

**PROLOGUE: A Castle** 

(#1 ORCHESTRA TUNE-UP begins the show, followed immediately by #2 PROLOGUE. A young PRINCE stands in the doorway of a majestic castle. NARRATORS address the audience.)

#### **NARRATOR 1**

Once upon a time in a faraway land, a young prince lived in a shining castle.

#### **NARRATOR 2**

Although he had everything his heart desired, the Prince was spoiled, selfish and unkind.

(An OLD BEGGAR WOMAN enters.)

#### **NARRATOR 3**

But then, one winter's night, an old beggar woman came to the castle and offered him a single rose in return for shelter from the bitter cold.

(The PRINCE and OLD BEGGAR WOMAN pantomime the following action.)

#### **NARRATOR 4**

Repulsed by her haggard appearance, the Prince sneered at the gift and turned the old woman away.

#### NARRATOR 1

But she warned him not to be deceived by appearances, for beauty is found within.

#### **NARRATOR 3**

And when he dismissed her again, the old woman's ugliness melted away to reveal a beautiful enchantress.

#### NARRATOR 4

The Prince tried to apologize, but it was too late, for she had seen that there was no love in his heart.

#### NARRATOR 2

As punishment, she transformed him into a hideous beast and placed a powerful spell on the castle and all who lived there.

(The ENCHANTRESS exits. The PRINCE has been transformed into the BEAST.)

#### **NARRATOR 3**

Ashamed of his monstrous form, the Beast concealed himself inside his castle with a magic mirror as his only window to the outside world.

(The rose appears.)

#### NARRATOR 1

The rose she had offered him was truly an enchanted rose, which would bloom for many years.

(The BEAST covers the rose with a glass dome for protection.)

#### **NARRATOR 4**

If he could learn to love another and earn her love in return by the time the last petal fell, then the spell would be broken.

#### **NARRATOR 2**

If not... he would be doomed to remain a beast for all time.

(The BEAST gazes at the rose... trapped, forlorn and hopeless.)

#### NARRATOR 1

As the years passed, he fell into despair and lost all hope.

#### **NARRATORS**

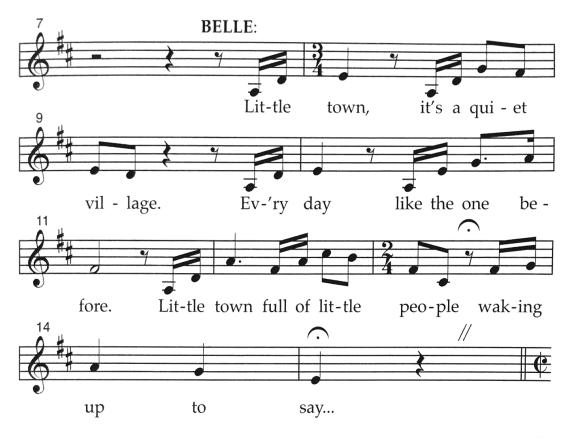
For who could ever learn to love a beast?

(The BEAST and the NARRATORS exit.)

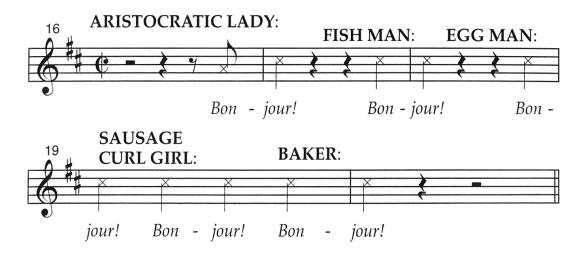
## **SCENE 1: The Village**

(A charming, provincial French village. Sunrise. BELLE enters. <u>#3</u> BELLE.)

## Belle



(VILLAGERS enter and bustle about their daily business.)





**BELLE** 

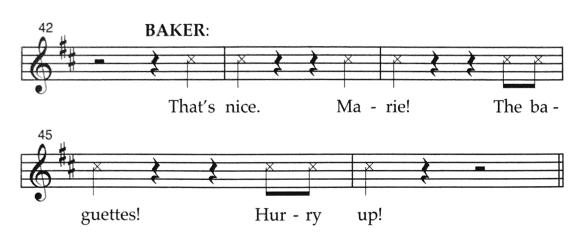
Morning, monsieur.

**BAKER** 

Where you off to?

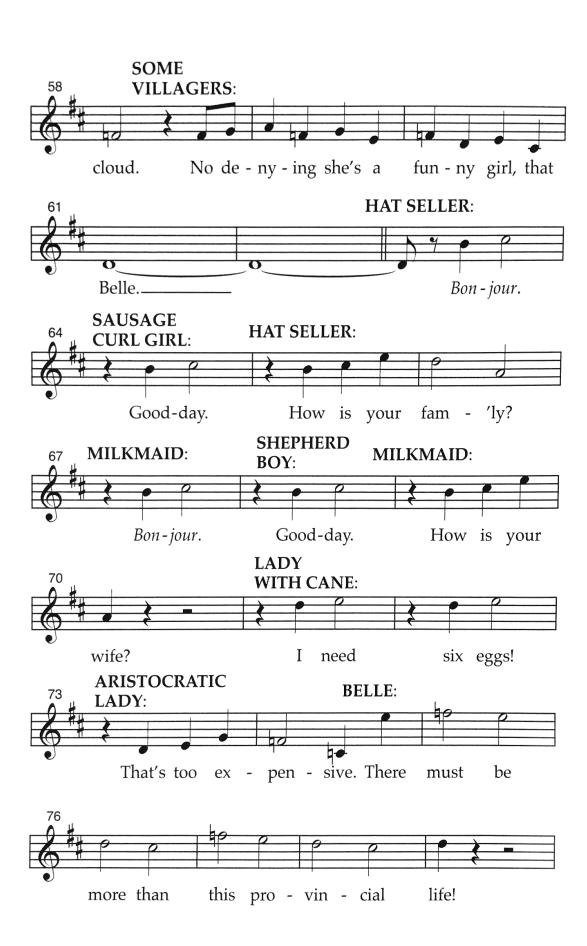
#### **BELLE**

The bookshop. I just finished the most wonderful story about a beanstalk and an ogre and—



(BELLE sighs "never mind" and continues on her way. Various





6

#### BOOKSELLER

Ah, Belle!

BELLE

Good morning. I've come to return the book I borrowed.

**BOOKSELLER** 

Finished already?

**BELLE** 

Oh, I couldn't put it down. Have you got anything new?

**BOOKSELLER** 

(chuckles)

Not since yesterday.

BELLE

That's all right.

(points to a book on the shelf)

I'll borrow this one!

**BOOKSELLER** 

That one? But you've read it twice!

**BELLE** 

Well, it's my favorite. Far-off places, daring sword fights, magic spells, a prince in disguise...

**BOOKSELLER** 

If you like it all that much... it's yours.

BELLE

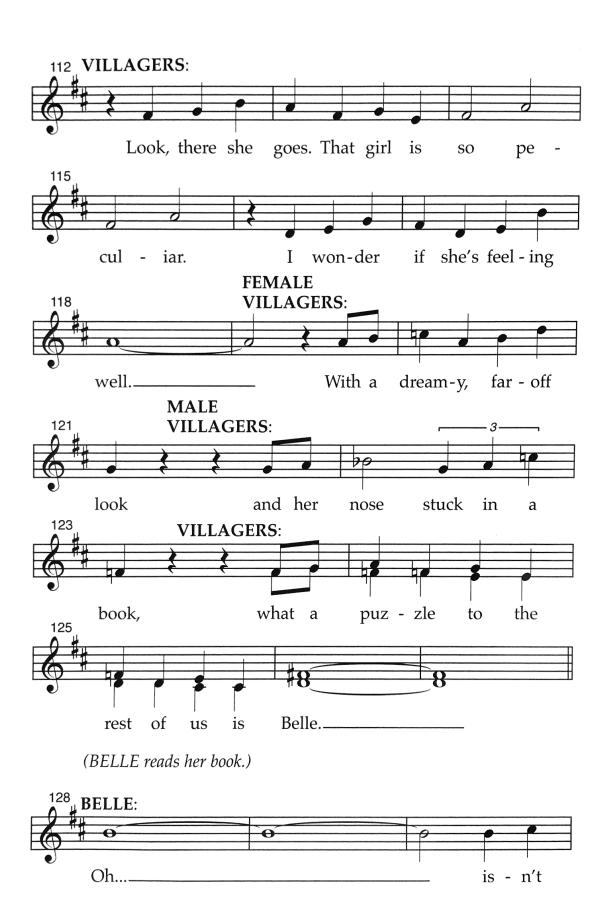
But sir!

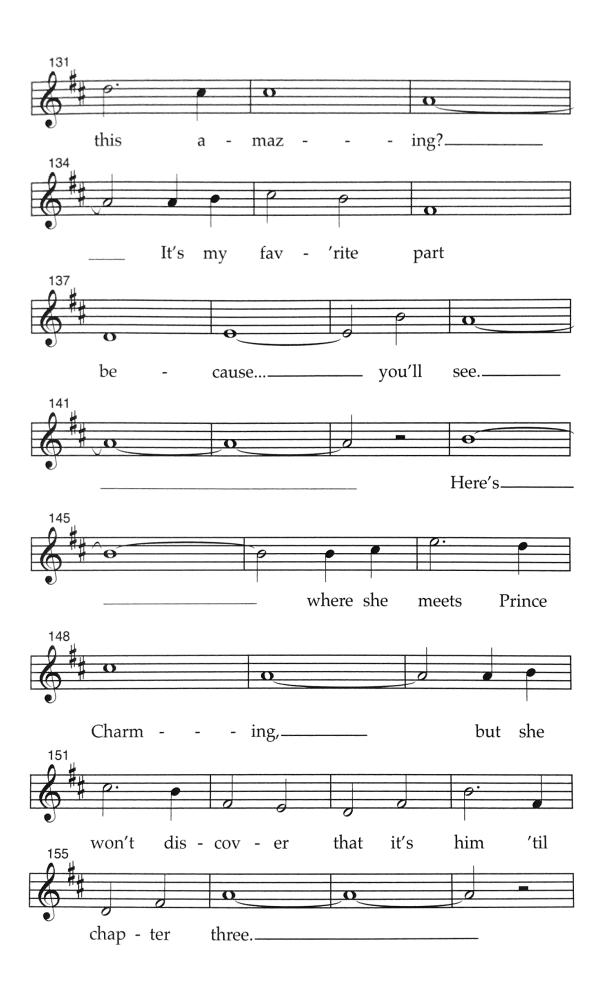
**BOOKSELLER** 

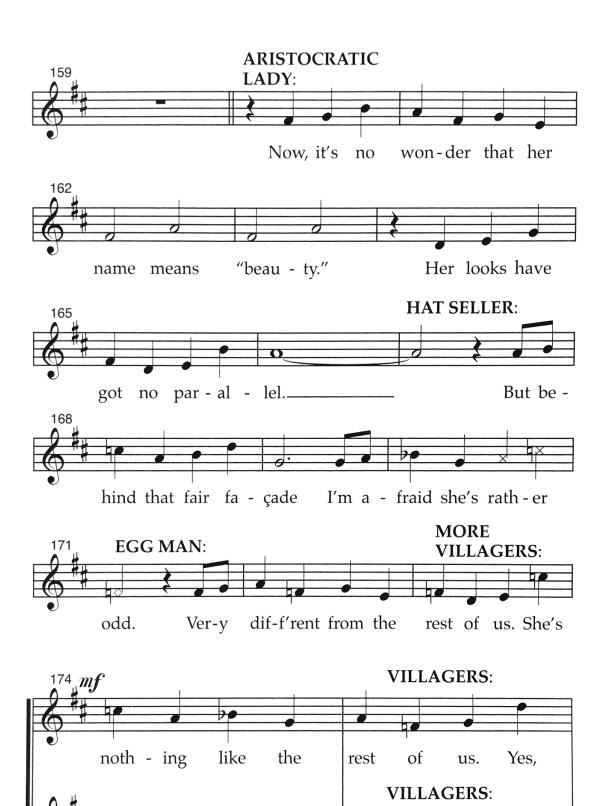
I insist.

**BELLE** 

Well, thank you. Thank you very much!







Yes,



(GASTON enters carrying a rifle. He is a very handsome, rude, self-centered hunter who goes to great lengths to get what he wants. His dim-witted sidekick, LEFOU, follows carrying a sack of Gaston's game.)

#### **LEFOU**

You didn't miss a shot, Gaston. You're the greatest hunter in the whole world!

#### **GASTON**

I know.

#### **LEFOU**

No beast alive stands a chance against you! And no girl, for that matter.

#### **GASTON**

It's true, Lefou.

(points to BELLE)

And I've got my sights set on that one.

#### **LEFOU**

The inventor's daughter?

#### **GASTON**

She's the lucky girl I'm going to marry.

**LEFOU** 

But, she's-

**GASTON** 

The most beautiful girl in town.

**LEFOU** 

I know, but-

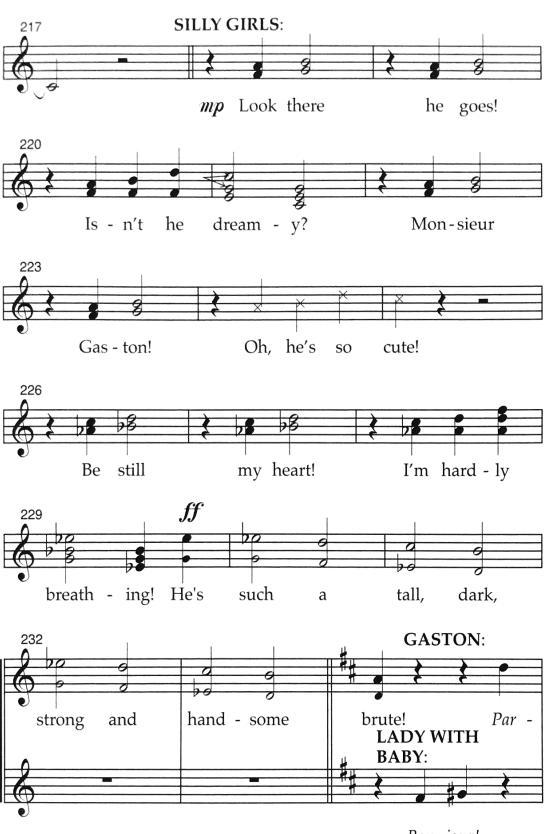
**GASTON** 

And don't I deserve the best?

**LEFOU** 

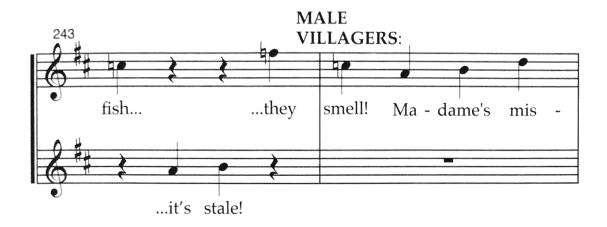
Well, of course you do!

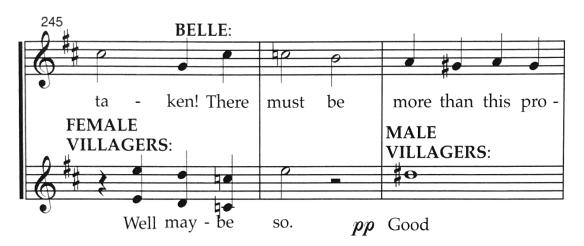


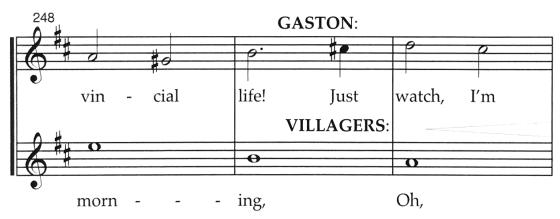


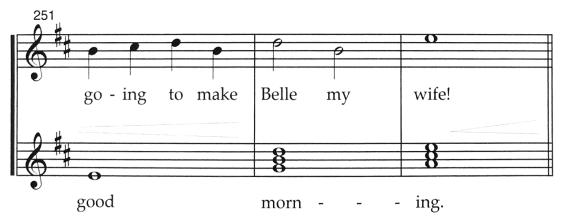
Bon - jour!

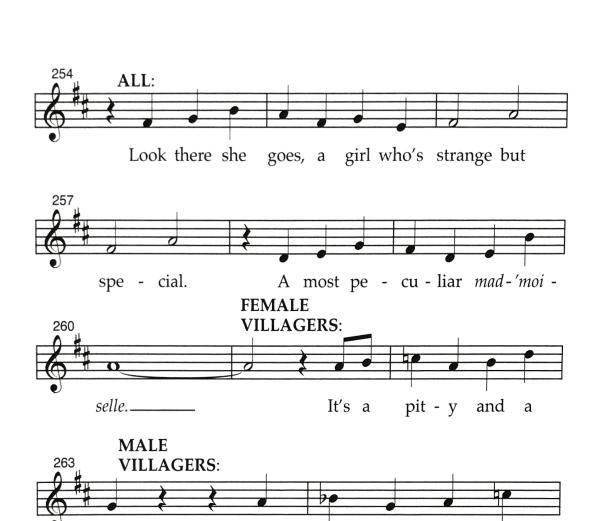


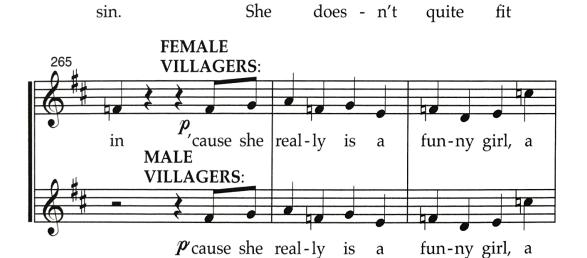














(Feeling the VILLAGERS' eyes on her, BELLE whirls around. They go back to their activities then exit. **#4 BELLE – PLAYOFF**. BELLE heads for home. GASTON runs in front of her and strikes a pose.)

#### **GASTON**

Hello... Belle.

BELLE

Bonjour, Gaston.

(GASTON blocks BELLE's way.)

Excuse me.

(GASTON snatches Belle's book.)

Gaston. May I have my book, please?

**GASTON** 

(flipping through the book)

How can you read this? There's no pictures.

**BELLE** 

Well some people use their imagination!

**GASTON** 

Belle, it's about time you got your head out of these books and paid attention to more important things.

(GASTON strikes a handsome pose.)

LEFOU

Hint... hint.

**BELLE** 

Like you? Gaston, please! I have to get inside to help my father.

**LEFOU** 

That crazy old fool. He needs all the help he can get!

(GASTON and LEFOU laugh heartily.)

**BELLE** 

Don't talk about my father that way!

(GASTON thunks LEFOU on the head.)

**GASTON** 

(to LEFOU)

Yeah! Don't talk about her father that way!

#### BELLE

My father's not crazy! He's a genius!

(#5 MAURICE'S ENTRANCE. Belle's slightly addled genius father, MAURICE, brings his colorful and noisy invention onstage. As he waves merrily, part of the invention breaks. GASTON and LEFOU laugh and exit.)

Papa! Papa, are you all right?

#### **MAURICE**

Oh, I'll never get this bone-headed contraption to work!

#### **BELLE**

Yes, you will! And you'll win first prize at the fair tomorrow.

#### **MAURICE**

Well... we'd better get cracking then! Now let me see, where did I put that dog-legged clencher?

#### **BELLE**

(holds out a funny-looking tool)

Papa...

#### **MAURICE**

Oh... thank you, dear!

(takes the tool and starts tinkering)

So... did you have a good time in town today?

**BELLE** 

I got a new book.

#### **MAURICE**

You do love those books.

(MAURICE ducks behind the invention.)

BELLE

Papa... do you think I'm... odd?

#### **MAURICE**

My daughter! Odd?

(re-appears with silly-looking goggles)

Now where would you get an idea like that?

#### BELLE

I don't know. It's just... I'm not sure I fit in here. There's no one I can really talk to.

#### **MAURICE**

What about Gaston? He's a handsome fellow.

#### BELLE

He's handsome all right... and rude and conceited and—oh Papa, he's not for me!

#### **MAURICE**

Well, don't you worry, 'cause this invention's going to be the start of a new life for us.

(MAURICE pulls a lever. The invention chugs to life.)

**BELLE** 

It works!

**MAURICE** 

It does! It does!

BELLE

Papa, you did it! You really did it! (puts a scarf around MAURICE's neck)

Here, I made you a scarf for good luck at the fair.

#### **MAURICE**

Now I know I'll win. And then, we'll get out of this town and travel to all those places you've read about in your books!

BELLE

Goodbye, Papa.

**MAURICE** 

Bye bye, Belle.

BELLE

Be careful!

(**#6 INTO THE FOREST**. *MAURICE heads toward the forest. BELLE exits.*)

#### SCENE 2: The Forest

(The NARRATORS enter.)

#### NARRATOR 1

On his way to the fair to show off his new invention, Maurice entered a dark forest.

#### **MAURICE**

Now let's see, is it this way... or this way...

(MAURICE becomes nervous. He looks around, concerned. A wolf howls.)

Oh, dear!

(Another howl.)

Wolves!

(WOLVES enter and pantomime the following action with MAURICE.)

#### NARRATOR 2

Suddenly, a pack of hungry wolves appeared and began to circle Maurice.

#### **MAURICE**

Stay back... back! Help! Someone help me! Get back! Help!

#### NARRATOR 3

Fearing for his life, Maurice raced toward a nearby castle.

#### NARRATOR 4

A wolf lunged for Maurice... and grabbed the scarf right off his neck!

(MAURICE approaches and knocks on the castle door. The NARRATORS exit.)

#### **MAURICE**

Let me in! Let me in!

(The door opens.)

#### **SCENE 3: The Castle**

(MAURICE steps inside. The castle appears hollow, lifeless and empty, like a deserted cathedral.)

#### **MAURICE**

Hello?

(his voice echoes in the vastness)

Hello!

(#7 STRANGER IN THE HOUSE. MAURICE proceeds cautiously, looking around. Two figures appear in the shadows. LUMIERE, a candelabra, is a charming, very French mâitre d'. COGSWORTH, a mantle clock, is an officious English major-domo. They stand side-by-side, motionless but whispering as MAURICE wanders past.)

#### COGSWORTH

What? Who is that?

#### **LUMIERE**

He must have lost his way in the woods.

#### **MAURICE**

(ventures further into the castle) Is anyone home?

#### **COGSWORTH**

If we keep quiet, maybe he'll go away.

#### **MAURICE**

(hears something, moves to investigate)
I don't mean to intrude, but I'm lost and need a place to stay for the night.

#### **LUMIERE**

Poor fellow.

(pauses, weighs options)

Oh, Cogsworth, have a heart.

(steps out, to MAURICE)

Monsieur, you are welcome here!

#### **MAURICE**

(startled, jumps back)

Ah!

#### **COGSWORTH**

And good-bye!

(COGSWORTH pushes MAURICE toward the door.)

#### **MAURICE**

Wait... wait... wait! You're a clock!

(pokes and prods COGSWORTH curiously)
And you're talking!

## **COGSWORTH**

Really sir... hee-hee... stop it, I say!

## **MAURICE**

(stops poking and scratches his head)
I don't mean to be rude. It's just that I've never seen a... aaaachooo!

## **LUMIERE**

You're chilled to the bone, *Monsieur*. (*leads MAURICE to a large chair*) Come... warm yourself by the fire.

### **COGSWORTH**

Not the Master's chair! I'm not seeing this. I'm not seeing this!

(BABETTE, a feather duster, enters.)

#### **BABETTE**

Oooh la la... what have we here? Do my eyes deceive me or is this a man?

## **MAURICE**

(embarrassed)

Oh! Well! Hello!

## **COGSWORTH**

All right! This has gone far enough!

## MRS. POTTS

(offstage)

Coming through!

(MRS. POTTS, a kind-hearted teapot, enters, followed by her son CHIP, a teacup.)

How would you like a nice spot of tea, sir? It will warm you up in no

#### **MAURICE**

Oh, yes please!

(MRS. POTTS pours into CHIP. MAURICE gasps.)

**CHIP** 

I think I scared him, Mama.

**MAURICE** 

Hey there, little fella! What's your name?

**CHIP** 

Chip.

**BABETTE** 

Care for a blanket, monsieur?

(BABETTE throws a blanket over MAURICE's shoulders.)

#### **COGSWORTH**

We've got to get him out of here! Do you have any idea what the Master will do if he finds out we let a stranger in—

#### **LUMIERE**

Calm yourself, Cogsworth. The Master will never have to know.

(Suddenly, a loud roar echoes through the castle. EVERYONE gasps. The BEAST enters. #8 MAURICE AND THE BEAST.)

**BEAST** 

There's a stranger here!

**LUMIERE** 

Master, allow me to explain—

**BEAST** 

Who let him in?

#### **COGSWORTH**

(quaking in fear)

M— Master... May I take this opportunity to say, I was against it from the start!

**BEAST** 

You have all betrayed me!

#### MRS. POTTS

Oh dear!

**BEAST** 

(to MAURICE)

Who are you?

**MAURICE** 

(frozen with fear in the chair)

M— Maurice.

**BEAST** 

What are you doing in my castle?

**MAURICE** 

I lost my way in the woods...

**BEAST** 

You're not welcome here!

**MAURICE** 

I'm sorry. I... I'll just be on my way.

(MAURICE looks up and gets a good look at the BEAST's face. MAURICE gasps with horror.)

**BEAST** 

It's hideous, isn't it? You've come to stare at the Beast, haven't you?

**MAURICE** 

No, no! I meant no harm! I was merely looking for a place to stay!

**BEAST** 

I'll give you a place to stay.

(The BEAST grabs MAURICE and exits. The SERVANTS follow.)

SCENE 4: Belle's Cottage

(GASTON enters with three sobbing SILLY GIRLS.)

**SILLY GIRL 1** 

It can't be true! I don't believe it.

**SILLY GIRL 2** 

Why would you go and do a thing like that?

SILLY GIRL 3

I simply can't bear it!

SILLY GIRL 1

Oh Gaston, say it isn't so.

**GASTON** 

It's so.

SILLY GIRLS

Waaaaaaaahhhh!

**GASTON** 

Girls... I'm just getting married. Don't tell me a little thing like that's going to change your feelings for me?

SILLY GIRL 1

Oh no!

SILLY GIRL 2

No!

SILLY GIRL 3

Never!

**GASTON** 

Good. Well... if we're going to have a wedding, I guess I'd better propose to the bride!

SILLY GIRLS

Waaaaaaaahhhh!

(The SILLY GIRLS go off sobbing. GASTON turns to BELLE's cottage. BELLE enters carrying a flowerpot and sees GASTON. There's nowhere to hide!)

**BELLE** 

(plasters a fake smile on her face)

Gaston? What a... pleasant surprise.

(BELLE sets the flowerpot down.)

**GASTON** 

Isn't it, though? I'm just full of surprises.

(With BELLE's back turned, GASTON plucks the flowers from the pot and hands them to her.)

(GASTON)

For you... mademoiselle.

**BELLE** 

(taking the flowers)

Oh, Gaston...

(looks at the pot, sighs)

... you shouldn't have.

**GASTON** 

Don't mention it. Belle, this is the day your dreams come true!

BELLE

What could you possibly know about my dreams, Gaston?

**GASTON** 

Plenty! Picture this. A rustic hunting lodge. My little wife massaging my feet while the strapping boys play on the floor with the dogs. We'll have six or seven.

**BELLE** 

Dogs?

**GASTON** 

No, boys!

**BELLE** 

Imagine that!

**GASTON** 

So Belle, what'll it be?

**BELLE** 

I just don't deserve you.

**GASTON** 

Who does?

**BELLE** 

But thanks for asking!

(BELLE enters the cottage. The SILLY GIRLS return. **#9 BELLE – REPRISE**.)

SILLY GIRL 1

So... how'd it go?

#### **GASTON**

You know that Belle... always playing hard-to-get.

#### **SILLY GIRLS**

She turned you down?!?

#### **GASTON**

For now. But I'll have Belle for my wife. Make no mistake about that!

(GASTON exits. The SILLY GIRLS laugh at the idea.)

# Belle (Reprise)





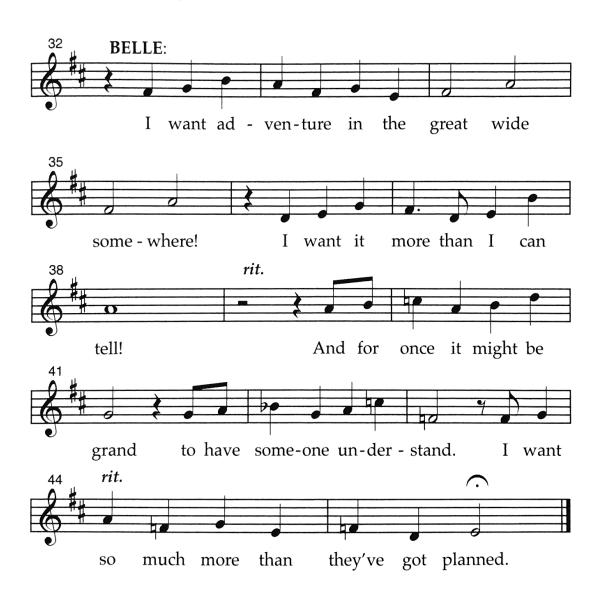
#### **SILLY GIRLS**

(pursuing Gaston offstage, variously)
Oh, Gaston! Oh no, you don't! He's mine!

#### **BELLE**

(peeks out of the cottage, to herself)

Is he gone? Can you imagine... he asked me to marry him! Me, the wife of that boorish, brainless...



(LEFOU hurries in looking for Gaston. He wears Maurice's scarf.)

**LEFOU** 

Hey, Belle! Have you seen Gaston?

BELLE

You just missed him. Wait a minute, where did you get that scarf?

**LEFOU** 

This? At the crossroads in the woods. Pretty nice, huh?

**BELLE** 

It belongs to my father. Something must have happened to him!

**LEFOU** 

Yeah, well, finders-keepers.

(LEFOU runs off toward town.)

**BELLE** 

Oh, Papa!

(#10 OH, PAPA! BELLE runs off toward the forest.)

**SCENE 5: The Castle** 

(COGSWORTH and LUMIERE enter.)

**COGSWORTH** 

Couldn't keep quiet... just had to invite him to stay—

**LUMIERE** 

I was trying to be hospitable!

**COGSWORTH** 

Rubbish!

**LUMIERE** 

Ah, Cogsworth... can you blame me for trying to maintain what's left of our humanity? Look at us. Look at you!

**COGSWORTH** 

What about me?

(looks at pendulum)

Oh... right.

#### **LUMIERE**

If the Master doesn't break the spell, slowly but surely we will all become... things.

#### **COGSWORTH**

(pats LUMIERE on the back)

Hold on, Lumiere. We've got to hold on.

## (#11 BELLE IN THE CASTLE.)

BELLE

(offstage)

Hello? Is anyone here? Hello?

#### LUMIERE, COGSWORTH

It's a girl!!!

#### **LUMIERE**

This is the one! The girl we have been waiting for. She has come to break the spell!

(LUMIERE hurries off.)

#### **COGSWORTH**

Wait a minute... let's not be hasty!

(COGSWORTH runs after LUMIERE. BELLE enters.)

#### **BELLE**

Hello? Is anyone here? Please, I'm looking for my father.

(MAURICE is revealed in a cell behind bars. A STATUE stands guard nearby.)

**MAURICE** 

Belle? Is that you?

**BELLE** 

Papa!

(BELLE rushes to MAURICE.)

#### **MAURICE**

(coughs from the chill)

How did you find me?

BELLE

Your hands are like ice! Who has done this to you?

(The BEAST appears in the shadows.)

**MAURICE** 

Belle, you must leave this place.

BELLE

I won't leave you here!

(senses the BEAST)

Who's there?

(hears the BEAST panting)

I know someone's there. Who are you?

**BEAST** 

The master of this castle.

**BELLE** 

Then, you're the one who's responsible for this! Release my father at once!

**BEAST** 

I do not take orders from anyone. Get out!

**BELLE** 

No! Wait! Forgive me. Please, let him out. Can't you see he's not well?

**BEAST** 

Then he should not have trespassed here.

**BELLE** 

But he's an old man. He could die!

**BEAST** 

There's nothing you can do!

BELLE

Wait, please... take me instead!

**MAURICE** 

No! Belle, you don't know what you're doing.

**BEAST** 

You would do that? You would take his place?

BELLE

If I did, would you let him go?

**BEAST** 

Yes. But you must promise to stay here... forever.

**MAURICE** 

No!

**BELLE** 

Come into the light.

(The BEAST draws near. BELLE cringes.)

**MAURICE** 

Belle, listen to me. I'm old... I've lived my life.

**BELLE** 

You have my word.

**BEAST** 

Done.

(pulls MAURICE from the cell; to the STATUE:)

Take him to the village.

(The STATUE comes to life and grabs MAURICE.)

**BELLE** 

Wait! No, not yet!

(The BEAST growls. The STATUE drags MAURICE away.)

**MAURICE** 

Let her go! Let her go! Belle! Belle!

BELLE

Papa!

(BELLE collapses in tears. LUMIERE enters.)

I'll never see him again... and I didn't even get to say good-bye.

LUMIERE

(to the BEAST, carefully)

Master... since the girl is going to be with us for quite some time... you might want to offer her a more comfortable room.

(LUMIERE exits.)

**BEAST** 

(studies BELLE for a moment)
I'll... show you to your room.

(The BEAST turns to go, but BELLE doesn't follow.)

You follow me!

(**#12 YOU FOLLOW ME!** The BEAST reaches for BELLE, who recoils but then follows him through the dark, dreary castle.)

This is your home now. You're free to go anywhere you like... except the west wing.

**BELLE** 

Why, what's in the west—?

**BEAST** 

<u>It's forbidden!</u> You are never to set foot there... do you understand?!?

**BELLE** 

Yes!

(The BEAST and BELLE arrive at a bedroom.)

#### **BEAST**

This is your room. If you need anything, my servants will attend you. And one more thing: you will join me for dinner.

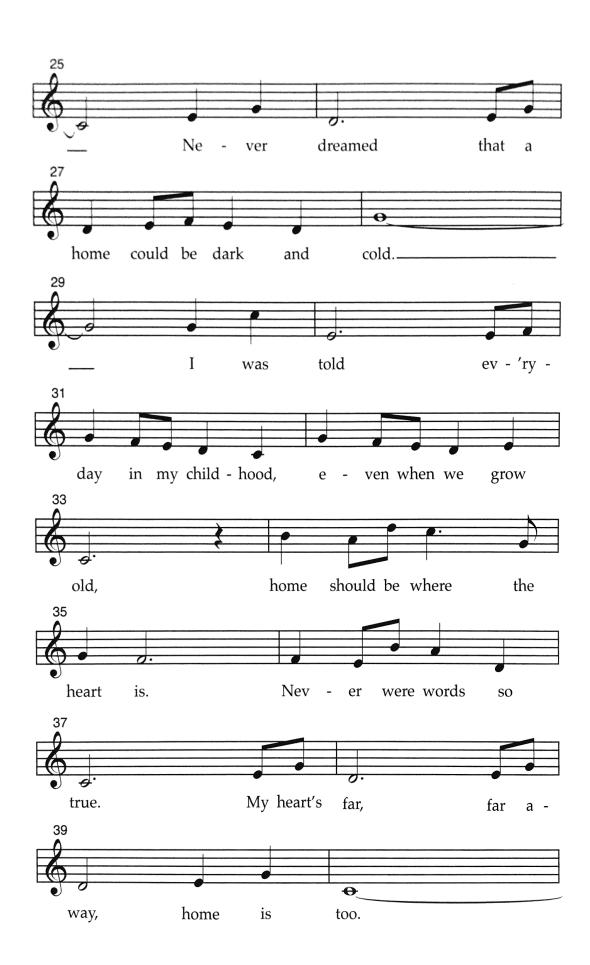
(BELLE turns away.)

That is not a request!

(The BEAST growls and exits. **#13 HOME**. As BELLE looks around, she sinks into despair.)

# Home









(MRS. POTTS enters.)

#### MRS. POTTS

Nothing like a nice warm cup of tea to make the world seem a bit brighter.

#### **BELLE**

(amazed at the sight)

But... you're... you're...

#### **MRS. POTTS**

Mrs. Potts, dear. Very pleased to make your acquaintance.

(Stunned, BELLE backs up into a wardrobe.)

#### MADAME DE LA GRANDE BOUCHE

Careful, darling!

# (BELLE turns around to see MADAME DE LA GRANDE BOUCHE, a larger-than-life wardrobe. BELLE gasps.)

#### BELLE

Who... who are you?

### MADAME DE LA GRANDE BOUCHE

Madame de la Grande Bouche.

#### BELLE

Wait. This is impossible!

### MADAME DE LA GRANDE BOUCHE

Well now, what shall we dress you in for dinner? Let's see what I've got in my drawers...

#### BELLE

That's very kind of you. But I'm not going to dinner.

#### MADAME DE LA GRANDE BOUCHE

Oh, of course you are. You heard what the Master said.

#### **BELLE**

He may be your master... but he's not mine! (a beat)

I'm sorry. This is just happening so fast.

### (#14 HOME - TAG.)

#### MRS. POTTS

That was a very brave thing you did, my dear.

#### MADAME DE LA GRANDE BOUCHE

We all think so.

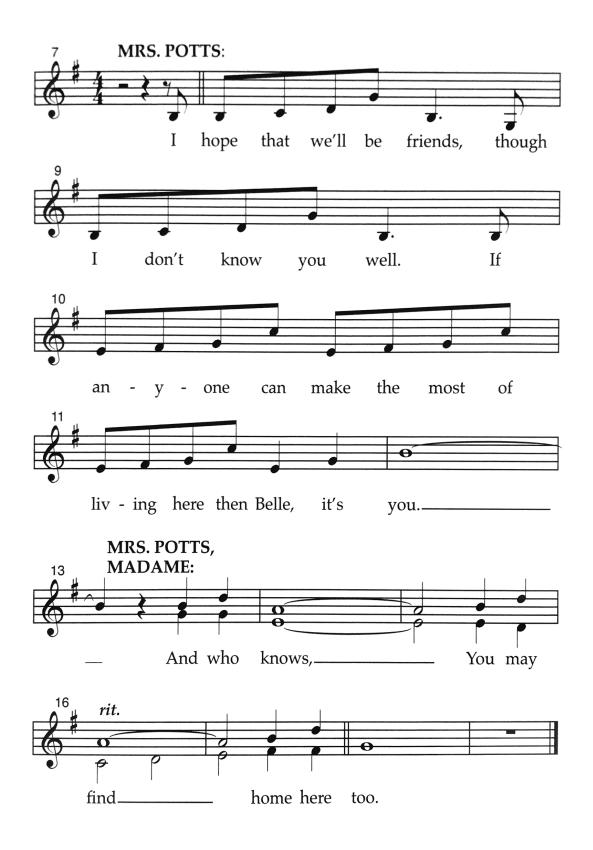
#### BELLE

I'm going to miss my papa so much!

#### MRS. POTTS

Cheer up, child. I know things may seem bleak right now, but you mustn't despair. We're here to see you through.

# Home (Tag)



(MRS. POTTS and MADAME DE LA GRANDE BOUCHE lead BELLE off. **#15 GASTON**.)

#### **SCENE 6: The Tavern**

(GASTON, sullen and morose, enters. VILLAGERS look on. LEFOU approaches.)

#### **GASTON**

Who does she think she is? That girl has tangled with the wrong man!

#### **LEFOU**

Darn right!

#### **GASTON**

No one says no to Gaston! Dismissed! Rejected! Publicly humiliated! It's more than I can bear.

#### **LEFOU**

Bear? Where?!?

(LEFOU ducks behind GASTON and shudders.)

#### **GASTON**

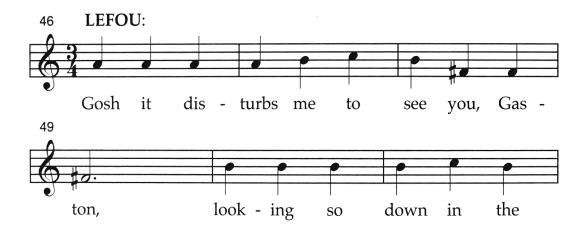
Oh, Lefou... I'm disgraced.

#### **LEFOU**

(emerges from behind GASTON)

Who, you? Never! Gaston, you've got to pull yourself together.

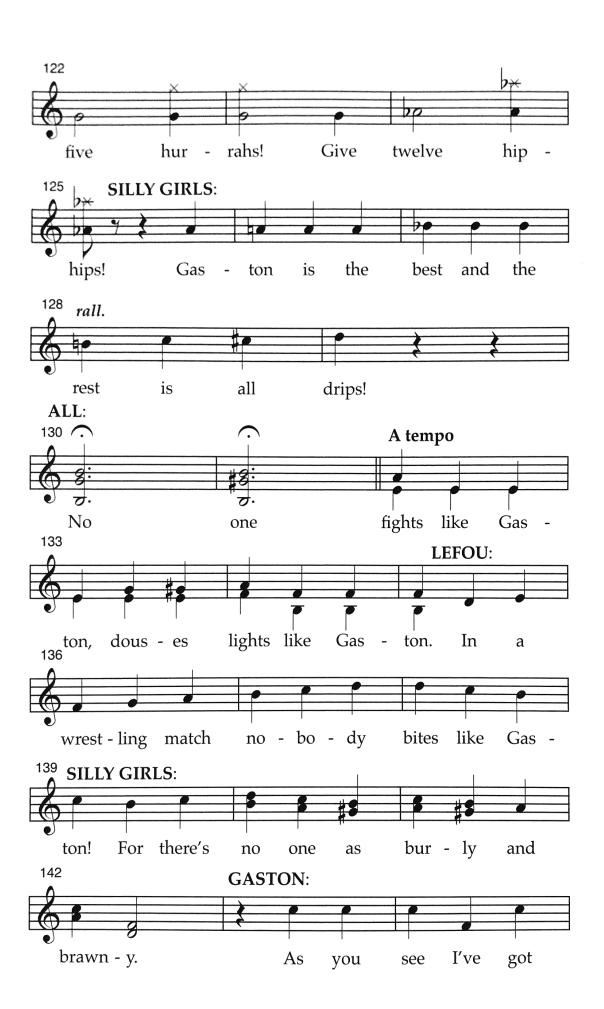
## Gaston

















(MAURICE enters, panicked.)

**MAURICE** 

Help! Help! Someone help me!

**GASTON** 

Maurice?

**MAURICE** 

Please, I need your help! He's got her! He's got her locked in a dungeon—

VILLAGER 1

Who?

**MAURICE** 

Belle... we must go at once... not a minute to lose!

**GASTON** 

Whoa. Slow down, Maurice. Who's got Belle locked in a dungeon?

**MAURICE** 

A beast! A horrible, monstrous beast!

(GASTON and the VILLAGERS stare at MAURICE with disbelief. Then, EVERYONE bursts into laughter, particularly GASTON.)

All right then, I'll go back there and get her out myself!

(MAURICE exits, followed by the laughing VILLAGERS.)

**VILLAGER 2** 

Crazy ol' Maurice.

**VILLAGER 3** 

He's always good for a laugh.

(GASTON and LEFOU are left alone. **#16 GASTON – REPRISE**.)

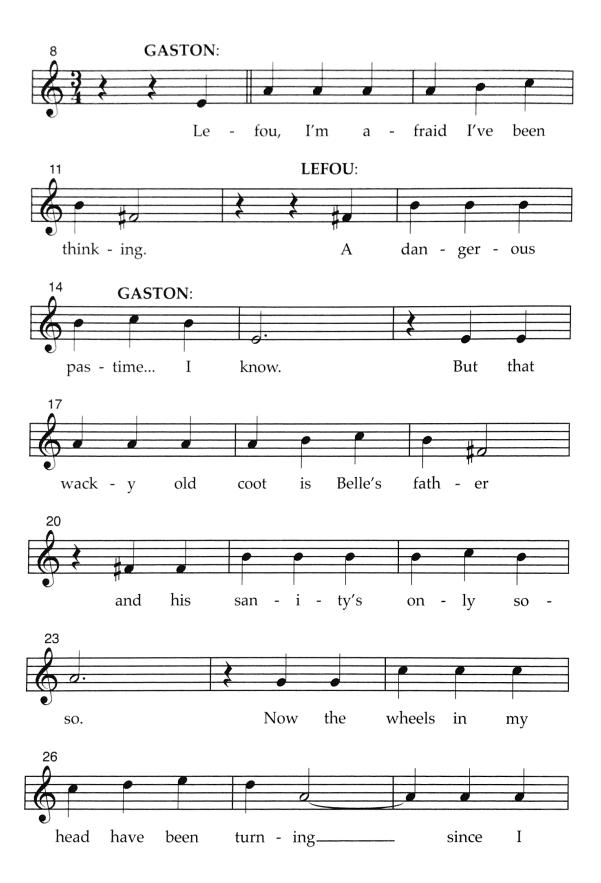
**GASTON** 

Crazy ol' Maurice...

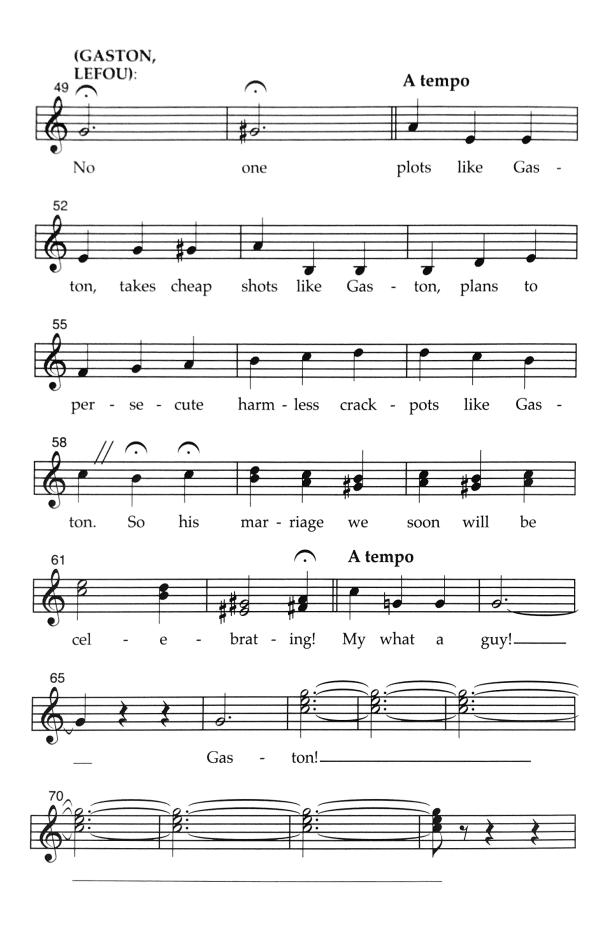
(the idea dawns)

Hmmmmmm... crazy ol' Maurice!

# Gaston (Reprise)







(GASTON and LEFOU exit.)