

Hérode, ne me refuse pas

from the opera "Hérodiade"

Scene: Jerusalem about the 1st Century—Palace of Herod

In the first act Herodiade has hastened to her husband, Herod, demanding the head of the prophet, John the Baptist, who has publicly denounced her for her immoral life. When the King refuses Herodiade is beside herself, seeing in this refusal the waning of her influence with Herod. This aria is her impassioned plea, calling upon past memories of their once intense love.

Hérode! Hérode! ne me refuse pas!
 Hérode . . . Rappelle toi! Ne me refuse pas!
 Toi, mon seul bien! . . . Pour qui j'ai tout
 quitté,
 Mon pays et ma fille,
 N'est tu pas mon soutien, et ma seule famille
 Ne me refuse pas! Rapelle toi!
 Rappelle toi le Tibre avec ses bords ombreux,
 Nous vivions sans compter les heures fugitives
 Nos timides baisers étaient nos seuls aveux;
 Nous n'avions pour temoins que les vagues
 plaintives!
 Le soir, sous les grands pins
 Nos serments répétés éveillaient des échos in-
 connus à la terre
 Et l'astre de la nuit, dans ses molles clartés,
 Enveloppait nos coeurs d'amour . . . et de
 mystère!

*Herod! Herod! Do not refuse me!
 Herod . . . think of the past! Do not refuse me!
 You, my only possession! . . . For whom I
 abandoned everything,
 My country and my daughter,
 Aren't you my support and my only family?
 Do not refuse me! Remember!
 Remember the Tiber with its shadowy banks—
 We lived, not counting the furtive hours,
 Our timid kisses were our sole vows;
 We had for witness only the plaintive waves!*

*In the evening, under tall pines,
 Our repeated oaths used to produce echoes
 unknown to the earth,
 And the star of the night, in its soft light,
 Enveloped our hearts in love . . . and mystery!*

English translation by WALDO LYMAN



Text by P. MILLIET & H. GREMONT

JULES MASSENET
 (1842-1912)

suppliante

Allegro

Voice

Meno *f* *p* *mosso*

Hé - ro - de! Hé - ro - de! ne me re - fu - se

PIANO

ff *p*

più dolce e rall. *rall.*

pas! Ne me re - fu - se pas!... Hé - ro - de... Rappelle -

dim. *suivés*