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# Plaisir d'amour

/plɛzɪr da mur/

The Pleasure of Love

plɛ zɪr da mur nə dy rə kœ mə mɑ

1. **Plaisir d'amour ne dure qu'un moment;**  
Pleasure of-love only lasts but-one moment;

ʃa grɛ da mur dy rə tu tə la vi ə

2. **Chagrin d'amour dure toute la vie.**  
distress of love lasts all-life.

ʒe tu ki te pur lɛ gra tə sil vi ə

3. **J'ai tout quitté pour l'ingrate Silvie:**  
I-have everything left for the-ungrateful Sylvia;

ɛ lə mə ki te prɑ tœ no tra mɑ

4. **Elle me quitte et prend un autre amant.**  
she me leaves and takes an other lover.

5. **Plaisir d'amour ne dure qu'un moment;**

6. **Chagrin d'amour dure toute la vie.**

tɑ kə sɛ to ku lə ra dusəmɑ

7. **Tant que cette eau coulera doucement**  
"As-long as this water will-run gently

vɛr sə rɥiso ki bɔrdə la prɛriə

8. **Vers ce ruisseau qui borde la prairie,**  
toward this brook that lines the meadow

ʒə tɛ mə re mə re pe tɛ sil vi ə

9. **Je t'aimerai, me répétait Silvie.**  
I you-shall-love," to-me repeated Sylvia.

lo ku lɑ kɔr ɛ la ʃɑ ʒe pur tɑ

10. **L'eau coule encor; elle a changé pourtant.**  
The-water runs yet; she has changed, even so.

11. **Plaisir d'amour ne dure qu'un moment;**

12. **Chagrin d'amour dure toute la vie.**

Jean-Pierre Claris de Florian (1755–1794)

/ʒɑ pjɛrə klari də flɔʁjɑ/

Jean Paul Égide Martini (1741–1816)

/ʒ pɔl ɛzidə martiːni/



## Poetic Background

"Love was exciting, but I will never get over my disappointment."

This poem occurs in *Célestine*, a *nouvelle* (long story) set in Spain. The title character, who "at seventeen years was the beauty of Grenada," was a wealthy orphan. Her guardian expected her to marry his son, Enrique, but she was in love with a poor young man, Pedro. They planned to elope, but an emergency prevented Pedro from keeping the rendezvous. When Enrique rode by, Célestine hid from him.

Still in hiding, Célestine heard a sweet but uncultivated voice, singing the words of "*Plaisir d'amour*" to a "rustic air." Hearing about love's bitter disappointment, Célestine cried out, "Who knows it better than I?" The singer was a young goat herder who had left his home village because of a disappointment in love. Célestine bought his spare clothing and set out on a new life, dressed as a boy. After many tribulations Pedro found her, and they married happily.

The poem has two six-line stanzas, rhymed *ABbaAB abbaAB* (upper case letters indicate repeated lines). Each line has ten syllables, with feminine *a* rhymes. Having repeated lines and only two rhyme sounds, the form of the poem resembles a classical French *rondel*, but does not fully conform to its rules.

Title: In *Célestine*, the poem has no title.

Line 1: *ne...que* is an idiom meaning "only."

Line 3: *Silvie*, not *Sylvie*, is the spelling shown in the text and music sources used here. The name *Sylvia* is one that is often used in pastoral poetry.

Lines 7–9: *tant... t'aimerai*: Note that French poetry does not always use quotation marks when they would be required in English.

Line 9: *répétait* was spelled *répétoit* in the sources used here, but in the 1700s the spelling *-oi-* was pronounced /e/.

The text has been verified with an early edition: *Célestine, nouvelle espagnole*, in *Nouvelles*, vol. 5 (Paris: P. Didot aîné, 1792).

A different poem by Florian, "*Ah! s'il est dans votre village*," was formerly popular in a setting by Benjamin Godard, entitled "*Chanson de Florian*" (1871).

# Romance d'Arabelle

Pierre Garat

Edited by John Glenn Paton

(Range: E4–F5)

Charles Hubert Millevoye

1. Le no - ble Ar - thus fut ai - mé d'A - ra - bel - le, qui pour lui

4

seul a - vait con - nu l'a - mour; dis - si - mu - lant sa

8

bles - su - re mor - tel - le, el - le brû - lait sans—

Suggested tempo:  $\text{♩} = 50\text{--}58$ . The tempo may be somewhat free, following the expression of the poem. The composer did not indicate dynamics; they are at the performer's discretion. The pianist may vary the stanzas by sometimes doubling the bass in octaves or by filling in the sparse harmonies.

**M1:** (voice) Sing the appoggiatura and its note as two eighths, slurred.

**M11:** (voice, beat 4) Sing the quarter note and the following grace note as a dotted eighth and a sixteenth, slurred.

*Translation:* 1. Noble Arthur was beloved by Arabelle, who had never loved anyone else. Hiding her deep longing, she burned with