The Rose of the Alhambra

A Grand Opera in 2 Acts

The Music by Joseph de Pinna

See https://englishromanticopera.org/operas/TheRoseoftheAlhambra.htm for more details on the opera and discussion on the confusion surrounding the libretto author(s).

This libretto is a transcription from the manuscript held in the British Library, Add MS 42936, ff. 23-44. The date on the covering letter signed by Michael Rophino Lacy, the Acting Manager at Covent Garden, is April 28, 1836 but there is no date of acceptance by the Examiner of Plays, George Colman. The vocal items were also published in a printed edition by John Miller of Covent Garden, London in 1836 (British Library dating) and available at the British Library, System number 003157979. The song versions from the printed edition have been used in preference to those in the manuscript as more likely to be what was used in actual performance and are set in bold. Any differences between the two are noted either in the footnotes or in an adjacent column.

The handwriting appears to be in one hand and with good legibility, possibly a copyist. Spellings are as in the manuscript and include such words as "honor" for "honour". The capitalisation of words is usually as in the manuscript but some punctuation has been changed for clarity, as the original often just has a stream of dialogue with none or with a sequence of dashes. **{xx}** marks the page numbers of the manuscript with **{xxa}** being the leading side and **{xxb}** the reverse**.**

Please send any comments or corrections to englishromanticopera@gmail.com.

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Dramatis Personae

{25a}

Philip 5th, King of Spain

Sebastian

Ruyz d'Alarcon

Roderigo

Muley Maggiori (spelled Maggiore in the vocal items words publication)

Friars, Assassins, Soldiers, Spirits etc.

Zorayda, Spirit of the Fountain

Elizabetta, Queen of Spain

Jacintha, Rose of the Alhambra (The vocal items printed edition calls her "Jacinta" but here "Jacintha" has been used throughout).

Yuzetta

Ladies, Nuns, etc

The Rose of the Alhambra

Scene - The Alhambra

Act 1st, Scene 1st

A Romantic Hall

[*Enter Jacintha*

Bird symphony and opening air

Gentle bird! the Lover's minstrel!
Know'st not thou 'tis early dawn?
Rest thee! rest thee! golden sunlight
Soothes not by sorrow torn.
Seek some shade where silence --- (*Breaks off*)

Jacintha No! I cannot sing! While I chide yonder nightingale, my own neglected heart expands – almost bursts with emotion! To love one, his very name unknown – Alas! Why am I **{25b}** here, so early and alone? Ah! To dip my pitcher into these crystal waves. But is it not here, Jacintha, that thou comest to sigh over love's forgetfulness, unseen? I dreamed of Zorayda, the Enchanted Nymph, said to inhabit these diamond waters. Oh! Pure spirit, receive my despairing tears, and pity and appease my woes.

[*The Spirit sings without.*

Soon, soon sweet maid, will end all thy weeping
Brighter hours are in store for thee[1]

[*The waters open and disclose Zorayda*

Solo – Zorayda

A mortal's voice is breathing
Its sorrows o'er my head;
Her balmy sighs are piercing
The spirit's azure bed
From coral caves ascending,
Where the dolphin loves to play,
Your sea shells loudly sounding,
Come, hither wend your way.

[*Genii rise*

[1] These two lines here are in the manuscript but not in the printed vocal items.

Chorus

We come, our sea shells sounding,
From our coral caves below,
Where the waves are wildly bounding,
To sooth the maiden's woe.
Soon, soon sweet maid, etc.[2]

Solo – Zorayda

The spirit of song! who loves to dwell
Where the whirlwinds[3] rush and the breakers swell,
{26a} **Or wander at night by some leafy nook,**
Here welcomes thee, maid, to her haunted brook.[4]

Chorus[5]

We come, etc

[Zorayda

When the drowsy world is hushed in sleep
Then Nymphs and Fay's[6] from their green bells creep

Chorus

And foot it away
'Ere the break of day,
While the sighs of the zephyr sweet chorus keep.][7]

Solo – Zorayda

That spirit, whose seraph voice was mute
When thy sighs were heav'd,
At thy sorrows griev'd,
Hath come from the shore,[8]
Where the whirlwinds roar,
To charm thy woes with this magic lute.[9]

[2] Included in the manuscript but not in the printed vocal items
[3] The manuscript has "wild winds"
[4] Manuscript has "Where, call'd by the murmurs of haunted brook"
[5] The manuscript has "Chorus repeat" but it is not clear what they were meant to repeat.
[6] Presumably a fairy or elf
[7] Included in the manuscript but not in the printed vocal items.
[8] Manuscript has "Comes now from the shore"
[9] Manuscript has "To charm thy woes with her magic lute"

Chorus (*Singing at the same time*)[10]

We come from the shore,
Where the whirlwinds roar
To charm thy woes with this magic lute.

Chorus

Soon, soon sweet maid, will end all thy weeping
Brighter hours are in store for thee

Zorayda Tremble not Maiden! I am Zorayda, the Genius of the fountain, moved by your tears, I come to assist thy love. Ruyz d'Alarcon, the favorite Page of the Queen, for 'twas he with whom you danced in the Gardens of the Alhambra, is worthy of thy heart. He would seek, but knows not thy seclusion: a good spirit, in the form of a Ger Falcon, attracted by this lute shall guide him to your tower. Difficulties must, for a time, intercept your loves – but this enchanted lute shall assist you to surmount **{26b}** every obstacle. Farewell! Remember Zorayda!

[*Chorus resumes. Scene begins to sink. A spirit gives the lute and Jacintha goes off joyously.*

Scene 2nd

Exterior of Jacintha's Tower. Yuzetta appears at lattice.

Yuzetta How sweet is the melody of the birds. Nobody stirring! none of the Gallants abroad? Then I may venture forth! (*enters*) My poor flowers have drooped their heads sadly!

[*Arranges flowers – Jacintha is heard in the turret, playing lute and singing "Soon, soon sweet maid" etc.*

Jacintha[11]

Soon, soon sweet maid, will end all thy weeping
Brighter hours are in store for thee

[*A white Ger Falcon enters window.*

Yuzetta What a strange air Jacintha is singing! The old lute, out of tune yesterday, seems to thrill with the sweetest notes! Jacintha!

[10] These two choruses are included in the printed vocal items but not in the manuscript
[11] This couplet is included in the printed vocal items and the stage instructions imply that it would be at this point.

[*Enter Ruyz – he stops a moment, exclaiming aside, -*

Ruyz *"*Jacintha! The very name of --*"*
and goes behind bush.

Yuzetta Was that an echo?

Jacintha (*entering*) Did you call, Yuzetta?

Yuzetta Yes! What song was that you were singing and where did you hear it?

Jacintha Hear it? (*aside*) I dare not inform her!

Yuzetta Why, it's the melody, they say is sung at **{27a}** midnight, by the ghost of the Moorish Princess Zorayda, who was drowned in the fountain of the neighbouring tower. But Jacintha, I must have you leave off playing the lute, or you'll attract the Cavaliers of the Court and no good would come of that! One there is – Don Sebastian, the terror of every female in Grenada – a libertine, who, they say, defies every principle, for the completion of his lawless desires. But your poor mother, on her death bed, in confiding to my charge yourself, her only child, then 10 years of age, conjured me to guard you in this turret till you had past at least 17 years: at my time of life, this seclusion is a sacrifice to myself. But not so much as a male mouse has been inside those doors for the last 5 years, at least, to my knowledge. I was very sorry to take you to the Carnival dance 3 months since, in honor of the Queen's birthday, but the King ordained that no person, in health, should be absent. However, you wore a mask!

Jacintha Was it not unkind in my mother, to wish me to lead the life of a Nun?

Yuzetta No. A Moorish woman had predicted that if not protected by the influence of a good spirit, you would fall a victim to villainy, before you were 17.

Jacintha Oh! Yuzetta, I have such a story to relate

Yuzetta Tell it when I return from Mass or I shall **{27b}** be too late. Don't look out at the lattice. Kiss me! There! and tho' I do lock you up, 6 hours together, 'tis done out of pure affection.

Jacintha I know it! Dear Yuzetta, good bye!

[*Exit Yuzetta*

Ruyz (*advancing*) Gentlest of creatures – but one word –

Jacintha Gracious! (*closes lattice*)

Ruyz What have I done! Driven her from me perhaps for ever! Jacintha! hear me!

Serenade - Ruyz

The birds are blithely singing,
To greet the ruddy morn;
And cheerily is ringing
The merry hunter's horn.
Soft zephyrs blow;
Streamlets gently flow;

The ringdove, fondly cooing,
Stays its airy flight:
Each bird its mate is wooing
With carols gay and light:
Sweet music fills the grove;
Lift, then, thy lattice, love.

The diamond dew is lying
On shrub and scented bow'rs;
The breeze is softly sighing
Amidst the orange flow'rs,
Scenting the morning air,
And breathing perfumes rare[12].

From tow'r or lowlier dwelling,
All hail the rosy day,
{28a} **And o'er the valley swelling**
Ascends the greeting lay.
Sweet music fills the grove;
Lift, then, thy lattice, love.

Jacintha (*opening window*) What would you, Signor?

Ruyz I would speak with you of the purest love

Jacintha Nay, I must begone

Ruyz But my Ger Falcon has taken refuge in this tower. 'Tis a favorite of the Queen, whose Page I am

Jacintha Are you then one of the Court? So wicked, as I have heard.

Ruyz I am of the Court and yet not wicked. Can you have forgotten me who you danced with when your mask fell off. 'Tis I Ruyz d'Alarcon.

Jacintha The very name uttered by the Spirit. She assured me and my heart whispers that I may confide in him!

[12] The manuscript has "And breathing perfume fair"

Duet – Jacintha and Ruyz

Ruyz **Whence this fear, sweet maid, that steels thy heart against my prayer**

Jacintha **Can I safely trust in thee? Alas! I scarcely dare.**

Ruyz **What beauty glows in her sweet face!**

Jacintha **How full his form of youthful grace!**

{28b}

Ruyz **What lightnings flash from those bright eyes!**
What transports in my breast[13] arise!
Tyrant love my heart is stealing,
Binding me in silken chains.

Jacintha **Tyrant love my heart is stealing,[14]**
Binding me in silken chains.

Ruyz & Jacintha **Fond vows breathing!**
Love spells wreathing!
Lightnings flash from those bright eyes!

Jacintha **Fond vows breathing!**

Ruyz **Love spells wreathing!**

Ruyz & Jacintha **Transports in my breast arise.**

[*She retires*

Ruyz She relents! (*Jacintha reappears*)

Jacintha The door of the tower is open Senor! Haste, the falcon may take flight!

[*He kisses her hand and enters Turret*

What have I been guilty of? Yet his looks, so full of supplication, surely unlike those of the wicked Cavaliers of the Court! Ha! A footstep! The Stranger I have often observed, gazing at the turret.

Sebastian (*entering*) Alone! Stay, pretty one!

Jacintha Senor, excuse me.

Sebastian How ardently have I sighed for a moment like the present, to tell how I adore --

Jacintha Release and in pity leave me!

Sebastian Never, till thou'st mine!

---

[13] The manuscript has "heart"

[14] The manuscript has both this and the following verse sung just by Ruyz.

Trio – Jacintha, Ruyz, Sebastian[15]

Sebastian – solo

{29a}

Lone, unbefriended,
Poor, undefended
Hope nearly failing,
Passion assailing,
Vainly you try
From me to fly.

Duet

Jacintha	**Sebastian**
Lone, unbefriended	**Lone, unbefriended,**
Poor, undefended,	**Poor, undefended**
Fortune beguiling,	**Hope nearly failing,**
When fondly smiling,	**Passion assailing,**
Far from his treachery	**Vainly you try**
Would I could fly	**From me to fly.**

[Enter Ruyz with Hawk on his wrist

Ruyz

Why should she fly?

Sebastian – solo

Maiden, what fears are these?
Banish such phantasies;
Rather than injure thee
Gladly I'd die.

Jacintha – solo (*Addressing Ruyz*)

Oh! do not leave me;
He would deceive thee;
On his fair words, sir,
Do not rely.

[15] The printed vocal items show more repetition than the manuscript but the text is the same

Duet

Ruyz	**Sebastian**
Do not alarm thee;	**Maiden, what fears are these?**
Dearest believe me,	**Banish such phantasies;**
No one shall harm thee	**Rather than injure thee**
Whilst I am nigh	**Gladly I'd die.**

Ruyz – solo

Do not alarm thee;
Dearest believe me,
No one shall harm thee
Whilst I am nigh.

Duet

Jacintha	**Ruyz**
Oh! do not leave me;	**Do not alarm thee;**
He would deceive thee;	**Dearest believe me,**
On his fair words, sir,	**No one shall harm thee**
Do not rely.	**Whilst I am nigh.**

Trio

Jacintha	**Ruyz**	**Sebastian**
Oh! do not leave me;	**Do not alarm thee;**	**Lone, unbefriended,**
He would deceive thee;	**Dearest believe me,**	**Poor, undefended**
On his fair words, sir,	**No one shall harm thee**	**Vainly she'd try**
Do not rely.	**Whilst I am nigh.**	**From me to fly.**

{29b}

[*Jacintha, protected by Ruyz, enters the Tower*

Sebastian So, my pretty Cousin, this is one of your Birds!

Ruyz My lord, nought of harm is by me intended to yon maiden – I love her and would perish 'ere –

Sebastian Mighty poetical! But I bring you a message from the Queen, who requires your presence immediately! (*aside*) Thinks he to thwart my passion, as at Court he thwarts my favor! This resolves my long studied purpose! Remember, Senor, you are expected.

[*Exit*

Ruyz I know my duty! Are not the crimes imputed to him yet sufficient, but he would destroy even her! Jacintha! One word!

Jacintha (*at lattice*) Pray begone!

Ruyz Promise to meet me soon again. I have that to guard thee against –

Jacintha Not now. I'll send to thee. Someone comes (*retires*)

Ruyz But, how – Who's to bear the message -

[*Enter Muley*

Muley I will!

Ruyz Who are you?

Muley Who am I? Not know Muley, the Rice and fan Merchant! My father was a Castilian, my mother a Moor – so that I am of both sides of the question, and admitted without suspicion **{30a}** into all good society accordingly. I'm Agent to carry on love intrigues and where a desponding suitor wishes to kindle a spark, nothing's like the feather fans of Muley Maggiori, to blow it into a flame. Will you trust me Signior (sic)?

Ruyz You appear to know me!

Muley 'Tis my business to know every body; only promise to drop the golden bait into my Rice Jar and depend on't I'll be at your apartments, with an appointment, in less than 20 minutes.

Ruyz That for thine earnest (*giving Gold*)

Muley You're just in time; here comes Yuzetta. If she sees you, 'tis death to your hopes. She looks on me as a sort of tame wolf – But away!

[*Exit Ruyz*

[*conceals himself* [16] *– Yuzetta enters*

Yuzetta All silent! Well, after all, 'tis a melancholy life to lead! Ah! my pretty buds – those tulips – how exquisite! I could kiss them!

[*Muley thrusts his face thro' the flowers she kisses him – then retreats screaming. Jacintha opens lattice window.*

Santa Maria! Help!

Muley 'Twas only my two lips you kissed instead of your own.

Yuzetta Upon my word, Mr Muley, this is being very ridiculous.

[16] It is Muley who conceals himself.

{30b}

Muley It was more ridiculous in you to keep me on the tenter hooks of love, for 10 long years, without conferring a favor.

Yuzetta I confer a favor on a man! I'm very much offended at the liberty you've taken.

Muley I! On the contrary, you've taken a liberty with me; you kissed me – not I, you! Ah! Yuzetta, when shall I have sighed long enough!

Yuzetta Why, you know how I am circumstanced. When Jacintha is 17, perhaps – Ah! Jacintha there! (*speaking angrily*), Really, I'm astonished at your impertinence – begone! Jacintha, open the door!

Muley A fan might be useful, just now. Will you have any Rice?

Yuzetta No! The last was execrable!

Muley But this is mountain Snow! Only dip your hand in and try No? - You will, perhaps, Jacintha! You will do me justice!

[*Holding up vase – Jacintha drops a letter in*

Yuzetta Will you open the door?

Jacintha Directly! (*disappears*)

Muley Farewell, inflexible of women. I cannot remain to support your displeasure and perhaps when you hear that your Muley and his fans have been found floating in the Darro – I - I can't utter another word!

[*Rushes off, affecting emotion*

{31a}

Yuzetta Poor dear fellow! But I must keep my oath till Jacintha is 17! Heighho!

[*Jacintha opens door – She enters*

Scene 3rd

A Solitary Retreat. Enter Rodrigo and Robbers.

Chorus - Robbers

In the forests' leafy bower
We dwell, we dwell!
Here the prison hath no power,
Here there frowns no dungeon tower;
O'er our heads the gale goes free,
All around breathes liberty.
Merrily – merrily – merrily - merry,[17]
We dwell – we dwell.

Rodrigo Hark! Some one approaches – Retire!

[*Enter Sebastian, as the Robbers go off*

Sebastian Well met, my friend!

Rodrigo Welcome, noble master! What are your commands? To stiletto a Rival or carry off him.[18]

Sebastian The former! Ruyz D'Alarcon, that every day interposes between me and love – as the son of my father's elder brother, you are well aware he stands before me in the possessions of our house – for that alone, I hate him – for that, I have long wished him –

Rodrigo Dead! 'Tis soon accomplished!

{31b}

Sebastian That for the present. (*giving Gold*) The deed performed, gold shall flow into this tavern, like the waves of the Darro! You know the valley of the Pilgrim Rocks – about nightfall, Ruyz will pass that way. But I have confided to you matters of more importance, 'ere now. Remember, secrecy! and my protection shall still attend you. We'll meet again, 'ere morning.

Rodrigo I'll about it, myself – he shall trouble you no longer

[*Exit*

Sebastian That boy hath risen, like an interposing demon, to my aspiring ambition. The King, the Queen, no longer remember me, when he approaches! Yon maiden, too – she will, she must now become my victim

[17] "Merrily, right merrily," in the manuscript.
[18] The text could be interpreted as "carry off a him"

Song – Sebastian

Fortune propitious, bright'ning around me,
Seems to assure me my plans will succeed.
Those who would injure, ruin, confound me,
Of my sure vengeance let them take head.

Fame, rank, and riches, wait now before me;
Beauty alone from my daring would fly.
Maiden, thou lov'st not, - still I adore thee!
Thou shalt be mine! Or thou, proud one, shalt die!

[*Exit*

Scene 4th

Rose Garden – near Jacintha's turret. Enter Jacintha.

Jacintha At this hour only, have I again dared to venture forth, to encounter one who has, I fear, but **{32a}** too firm a hold on my heart! He comes not – surely the Rice Merchant delivered the note! Does he despise me for being too confiding? Did I but dream that he loved me?

[Song

Oh! There's a dream whose brighting woos
In youths' unclouded days.
The fond confiding heart to tread
Its fair and flow'ry maze.
It seems some blissful realm, wherein
No low'ring cloud appears.
Some beacon bright that gilds with light
This pilgrimage of tears
With buoyant step we onward press
With pleasure hand in hand
As wafted by the fav'ring breeze
The light bark leaves the strand.
But as the bark, without a chart
Wou'd vainly steer for shore
Amid that maze young passion strays
Its wand'rings never o'er!

] [19]

[*Enter Ruyz*

[19] This song does not appear in the printed vocal items

Ruyz How shall I thank thee for this compliance with my fond wishes! An almost imperative command of the Queen detained me at the palace. Let us now speak of love!

Jacintha I have already gone too far to recede, but, dare I hope that one so humble as myself – your noble parentage – would they not turn with disdain, from the lowly, obscure, Jacintha?

{32b}

Ruyz By the soul of honor, Jacintha, thine – thine only. Rank, wealth, all must be sacrificed at the shrine of devotion, like mine! Fly with me to yonder Monastery – there in the sight of Heaven, I am ready to prove my sincerity!

Jacintha Spare me – suffer me to return

Ruyz Not till thou art mine, for ever! Dearest, to the Monastery –

[*Enter Sebastian & Gallego*

Sebastian here! Unfortunate!

Sebastian Say, rather, fortunately for thee, rash boy! This packet, from her Majesty, must immediately be delivered, by thee, to the Prior of the Convent on the Pilgrim Rocks. Away! And learn to appreciate the kindly influence of myself, who, with ready excuse for your absence, hath saved thee perhaps from disgrace.

Jacintha Suffer me to return

Ruyz Not alone, Jacintha! Tho' a thousand mandates bade me hence, I'd not depart till I had quitted thee in safety!

Quartet – Jacintha, Ruyz, Sebastian, Gallego

Sorrow's voice in passion's whispers
Ne'er could tell its tale of woe;
When the bosom's torn with anguish,
Sighs will choke, or tears must[20] flow.

{33a}

Would ye then that lover's parting[21]
Calm as meeting friends should be?
Would ye bid the heart that's breaking
Breathe its last in melody?

Joy may sing its song of gladness
Laughter-loving Mirth its glee;
Bacchanals may crown their orgies
With the shouts of revelry;

[20] "tears will flow" in the manuscript

[21] The manuscript has Sebastian and Gallego sing a different second verse: "See'st thou now the lovers / Not as parting friends should be / No, the heart with fond love beating / Part not thus in melody". In the first verse they sing "heart" instead of "bosom" but this seems likely to have been a copyist's mistake.

Happy love, in sweetest cadence,[22]
All its soft emotion tell;
But the heart attun'd to sadness
Notes of grief alone can swell.

[*Exeunt*

Scene 5th

Convent of the Pilgrim Rocks. Rodrigo and Robbers discovered

Chorus

Who that gaily might rove at his pleasure,
With the bandit o'er forest and plain,
Would care to drag on his existence
In the haunts of men – toiling for gain?
When his purse he would fill,
By the side of some hill [23]**,**
Or in valley, bush, highroad or wold,
He has only to tarry
Till night-fall, and, marry!
He's sure to get plenty of gold – of gold,
He's sure to get plenty of gold.

{33b}

And at night when he meets his companions,
And they talk o'er the deeds of the day,
With their wives and their booty beside them,
What mortals so merry as they?
'Twixt feasting and drinking,
Of care little thinking,
They turn into day the long night;
With shout and with song
They their revels prolong,
Till they see the first-beams of the light – the light,
Till they see the first-beams of the light.

Rodrigo Hark! The old clock of the Monastery strikes the hour before midnight. Conceal yourselves till I ascend yon steep and give the signal of our victim's approach.

[*Exeunt*

[22] The manuscript has Sebastian and Gallego sing a different second verse: "Love alone in sorrowing cadence / Sings the parting word, farewell / Lover's heart attuned to sadness / Notes of grief alone can swell.

[23] The manuscript has "rill" rather than "hill"

[*Enter Muley*

Muley Eleven o'clock! However, I've sold my Rice and fans too! Should I encounter any of those infernal Robbers (*Whistles without*) Santa Maria! What will become of me?

[*As he approaches the tower, a Robber enters. He*[24] *crawls round and squeezes himself into the hollow of a tree. Enter Rodrigo etc.*

Rodrigo Our victim is at hand. You, Juan Fernandez, rush on him and strike the blow!

[*Exeunt*

Muley (*peeping*) How could I save him? Ah! My staff! Senor Juan Fernandez, curse me, but I'll crack your head!

[*Enter Ruyz*

{34a}

Ruyz Here ends my commission! Now to ring the Bell! (*Enter Juan*) Ha! That dagger gleaming in the moonlight!

[*As he attempts to draw his Sword, Juan stabs him. He staggers and drops the packet. Muley strikes Juan down. Ruyz, who has dropt his hat and mantle, staggers off*

Muley There, you damned rascal, how do you like that? But where's the Chevalier? Ah! His Cloak and hat! A packet! Ah!! (*retreats to tree*)

[*Enter Sebastian*

Sebastian Ho! Rodrigo! (*Enter Rodrigo*)

Rodrigo 'Tis done, my lord!

Sebastian Enough! Was it not well devised to send him hither with a forged commission – a blank envelope? Did'st though not fear to enter a band of bold conspirators

Rodrigo Fear! 'Tis a stranger to me!

Sebastian Well then, this paper will disclose my meaning; tomorrow, at noon, at the house of the pretended Merchant, Alvarez, we meet (*gives paper*). But this body must not remain.

Rodrigo It shall be thrown into the torrent instantly

Sebastian What seekest thou?

Sebastian Find it, or we're lost

[*Muley snatches up the paper, substituting* **{34b}**

[24] The "he" is Muley

the blank envelope, which is picked up by Rodrigo

Rodrigo Ah! Here it is! And now to remove the body

Sebastian Remember, tomorrow at noon!

Rodrigo I shall not fail

Sebastian Goodnight

Rodrigo Noble Senor, good night!

[*Exeunt*

Muley I wonder what this is about? No matter. But happy thought!

[*Places Ruyz's hat on head of robber, covering him with the cloak. Enter Rodrigo and 2 Robbers. Muley retires*

Rodrigo Away with him – quick!

[*They throw the body into the River and exeunt*

Muley (*ringing at turret*) What ho! Holy Friar A murder has been committed!

Friar (*looking from wicket*) Begone! No one can be admitted till the Prior's return, who is gone to escort the King hither to assist in the midnight mass (*closes wicket*)

Muley This is what that fellow calls humanity! So because the King is coming to assist in the mass, one of his best subjects is to die! But I'll do something - Help! Help!

[*Enter Monks supporting Ruyz. They ring at the tower, the door is opened. He is assisted in. As he disappears, enter Procession of Monks etc. conducting the* **{35a}** *King and Queen, Nuns, etc.*

Hymn - Monks

Omnes sub cœlo colentes
Creatoris laudes tollite
Salvatoris homen cantate
Omni terrâ – Omni linguâ

Chorus - Pilgrims

Santa Maria! Hear our prayer;
O'er us spread thy holy care!
With gifts thine[25] altar we'll endow;
Santa Maria, hear our vow!

[25] The manuscript has "thy" instead of "thine"

[*The Robbers have entered taking off their hats etc. The windows of the convent are thrown open. The altar etc are illuminated – voices burst forth into*

Omnes sub cœlo colentes etc.[26]

Drop falls

Act 2nd, Scene 1st

Jacintha's Chamber. Jacintha discovered playing the lute

Jacintha Heigho (sic)! Even the music of this lute fails to disperse that cloud of care, which crosses my heart tonight. The shadowy form of my lover appeared in my sleep, stained with the crimson dye of existence! But away with dreams! Like the Moorish maid in the Songs of the Alhambra, I'll still cling to hope!

Aria and Bravura – Jacintha

Recitative

Oh, Heav'n! my tortur'd bosom
This grief can never bear;
Too true my boding fear!
Woe to the Moorish maid! – Love's tender blossom
{35b} **Is chill'd, ere yet unfolded to the day;**
And hope is dead, for honour[27] **calls away,**
To the red field of battle's fearful strife,
My love! The solace of my life!

[26] The manuscript omits the initial Latin verse but then refers to it at the end of the scene in an abbreviated form, suggesting that the copyist overlooked it. The "Chorus - Pilgrims" is titled "Chant or Hymn" in the manuscript.
[27] The manuscript has "honor call 'away'!"

Aria

'Twas thus, in fervent numbers,
'Neath Herper's placid ray,
A Moorish maid was breathing
Her deep impassion'd lay;
The dews of heaven were weeping,
The winds were hush'd to rest,
Like moonbeams mildly sleeping
On ocean's waveless breast.

[Recitative

She paus'd awhile, her face
A deeper flesh, as she resum'd

] [28]

Bravura

Oh, nought can cheer me – no longer near me;
His smile no more I see!
Now all around is dark and dreary,
No sunny spot for me.
No; his maid her bitter plaint no more
In evening's ear shall pour;
But dream the zephyrs winging
From distant isles are bringing
Her Azim's barque[29] to shore.
Love, calm the frantic beating
Of this confiding heart;
Yes, yes, Love! Calm its frantic beating;
Hope paints our happy meeting –
{36a} Hope's visions are not fleeting -
We'll meet, no more to part!

Jacintha What a lovely night! Again will I seek repose!

[*Throws herself upon couch and sleeps. The couch changes to a bower of Roses, discovering Zorayda, who sings*

[28] The was included in the manuscript but not in the printed vocal items.
[29] The manuscript has "bark"

[The manuscript (left) envisaged a greater part for Zorayda here with a repeat of a verse from her first appearance than is shown in the printed vocal items]

Zorayda

That spirit whose home is the fountain deep,
Where the bubbles float
Like soft music's note,
To solace thy tears
Thus, at midnight, appears
And sheds on thy heart enchanted sleep.

Invisible Chorus

Pale visions arise!
Present to her eyes
The dreamy hopes of enchanted sleep.

[*Scene opens discovering Sebastian standing over Ruyz with an uplifted dagger. It then changes to Interior of Palace with Philip on his throne, attended by the Queen and Court. Muly and Yuzetta, at the back. Figure of Jacintha playing the silver lute and singing.*

That Spirit whose Seraph voice was mute,
When thy sighs were heav'd
At thy sorrows griev'd
Now sends from the shore
Where the whirlwinds roar
And charm thy woes with this magic lute.

{36b}

[*A Tournament in which Ruyz appears trampling on Sebastian while the figure of Love crowns him with Roses. A knocking is heard – figures vanish*

Solo and chorus – Zorayda and Genii

Solo - Zorayda

Pale visions arise: present to her eyes
The dreamy hopes of enchanted sleep.

Chorus

Pale visions arise etc.

****

[*Enter Yuzetta*

Yuzetta Holy Saint Francis! What a knocking! And Jacintha still asleep (*draws back blind*) Broad daylight, I declare! And Muley at the door, as pale as a Ghost! Is it indeed his love of me that has caused this sad alteration? Coming, Muley, coming!
[*Exit*

Jacintha (*starting up*) Where am I? Oh! In my own little Chamber! What a dream I've had!
[*Enter Muley and Yuzetta*

Yuzetta It's all an impossibility!

Muley It's the most popular impossibility that ever occurred in the walls of Grenada! Oh! Such an occurrence! The noble young Chevalier -

Jacintha Ruyz D'Alarcon

Muley There she does know him!

Yuzetta I'm petrified!

Muley Alas! Amongst the rocks set upon by robbers last night

Jacintha Assassinated!

Muley I know not that! I sought to defend him but in vain. I saw him escape, wounded. I hoped he might have reached this tower.

Jacintha No! no! Oh! Misery! (*falls senseless*)

{37a}

Yuzetta (*raising her*) My own dear child – what means this?

Muley Why love has been at work here. But I'll run for one of my feather fans

Yuzetta Don't leave us! Blessed Santa Maria! She revives!

Jacintha I disobeyed your injunction. Terribly am I punished. My Companion in the dance, Ruyz D'Alarcon. We loved, we met, he is murdered!

Yuzetta Jacintha – repress this wild despair!

Jacintha Ruyz D'Alarcon!

Muley He shall be avenged. I've a clue to the villains. This paper to the King.

Jacintha Avenged he shall be but the assassin

Muley Here is a name

Jacintha (*looking at paper*) It is Sebastian! Farewell! At the foot of the throne, on my knees to invoke vengeance.

Yuzetta This is madness! Thinks my Child that the portals of a palace are as open to the footstep of lowly obscurity as the door of a Cottage? Calm thee!

Jacintha Impossible!

Muley If one could but get at his Majesty's elbow now and say to him in an offhand sort of genteelish way – Senor King – I, Muley Maggiori, beg leave to pop into your gracious ear the contents of this bit of paper.

[*The scarf falls, the Lute is heard* **{37b}** *playing the Spirits air*

Jacintha That sound! My dream!

Muley Holy Saints, forgive me! Sinful Rice stealer – dealer, I mean, that I am The lute on the wall is playing a tune itself!

Yuzetta A lute I never saw before! I faint!

[*Muley and Yuzetta fall on their knees*

Jacintha Fear nothing; the good spirit, which you said would shield me from danger speaks to me in the tones of that lute. Reach it me, Muley!

Muley Not for the world. It might give me St. Vitus's dance. You, Yuzetta, who are always going to mass, hadn't you better.

Yuzetta Well, if you think I'm better than you (*goes to take the lute. It rises higher up on the wall. She screams*). It runs up the wall like a fly!

Muley Let me catch it! (*It rises higher and strikes his head, as he spring up. He upsets table etc. falling*). Now it has broken my head – Oh!

Jacintha Perhaps to me alone (*the lute returns. She takes it and plays*). Hope whispers me that Ruyz still lives! I go to seek him

[*Runs off*

Yuzetta Jacintha! The girl is frantic, I'm frantic, you're frantic!

Muley Well I may be! Only feel, here's a bump! But where's Jacintha? I'll follow, be it **{38a}** where it may.

Yuzetta And I'll go with you!

Scene 2nd

A vineyard. Enter vinedressers

Chorus - Vinedressers[30]

Morn on the sunny hills is beaming,
The sky is bright in cloudless blue;
The grapes, in purple clusters gleaming,
Shine through the leaves in dark'ning hue.
Then, up! Then up! With op'ning day
Our task begins, - Away, away!
Nurs'd by our care, the green vine throws
Its emerald tendrils round
Sprung from our care, the red wine flows
'Mid the banquets' chorus round

Trio

Let beauty pass her lip along
The cup, and the wine shall be
To raise more glad the minstrel's song,
More high the warrior's glee.

Chorus - Vinedressers

Morn on the sunny hills etc. etc.

[*Enter Ruyz dressed as a Pilgrim*

Ruyz Thus disguised; I'll to the tower, nor leave it till by a dearer title than that of lover. I propose an eternal right to watch over my Jacintha's safety.

Ballad - Ruyz[31]

Where is the voice that has thrill's me,
Sweet as a strain from above?
Where is the being that fill'd me
First with the passion of love?
O still is she mine only,
As faithful and fond to me yet,
Though long I have left her all lonely,
And though I have seem'd to forget!

[30] The manuscript shows no trio or chorus' repeat but a single choral text including the trio and the verse shown, which was omitted in the printed vocal items edition.
[31] The manuscript titles it "Romance"

Summer hath bloom'd in the bower,
Autumn hath purpled the vine,
Winter hath stripp'd leaf and flower,
Still lovers parted must pine,
Sweet spring, with thy buds and young blossoms,
To meet where we often have met;
O then, in the bliss of our bosoms,
The pangs of the past to forget!

[*Enter Jacintha*

Jacintha Whither have I wandered? Ah! Good Pilgrim, thou perhaps can'st direct me to the palace?

Ruyz (*affecting not to know here*) What seeks the simple Maiden at the abode of a monarch?

Jacintha Justice for one I truly love, Ruyz d'Alarcon! They tell me he's murdered, but I feel otherwise. I believe that we shall meet again.

Ruyz Yes, dearest treasure of my soul! He lives! (*throws back his Cowl*)

Jacintha Ecstacy! (*embraces*) Still must I obey Zorayda's dictate; still before the King, pour forth the enchanted Song!

Ruyz Even as Zorayda wills! Should the music win thee a boon, be it to summon to the lists my Cousin, Sebastian, to answer for the mysterious absence of Ruyz d'Alarcon. My very existence must be a secret to all, save Heaven and ourselves.

Jacintha Enough! Conduct me to Yuzetta in yonder avenue

Ruyz And tho' we separate for a while, son we'll meet again, to part no more.

Duet – Jacintha and Ruyz

Jacintha

We'll meet when eve one dew-drop weeps
And from her cell the glow-worm creeps,
When Sol has sunk his beaming crest
In dying glory in the west.

Ruyz

Yes, dearest, when the soften'd tone
Of Eve hath made the world its own –
When silence rules o'er sky and plain,
Then will we, truly, meet again!

Duet

Oh, yes; though now we may not stay,
We'll meet again at close of day;
When evening rules o'er sky and plain
Then will we, truly, meet again!

[Exeunt

Scene 3rd

Apartment in the Palace.
The King discovered pensive and melancholy. Queen, Sebastian, etc

Sebastian Alas! This sudden melancholy which has seized his Majesty! Shall I give command, Madam, for the Dancers to attend?

[*Queen waves her hand. Sebastian goes out. Dancers enter. A Castanet dance*

King Away! Glad sounds delight me not – leave all!

[*As they are going, Jacintha appears outside the lattice playing and singing. They pause.*

Air (*Playing on the lute*) Jacintha[32]

That spirit, whose seraph voice was mute
When thy sighs were heav'd, at thy sorrows griev'd
[*breaks off*

King (*rising*) Who sings so sweetly?

Page (*entering*) A Peasant Maiden; she humbly entreats **{40a}** permission to sing before your Majesty.

King Admit her!

[*Enter Jacintha and Yuzetta. The King waves his hand. Jacintha sings*.

[32] The manuscript titles this "The Spirits Air".

Jacintha

A spirit who bids every sorrow cease,
From her crystal bed
Gently waves o'er thy head
The world's only wealth,
Her garland of health,
And sheds in thy bosom delight and peace!

Invisible Chorus[33]

Bright Genii attend
Their magic to lend
And pour in thy bosom delight and peace!

[*The King recovers – General surprize*

King My Elizabetta! My friends! A new existence seems to dawn within me! Fair Damsel, ask some boon!(*rising*) Who sings so sweetly?

Jacintha (*kneels*) Justice then, great King! I crave that Don Sebastian be summon'd to the lists to answer for the absence or the murder of Ruyz D'Alarcon!

King Murder! Bethink thee, Don Sebastian is of high rank and character! Ask some other boon

Jacintha Justice! Justice!

King What fatal infatuation leads thee to

Muley (*without*) Justice! Justice! I tell you I must come in! I belong to the lady who has cured the King of his malady. I know all **{40b}** about the murder.

King Ah! Let him pass.

Muley (*entering*) Which, here, is his Gracious Graciousness? He! I know him by his Kingly eyes! (*kneels*). Please your Magnificent Magnificence, I had a hand in the murder and –

King How!

Muley No, not that. I was present when it was done, that it, I was inside a tree, when I overheard and I saw and – and – now I've told you every particular.

King This mockery! Away with him

[33] The chorus is not included in the printed vocal items

Muley Gigantic King! Suffer me to deposit in your gracious and good hand, this paper dropt by one of the robbers.

King (*glancing at paper*) Sebastian! My life! Villains, you shall perish!

Muley Oh, la! Does he mean me, I wonder? I'll be off! (*going the Guards stop him*)

King (*to Officer*) Proceed instantly to the house of one Alvarez, three doors from the fountain. Arrest every soul and bring them here! Maiden, thy boon is granted! Herald! Summon to the lists, don Sebastian, to answer for the murder of Ruyz d'Alarcon! For thee (*to Muley*)

Muley Thank you your mild and malicious Majesty!

King To you, I owe, perhaps, my life! Henceforth **{41a}** accept a Station in the palace. A Robe of distinction there for – your name?

Muley I wonder whether he's humming me? My name's Muley Maggiori, please your Divinity ship.

King In future the Chevalier Maggiori of your own Order of Knighthood! (*placing chain round his neck*). Maiden, to thee also shall be awarded every honor!

[*The dance is renewed. The King and Queen conduct Jacintha with them to the terrace.*

Muley Here's distinction! Yuzetta! Will you accept me now?

Yuzetta Why really, Chevalier, you look so improved –

Muley It's a bargain.

[*They join Procession – the Dance proceeds*

Finale Act II

Chorus and ballet[34]

Trip, trip it to measure!
Sing, sing we in chorus!
For happiness o'er us
Her mantle hath spread,
And gladness around us
Its bright beam hath shed

[*Exeunt*

End of Act 2nd

[34] The manuscript titles this "Chorus" and omits the Finale, Act II heading.

{41b}

Act 3rd , Scene 1st

A Cloister, a tomb with the figure of a warrior.
Enter Ruyz (as Pilgrim)

Ruyz It was here she promised to meet me, should her suit not be granted then hence disguise! Sebastian, I will not live the undeserved victim of thy hate – retribution or a warrior's death!

[The manuscript (left) differs markedly from the printed vocal items at this point]

Scena

From love, yes, from love, when honor calls
Impatiently he flies
No fear the warrior's soul appals
He conquers or he dies.

Air

Hark – now the trumpet sounds afar,
The inspiring reveille of war,
And he to the listed field must go
To wield the brand, to deal the blow
They meet and the glittering sabres clash
And the fatal thrust is sped
And the life blood streams from the gaping gush
And the haughty foe is dead.
Peace to the slain – the shouts arise
And rend with their startling sound the skies
As the whirl wind wakes old ocean's sleep
When riding in fury along the deep.

Aria: con amore

Calm fairest maiden, calm thy fears**{42a}**
Crown'd with a wreath thy Knight appears
Soon shall the Conqueror fondly strain
His trembling love to his breast again
Lo! He comes! The warrior see!
From the glorious field of victory!
Deck thy face with gladness now
Twine the Chaplet for his brow
Raise the chorus, banish care
Fill the bowl, the dance prepare.

Recitative and Marziale - Ruyz

Recitative

Yes, love! Yes fond love and lady bright,
The warrior must forego –
For sterner joys in field of fight,
Against the scowling foe.

Marziale

A banquet is the battle fray,
And music sweet the trumpet's bray,
Where valour seeks a bright career –
A laurell'd brow, or trophied bier!
The shock of arms the knight withstood
Where thousands were laid low;
His steel is stained with bravest blood,
And fallen is the foe.
No grief be thine
For past are war's alarms;
He soon shall come, with trump and drum,
A victor to thine arms!
Maiden hush thy boding fears
Smile away those tears;
Greet with lightsome step and strain
Thy warrior home again.

[*Enter Jacintha with lute*

Jacintha Thy suit is granted! Within this hour, Sebastian will be summon'd! But why have you thrown aside disguise?

Ruyz Here I'm unobserved

Jacintha I tremble for thy danger! But this magic lute, which won me entrance to a Monarch's feet, will still invoke protection. Zorayda will not forsake us.

Recitative and Aria Brillante – Jacintha

Recitative

Adieu, ye days of sorrow!
Too low'ring long to last
Your dark'ning clouds have vanish'd
Life's bitter hours are past.

Aria brillante

No longer darkly gleaming
Hope's heavenly bow is beaming
In brightest hues above my[35] head
{42b} Joy decks my path with flow'rs;
Fate's[36] unpropitious hours
Are now for everfled
Hail then, thrice happy day!
Mirth sheds his blissful ray;
Now smiles around me play;
Life's bitter hours are fled.

Adieu, ye days of sorrow!
Too low'ring long to last
Your dark'ning clouds have vanish'd
Life's bitter hours are past. [37]

[*Jacintha slings the lute on the tomb, during her singing and appears to forget it*
[*Exeunt*

Muley (*peeping from behind the tree*) Jacintha – Yuzetta grows uneasy and has sent me – not here? I'm sure I saw her enter. The lute! Then she can't be far off! I wonder what effect my playing would have (*looks round*). Nobody near! (*sings and plays*)

[35] The manuscript has "our head"
[36] The manuscript has "fates' "
[37] The manuscript does not repeat this recitative.

Muley Ladies high, ladies low
Do you want my Rice as white as snow?
Or brooms or fans to dust your - Oh!

[*Thunder and lightning. The portraits of Saints change into sea monsters. Muley lets the lute fall*

Sebastian (*without*) I swear 'twas a female form

[*Scene resumes its tranquility*

Muley I've raised him! (*points to ground*) Ha! The confessional! I'll enter – surely he can't come **{43a}** there! (*goes into Confessional*)

Sebastian (*entering*) Surely, 'twas Jacintha's form! Ha! She comes! (*hides behind tomb*)

Muley (*entering*) What evil destiny led me to forget the lute! (*As she stoops to get it – Sebastian opposes her return*) He here!

Sebastian Yes Jacintha – he, whose soul exits but in thee – Sebastian – Come to my palace.

Jacintha (*struggling*) Help! Unfortunate Jacintha, what will become of thee? Ha! (snatching dagger from the figure) Heaven in this dagger instructs me! Approach and this, buried in Jacintha's bosom, shall sink her at your feet!

Sebastian Thou darest not!

[*Muley from Confessional cries* "hold". *Enveloped in Ruyz's mantle with a crosier he interposes.*

Meddling Monk begone

Jacintha (*clinging to Muley*) Save me

[*As Sebastian is about to draw his sword, an Herald enters*

Herald My lord, this mandate to attend instantly the presence of the King!

Sebastian Curses! We shall meet again!

[*Exit with Herald*

{43b}

Muley (*throwing back the Cowl, laughs*) Tho' no Monk, I wish the cowl may never cover a worse design than mine; or the crosier defend a cause less deserving! Let's begone.

Jacintha Brave Muley! But the lute – give it to me

Muley My hands are rough, the strings might break

Jacintha True (*taking lute*)

[*Exeunt*

Scene Last

Grand staircase to the Court of Lions. Spectators, the Lists etc.
Enter Procession – King, Queen, Jacintha, Yuzetta, Muley, etc.
Heralds sound. Enter Sebastian and his Esquires

King Sebastian d'Alarcon, are you prepared to defend your honor from the charge of assassinating your relative, Ruyz d'Alarcon?

Sebastian With my life, Sire! Shew me but the man who dares confront me in a cause founded on such base slander!

[*The King waves his hand. Heralds sound. Ruyz appears, armed, his vizor closed*

King Behold the combatant!

Sebastian Is he noble? Of birth –

[*Ruyz touches his breast and points to Sebastian*

How! Noble as myself! Come on!

{44a}

King And Heaven defend the right!

[*Fight. Ruyz is struck down. As Sebastian is about to strike him, Jacintha rushes forward, snatching off the helmet from Ruyz*

Sebastian He here! Not dead!

King How! Thou didst then know

Sebastian Yes 'tis plain my Cousin lives. What mockery is all this? Who has dared to accuse me?

King This Maiden, this Stranger!

Muley Yes – I – last night. Oh! Dear! The pa-paper dropt amongst the rocks of the Pilgrim Monastery

Sebastian Wretch! Will a paper, dropt by accident, prove –

King It will at least prove a conspiracy against the life of thy Sovereign. Read, Traitor! (*giving the paper*)

Sebastian Ha! Confusion! A mere forgery – a device, concerted by my enemies.

King Then thus, I summon thy friends, whose confessions, already made, will but little, I fear, advocate thy loyalty.

[*waves his hand. Rodrigo and Robbers chained are brought in*

Sebastian Lost! For ever!

King In consideration of thy relationship to this noble youth, I spare thy life. Hence! Forever banished from thy native land. Learn to subdue thy stormy passions! (*they are led off*). For you and you (*to Ruyz and Jacintha*), for well I read the secret in your eyes, be years of still encreasing love and happiness! And tho' no victorious garland twine thy brow, today, be it sufficient, as I'm sure it will, Ruyz d'Alarcon, that you wear next your heart the sweetest Rose of the Alhambra! (*joining their hands*).

Grand Finale

Solos and choruses – Jacintha, Ruyz and Chorus

Solo – Jacintha

Strike the harp to gladness
Sorrow's voice is mute;
Banish care and sadness -
Wake the magic lute.

Solo – Ruyz

Leave to others sighing;
Care to guilty heads;
Life's bright hours are flying;
Joy the banquet spreads.
(*Chorus of principal voices repeat*)
--- The banquet spreads

[*The staircase vanishes. Zorayda etc appear in the fountain, which rises*

Chorus[38]

We come, our sea shells sounding,
From our coral caves below,
Where the waves are wildly bounding,
To sooth the maiden's woe.
Strike the harp, etc.

[*A spirit descends, receives the magic lute from Jacintha and bears it to Zorayda – Tableau – and curtain falls*

End

[38] The manuscript says " Zorayda etc"