

# O Nature, pleine de grâce

## from the opera "Werther"

The scene of the opera, based on Goethe's classic novel of tragic love, "The Sorrows of Werther", is Germany, 1772. This tenor aria, appearing very near the beginning of Act I, has no actual pertinence to the ensuing action, but would appear intended as an introduction to the character of the hero. It is an ode to nature, sung by Werther, a very romantic and, at the same time, melancholic young student.

Je ne sais si je veille ou si je rêve encore!  
 Tout ce qui m'environne a l'air d'un paradis..  
 Le bois soupire ainsi qu'une harpe sonore,  
 Un monde se révèle à mes yeux éblouis!  
 O nature pleine de grâce,  
 Reine du temps et de l'espace,  
 Daigne accueillir celui qui passe  
 Et te salue, humble mortel!  
 Mystérieux silence! O calme solennel!  
 Tout m'attire et me plaît!  
 Ce mur, et ce coin sombre . . .  
 Cette source limpide et la fraîcheur de l'ombre;

Il n'es pas une haie, il n'est pas un buisson,  
 Où n'écluse une fleur, où ne passe un frisson!

O nature! enivre moi de parfums,  
 Mère éternellement jeune, adorable et pure!  
 O nature! Et toi, soleil,  
 Viens m'inonder de tes rayons!

*I do not know—am I awake or dreaming still!  
 Everything around me seems a paradise . . .  
 The woods sigh like a sonorous harp.  
 The world reveals itself to my astonished eyes!  
 Oh Nature, full of grace,  
 Queen of time and space,  
 Deign to receive the passerby,  
 The humble mortal saluting you!  
 Mysterious Silence! Oh Solemn Calm!  
 All this attracts and delights me!  
 This wall and this dark corner . . .  
 This limpid spring and the freshness of the  
 shadow;  
 There is not a hedge nor a bush  
 Where a flower is not opening and a thrill  
 is not felt!  
 Oh Nature, intoxicate me with your perfumes,  
 Mother eternally young, adorable and pure!  
 Oh Nature! And you, Sun,  
 Come, inundate me with your rays!*

English translation by WALDO LYMAN



Libretto by Edouard Blau, Paul Milliet and Georges Hartmann  
 (after the novel by GOETHE)

**Moderato** (72 = ♩)

**JULES MASSENET**  
 (1842-1912)

Voice

PIANO

Je ne sais si je veille ou si je rêve encore!