

NORTHAMPTON G&S GROUP – THE GONDOLIERS

Please prepare the following speeches for your character

You may be asked to read only ONE of them, or a portion.

You are NOT expected to be off-book

Edited for audition purposes only. DO NOT LEARN!

Don Alhambra del Bolero

A)

DON A. So this is the little lady who is so unexpectedly called upon to assume the functions of Royalty!
And a very nice little lady, too!

DUKE. Jimp, isn't she?

DON A. Distinctly jimp. Allow me! (*Offers his hand. She turns away mp.scornfully.*) Naughty temper!

DUKE. You must make some allowance. Her Majesty's head is a little turned by her access of dignity.

DON A. I could have wished that Her Majesty's access of dignity had turned it in this direction.

DUCH. Unfortunately, if I am not mistaken, there appears to be some little doubt as to His Majesty's whereabouts.

CAS. (*aside*). A doubt as to his whereabouts? Then we may yet be saved!

DON A. A doubt? Oh dear, no – no doubt at all! He is here, in Venice, plying the modest but Picturesque calling of a gondolier. I can give you his address – I see him every day! In the entire annals of our history there is absolutely no circumstance so entirely free from all manner of doubt of any kind whatever! Listen, and I'll tell you all about it.

B)

CAS . Then do you mean to say that I am married to one of two gondoliers, but it is impossible to say which?

DON A. Without any doubt of any kind whatever. But be reassured: the nurse to whom your husband was entrusted is the mother of the musical young man who is such a past-master of that delicately modulated instrument (*Indicating the drum.*). She can, no doubt, establish the King's identity beyond all question.

LUIZ. Heavens, how did he know that?

DON A. My young friend, a Grand Inquisitor is always up to date. (*To CAS.*) His mother is at present the wife of a highly respectable and old-established brigand, who carries on an extensive practice in the mountains around Cordova. Accompanied by two of my emissaries, he will set off at once for

his mother's address. She will return with them, and if she finds any difficulty in making up her mind, the persuasive influence of the torture chamber will jog her memory.

C)

DON A. And now I have some important news to communicate. His Grace the Duke of Plaza-Toro, Her Grace the Duchess, and their beautiful daughter Casilda – I say their beautiful daughter Casilda –

GIU. We heard you.

DON A. Have arrived at Barataria, and maybe here at any moment.

MAR The Duke and Duchess are nothing to us.

DON A. But the daughter – the beautiful daughter! Aha! Oh, you're a lucky dog one of you!

GIU. I think you're a very incomprehensible old gentleman.

DON A. Not a bit – I'll explain. Many years ago when you (whichever you are) were a baby, you (whichever you are) were married to a little girl who has grown up to be the most beautiful young lady in Spain. That beautiful young lady will be here to claim you (whichever you are) in half an hour, and I congratulate that one (whichever it is) with all my heart.