

Certain rat, dans une cuisine

from "The Damnation of Faust"

Certain rat dans une cuisine
Établi comme un vrai frater
S'y traitait si bien, que sa mine
Eut fait envie au gros Luther.
Mais un beau jour le pauvre diable
Empoisonné, sauta dehors
Aussi triste, aussi misérable
Que s'il eut eu l'amour au corps!
Il courait devant et derrière,
Et grattait, reniflait, mordait,
Parcourait la maison entière.
La rage à ses maux ajoutait
Au point qu'à l'aspect du délire
Qui consumait ses vains efforts
Les mauvais plaisants pouvaient dire
Ce rat a bien l'amour au corps.
Dans le fourneau le pauvre sire
Crut pourtant se cacher très bien
Mais il se trompait et le pire
C'est qu'on l'y fit rôtir enfin.
La servante méchante fille
De son malheur rit bien allors.
Ah! disait-elle, comme il grille!
Il a vraiment l'amour au corps!

*A certain rat in a kitchen
Settled down as a sexton
And felt there so good that his face
Could be envied by the fat Luther.
But one day the poor devil
Jumped out, poisoned,
Looking as sad and miserable
As if he were in love!
He was running back and forth,
And scratched and snarled and bit,
Scurrying all over the house.
Rage added to his pain
So that at the sight of the madness
Which exhausted his vain efforts,
The ones with poor sense of humor could say
This rat, by Jove, is in love!
It was in the oven that the poor chap
Thought of finding a safe shelter,
But he was wrong, and what is worse
Is that he was roasted there.
The mean servant girl
Laughed heartily at his ill luck.
Ah, she exclaimed, how he broils!
He must really be in love!*

English translation by WALDO LYMAN

HECTOR BERLIOZ
(1803-1869)

Allegro

Voice

Cer - tain

PIANO

ff

p

rat dans u - ne cui - sine é - ta - bli comme un