

Notes .../Prima Donna

Andrew Lloyd Webber

Firmin:

"Mystery after gala night," it says, "mystery of sopranos flight".
"Mystified," all the papers say, "We are mystified. We suspect foul play!"
Bad news on soprano scene
First Carlotta, now Christine
Still at least the seats get sold
Gossips worth its weight in gold
What a way to run a business
Spare me these unending trials
Half your cast disappears
But the crowd still cheers
Opera!
To hell with Gluck and Handel
Have a scandal and you're sure to have a hit!

Andre:

Damnably!
Will they all walk out?
This is damnably!

Firmin:

Andre please don't shout
It's publicity and the take is vast
Free publicity

Andre:

But we have no cast!

Firmin:

Andre have you seen the queue
Ah, it seems you've got one too

Andre:

"Dear Andre what a charming gala
Christine was in a word sublime
We were hardly bereft when Carlotta left
On that note: The diva's a disaster
Must you cast her when she's seasons past her prime?"

Firmin:

"Dear Firmin just a brief reminder
My salary has not been paid
Send it care of the ghost
By return of post
P.T.O No one likes a debtor so it's better if my order are obeyed!"

Andre & Firmin:

Who would have the gall to send this?
Someone with a puerile brain
These are both signed O.G

Andre:

Who the hell is he?

Andre & Firmin:

Opera ghost!

Firmin:
It is nothing short of shocking

Andre:
He is mocking our position

Firmin:
In addition he wants money

Andre:
What a funny apparition

Andre & Firmin:
To expect a large retainer
Nothing plainer
He is clearly quite insane

Raoul:
Where is she?

Andre:
You mean Carlotta?

Raoul:
I mean Miss Daae
Where is she?

Firmin:
Well how should we know?

Raoul:
I want an answer
I take it that you sent me this not

Firmin:
What all this nonsense?

Andre:
Of course not

Firmin:
Don't look at us

Raoul:
She's not with you then?

Firmin:
Of course not

Andre:
We're in the dark

Raoul:
Monsieur don't argue
Isn't this the letter you wrote

Firmin:
And what is that we're meant to have wrote?
...Written!

Andre:
"Do not fear for Miss Daae
The Angel of Music has her under his wing

Make no attempt to see her again"

Raoul:
If you didn't write it then who did?

Carlotta:
Where is he?

Andre:
Ah, welcome back

Carlotta & Piangi:
Your precious patron
Where is he?

Raoul:
What is it now?

Carlotta:
I have your letter
A letter that which I rather resent

Firmin:
And did you send it?

Raoul:
Of course not!

Andre:
As if he would

Carlotta & Piangi:
You didn't send it?

Raoul:
Of course not!

Firmin:
What going on?

Carlotta:
You dare to tell me
That this is not the letter you sent

Raoul:
And what is it that I'm meant to of sent?
"Your days at the Opera Populaire are numbered
Christine Daae will be singing on your behalf tonight
Be prepared for a great misfortune should attempt you to take her place"

Andre & Firmin:
Far too many notes for my taste
And most of them about Christine
All we've heard since we came
Is Miss Daae's name

Madame Girya:
Miss Daae has returned

Firmin:
I hope no worse for wear as far as we're concerned

Andre:

Where precisely is she now?

Madame Giry:
I thought it best she was alone

Meg:
She needed rest

Raoul:
May I see her?

Madame Giry:
No monsieur she will see no one

Carlotta & Piangi:
Will she sing?
Will she sing?

Madame Giry:
Here I have a note

All (except Madame Giry and Meg):
Let me see it

Firmin:
Please
"Gentlemen, I have now sent you several notes of the most aimnable nature de tailing how my theater is to be run
You have ignored my orders...

Phantom:
...I shall give you one last chance
Christine Daae has returned to you
And I am anxious her career should progress
In the new production of Il Muto
You will therefore cast Carlotta as the page boy
And put Miss Daae in the role of Countess
The role which Miss Daae plays calls for charm and appeal
The role of the page boy is silent which makes my casting in a word, ideal
I shall watch the performance from my normal seat in box 5 which will be kept empty for me
Should these commands be ignored a disaster beyond your imagination will occur
I remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant
O.G

Carlotta & Piangi:
Christine!

Andre:
What ever next?

Carlotta & Piangi:
It's all a ploy to help Christine

Firmin:
This is insane

Carlotta:
I know who sent this
The Viscount, her lover

Raoul:

Indeed, can you believe this?

Firmin:
Signora

Carlotta:
O tradori!

Andre:
This is a joke

Firmin:
This changes nothing

Carlotta:
O mentitori

Firmin:
Signora!

Andre:
You are our star

Firmin:
And always will be

Andre:
Signora

Firmin:
The man is mad

Andre:
We don't take orders

Firmin:
Miss Daae will be playing the page boy
The silent role

Andre & Firmin:
Carlotta will be playing the lead

Carlotta:
It's useless trying to appease me

Piangi:
Appease her!

Carlotta:
You're only saying this to please me

Piangi:
Please her!

Charlotta & Piangi:
Lasciatemi morire!
O padre mio!
Dio!

Madame Girya:
Who scorn his word beware to those

Carlotta:

You have reviled me!

Madame Giry:
The angle sees, the angel knows

Carlotta:
You have rebuked me!

Andre & Firmin:
Signora, pardon us

Carlotta:
You have replaced me

Andre & Firmin:
Please signora we beseech you

Madame Giry:
This hour shall see your darkest fears

Raoul:
I must see her

Carlotta & Piangi:
Abbandonata!
Deseredata!
O, sventurata!

Madame Giry:
The angel sees, the angle hears

Raoul:
Where did she go?

Carlotta & Piangi:
Abbandonata!

Andre & Firmin:
Senora sing for us

Carlotta & Piangi:
Disgraziata!

Andre & Firmin:
Don't be a martyr

Madame Giry, Meg, Raoul:
What new surprises lie in store!?

Admirer:
Could you please give this to Miss Daae?
Miss Daae!

Firmin:
Your public needs you

Andre:
We need you too

Carlotta:
Would you not rather have your precious little ingenue?

Andre & Firmin:

Signora no! The World wants you
Prima Donna first lady of the stage
Your devotees are on their knees to implore you

Andre:
Can you bow out when they're shouting your name?

Firmin:
Think of how they all adore you

Andre & Firmin:
Prima donna enchant us once again

Andre:
Think of your muse

Firmin:
And all your queues 'round the theatre!

Andre & Firmin:
Can you deny us the triumph in store?

Andre, Firmin & Piangi:
Sing Prima Donna once more

Raoul:
Christine spoke of an angel

Carlotta:
Prima Donna your song shall live again

Andre & Firmin:
Think of your public

Carlotta:
You took a snub but there's a public who needs you

Madame Giry:
She has heard the voice of the Angel of Music

Andre & Firmin:
Those who hear you liken you to an angel

Carlotta:
Think of the cry of undying support

Andre:
We get her Opera

Firmin:
She gets her limelight

Carlotta:
Follow where the lime light leads you

Andre & Firmin:
Leading ladies are a trial

Carlotta:
Prima Donna your song shall never die
You'll sing again and to unending ovation

Raoul:

Order, warnings lunatic demands!

Andre & Firmin:
Lunatic demands are regular occurrences

Carlotta:
Think how you'll sing in that final encore

Andre & Firmin:
Sing Prima Donna once more

Raoul:
I must see these demands are rejected

Andre & Firmin:
Who'd believe a diva happy to relieve
A chorus girl whose gone and slept with the patron?
Raoul and the soubrette, entwined in love's duet!
Although he may demur, he must have been with her!

Carlotta:
Fortunata!
Non ancor abbandonata!

Andre & Firmin:
You'd never get away with all this in a play,
but if it's loudly sung and in a foreign tongue
It's just the sort of story audiences adore, in fact a perfect opera!

Meg & Christine:
For if his curse is on this Opera

All:
Prima Donna the world is at your feet
A nation waits, and how it hates to be cheated!
Light up the stage with that age old raport
Sing Prima Donna
Once more!