

A Night at the Ballet

Stories of Great Ballets
with Late Elementary to Early Intermediate Piano Arrangements

Bernadine Johnson & Margaret Goldston

A Night at the Ballet takes piano students on a fascinating journey into the exciting world of ballet. The book presents stories and music from some of the most beloved ballets in history. Along with late-elementary to early-intermediate piano arrangements of favorite ballet themes, it includes instructions for organizing a ballet-themed recital, information on the basics of ballet, an explanation of ballet terms, highlights of ballet history and more.

Seven timeless ballets are explored. The section on each ballet includes:

- a piano arrangement by Margaret Goldston of music from the ballet
- an easy-to-understand summary of the ballet's story
- interesting background information on the ballet
- a brief biography of the composer
- a fun activity page

Dedication:

*To Carrie—my niece, godchild, student, friend and ballerina.
To Miss Lou—who has passed along the art of ballet to so many dreamers.*

Bernadine Johnson

*To all those who dance, whether it be "en pointe," with
their fingers on the keyboard or in their hearts.*

Margaret Goldston



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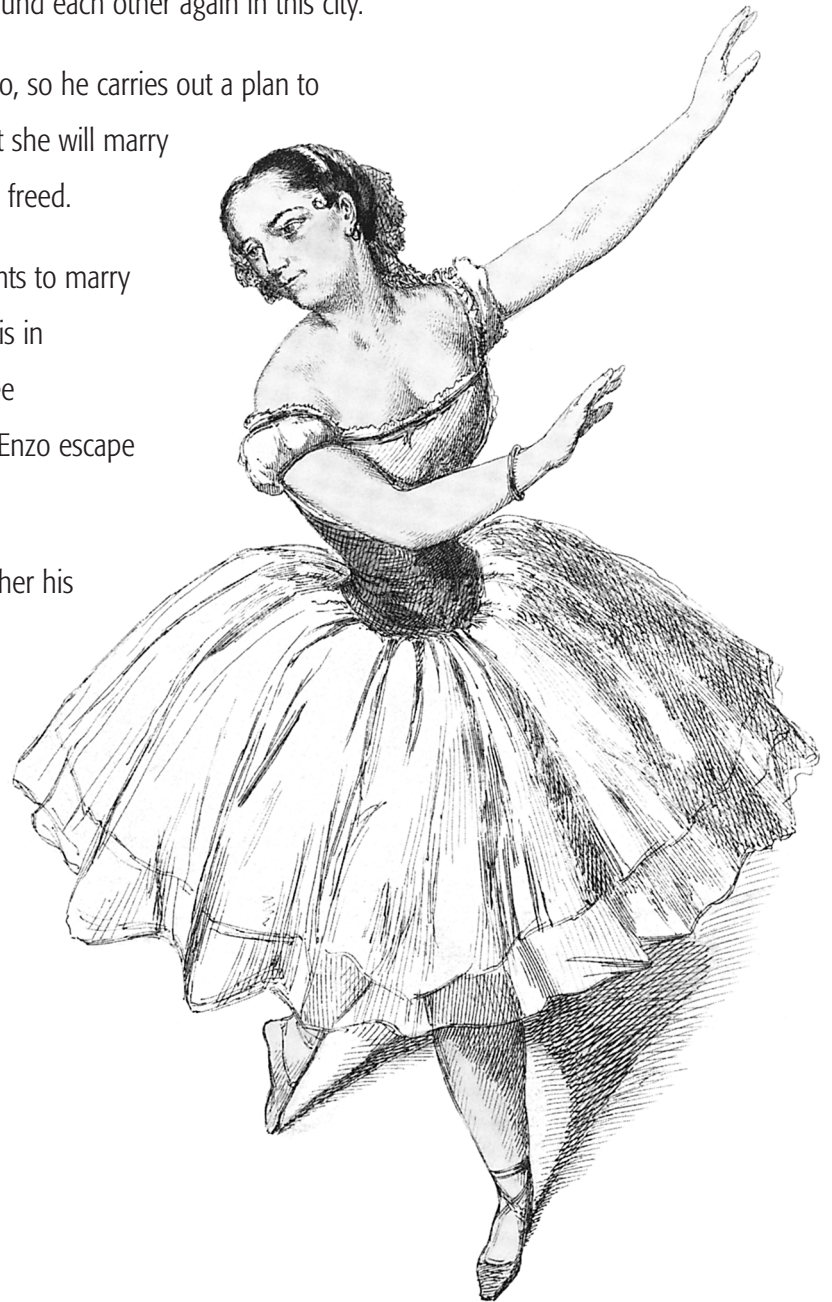
The Story

The story begins on a beautiful spring day in the Italian seaport of Venice. Gioconda and her blind mother are attending the city festival. Gioconda is a good woman who earns money to take care of her beloved mother by singing in the public squares. She is “the ballad¹ singer” (the meaning of the Italian words “la gioconda”). Barnaba, an evil spy, is watching Gioconda. He is in love with her, but she has no interest in him. She is in love with a man named Enzo, a prince disguised as a sea captain. Although Enzo likes Gioconda, he is truly in love with Laura, who is the wife of Alvise, one of the high government officials. At one time, Laura and Enzo were engaged to be married, but were unfortunately separated, and Laura was forced to marry Alvise. Laura and Enzo have found each other again in this city.

Barnaba is jealous and angry because Gioconda loves Enzo, so he carries out a plan to have Enzo put in prison. Gioconda promises Barnaba that she will marry him if only he will free Enzo. Barnaba agrees, and Enzo is freed.

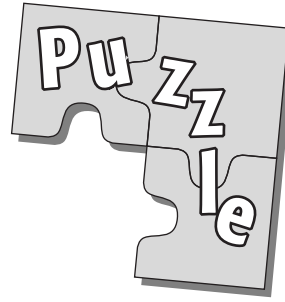
Alvise wants to kill Laura because he finds out she still wants to marry Enzo. Gioconda learns of this and knows that Laura’s life is in danger. Because of her love for Enzo and her desire to see him happy, Gioconda rescues Laura and helps Laura and Enzo escape together on a ship.

With Enzo gone, Barnaba searches for Gioconda to make her his bride. When he comes to her door, she kills herself so she will not have to marry him. With a cry of anger, he rushes away from her lifeless body.



¹ A ballad is a simple, narrative song.

La Gioconda



Using the code at the bottom of the page, fill in the blanks.

La Gioconda means

" 20 8 5 2 1 12 12 1 4 19 9 14 7 5 18 "

It is not actually a ballet, but an 15 16 5 18 1 .

It was composed by

1 13 9 12 3 1 18 5 16 15 14 3 8 9 5 12 12 9 .

In the story, the evil Barnaba loves 7 9 15 3 15 14 4 1 ,

but she loves 5 14 26 15 .

The famous ballet number from this opera is

4 1 14 3 5 15 6 20 8 5 8 15 21 18 19 .

NUMBER CODE:

A1	N14
B2	O15
C3	P16
D4	Q17
E5	R18
F6	S19
G7	T20
H8	U21
I9	V22
J10	W23
K11	X24
L12	Y25
M13	Z26

Dance of the Hours

(from *La Gioconda*)

Amilcare Ponchielli
Arr. Margaret Goldston

Moderato



1 *mp*

3

6

9

12 *mf* to Coda