



FLORESTAN SAVED BY LEONORA.

Florestan Saved by Leonora

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*P*IZARRO enters the dungeon to stab Florestan.

Pizarro

An avenger now stands before thee!

Florestan

A murderer stands before me!

Pizarro

No more will I withhold my rage. (He tries to stab him).

Leonora (springing forward with a shriek and protecting Florestan with her body)

Back, tyrant!

Would'st thou stab him!

Through this breast to his!

Pizarro (thrusts her away)

Madman!

Leonora (once more shielding her husband)

Kill first his wife!

Pizarro

His wife!

Florestan

My wife!

Leonora (to Florestan)

Yes, your own Leonora! (To the others) I am his wife, and have sworn to save him, and punish his oppressor.

Pizarro

Thou also shalt fall before my rage.

Stand off, or thou shalt share his death!

(Advances, raising the dagger. Leonora draws a small pistol from her bosom and presents it at him.)

Leonora

Another word and thou art dead!

Beethoven's "Fidelio."