

The Richness of Rossini: Musical Examples Class No. 4, Oct. 11, 2018
Examples are from YouTube unless otherwise noted

1.	Rossini: <i>Otello</i> (1816)	Trio	Cecilia Bartoli as Desdemona John Osborne as Otello Javier Camarena as Rodrigo Zurich Opera
2.	Cinderella (1950)	Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Boo	Walt Disney film
3.	<i>La Cenerentola</i> (Cinderella) 1817 Video Excerpts Deutsche Grammophon DVD B0005769-09	Frederica von Stade as Cinderella Francisco Araiza as Prince Ramiro Claudio Desderi as Dandini Paolo Montarsolo as Don Magnifico Margherita Guglielmi as Clorinda Laura Zannini as Tisbe Paul Plishka as Alidoro	Claudio Abbado, cond. Jean-Pierre Ponnelle, dir. Teatro alla Scala 1981
4.	<i>The Barber of Seville</i> (1817)	Count's Final Aria: Cessa di più resistere (Cease your resistance)	Juan Diego Flores as Count Almaviva
5.	<i>La Gazza Ladra</i> (<i>The Thieving Magpie</i>) (1817)	Overture	Vienna Philharmonic Claudio Abbado, conductor 1991
6.	<i>La Gazza Ladra</i> (<i>The Thieving Magpie</i>) (1817) Video Excerpts Kultur DVD D0051	Ileana Cotrubas as Ninetta David Kuebler as Giannetto Alberto Rinaldi as the Podestà (Mayor) Elena Zilio as Pippo Nucci Condò as Lucia Brent Ellis as Fernando Carlos Feller as Fabrizio Erlingur Vigfusson as Isacco Eberhard Katz as Antonio Klaus Bruch as Giorgio	Bruno Bartoletti, conductor Michael Hampe, director Cologne Opera

La Cenerentola (Cinderella) Synopsis

Angelina (Cenerentola), Cinderella
Prince Ramiro (disguised as his valet)
Dandini, valet to the Prince (disguised as his master)
Don Magnifico, Cenerentola's stepfather
Alidoro, philosopher and the Prince's former tutor
Clorinda, Don Magnifico's elder daughter
Tisbe, Don Magnifico's younger daughter

Act I – Scene One (Don Magnifico's castle)

Tisbe and Clorinda, the daughters of Don Magnifico, are adorning themselves extravagantly, and indulging in ecstasies of self-admiration. Cenerentola, their stepsister, sings resignedly to herself as she does the housework. There is a knock at the door and Alidoro appears. He is in fact a philosopher and the Prince's tutor, but at the moment he is disguised as a beggar, the better to observe human behavior and to ascertain if any young girl in the region is a suitable wife for the Prince. When he asks for charity, the sisters order him out, but Cenerentola secretly gives him coffee and bread. Then a number of the Prince's retinue announce that the Prince himself will shortly arrive and invite Don Magnifico and his daughters to a ball at which he will choose his future wife. While the stepsisters order Cenerentola to make preparations, Don Magnifico enters in a dressing gown and night cap and relates a dream he has just had of a donkey which sprouted wings and flew up to the top of a church tower. He at once interprets it: the donkey is himself, the wings are his two daughters, the church means a marriage and the flight to the top of the tower means a rise in the social scale.

Prince Ramiro appears disguised as his own valet, Dandini. He has come on Alidoro's advice, to search for a bride who is honest and kind. The first person he sees is Cenerentola, and their attraction to each other is instantaneous. Ramiro asks who she is, but in her agitation she can give only a confused account of herself. Cenerentola is once more called away by the stepsisters and the Baron reappears in gala clothes and is warned by the supposed valet of his master's approach. Dandini, dressed as the Prince, now enters with the royal suite. He is received with extreme obsequiousness by Don Magnifico and his two daughters, whom he delights by his pretended attentions. He invites them to accompany him to his coach to the ball and they are on the point of starting when Cenerentola intervenes and begs to be allowed to go too. Her stepfather brutally refuses, explaining to the supposed Prince she is a creature of the lowest birth. Just then Alidoro reappears, no longer as a beggar and declares that, according to the parish register, the Baron has three daughters. Where, he asks, is the third one? Don Magnifico, in some embarrassment, explains that she is dead and silences Cenerentola's protests with threats. Thereupon they all go out, leaving Cenerentola by herself. But a moment later Alidoro returns and tells her that she shall go to the ball after all; he has provided a coach and the richest clothes and jewels. With the reflection that all the world's a stage, he leads her off to the coach.

Act I – Scene II (Prince Ramiro's palace)

Ramiro and Dandini enter with the Baron and his two daughters. Dandini, still in his role of prince, appoints the Baron as Royal Butler and decorates him with the chain of office. The Baron goes off to inspect the cellars. Ramiro instructs Dandini to test the characters of the two ladies and report to him later. Dandini, left alone with them, does his best to pay equal court to each, and then, overwhelmed by their attention, makes his escape.

Don Magnifico celebrates his appointment as Royal Butler by a ritual tasting of the Prince's wines. He dictates a proclamation to be posted all over the city, forbidding the addition of water to wine for the next 15 years, under pain of death. Overcome by the exercise of his duties, he is carried away by the attendants. Dandini rejoins the Prince and describes the sisters' vanity and insolence. They presently return, and Dandini, explaining that he can marry only one of them, suggests that the other shall marry his valet. They both indignantly refuse to consider such a plebeian union. Alidoro now approaches and announces the arrival of an unknown and masked lady.

The stepsisters show signs of jealousy, which increases at the entrance of the newcomer. She is last persuaded to remove her veil and everyone is amazed by her beauty. The sisters are struck by her resemblance to Cenerentola. The whole company adjourns to supper amid great agitation over the mysterious new arrival.

Act II – Scene I (Prince Ramiro's palace)

Ramiro suspects that Dandini has also fallen in love with the mysterious lady and conceals himself as they approach. Dandini in fact begins to make love to her, but she rejects his advances and declares that she herself is in love with someone else — with his valet. Ramiro confesses his love, but the lady announces that before she can be betrothed Ramiro must discover who she really is. She gives him one of a pair of bracelets, tells him that she will always wear the other so that he can recognize her by it when he finds her, and departs.

Ramiro decides to end his masquerade and resume the attributes of royalty. He decides, too, to follow the unknown lady to the ends of the earth, and goes in pursuit of her. Alidoro, who has been secretly watching events, determines to arrange that the Prince's coach shall be upset when he is in the neighborhood of the Baron's castle. Dandini is now joined by the Baron and, under an oath of secrecy, admits that he is not really the Prince. The Baron's indignation knows no bounds.

Act II – Scene II (Don Magnifico's castle)

Cenerentola is once more singing to herself by the fire. Her stepsisters back from the ball, are again struck by her resemblance to the unknown lady. The Baron is raging against the valet, when Dandini rushes in, followed quickly by Ramiro, who is now revealed to everyone as the true Prince. He recognizes the bracelet on Cenerentola's arm, and to the surprise and anger of the Baron and his daughters, pronounces her his chosen bride.

Act II – Scene III (The grand salon in Prince Ramiro's palace)

Cenerentola, now Ramiro's bride, proclaims to her stepfather the Baron and his daughters that her revenge for their cruelty is forgiveness

La Gazza Ladra (The Thieving Magpie) Synopsis

<i>Ninetta, Fabrizio's servant, in love with Giannetto</i>
Fabrizio Vingradito, a rich farmer
<i>Lucia, his wife</i>
<i>Giannetto, his son, a soldier, in love with Ninetta</i>
<i>Fernando Villabella, Ninetta's father, a soldier</i>
Gottardo the Podestà, village mayor
<i>Pippo, a young peasant, employed by Fabrizio</i>
<i>Giorgio, servant to the mayor</i>
Isacco, a peddler
Antonio, the jailer
<i>Ernesto, a soldier, friend of Fernando</i>

Act 1: At the house of Fabrizio Vingradito and his wife Lucia there is joy for the imminent return of their son Giannetto from the war. One of the servants, Ninetta, is in love with Giannetto and all want the two to marry, except Lucia, who blames Ninetta for the recent loss of a silver fork. Isacco, a local peddler, visits and asks about Ninetta, but Pippo, Fabrizio's manservant, sends him away. Giannetto arrives and goes inside with Lucia while Ninetta prepares for the welcome-home party. Once they have gone, Ninetta's father, Fernando Villabella, arrives, also from the war. However, he was sentenced to death after fighting with his captain and is now a deserter. He asks his daughter to sell two pieces of their family silver to go towards his expenses while he is on the run. The Mayor arrives with intent of seducing Ninetta, and she claims that her father is just some vagrant. The Mayor's assistant delivers the arrest warrant for a deserter (Fernando), but as the Mayor has forgotten his reading glasses, Ninetta is asked to read the warrant, and makes up a description of someone totally unlike her father. The Mayor continues to force his attentions on Ninetta, at which Fernando almost reveals his true identity in his anger. The three leave, and a magpie flies down and steals one of Lucia's silver spoons.

The peddler Isacco passes by again, and Ninetta sells him the silver her father had entrusted to her. Giannetto and others return, and Lucia notices that one of her spoons is missing. The Mayor starts an immediate investigation, stating the draconian penalty for domestic theft: death. Lucia and the Mayor accuse Ninetta, who in her distress drops the money she had received from Isacco. The peddler is brought back and reports that he has already resold the spoon he bought from Ninetta, but he recalls the inscription "F.V.," which by unfortunate coincidence are initials shared by Fabrizio Villabella, Ninetta's father, and by Fernando Vingradito, her employer. The stunned Ninetta, desperate to protect her father, is unable to refute the accusations that she stole the spoon, and the Mayor orders her arrest.

Act 2: Antonio, the prison warder, takes pity on Ninetta and says that he will get a message to Pippo and let her beloved Giannetto visit her. Ninetta convinces Giannetto that she is innocent. The Mayor now arrives and tells Ninetta that if she accepts his lustful advances he will get her freed. She replies that she would rather die. The Mayor is called away, but the jailor Antonio has overheard all and offers to help Ninetta any way he can. Ninetta asks Pippo to sell a gold cross and put some money for her father in an agreed hiding place – a chestnut tree. Ninetta is brought to trial, found guilty, and condemned to death. Fernando rushes to the court to save his daughter's life, but is too late; he too is sent to prison.

Ernesto, a military friend of Fernando, bursts in looking for the Mayor and holding a royal pardon for Ninetta's father. Pippo shows him the way and is given a silver coin for helping, but a magpie snatches it and flies up to the tower. Pippo and Antonio pursue the thief.

Ninetta is taken to the scaffold and makes her final speech to the crowd. From the tower, Pippo and Antonio cry out that they have found Lucia's missing silver in the magpie's nest and they ring the bells. The crowd hear their words and hope to save Ninetta, but shots ring out and they conclude that they are too late. However, Ninetta appears walking down the hill – the shots were mere rejoicing. Ninetta celebrates with her companions but is worried about her father. He then appears with Ernesto and all – except the Mayor – enjoy a happy ending.