAAAAAAH!

**FRITZ (CONT'D)**

Remember that name. And  
remember you saw her here  
first at Fritz Kruger's Club  
Cinderella! Fritz Kruger, at  
your service.

*(There's a smattering of applause when they finish. Backstage.)*

**LESH**

*(to DIETRICH)*

Nice working with you.

*(SHE resumes HER slow cross and exits.)*

**YOUNG RABBI**

You mean nice working behind you?! She wouldn't let anyone see us!

**BOBBY**

*(heated, to HARRY)*

Did you know she was gonna stick us behind the scenery?

**HARRY**

Of course not.

**BOBBY**

Did Fritz know when he hired us?

**HARRY**

I dunno.

*("here he comes")*

Ask him.

*(FRITZ enters. He is RABBI.)*

**FRITZ**

I don't think I even paid the electric bill tonight.

**CHOPIN**

Oh, what did you expect? Miss Marlene Dietrich is terrible!

**HARRY**

She's gonna be huge. Watch.

**YOUNG RABBI**

You're joking! The house was half empty!

**FRITZ**

Not because of her. Welcome to the Depression, boys. And now the cockamamie riots, it's bad for business.

**HARRY**

Fritz, this wasn't what we agreed on. Hiding us like that.

**FRITZ**

Listen, hot shot. You scared her at rehearsal. She thought you were too good. So she told me to put you behind the scenery. Take it as a compliment.

**LESH**

Scared her?

**YOUNG RABBI**

I'll tell you what scared me -- those Nazithugs right up front. Fritz, why did you give them ringside seats?

**FRITZ**

I didn't give them anything. They took those seats the same way they took twelve seats in the Reichstag. They're bullies.

**HARRY**

Well thank God it's only twelve seats. They need hundreds more to do any damage.

**FRITZ**

Fellas listen, there's someone here who wants to meet you. He gave me his card. It's engraved. It's alive!

*(HE hands a calling card to YOUNG RABBI)*

**YOUNG RABBI**

Richard Strauss.

*(This causes a stir. ERICH slips off stage, unnoticed.)*

**BOBBY**

Well, bring him up to the dressing room Fritz.

*(FRITZ exits. Music begins.)*

**LESH**

I can't believe this. What do I say?

**BOBBY**

Nothing. Let me do the talking.

**HARRY**

Now wait a minute, Bobby...

**BOBBY**

Richard Strauss is my world. We're not in the subways anymore.

*(To LESH)*

Say nothing.

*(LESH positively vibrates with anticipation. We hear FRITZ's voice offstage. Music out.)*

**FRITZ (V.O.)**

Maestro Richard Strauss, The Melody Makers.

*(STRAUSS enters, wearing an overcoat and holding a top hat. HE too is RABBI. LESH cannot stand it anymore and erupts.)*

**LESH**

Oh my God!!

**STRAUSS**

'Maestro' will be sufficient. Congratulations! Those were some intriguing harmonies coming from behind the scenery. It all took me quite by surprise. Especially given the tragic scene in front of the scenery. Where do you perform next?

**HARRY**

*(jumping in)*

We have several offers on the table.

**STRAUSS**

Ah. I have just received a frantic call from, Ezra Kaplan. Owns The Barbarina Club. Terribly posh. He's lost his featured act. He asked me if I could give him my opinion of Miss Dietrich as a possible replacement. But after tonight's marvelous surprise, well, I suspect he would love to... 'discover' you. I'd be happy to call him. Shall I?

*(THEY all just stand there, dumbstruck, except LESH who is bursting out of his skin waiting for someone to respond.)*



**LESH**

YES!!

*(LESH embraces STRAUSS)*

**STRAUSS**

Done. Once again, a delightful surprise. Gentlemen.

*(To LESH)*

Unhand me!

*(STRAUSS exits. After a beat, a group "whoop!" erupts.)*

**LESH**

Oh my God! Erich, the Barbarina Club! Wow!

**ERICH**

Well, let's not get our hopes up. It's just an audition.

**HARRY**

But what if we get it. That's bad for you, isn't it.

**YOUNG RABBI**

What is this?

**HARRY**

Erich, there's nothing we can't work out if we do it together.

**ERICH**

I had a feeling you knew.

**CHOPIN**

Could we drop the Svengali act and let the rest of us in on this?

**ERICH**

Sorry, it's deeply personal.

**BOBBY**

What the hell is this? Just spit it out.

**ERICH**

I'm going to have to leave the group if you get this job. Let's leave it at that.

**LESH**

Erich, no! Harry?!

**ERICH**

Sorry, Lesh. There's nothing Harry can do about this. It's my problem.

**BOBBY**

What's your problem!!

**ERICH**

I'm rich!!

*(pause)*

No! My parents are rich! Unfathomably. They know everybody! Strauss gave me my first piano lesson.

**YOUNG RABBI**

I don't understand. You're mixing kasha with borscht.

**ERICH**

I haven't told you about them the same way I haven't told them about you.

**YOUNG RABBI**

Why such secrets?

**ERICH**

Because their son, me, is supposed to be a surgeon. Period. If they knew what I was up to, they'd be devastated. Sir Walter Scott put it best 'Oh what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive.'

**YOUNG RABBI**

My mother put it best 'You can't dance at two weddings with one tokhes!'

**ERICH**

I never thought it would come to this. As long as we were singing in subways and alleys--or behind the scenes--but the Barbarina Club? Wow. Good for you. But not good for me. They'd find out.

**BOBBY**

And what the hell are we supposed to do?!

**YOUNG RABBI**

Let's rehearse.

**HARRY**

Wait a minute, we're not finished here.

**YOUNG RABBI**

I didn't say what we were going to rehearse, did I?

*(to ERICH)*

Doctor Collin, sit here please. Lesh, you be Mama Collin and...

**ERICH**

Oh, no!

**YOUNG RABBI**

Sit. Just a rehearsal. Bobby, you be...What do you call him? Papa? Father? Your Highness? What?

**ERICH**

Daddy.

**YOUNG RABBI**

Oy vey. Tell 'em. Okay. Hit it.

<b>#6 YOUR SON IS BECOMING A SINGER</b>
---

**ERICH**

Mama? Daddy? We need to have a talk.

MAMA, DADDY, THERE'S SOMETHING  
YOUR SON NEEDS TO TELL YOU.  
ME, YOUR ONLY SON...

**LESH/BOBBY**

OH THE ONE WHO'S A DOCTOR!

**ERICH**

Yeah.

HAS A LITTLE PROBLEM TO EXPLAIN  
MY LIFE'S A DULL ENDEAVOR NOW  
AND EVEN LIMBS I SEVER NOW  
THE JOY IS GONE FOREVER NOW  
FROM SUFFERING AND PAIN!  
I KNOW YOU WILL FIND IT IRONICAL  
A SMEAR ON THE FAMILY CHRONICLE  
OH DADDY, HOLD ONTO YOUR MONOCLE!!  
YOUR SON IS BECOMING A SINGER!

**HARRY/YOUNG RABBI/CHOPIN**  
YOUR SON IS BECOMING A SINGER!

**BOBBY**  
WIFE, GET A KNIFE  
HELP ME OPEN UP A VEIN

**LESH**  
GET A NURSE

**HARRY, YOUNG RABBI & CHOPIN**  
YOUR SON IS BECOMING A SINGER!

**LESH**  
SHAME TO OUR NAME  
FAR TOO HORRID TO EXPLAIN!

**BOBBY**  
WE'LL SAY HE CONTRACTED MALARIA!

**LESH**  
THEN QUIETLY SLIP FROM THE AREA!

**LESH/BOBBY/YOUNG RABBI**  
AND HIDE IN A HUT IN BULGARIA!

**RED HEAD/LESH/CHOPIN/HARRY/YOUNG RABBI**  
CAUSE ERICH'S BECOMING A SINGER!

**ERICH**  
*(sheepishly)*  
I'LL BE HAPPY  
YOUNG RABBI

Happy!

**HARRY**  
Happy!

**CHOPIN**  
Happy!

**LESH/REDHEAD**  
Happy!

**ERICH**

*(boldly)*

I'LL BE HAPPY! WHAT A CONCEPT!  
ERICH COLLIN BEING HAPPY...  
WAS I EVER REALLY HAPPY?

IT DOESN'T EVEN RING A BELL  
SO WHAT THE HELL!  
YOUR SON IS BECOMING A SINGER!

**THE GROUP EXCEPT ERICH**

HALLELUJAH AND AMEN!

THANK THE LORD  
OUR ERICH'S BECOMING A  
SINGER!

**ERICH**

MA MA MA MA MA MA MA

I'M BECOMING A SINGER

**THE GROUP EXCEPT ERICH**

YOU'VE PULLED YOUR LAST APPENDIX, DOC  
AND SEEN YOUR FINAL CHICKEN POCK!  
YOUR SON IS BECOMING A SINGER!

**ERICH**

SOUND THE HORNS AND RING THE BELLS!

**THE GROUP EXCEPT ERICH**

GOOD IDEA

**ERICH**

Perfect!

**THE GROUP EXCEPT ERICH**

YOUR SON IS BECOMING A  
SINGER!

**ERICH**

AH!

**THE GROUP EXCEPT ERICH**

FOR HAPPINESS TO RING A BELL  
YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO RING IT FELLA!  
MAKE THAT CLANGER SWAY!

**ERICH**

YOUR SON IS BECOMING A SINGER...

**HARRY/CHOPIN/YOUNG RABBI**

YOUR SON IS BECOMING A SINGER...

**LESH/BOBBY**

YOUR SON IS BECOMING A SINGER...

*(ERICH sings a solo cadenza on the word, "singer...")*

**ERICH THE**

**FIVE**

TODAY! TODAY!  
HOORAY! HOORAY!  
TODAY! TODAY!  
HOORAY! HOORAY!  
TODAY!

TODAY—  
  
YAY—  
  
TODAY!

*(music button)*

<b>#6A YOUR SON IS BECOMING A SINGER - PLAYOFF</b>
--

## SCENE 4

### KOTT'S TAILOR SHOP

*("Kott's Fine Tailoring" appears in reverse in a 'window.' RUTH enters the shop. A bell rings.)*

**MARY**

I've got it, Mrs. Kott. If she comes back out, remember, it's your coat and you had the hem taken up.

*(MARY produces a red coat from the bag. RUTH gasps.)*

**RUTH**

It's beautiful! Where did you find it?

**MARY**

I made it. Found the material on the back of an old sofa. My contribution to the revolution.

**RUTH**

Absolutely stunning! You are amazing. Rabbi is a lucky man.

*(seeing MARY turn away)*

What is it? What's wrong?

**MARY**

He's picking me up after work and...I think he's going to propose.

**RUTH**

Oh my God! Mazel tov!

**MARY**

That's a little premature.

**RUTH**

Premature? You've been going together for, what, two years?

**MARY**

Two and a half.

**RUTH**

And on the Jewish calendar, it's longer!

*(THEY laugh. SHE leads MARY to the sewing table.)*

Come on. What is it, Mary. What's wrong. Is it because...

**MARY**

Oh. No. I decided that if we got married, I'd convert. I figure, your God is where you find Him.

**RUTH**

Mary! How wonderful! So...what's the problem?

**MARY**

He was a Rabbi. Now he's not. Things got bad in Poland. And he ran. There's a pattern. It worries me. Why should I think it will change now?

**RUTH**

Any Jew who flees Poland is performing an act of self-preservation.

**MARY**

And what if things get that bad here?

**RUTH**

They won't. This is Germany, not Poland. And we're fighting it.

*(SHE hands some leaflets to MARY)*

Here, take a few. Mary, if Rabbi is the right man, you already know it. And you'll make the right decision.

**MARY**

Thanks, Ruthie. Go. Go change the world!

*(YOUNG RABBI enters. A bell rings. RUTH twirls around for HIM. As RUTH exits.)*

**YOUNG RABBI**

Wow! Look at you!

**MARY**

Hi. She's amazing, that one.

**YOUNG RABBI**

*(handing HER the bouquet)*

You're amazing.

**MARY**

Oh, Rabbi...



**YOUNG RABBI**  
You know I love you, don't you?

**MARY**  
Rabbi! Mrs. Kott is...

**YOUNG RABBI**  
You do know.

**MARY**  
Yes, I know. And I love you.

**YOUNG RABBI**  
I want to spend the rest of my life with you.

**MARY**  
I know.

**YOUNG RABBI**  
We'll be happy.

**MARY**  
Mmmm.

**YOUNG RABBI**  
Marry me, Mary.

**MARY**  
No.

**YOUNG RABBI**  
What?

**MARY**  
We need to talk about that.

**YOUNG RABBI**  
Talk? What's wrong?

**MARY**  
Rabbi, I love you. And besides the fact that I find you the sexiest creature on earth, you are the sweetest, most decent man I've ever known.

**YOUNG RABBI**  
I sound perfect! I'll marry me!

**MARY**

I would too. In any other time or place. But I don't think the two of us can make it in this world. That's what's wrong.

**YOUNG RABBI**

I feel like I've done something wrong. What did I do?

**MARY**

Nothing.

*(beat)*

Do you know what we're in for if you marry me? I don't think you do! Rabbi, it's going to be hard, and maybe dangerous. And I'm not sure you're up to it. There, I've said it.

*(beat)*

I'm sorry. I kept on hoping that something would change--

*(YOUNG RABBI turns away, crushed. A pause.)*

**MARY (CONT'D)**

Do you wanna say something?

*(beat)*

Joe..."Til death do us part." I take that very seriously. We make this mistake now and we regret it every single day for the rest of our lives.

*(SHE waits a moment for a response. Nothing. SHE turns away.)*

<b>#7 EVERY SINGLE DAY</b>
----------------------------

**YOUNG RABBI**

You're right! We could be making a terrible mistake! But not the one you're worried about.

EVERY SINGLE DAY  
WE'LL REMEMBER  
WHAT WE DO TODAY.  
WORDS WE DIDN'T SAY  
WE'LL REMEMBER  
EVERY SINGLE DAY!  
AND YEARS GO BY  
TO WONDER WHY  
AND WONDER WHAT WE LEARNED.  
WAS THAT THE BRIDGE WE SHOULD'A CROSSED,  
THAT ONE WE BURNED?

**YOUNG RABBI (CONT'D)**

EVERY EMPTY NIGHT  
TO REGRET A  
LIFE THAT COULD HAVE BEEN  
MAYBE YOU WERE RIGHT  
JUST FORGET THAT  
EMPTINESS WITHIN  
SO IF YOU GO  
BEFORE THAT MOMENT'S GONE  
LOOK AT ME THE WAY  
I'LL REMEMBER  
EVERY SINGLE DAY  
FROM NOW ON!

YOU DESERVE...I DUNNO...

WHAT?... THE MAN I'D LOVE TO BE  
THAT'S NOT THE WAY IT TURNED OUT  
NO, YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH ME!  
EVERYTHING YOU DOUBT  
I WILL FIGHT FOR  
EVERY SINGLE DAY

HELP ME WORK IT OUT--  
MAKE IT RIGHT FOR  
EVERY SINGLE DAY  
BUT THIS I SWEAR, AND STAKE MY LIFE UPON--  
IF YOU GO OR STAY  
I WILL LOVE YOU  
AS I DO TODAY  
AND I'LL LOVE YOU  
EVERY SINGLE DAY  
FROM NOW ON!

*(There's an anxious pause. YOUNG RABBI gestures, "So?")*

**MARY**

Oh, God help us!

<b>#7A THE BARBARINA CLUB</b>
-------------------------------

*SHE rushes into YOUNG RABBI's arms. THEY kiss. The music swells and then segues to elegant nightclub music. Segue to—)*

## SCENE 5

### THE BARBARINA CLUB

*(Backstage. HARRY, BOBBY, ERICH and CHOPIN undress.)*

#### CHOPIN

I wanna live in that bathroom! I've never seen anything like it! There's stuff in there I don't even know what it's for!

#### ERICH

It's called a sink.

*(YOUNG RABBI enters, carrying a paper bag.)*

#### YOUNG RABBI

It's so fancy! Did you see the crowd? Von-this and von-that. What will they make of us?! My stomach is in knots.

*(beat)*

Where's Lesh?

#### CHOPIN

He's in Ezra's office, getting the tuxes.

#### BOBBY

The tuxes. Don't remind me. Every last mark we had. And several of Erich's.

*(to YOUNG RABBI)*

I think my stomach's going now. Is that bicarbonate in there?

#### YOUNG RABBI

Chopped liver.

#### HARRY

Did you see the posters? Swell, huh?

#### BOBBY

But the new name, Harry. The Harmonistststs? I can't say it without spitting! I liked The Melody Makers.

#### CHOPIN

I liked The Harmony Boys.

**HARRY**

You know the rules. All votes have to be unanimous. And I'm telling you now, I still don't like The Harmony Boys. We're not boys.

**BOBBY**

Okay, then I'm telling you now that I withdraw my vote for the Harmonists. There. It's not unanimous.

**HARRY**

*(getting heated)*

You can't do that.

**BOBBY**

*(angrily)*

I just did.

**ERICH**

Fellas! Let there be harmony where there is discord!

**YOUNG RABBI**

St. Francis of Assisi!

**ERICH**

Very good... Rabbi!

**YOUNG RABBI**

Oh sure. I keep up with the competition.

*(LESH and EZRA KAPLAN enter)*

**LESH**

They're gone! The tuxedos! Stolen!

**BOBBY**

What?! What the hell happened?!

**EZRA**

I locked them in my office last night. Someone broke in. The bastards got my petty cash and your suits.

**LESH**

And they wrote all over the walls... horrible things.

**EZRA**

Anti-Semitic garbage. Same old drivel they've been writing for centuries.

**BOBBY**

You're responsible, Kaplan!

**EZRA**

Now you wait a minute...

**HARRY**

Hold on. Let me think...

*(a waitress with a seltzer bottle enters)*

**HARRY (CONT'D)**

*(staring at a pants-less BOBBY and the seltzer bottle)*

Wait! Ezra, can you get us six waiter's uniforms?

**EZRA**

Sure. But I don't know about the fit.

**HARRY**

Doesn't matter. Please, get'em.

*(EZRA exits. HARRY paces, deep in thought.)*

*(to HIMSELF)*

What if...what if... Ha! Wait, we need props. And a chump. And Ezra. Ezra!

**ALL**

What?!

<b>#7B I GOTTA TELL EZRA</b>
------------------------------

*(Perspective shifts to the showroom. Fanfare. EZRA enters.)*

**EZRA**

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Barbarina Club! Countess von Stauffen-berg! So nice to see you! Yes, well... Tonight, I am delighted to introduce an exciting new singing group that, I am proud to say, I discovered.

*(we hear a crash from behind the curtain, and muffled voices)*

**EZRA (CONT'D)**

*(nervous laugh, then)*

Please welcome The Harmisists... Harmono...Harmisi... Goodness! That's hard to say! The Harmonists!

*(The GROUP enters terrified, standing behind tables)*

**#8 HOW CAN I SERVE YOU, MADAME?**

**THE GROUP**

BUH BUH BUP PUH PUH  
BUP PUH BUP PUH PUH  
BUH!

**HARRY**

Okay, Lesh. Hit it.

**LESH**

HEAVENS! THERE YOU ARE MY  
DEAR!  
DARE I LOOK YOUR WAY?  
I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO  
HEAR...

**ALL BUT LESH**

OOH...

OOH AAH

**THE GROUP**

WORDS I CANNOT SAY--  
HOW CAN I SERVE YOU, MADAME?

**CHOPIN**

I CAN'T MY DEAR TO BE SO NEAR  
WOULD RAVAGE MY HEART

**THE GROUP**

OH HOW CAN I SERVE YOU, MADAME?

**ERICH**

THE WHOLE AFFAIR WOULD TEAR ME APART

**THE GROUP**

ALTHOUGH I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU

**LESH**

I SEE MY FATE IS ONLY BUT TO

**ALL BUT LESH**

OOO AY

**THE GROUP**

WAIT—

**LESH**

AS WAITERS DO

**YOUNG RABBI**  
WHAT CHANCE IS THERE YOU'D HAVE...

**LESH**  
YOU'D HAVE...

**HARRY/CHOPIN**  
YOU'D HAVE...

**ERICH/BOBBY**  
YOU'D HAVE

**YOUNG RABBI**  
ME THE...

**THE GROUP**  
WAY I AM?  
HOW CAN I SERVE YOU, MADAME?

*(BOBBY is nudged out. HE'S NOT WEARING PANTS.)*

**BOBBY**  
HOW CAN I SERVE YOU, MA'MSELLE?

**ALL BUT BOBBY**  
HA HA HA HA HA

<b>BOBBY</b>	<b>ALL BUT BOBBY</b>
IF WHAT I DO TO PLEASURE YOU	DO YOU
EXPOSES MY LOVE?	OOH AH!

*(HARRY hands him a saucer-sized plate as a fig leaf)*

**BOBBY**  
NO! HOW CAN I SERVE YOU, MA'MSELLE?

**ALL BUT BOBBY**  
HA HA HA HA HA

<b>BOBBY</b>	<b>ALL BUT BOBBY</b>
I THINK YOU'D SEE WHAT I'M	MM...
THINKING OF!	



**LESH**

I THINK SHE SEES IT!

*(ERICH emerges using a huge platter as a fig leaf)*

**ERICH**

THERE'S SO MUCH I'M HIDING, CHERIE!

**YOUNG RABBI**

Big talker!

**ERICH**

AND IF I DARED TO LET IT ALL  
BE BARED  
OH WHAT YOU'D SEE!

**ALL BUT ERICH**

AH...

**THE GROUP**

HEAVENS WHAT YOU'D SEE!  
INSTEAD I'LL HIDE MY PAIN  
THOUGH I FEAR IT SHOWS  
THIS LOVE I FEEL JUST GROWS AND GROWS

**ERICH**

GIVEN HOW UNDONE I AM--

**ALL BUT ERICH**

HOW UNDONE I AM

**THE GROUP**

HOW CAN I SERVE YOU, MADAME?

**BOBBY**

Dinner is served.

*(THEY dance)*

**THE GROUP**

OOH

**LESH**

AS HAMLET SAID  
IN VERSE FASHIONED BY THE BARD  
I'M HOISTED BY MY OWN...(BUMP) PETARD!

**THE GROUP**

*(offstage)*

Ouch!

DARLING I SUFFER, IT'S JUST TOO HARD!  
HOW CAN I SERVE YOU.....

**LESH**

MA.....DAME?!!

**THE GROUP**

MADAME?!!

*(music button)*

<b>#8A HOW CAN I SERVE YOU, MADAME? PLAYOFF</b>
---

*(The GROUP bows & exits as RABBI rushes on in his boxers. The lights shift.)*

**RABBI**

What a night! We sang everything we knew! And after that night, well, it was a fast train.  
Suddenly, we were The Comedian Harmonists!

*(A pool of light reveals CHOPIN at his piano. RUTH enters)*

**RUTH**

*(holding something behind HER back)*

LOOK! LOOK AT THE STARS  
HOW BRILLIANT THEY ARE!  
HOW CAN THEY BE SHINING NOW...

*(revealing a 78rpm)*

Baby, look! It's out!

**CHOPIN**

*(reading the label)*

"The Comedian Harmonists. Stars in the Night. Music by Erwin Bootz. Lyrics and arrangement by Harry Frommerman." Wow. This is really somethin'. But Erwin Bootz?

**RUTH**

It's perfect. I am so very proud of you.

**CHOPIN**

I love you, baby.

*(THEY embrace and kiss)*

**RABBI**

Funny, you can plan and plan, think things through all you want, be a regular Albert Einstein about it...and then ya sing a waltz in your underpants and everything changes!

*(beat)*

Where was I...

**CHOPIN**

I know I'm not the prince you waited for. But I promise I will do the best I can and will always be there for you. Ruthie, marry me.

*(THEY embrace and kiss once more. RABBI notices.)*

**RABBI**

Oh, yes. Oh, yes!

<b>#9 INTO THE WEDDING</b>
----------------------------

*(segue to scene 6)*

## SCENE 6

### THE BERLIN SYNAGOGUE 1931

*(A stained glass window. The SYNAGOGUE RABBI enters, in full rabbinical regalia. HE is RABBI. A CANTOR is revealed in the house right box.)*

#### #9A DUELING CANTORS

##### RABBI

ADONAI LI LO IRA

MAH YA'ASEH LI ADAHM

##### CANTOR

ADONAI LI LO IRA

MAH YA'ASEH LI ADAHM

##### BOTH

ADONAI LI LO IRA. OMayn

#### #10 THE WEDDING - PART 1

*(The CONGREGATION enters, chanting. The chuppah is brought on by the four other GROUP members. The grooms, YOUNG RABBI and CHOPIN, take their places. The brides, RUTH and Mary, enter.)*

##### WOMEN

AH AH AH  
AH AH AH AH

##### MEN

OOH OOH  
AH AH AH AH

##### RABBI

AS YOU ENTER THE HOUSE OF  
ISRAEL  
MAY YOU FIND HAPPINESS AND  
PEACE

##### ALL

OOH  
OOH  
OOH  
AH

##### ALL

OMayn.

#### #10A THE WEDDING - PART 2

##### CHOPIN

EVERY SINGLE DAY  
'TIL THIS MOMENT

**CHOPIN (CONT'D)**

THIS IS WHAT I DREAMED  
WE WOULD FIND A WAY  
TO THIS MOMENT  
CRAZY AS IT SEEMED

**RUTH**

THE GOD I KNOW  
WOULD SURELY SHOW US HOW  
LOOK, WE FOUND A WAY!  
AND WILL ALWAYS  
EVERY SINGLE DAY  
STARTING NOW!

**MARY**

LOOK AT US--  
WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT?  
IT'S A MIRACLE TO ME

**YOUNG RABBI**

GOD ONLY KNOWS, BUT SOMEHOW  
THIS WAS ALWAYS MEANT TO BE

**YOUNG RABBI & MARY**

EVERY SINGLE DAY  
FROM THIS MOMENT  
WE WILL BE AS ONE

**CHOPIN & RUTH**

MAY THE WORDS WE SAY  
AT THIS MOMENT  
NEVER BE UNDONE

**BOTH COUPLES**

THE GLASS IS FILLED  
WITH HOPE TO BUILD UPON!

**ENSEMBLE**

AH AH AH AH

*(glasses are wrapped and placed at the feet of the grooms)*

**MARY AND YOUNG RABBI**

MAY WE FIND OUR WAY  
AS I LOVE YOU

**ENSEMBLE**

AH  
AH

**CHOPIN AND RUTH**

HONOR AND OBEY

**ENSEMBLE**

AH

**CHOPIN AND RUTH (CONT'D)**  
AND WILL LOVE YOU

**ALL**  
EVERY SINGLE DAY.....

*(THE GROOMS smash the cups)*

*(segue to scene 7)*

## SCENE 7

A TOUR OF THE WORLD 1932-1933

*(On the screens, A NAZI LEADER speaks)*

### NAZI LEADER

The election results have been tallied. The Catholic Center Party has won seventy seats in the Reichstag. The Communists, eighty-three. The Social Democrats, one hundred twenty-two. And our National Socialists have won two hundred forty-three seats!

#11 TOUR OF THE WORLD
-----------------------

*(Suddenly the GROUP appears. ERICH steps forward)*

### ERICH

Hello London! We are the Comedian Harmonists!

*(The NAZI LEADER reappears)*

### THE GROUP

*(singing, sotto voce)*

HARMONY! WE SING IN HARMONY!  
LIKE THE ROBINS IN LEICESTER

SQUARE...

### NAZI LEADER

*President Hindenburg has*

*appointed our fuhrer  
Chancellor! And*

*(a cheer)*

*our Fuhrer has assembled a  
coalition government! One  
people!*

### NAZI LEADER & CROWD

One Germany! One Fuhrer!

*(A pool of light comes up on RUTH, TITUS and CLARA handing  
out leaflets)*

### TITUS

Say 'no' to fascism!

### RUTH

Say 'yes' to equality!

### CLARA

Say, 'no' to the Nazi thugs!

**RUTH**

Say 'yes' to justice!

**RUTH/TITUS/CLARA**

Save the German nation!

*(LESH steps forward)*

**LESH**

Bon soir, Paree! Nous sommes Les Harmonists Comedian!

**BOBBY**

UN!

**ERICH**

DEUX!

**YOUNG RABBI**

TROIS!

**CHOPIN**

QUATRE!

**HARRY**

CINQ!

**LESH**

SIX!

**THE GROUP**

TOUT LE MONDE!

*(The NAZI LEADER reappears)*

**THE GROUP**

*(singing, sotto voce)*

MAIS CELUI

QUI A L'HARMONIE

EST CELUI

QUI N'A PAS L'ENNUI...

**NAZI**

The Reichsministry of finance has ordered a one day strike of all Jewish shops and businesses. Tomorrow, all Germans are forbidden to obtain goods and services from Jews. Heil Hitler!



**NAZI AND CROWD**

Seig heil, seig heil, seig heil, seig heil, seig heil.

*(RUTH, CLARA and TITUS reappear)*

**TITUS AND CLARA**

Save the German nation!

**RUTH**

This is our time!

**TITUS AND CLARA**

Save the German nation!

**RUTH**

This is our time!

**ALL THREE**

Save the German nation!

**YOUNG RABBI**

BAP BA DAH DUT DUT DAH

**BOBBY**

BAP BA DAH DUT DUT DAH

**ERICH**

BAP BA DAH DUT DUT DAH

**CHOPIN**

BAP BA DAH DUT DUT

**HARRY**

BA DAH DUT DUT DAH BOP

**LESH**

BAP BA DAH DUT DUT

**THE GROUP**

BOP BAH

*(YOUNG RABBI steps forward)*

**YOUNG RABBI**

Hello New York! We are The Comedian Harmonists!

**THE GROUP**

IN THIS JOINT  
ALL ENCOUNTERS WITH COUNTERPOINT

**LESH/CHOPIN/HARRY**

END IN HARMONY

**YOUNG RABBI/ERICH/BOBBY**

COUNTERPOINT THEN HARMONY

**THE GROUP**

AND IT'S CLEAR  
NO MAN'S A SOLO HERE  
NOT EVEN

**BOBBY**

ME!

**ERICH**

ME!

**YOUNG RABBI**

ME!

**HARRY**

ME!

**CHOPIN**

ME!

**LESH**

ME!

**THE GROUP**

NO SOLO MIO!  
JUST HARMONY

*(Photographers and reporters rush on. In rapid fire.)*

**REPORTER #1**

How long will you be in America?

**HARRY**

We're excited to hear what Mr. Hurok has to say.

**PHOTOGRAPHER #1**

To your left, please. Great.

**REPORTER #2**

Any offers for an American radio deal?

**HARRY**

You'll be the first to know.

*(A woman's voice is heard from the CROWD)*

**JOSEPHINE**

I have a question, s'il vous plait.

*(THE GROUP cannot pinpoint the source of THE VOICE. A clump of REPORTERS/PHOTOGRAPHERS parts to reveal JOSEPHINE BAKER.)*

**JOSEPHINE (CONT'D)**

*(very 'Josephine of Paris')*

Would you gentlemen consider performing with the magnificent, the dazzling, the incomparable Josephine Baker?

**YOUNG RABBI**

I can't believe my eyes.

*(LESH crosses to HER as the flash bulbs become frenzied)*

**LESH**

Ari Leshnikoff, Comedian Harmonist.

**JOSEPHINE**

Josephine Baker, black goddess of France. Enchantez.

**REPORTER #1**

Miss Baker, what brings you to New York?

**JOSEPHINE**

A dear friend made his Carnegie Hall debut tonight. How could I miss that?

*(SHE crosses, finally stopping at ERICH. HER free gloved hand caresses his face. Now SHE is more 'Josephine of North St. Louis.')*

Erich, sweet thing, I hope I have been a good friend.

*(THEY kiss. Flashes become even more frenzied.)*

**LESH**

Wow.

**CHOPIN**

Erich, my man! You and your secrets.

**REPORTER #1**

Miss Baker! Miss Baker, is it true you will be appearing in the new Ziegfeld Follies?

**JOSEPHINE**

Appearing? Mais non. La Baker does not 'appear.' But she may very well be starring in the new Ziegfeld Follies.

**ERICH**

A new Ziegfeld Follies? Really?

**JOSEPHINE**

Yes. I have an idea. Josephine Baker starring in the New Ziegfeld Follies with The Comedian Harmonists. We'll talk more at the party.

**ERICH**

Till the party, then.

**JOSEPHINE**

And then after the party...

*(THEY kiss once more)*

**LESH**

Ooh-la-la.

**BOBBY**

Okay, thank you, everybody. If you all would excuse us, we need to change and head to that party. Thank you, thank you.

**JOSEPHINE**

This way, madame et messieurs. I always exit stage right. This is my good side.

**PHOTOGRAPHER #2**

Lady, you don't have a bad side.

*(SHE and the PRESS exit. One PHOTOGRAPHER, lags behind. HE removes his hat and turns to US. HE is RABBI. Segue scene 8.)*

## SCENE 8

CARNEGIE HALL DRESSING ROOM, DECEMBER 1933

### RABBI

New York! What a night that was. In the dressing room there were flowers everywhere ... champagne...telegrams... the most gorgeous deli platter you ever saw...

### YOUNG RABBI

*(with a mouthful of pastrami)*

Oh my God...

### RABBI

*(HIS mood darkens a bit)*

Yes. That night, I remember...

*(HE exits. The dressing room. The GROUP and MARY are present. CHOPIN is on the telephone. LESH begins to change clothes.)*

### CHOPIN

Wow...really?

*(to the OTHERS)*

Ruth says Hindenburg is battling with the Nazis... Hitler's government will fall in weeks and... the old man will call for new elections.

*(to RUTH)*

Ruthie, be careful...I love you, baby. Yes, she's here.

*(to MARY)*

Mary, she wants to talk to you.

### MARY

It's so expensive!

### LESH

Talk all you want. We're rich! And we're famous! Look at these—

*(reading telegrams)*

Mayor Fiorello La Guardia, Fanny Brice, Will Rogers, Gypsy Rose Lee!

### BOBBY

*(to ERICH)*

Are we really this famous? Or are these more of your friends.

**CHOPIN**

I still can't believe it. Erich and Josephine Baker!

**YOUNG RABBI**

Who else did you have out there tonight? Eleanor Roosevelt?

**ERICH**

How would I know Eleanor Roosevelt?

*(a knock at the door. ERICH, beaming, signals LESH to open it)*

Don't just stand there. Let Eleanor in!

**LESH**

*(opening the door)*

Oh my God!!

*(EINSTEIN enters. HE is RABBI.)*

**EINSTEIN**

Albert Einstein.

**LESH**

Ari Leshnikoff, Comedian Harmonist.

*(as LESH extends a hand, his pants drop)*

**EINSTEIN**

What a splendid example of the laws of gravity! You are the remarkable tenor. That was a high E above C, wasn't it? In the ballad?

**LESH**

I...I...

**CHOPIN**

The ballads are the slow ones, Lesh.

*(to EINSTEIN)*

They call me Chopin.

**EINSTEIN**

Aha! The second great pianist with that name.

**ERICH**

Albie!

**ERICH (CONT'D)**

*(crossing to HIM)*

Albie...

**EINSTEIN**

Erich! My boy...

*(as THEY embrace, the OTHERS physically express their disbelief)*

**ERICH**

Let me introduce you. Rabbi Josef Roman Cykowski.

**YOUNG RABBI**

An honor, sir. My wife, Mary.

**MARY**

*(into the phone)*

I'm not joking! It's really him!

*(there's an audible scream coming through the phone)*

**CHOPIN**

And my wife, Ruth.

**EINSTEIN**

*(shouting)*

A pleasure to meet you!

*(another audible scream from the phone)*

**ERICH**

Harry Frommerman.

**EINSTEIN**

Ah yes. The man with the ideas.

**ERICH**

And Robert Biberti.

**BOBBY**

It's wonderful to meet you. We were just saying how we missed our German friends.

**EINSTEIN**

I'm becoming an American now, Mr. Biberti.

**BOBBY**

American? But surely you'll return to Germany after the current situation changes.

**EINSTEIN**

After the current 'situation' changes, I wonder if there will be a Germany.

**YOUNG RABBI**

You think it's that bad?

**EINSTEIN**

Yes. Don't you?

**LESH**

Sir, we haven't been in Germany for over a year. We've been touring.

**EINSTEIN**

Have you been reading?

*(gently)*

The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them and do nothing.

**BOBBY**

With all due respect, there have been, what, dozens of governments in the past few years. What makes you think this one will last?

**EINSTEIN**

Mr. Biberti, throughout the course of history, the failure of democracies has set the stage for the success of tyrants. Greed and hatred is a proven formula for success. In the short term, at least. An unfortunate legacy for our species.

**ERICH**

'How can tyrants safely govern home?'

**EINSTEIN**

Ah. Shakespeare.

**MARY**

What has it been like for you, emigrating?

**EINSTEIN**

Difficult. But, I have come to think that in every difficulty there is an opportunity. Have you been considering it?

*(beat)*



**EINSTEIN (CONT'D)**

I was seated tonight next to several executives from... N, B..C? In your field these are influential men? Yes? They are most interested in you.

*(beat)*

Ah. I fear I have put a damper on your magnificent evening.

**ALL EXCEPT BOBBY**

No...no.

**EINSTEIN**

And magnificent it was! I shall not forget it! My regards to the family, Erich. Good night.

**#11A INTRO TO HOME**

*(HE 'exits' scene but crosses and slowly transforms into RABBI again. Music rumbles. RABBI's lines alone are sung.)*

**MARY**

Will NBC be at the party tonight?

**ERICH**

I'm quite sure.

**RABBI**

WE SHOULD TALK TO THEM

**YOUNG RABBI**

We should talk to them.

**HARRY**

Yes. We definitely should.

**CHOPIN**

Hell. I dunno.

**RABBI**

THERE'S NO HARM IN TALKING

**LESH**

There's no harm in talking.

**CHOPIN**

Sure.

*(THEY all turn to BOBBY. A beat.)*

**BOBBY**

No.

**HARRY**

Whadday mean, 'no'? That's it?!

**ERICH**

Bobby, we'll just talk. No one's making any moves yet.

**LESH**

Yes, Bobby. All we do is talk.

**CHOPIN**

Wait. Let him speak.

**RABBI**

THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR US

**BOBBY**

They don't know what's good for us.

**HARRY**

And you do.

**BOBBY**

Yes.

**MARY**

Bobby, we're not children. We can hear what they have to say, talk it through, and then we decide.

**BOBBY**

We? I don't remember you having a vote.

**MARY**

You're right. This is your decision. You decide. And then Rabbi and I will decide.

*(SHE exits)*

**RABBI**

THAT WASN'T RIGHT. DAMN YOU, BOBBY!

**YOUNG RABBI**

That wasn't right. Damn you, Bobby!

**BOBBY**

You all heard what Ruth said. And she's there! It's gonna blow over.

**HARRY**

And if it doesn't? I say we talk to these guys and know what our choices are.

**RABBI**

LET'S PUT IT TO A VOTE

**HARRY**

Let's put it to a vote. And remember, it has to be unanimous or we...

**BOBBY**

You're doing it! You're pissing it all away! Just like I always knew you would!

**RABBI**

ALL IN FAVOR...

**HARRY**

All in favor...

#12 HOME
----------

**BOBBY**

No!! No, I will not let you do this, Harry!

THIS IS HOW IT STARTS!  
THIS IS HOW PEOPLE LIKE US GET HOT AND BLOW IT!  
AND YOU KNOW IT!  
COMMON SENSE DEPARTS  
LEAVING A RIOT OF RUMORS, LIES AND DOUBTS  
DO WE GIVE OUR HEARTS  
TO AMERICANS WAITING  
TO HATE THE INVADING  
INTRUDERS?  
WE'RE THE FILTHY POLLUTERS--  
"SILLY GERMANS  
WITH THEIR ACCENTS...  
WHAT A BUNCH'A RIDICULOUS KATZENJAMMER KRAUTS!"  
THEY TOSS A BOUQUET  
THEN TOSS US AWAY  
NO! I SAY WE ALL JUST GO HOME!

**BOBBY (CONT'D)**

HOME, WHERE THEY KNOW US  
AND WE'RE TOGETHER  
UNDER A SKY THAT FOUND A SPACE  
TO PLACE OUR STAR

*(to CHOPIN)*

HOME, WHERE THEY LOVE US  
AND WHERE IT'S OUR TIME!  
IT'S WHY WE HAPPENED  
IT'S WHO WE ARE  
YES, I SAY WE GO HOME

**CHOPIN**

Harry?

**BOBBY**

MAYBE WE SHOULD QUIT  
MAYBE THERE REALLY IS MORE TO LIFE  
WITHOUT IT  
OH, I DOUBT IT  
WE COULD ALWAYS SPLIT  
SOME OF US STAY, OR WE GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS.  
SAY 'THE HELL WITH IT--'

*(to ERICH)*

YOU COULD HURRY BACK TO THE INFIRMARY

*(to YOUNG RABBI)*

YOU, TO THE SHTETL

*(to ALL)*

DO YA THINK WE COULD SETTLE?

*(to LESH)*

WAITIN' TABLES

*(to CHOPIN)*

PLAYIN' BROTHELS

*(to ALL)*

AND THE MEMORIES RATTLE AROUND US ALL OUR DAYS--  
DON'T TOPPLE THE THRONE!  
JUST LEAVE IT ALONE!  
HELL, I SAY WE ALL JUST GO HOME!

**BOBBY**

HOME, WHERE THEY KNOW US

AND WE'RE TOGETHER

UNDER A SKY THAT FOUND  
A SPACE TO PLACE OUR STAR  
HOME WHERE THEY LOVE US

AND WHERE IT'S OUR TIME!

IT'S WHY WE HAPPENED  
IT'S WHO WE ARE. YES

**CHOPIN**

IT'S STILL HOME

**CHOPIN/ERICH**

IT'S OUR HOME

THERE'S ONLY ONE

TIMES WILL CHANGE

THERE'S TIME TO RUN

AT HOME WE CAN CHANGE IT

**BOBBY/ERICH/CHOPIN**

I SAY WE GO HOME

**RABBI**

YOU COULD HAVE DONE IT  
YOU COULD HAVE STOPPED IT  
BUT NO! NOTHING!  
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?  
WASN'T IT CLEAR? DIDN'T YOU KNOW?  
NO! YES! NO!  
DO IT! DO IT!  
NOTHING TO IT! NOTHING!  
YOU DID NOTHING!  
ALL YOU DO IS TURN AROUND  
AND THEN YOU SAY IT..."NO!  
WE CAN'T GO!" AND WE DON'T GO!  
BUT NO! NOTHING!  
SAY IT! "IT'S NOT HOME, FELLAS!  
HOME'S NOT THERE!"  
STOP 'EM! DO IT! DAMN IT!  
TELL THEM WHAT YOU KNOW, NOW!  
QUICK, BEFORE THE MOMENT  
HARRY TURNED TO ME AND...

*(HARRY turns to YOUNG RABBI)*

**YOUNG RABBI**

Let's go home.

*(The GROUP embrace. The set breaks away revealing an ominous sky.)*

**THE GROUP**

WE'LL GO HOME  
IT'S OUR HOME TOO--  
OUR HOME!  
OUR HOME!

**RABBI**

ADONAI...!

STOP THEM NOW  
OR YOU'LL REGRET  
IT ALL YOUR LIFE!

*(RABBI shouts)*

**RABBI**

NO!!

*(Blackout. End of Act 1.)*

## ACT 2 SCENE 1

THE ZIEGFELD FOLLIES OF 1934, NEW YORK

### #12A ENTR'ACTE

*(As the ENTR'ACTE climaxes, a statuesque man in top hat, tails and cane steps out. HE is the ZIEGFELD MASTER OF CEREMONIES.)*

### ZIEGFELD MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Ladies and gentlemen! Tonight, it is my pleasure to introduce The New Ziegfeld Follies of 1934 starring The Comedian Harmonists and Miss Josephine Baker!

### #13 WE'RE GOIN' LOCO

*(JOSEPHINE and THE GROUP enter to the frenzy of samba drums)*

**ZIEGFELD FOLLIES ENSEMBLE**

**LESH/HARRY/CHOPIN/  
YOUNG RABBI/ERICH/BOBBY**

AI! AI! AI!

THE WORLD IS LOCO!

AI! AI! AI!

COMPLETELY LOCO!

AI! AI! AI!

SO CRAZY LOCO!

AI! AI!

AI! WE'RE GOIN' LOCO!

**JOSEPHINE**

WE'RE GOIN' LOCO!

**THE GROUP**

AI! AI! AI!

**JOSEPHINE**

SO CUCKOO LOCO!

**THE GROUP**

AI! AI! AI!

**YOUNG RABBI**

HOLY MACKEREL!

**JOSEPHINE**

OY GEVALT!

**ERICH**

E AI CARAMBA!

**FULL COMPANY**

THE WORLD IS GOIN' LOCO!  
FOR SAMBA! AI!

**JOSEPHINE**

IT MAKES RESPECTABLE CIVILIANS  
LIKE THOSE MILLIONS OF BRAZILIANS  
FEEL THE URGE TO PUT FEATHERS ON  
AND GO DANCING IN THE STREET

**JOSEPHINE AND THE GROUP**

THAT'S WHEN THE SAMBA TAKES HOLD  
OF YOUR HEART AND YOUR FEET!

**JOSEPHINE**

**THE GROUP**

WE'RE GOIN LOCO!

AI! AI! AI!

SO WACKY LOCO!

AI! AI! AI!!

**BOBBY**

NOT FOR MAMBO

**JOSEPHINE**

OR THE RHUMBA

**LESH**

OR LA BAMBA...

**JOSEPHINE AND THE GROUP**

THE WORLD IS GOIN' LOCO...FOR SAMBA!  
SAMBA!

*(THEY all dance)*

**JOSEPHINE AND WOMEN**

WE'RE GOIN' LOCO!



**THE GROUP AND MEN**

AI! AI! AI!!

**JOSEPHINE AND WOMEN**

SO CUCKOO LOCO!

**THE GROUP AND MEN**

AI! AI! AI!!

**ALL EXCEPT JOSEPHINE**

HOLY MACKEREL!

**JOSEPHINE**

OY GEVALT!

**ALL EXCEPT JOSEPHINE**

E AI CARAMBA!

THE WORLD IS GOIN' LOCO

**JOSEPHINE**

THE WORLD IS GOIN' LOCO

**ALL EXCEPT JOSEPHINE**

THE WORLD IS GOIN' LOCO

**JOSEPHINE**

SO CUCKOO LOCO

*(The tone begins to shift. Lighting becomes more stark and angular, music more dissonant. RABBI appears. As the dance looks as if it is about to spin out of control, HE shouts.)*

**RABBI**

NO!!

*(THE CAST OF THE ZIEGFELD FOLLIES freezes)*

**RABBI (CONT'D)**

We went back. We went back!

*(ALL but RABBI exit)*

**RABBI (CONT'D)**

We went back. Was it ever not as obvious as it is now? We were so young...Ach!

*(beat)*

**RABBI (CONT'D)**

So much for New York. And then...Berlin.

*(beat)*

Berlin Philharmonic Hall. We went back as 'international celebrities'. It seemed Bobby was right. Sure, there were new big shots around...

*(STANDARTENFUHRER and HIS WIFE, INGRID, appear and take their seats.)*

**RABBI (CONT'D)**

*(...But it seemed, then, anyway, that it was just more of the same. Same old hate. Just different costumes.)*

**#13A THE LEAST LISZT**

*(HE hears a Hungarian theme)*

Yes, the rhapsody! Richard Strauss asked us to headline at a benefit at the Philharmonic. Very high-brow. He asked if Harry had an idea about what we could perform.

*("What a silly question")*

Did Harry have an idea...

*(RABBI exits. HARRY enters across stage, speaking to RICHARD STRAUSS who, we assume, is following close behind.)*

**HARRY**

Maestro, we have something special in mind for the Philharmonic benefit.

*HARRY turns to where STRAUSS is supposed to be. No STRAUSS.*

**STRAUSS**

*(offstage)*

Tell Toscanini I'll call him later.

*(entering, out of breath)*

You were... saying?

**HARRY**

Yes, Maestro, we would like to perform Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody number twenty.

**STRAUSS**

Number twenty? Harry, you must be mistaken. Franz Liszt only wrote nineteen Hungarian Rhapsodies.

**HARRY**

Precisely!

*(HARRY exits. RABBI sheds part of his STRAUSS drag.)*

**RABBI**

Ha! Think of it as... the last Liszt. The...lost Liszt. The...least Liszt.

*(HE exits)*

*(segue to scene 2)*

## SCENE 2

BERLIN PHILHARMONIC HALL, 1934

*(THE GROUP enters, carrying invisible instruments. THEY "play" Lizst's HUNGARIAN RHAPSODY #20, with LESH as featured 'violin' soloist, full of melodrama in the languid parts, and blistering pyrotechnics in the fast sections.)*

<b>#14 HUNGARIAN RHAPSODY #20</b>
-----------------------------------

**HARRY/CHOPIN/YOUNG RABBI/ERICH/BOBBY**

*(balalaika under LESH vocal)*

B'LULU LULU  
AAH AAH OOH

**LESH**

*(as gypsy violin)*

EEE OOH OOH OOH OOH OOH OOH OOH OOH  
OOH OOH OOH OOH OOH OOH  
OOH OOH OOH OOH

**ERICH**

VOO...OOH

**BOBBY**

BUM

*(HABANERA. A tempo. Measure 16.)*

**LESH**

*(musical saw)*

OOH OOH OOH...

**HARRY/CHOPIN/YOUNG RABBI/ERICH**

*(accordion and strings)*

BRM BRM BRM BRM BRM BRM

BRM BRM BRM BRM

*(Measure 24. LESH hands his violin to an audience member.)*

**HARRY/CHOPIN/YOUNG RABBI/ERICH/BOBBY**

*(guitars, cello, bass)*

PRRUM PRUM PRUM PRUM  
PPRUM PRUM PRUM PRUM

**LESH**

*(as xylophone)*

DOO YUM DUM DUM DOO YUM DUM DUM  
DOO YUM DUM DUM DOO YUM DUM DUM  
BR-D-D-DUM BRUM BRUM

**THE GROUP**

DYE-YAH DEE-YA DEE-YA  
BR-D-D-DUM BRUM BRUM  
DYAH DA DEE DIB-BA-DIB-BA

*(Measure 32. Fast!)*

**LESH/HARRY**

DA DA DA DA DA DA DA  
DA DA DA DA DYE-YA DA DA  
DA DA DA DA DYE-YAH DA DA  
DA DA DA DA DYE-YAH DA DA

**CHOPIN/ERICH**

DA CHEEN CHEEN CHEEN CHEEN  
CHEEN CHEEN TRRR  
CHEEN CHEEN CHEEN CHEEN  
CHEEN CHEEN CHEEN TRRR

**LESH/CHOPIN/ERICH**

BYE-YAH VOO OO UH UH  
BYE-YAH BOO OOH UH  
BYE-YAH BOO OOH UH UH  
DM DM DM DM DM

**THE GROUP**

HEY!

*(Measure 40. Slowly. LESH takes his violin back from audience.)*

**LESH**

Let go!

**HARRY/CHOPIN/YOUNG RABBI/ERICH/BOBBY**

*(balalaika under LESH vocal)*

B'LULU LULU LULU LULU

*(group circles into dance)*

**LESH**

*(musical saw)*

OOH OOH OOH...

**LESH**

DIDDLEIDDLE

**HARRY/CHOPIN**

YA DA DA DA DA DA DA DA DA DA DA  
DYE-YAH DA DA DA DA DA DA DA  
DYE-YAH DA DA DA DA DA DA DA  
DYE-YAH DA DA  
BYE-YAH VOO OO UH UH  
BYE-YAH VOO OOH UH  
BYE-YAH VOO OO UH-UH

*(Measure 58. Can-can.)*

**YOUNG RABBI/ERICH/BOBBY**

BWA BWA BWA BWA BWA  
BWA BWA BWA BWA BWA BWA  
BWA BWA BWA BWA BWA BWA  
KSSH!

*(Measure 62. Lines crossing.)*

**LESH/ERICH**

BYE-YAH BYE-YAH BYE-YAH  
BYE-YAH VOO OO UH  
BYE-YAH BYE-YAH BYE-YAH

*(Measure 65. Circus.)*

**LESH/HARRY**

DT DT DID-DLE-LID-DLE LEET DT  
DEE-DT  
DT DT DID-DLE-LID-DLE LEET DT  
DEE-DT

**CHOPIN/YOUNG RABBI/ERICH**

HONK HONK HONK HONK  
  
HONK HONK HONK HONK

*(Measure 67. HARRY conducts.)*

**THE GROUP**

DM DM DM DM DM DM DM DM  
DM DM DM DM DM DM DM DM  
DM DM DM DM DM DM DM DM  
DM DM DM DM DM DM DM DM  
DM DM DM DM DM DM DM DM  
DM DM DM DM  
DM DM DM DM

*(Measure 73. Hava Nagila.)*

**THE GROUP (CONT'D)**

DYE DYE DYE DYAH DA  
DYE DYE DYE DYAH DA  
DYE DYE DYE DYAH DA  
DYE DID-DLE-EE DYE DA  
HOY!

**LESH/CHOPIN**

DYAH DYAH DAH DYAH  
DAH DYAH DYAH DAH DYAH  
DAH DYAH DYAH DAH DYAH DAH DYAH DAH

**YOUNG RABBI/ERICH/BOBBY**

BEE  
BEE  
BEE BEE  
BEE BEE BEE BEE

**LESH/HARRY/CHOPIN**

YUM!  
YUM!  
YUM YUM  
YUM YUM YUM YUM

**THE GROUP**

B'LULU...

*(Measure 89.)*

BUM BUM BUM BUM  
BUM BUM BUM BUM

*(Measure 97. Trumpets.)*

**LESH/CHOPIN/BOBBY**

BAH

**ERICH**

BA DA DA BA BA BAH!

**YOUNG RABBI**

BA DA DA BA BA BAH!

**HARRY**

BA DA DA BA BA BAH!

**LESH/CHOPIN/BOBBY**

BAH

**ERICH**

BA DA DA BA BA BAH!

**YOUNG RABBI**

BA DA DA BA BA BAH!

**HARRY**

BA DA DA BA BA BAH!

**THE GROUP**

DI-GA DI-GA DI-GA DI-GA DI-GA DUM

DI-GA DI-GA DI-GA DI-GA DI-GA DUM

*(face shake...)*

**LESH**

PLINK!

**THE GROUP**

TA-DA!

*(On the applause, LESH initiates an encore. Suddenly, several NAZI YOUTH jump to their feet in the house.)*

**LESH**

A one, two!

**THE GROUP**

Three, four!

<b>#14A HUNGARIAN RHAPSODY #20 ENCORE</b>
---

**HARRY/CHOPIN**

YA DA DA DA DA DA DA DA DA DA DA

DYE-YAH DA DA DA DA DA DA

DYE-YAH DA DA DA DA DA DA

DYE-YAH DA DA

BYE-YAH VOO OO UH UH

BYE-YAH VOO OOH UH

BYE-YAH VOO OO UH-UH

*(PIECE SHOULD FALL APART due to audience shouting)*

**YOUNG NAZI**

Jew music!! Jew music!!

**YOUNG NAZI #2**

Down with Jew music!!



**YOUNG NAZI #3**

Bolshevik swine! The Jews are  
our misfortune!

**YOUNG NAZI #2**

Gypsy trash!

**YOUNG NAZI**

Jew music!!

**YOUNG NAZI#3**

Save Germany from the Jews!

**YOUNG NAZI #2**

Jew music!

**YOUNG NAZI (CONT'D)**

This is Berlin, not Budapest!

**YOUNG NAZI #3 (CONT'D)**

Garbage!

**YOUNG NAZI#2**

Degenerate Jew music!!

**YOUNG NAZI**

Filthy gypsy rubbish!

**YOUNG NAZI #3**

Jew music!

**ALL THREE**

The Jews are our misfortune!!!

*(The on-stage action stops. STANDARTENFUHRER rises in the  
front row.)*

**STANDARTENFUHRER**

Silence!

**BOBBY**

Stay calm.

**STANDARTENFUHRER**

This is a shameful display! Have you orders to do this?! Leave at once! Go!

*(to THE GROUP)*

My apologies to all of you...and your fans. Please... continue.

*(to HARRY)*

Maestro!

<b>#14B PLEASE CONTINUE</b>
-----------------------------

*(The ORCHESTRA plays. We shift to backstage. MARY enters.)*

**MARY**

Oh my God! Are you alright?!

**YOUNG RABBI**

Shh. I'm fine. The pogroms were much worse.

**MARY**

I've never been so frightened in my life.

**CHOPIN**

Mary, wasn't Ruth sitting with you?

**MARY**

She got so upset. She ran into the street after them. I tried to stop her, but...

**HARRY**

That pompous bully. Cueing me! Why didn't he just shoot at our feet and order us to dance!

*(BOBBY sees STANDARTENFUHRER and his wife, INGRID, entering.)*

**BOBBY**

Harry!

*(to STANDARTENFUHRER)*

Standartenfuhrer! Our deepest gratitude.

**STANDARTENFUHRER**

An outrageous incident. I am so sorry.

**CHOPIN**

We didn't know what to expect. After all two of us...

*(HE catches himself)*

**STANDARTENFUHRER**

Are Jewish. Yes. We know.

*(RUTH enters. RUTH is looking as if SHE has been in a scuffle.)*

**RUTH**

Those Barbarians make me sick.

**CHOPIN**

Ruthie! Poor baby, look at you!

*(embracing HER, then)*

Standartenfuhrer, my wife, Ruth.

**STANDARTENFUHRER**

Oh, forgive me, dear. And this is my wife...Ingrid.

**INGRID**

How delightfully informal!

**STANDARTENFUHRER**

We have several of your recordings.

**INGRID**

We have all of your recordings.

*(handing BOBBY a disc)*

And this one is my favorite. Could I possibly prevail upon you brilliantly talented gentleman to autograph it?

**BOBBY**

An honor.

*(reading the label, to the OTHERS)*

Stars in the Night.

**STANDARTENFUHRER**

We are fans, you see. And I say this as a fan, not in any official capacity. This gypsy music tonight-- it's very humorous, but the Third Reich does not celebrate gypsies. Quite the contrary.

**BOBBY**

Sir, we understand. It's out of the act.

**HARRY**

What?! Now wait...

**ERICH**

Standartenfuhrer, Maestro Strauss himself—a good friend of mine...

**STANDARTENFUHRER**

Ah, you haven't heard. Maestro Strauss has just been appointed President of the Reichsministry of Music.

**INGRID**

He was the Fuhrer's personal choice!

**STANDARTENFUHRER**

As a matter of fact, it was Maestro Strauss who suggested I speak with you.

**BOBBY**

Consider it done. Once again, we are deeply in your debt.

**STANDARTENFUHRER**

No. The Third Reich is in your debt. We have alarmed many of our neighbors in these few short months since we've begun. But who could be fearful of the Germany that you so brilliantly represent. Your performances in other nations are proving to be a great asset to our cause. You are our... ambassadors of good will! And now, less weighty subjects--would you honor us by joining us for supper?

**BOBBY**

All of us?

**RUTH**

Not me, I'm afraid. This Jew bitch is sick enough.

**CHOPIN**

Ruthie!

*(to STANDARTENFUHRER)*

Please forgive her. She's so upset. We're all so upset and...

**STANDARTENFUHRER**

*(shushing CHOPIN)*

I see.

*(beat)*

I trust this is an unnecessary warning, but you should know your bank accounts are being closely monitored. I would suggest you not make any substantial withdrawals, especially prior to one of your 'diplomatic' tours of other countries.

*(HE and INGRID cross to exit. BOBBY runs after them. The following happens out of earshot of the others.)*

**BOBBY**

Standartenfuhrer! Now it is I who must apologize. They were so frightened...

**STANDARTENFUHRER**

Robert. Cultural matters are not in my purview. My domain--this is a bit unpleasant, I know--my domain is the tracking down of abortionists and homosexuals. That said, I would be happy to walk across the hall to cultural affairs and drop a good word. But what's the worst that can happen? You rid yourself of two Jews?

**STANDARTENFUHRER (CONT'D)**

*(seeing BOBBY is upset)*

I'll be sure to keep you informed. And... perhaps you could do the same for me? For instance, the name of that woman again?

**BOBBY**

Which...woman?

**STANDARTENFUHRER**

Ah. Never mind.

*(HE exits. ALL unfreeze though BOBBY is paralyzed)*

**MARY**

Somebody say something. Please. What are we going to do?

**YOUNG RABBI**

Harry?

**ERICH**

This can't last. It's perverse. People are sure to see that. My God, we're talking about the German people, not some uncivilized...

**RUTH**

What German people, Erich?! Where have they been? And aren't they... us?

**YOUNG RABBI**

We become their ambassadors? They're using us.

**LESH**

My God, what's happening?

**HARRY**

The whole damn world is turning to shit, that's what's happening!

*(crossing to RUTH, taking HER hands)*

And good for you, Ruth!

**CHOPIN**

*(pulling RUTH away)*

Good for her?! Harry! Have you lost your goddamned mind!

**RUTH**

Oh go to hell! You make me sick the way you licked his boots! Dammit, Erwin, stand for *something!!*

**CHOPIN**

Jesus Christ! We could have been arrested! Would that make you happy?!

**YOUNG RABBI**

Enough! Both of you!

**LESH**

Arrested? For what? What did we do?

**HARRY**

Let's do an encore! The gypsy number! Raise the curtain!! There are still some stragglers out there, maybe even a few music-loving Nazi bastard fans of ours! RAISE THE DAMN CURTAIN! NOW!!

**CHOPIN**

Harry, goddammit!

**ERICH**

Restraint.  
We need restraint.

**MARY**

Harry, please!

**RUTH**

*(rushing to HIM)*

Harry, listen to me. We'll fight this.

*(HARRY collapses into RUTH'S arms, much to CHOPIN'S displeasure. YOUNG RABBI approaches THEM cautiously.)*

**RUTH (CONT'D)**

Harry. Harry!

**YOUNG RABBI**

*('Look what you're doing')*

Harry.

**RUTH**

Harry, listen. We can fight this.

**YOUNG RABBI**

*(YOUNG RABBI gently separates THEM. To HARRY)*

Where are we booked next?

**HARRY**

*(trying to clear the cobwebs)*

Uh..I dunno...Erich?

**ERICH**

Copenhagen. Tivoli Park.

**YOUNG RABBI**

Good. They want ambassadors? Let's give 'em ambassadors.

<b>#14C TIVOLI PARADE</b>
---------------------------

*(There is a whoosh of sparkling music. Twinkling images of Tivoli appear on the screens.)*

*(segue to scene 3)*

## ***LOVING THIS SNEAK PEEK?***

Contact The Licensing House for exclusive performing rights to this and many other titles at [www.tlhshows.com](http://www.tlhshows.com)



the  
**Licensing**  
HOUSE