

The Richness of Rossini: Musical Examples Class No. 7, Nov. 1, 2018
Examples are from YouTube unless otherwise noted

<p>1.</p>	<p>Rossini: <i>Il Viaggio a Reims</i> <i>(The Journey to Reims)</i></p> <p><i>Video Excerpts</i></p> <p><i>Arthaus Musik DVD 107 134</i></p>	<p>Corinna – Elena de la Merced Marchesa Melibea – Paula Rasmusse Contessa di Folleville – Mariola Cantarero Madama Cortese – Maria Bayo Cavaliere Belfiore – Josep Bros Conte di Liberskof – Kenneth Tarver Lord Sidney – Simon Orfila Don Profondo – Nicola Ulivieri Barone di Trombonok – Enzo Dara Don Alvaro – Angel Odena Don Prudenzió – Stephen Morscheck Don Luigino – Josep Ruiz Della – Claudia Schneider Maddalena – Mirela Pintó Modestina – Mercè Obiol Zefirino – David Alegret Antonio – Alex Sanmarti Gelsomino – Jordi Casanova</p>	<p>Symphony Orchestra and Chorus of the Gran Teatre del Liceu (Barcelona) Jesús López-Cobos Stage Director – Sergei Belbel; Video director – Roni Bargalló 2003</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Rossini: <i>Le Comte Ory</i> <i>(Count Ory)</i></p> <p><i>Video Excerpts</i></p> <p><i>Kultur DVD D2983</i></p>	<p>Le Comte Ory - Marc Laho Raimbaud - Ludivoc Tézier Adèle - Annick Massis Ragonde - Jane Shaulis Tutor - Julien Robbins Isolier - Diana Montague</p>	<p>Andrew Davis, conductor Jérôme Savary, director Glyndebourne Festival 1997</p>

Il viaggio a Reims – Synopsis

Madame Cortese, <i>Tyrolean hostess of the spa hotel Il Giglio d'Oro (The Gilded Lily)</i>	<u>soprano</u>
Contessa di Folleville, <i>a fashionable young widow</i>	<u>soprano</u>
Corinna, <i>a famous Roman poetess</i>	<u>soprano</u>
Marchesa Melibea, <i>the Polish widow of an Italian general killed on their wedding night</i>	<u>contralto</u>
Conte di Libenskof, <i>Russian general in love with Marchesa Melibea</i>	<u>tenor</u>
Chevalier Belfiore, <i>handsome young French officer and spare-time painter</i>	<u>tenor</u>
Lord Sidney, <i>English colonel secretly in love with Corinna</i>	<u>bass</u>
Don Alvaro, <i>Spanish admiral in love with Marchesa Melibea</i>	<u>bass</u>
Barone di Trombonok, <i>German major and music lover</i>	<u>bass</u>
Don Profondo, <i>scholar and lover of antiquities, friend of Corinna</i>	<u>bass</u>
Don Prudenziò, <i>doctor at the spa</i>	<u>bass</u>
Modestina, <i>the Contessa di Folleville's chamber maid</i>	<u>mezzo-soprano</u>
Don Luigino, <i>cousin of the Contessa di Folleville</i>	<u>tenor</u>
Maddalena, <i>hotel housekeeper from Normandy</i>	<u>mezzo-soprano</u>
Antonio, <i>màître d'hotel</i>	<u>baritone</u>
Zefirino, <i>courier</i>	<u>tenor</u>
Gelsomino, <i>valet</i>	<u>tenor</u>
Delia, <i>young Greek girl who is Corinna's travelling companion</i>	<u>soprano</u>

A group of European aristocrats is planning to go to Reims for the coronation of Charles X (King of France from 1824 to 1830). They are awaiting their departure at the *Giglio d'oro* (The Inn of the Gilded Lily). Madama Cortese, the director of the *Giglio d'oro*, anxious that her guests have a good time, instructs her crew (including Maddalena, Antonio and Prudenziò, a buffoonish doctor) to treat them with great consideration. The first guest to appear is a fashion-crazed Parisian, Contessa di Folleville, followed by her migraine-ridden maid Modestina and, shortly after, by the Contessa's cousin Luigino, who arrives with bad news: her luggage has been irreparably lost in an accident. At the prospect of having nothing to wear to the coronation, the Contessa di Folleville first faints, then recovers her senses and bitterly laments her loss. But her maid Modestina, much to the amusement of the onlookers, cheers her up again by miraculously producing a hat which survived the mishap.

The German music lover Barone di Trombonok, who has witnessed the incident, is soon joined by Don Profondo, a fanatical antiquarian and by Don Alvaro, a Spaniard, and his travel companion, the Polish Marchese Melibea. Closely following them in blind jealousy of Melibea is the Russian Count Libenskof. When Madama Cortese enters to explain why their departure has been delayed, the two rivals are about to fight. Disaster is avoided only by the intervention of the famous Italian soprano Corinna who is heard singing outside: her ode to peace and fraternal love momentarily leads everyone to reconcile. Another guest makes his appearance: Lord Sidney who tormented by his undeclared love for Corinna offers her flowers. He soon abandons himself to dreams of eternal love. Corinna enters with her orphan protégée Delia; they are greeted by Don Profondo. Left alone, Corinna must suffer the impertinent advances of the Cavaliere Belfiore, a French womanizer and Folleville's lover. She rejects him in disdain. Don Profondo re-enters in order to make a list of all the travelers' possessions. He eventually rejoices at the prospect of the pending departure.

The guests progressively gather, expecting to leave, when Zefirino, another employee of the *Giglio d'oro*, informs them that their trip has to be cancelled: there is a technical problem and absolutely no means of transportation could

be found to take them to Reims. The company reels with horror. But Madama Cortese appears with a letter from her husband in Paris, announcing that sumptuous festivities will be held there after the king returns from the coronation. The Contessa di Folleville invites them all to Paris, offering to accommodate them for the occasion, and all rejoice in this unexpected twist of fate.

The next morning, all agree to have a banquet at the *Giglio d'oro* while they are waiting. At Baron Trombonok's urging, the only remaining issue – the lovers' quarrel between Libenskof and Melibea – is resolved. Libenskof begs for her forgiveness, she yields to his tenderness, and they make peace in an ardent duet. After dinner, the Baron proposes a round of musical toasts. After delivering songs in their respective national styles, the guests all ask Corinna to sing, each suggesting a theme on which she should improvise. Unsurprisingly, the one that is chosen is "Charles X, King of France." Corinna starts singing, joined by everyone in a solemn finale.

Le Comte Ory: Synopsis

Count Ory, in love with Countess Adèle
Ory's Tutor
Isolier, Ory's Page, also in love with Adèle (trouser role)
Raimbaud, Ory's friend
La Comtesse Adèle
Ragonde, Adèle's stewardess
Alice, a country girl

Gioachino Rossini's humorous 2 act opera, *Le Comte Ory*, premiered on August 20, 1828, at Salle Le Peletier, home of the Paris Opera in Paris, France. The story is set in 13th century France during the crusades.

ACT I: Having left for the Holy Land to fight in the Crusades, the Count of Formoutiers and his men have left all their women behind within the castle: Adele, and her companion, Ragonde, and their friends. The young Count Ory, who burns with desire for Adele, decides to capitalize on the situation. Count Ory disguises himself as a hermit, and his friend Raimbaud announces to the ladies that the hermit will give advice on matters of the heart. One by one, the women, who have been alone in the castle while their husbands and lovers are away, visit and receive blessings from the hermit who has taken up residence near the castle gate. The Countess's companion Ragonde arrives and speaks to the hermit. She tells him that the women of the castle have taken vows to live as chaste widows, but Countess Adele remains depressed and melancholy. Before leaving, Ragonde informs the hermit that Adele will come visit him soon to ask his advice, and Count Ory can barely contain his excitement. Moments later, Isolier, Ory's page, arrives with Ory's disapproving tutor. Though Isolier is fooled by Count Ory's disguise, the tutor remains suspicious and leaves to retrieve reinforcements.

While the tutor is away, Isolier confides in the "hermit" (whom he does not recognize as his master) that he is in love with Countess Adele, and Ory can barely conceal his dismay at learning that his page is his rival in love. Isolier details a plan to enter the castle disguised a pilgrim, and the "hermit" agrees to help Isolier. However, Count Ory is determined to steal Isolier's plan and use it as his own.

When Adele seeks advice from the hermit, she is shocked to find out that his prescription for her melancholy is to have an affair. She confesses that she has feelings for the Isolier, but the hermit is quick to warn her to stay away from the young page. After their discussion, Adele invites the hermit back to her castle, thankful for his advice. As they make their way to the castle, the tutor returns with backup and unmask the disguised Count Ory. Adele, Isolier, and the others cannot believe their eyes. News arrives that the soldiers will return home from the Crusade within two days, and Ory begins crafting a plan to siege the castle before they return.

ACT 2: Later that evening, the women in the castle discuss the audacity of Count Ory. As storms rage outside, screams are heard coming from outside the castle walls. Adele and her women see that a group of pilgrim nuns are running towards the castle. They let the nuns inside after they tell them that they are being chased by Ory. However, the nuns are actually Ory and his men, disguised yet again. Ory (as a nun) meets with Adele alone and gives thanks to her while maintaining composure. Before leaving, she orders a meal be prepared for her guests. Meanwhile, Ory's friend Raimbaud happens to find the castle's wine cellar. After pouring copious amounts of wine to his fellow "nuns," they start getting a little rowdy, especially when the Countesses' companion Ragonde passes by.

Isolier now realizes Ory's trickery and reveals Adele the nun is in fact Ory in disguise. Together they craft a plan to trick Ory. News arrives that the men will return from the Crusade that night, earlier than expected. After everyone goes to sleep, Isolier hides in Adele's room and blows out all the candles. In the darkness, Ory, who realizes his chances of bedding the countess are becoming very slim, sneaks into Adele's room hoping to steal a few kisses. Suddenly, trumpets sound, signaling the men's arrival. Just as Ory, fumbling in the dark, is mistakenly making his amorous advances toward his own page, Isolier reveals his identity. Ory, full of fear, can only escape into the night.