

AUDITION DIALOGUE: ELSA AND MAX

Max: I'm sorry I took so long.

Captain: Any luck?

Max: How would you like this for the Kaltzberg Festival—the finest choral group in Austria, the greatest mixed quartet in all Europe—and the best soprano in the world?

Elsa: Max, that's something I'd love to hear!

Max: So would I. All I've got up to now is a basso who isn't even profundo.

Elsa: Max, you always come up with a good Festival Concert.

Max: And why? Because my motto is: "Never start out looking for the people you wind up getting." That's why I've been telephoning Paris, Rome, Stockholm, London-

Elsa: On Georg's telephone?

Max: How else could I afford it? Why am I up here?

Captain: I hoped it was because you liked me.

Max: Of course I like you. Why shouldn't I like you? You live like a king/ You have an excellent wine cellar-

Elsa: Max!

Max: I like rich people. I like the way they live. I like the way I live when I'm with them.

Captain: that's our Abbey—Nonnberg Abbey.

Max: Do they have a choir?

Captain: A beautiful one.

Max: Good! In the next few days I have to visit all these towns around here and listen to saengerbunds, choirs, quartets—

Captain: You'll be here for meals, won't you?

Max: Oh, yes! It was in a town just about that size—Watzmann—Where I discovered the St. Ignatius Boys Choir. In the 1930 they won the Festival, became very famous, toured all over the world.

Elsa: Oh, yes—whatever became of them?

Max: By the time their voices changed they were rich enough to live in America. Who lives in that dilapidated castle down there? Dracula?

Captain: Baron Elberfeld. The oldest family in the valley.

Elsa: I'd like to meet him. I'd like to meet all your friends. Georg, why don't you give a dinner for me while I'm here? Nothing very much just something lavish.