

# FLOWER DUET

From *Lakme*

Leo Delibes

Arranged by Bud Caputo

## INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score	1
Violin I	8
Violin II	8
Viola	5
Cello	5
String Bass	5

The violins carry the duet lines all in 1st position, while the other sections have challenging arpeggios, creating a beautiful string transcription that is very close to the original. Perfect to expand students' understanding of opera!

## PROGRAM NOTES

The "Flower Duet" from *Lakme*, by Clément Philibert Léo Delibes (1836–1891), is one of the most popular prizes in the opera repertoire. The soprano duet takes place in Act 1 of the three-act opera, between characters Lakmé, the daughter of a Brahmin priest, and her servant Mallika, as they go to gather flowers by a river.

## NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

This arrangement is very close to the original, with changes made to the original keys and one remote modulation. The violin sections carry the solo duet soprano lines with all parts remaining in 1st position. The lower strings will find challenging string arpeggios and frequent changes between arco and pizzicato.

Directors will find it helpful to present the original version to students via YouTube when possible. The Joan Sutherland and Marilyn Horne version is listed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9ZfYr6oLh>. I equally enjoyed the Susan Graham and Renée Fleming presentation (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k8wG-vcjvoI>). As a project to enhance the curriculum, students could be assigned a short essay that would "compare and contrast" both YouTube versions and state their preference for one or the other. Students will gain a greater understanding and appreciation for the art form of opera. Listening to the original will also provide the conductor with a reference to the rubato flavor that is inherent in this operatic style, and prepare for the new tempo in measure 32 for the "B" section of the duet.



# Flower Duet

From *Lakme*

CONDUCTOR SCORE

Duration - 3:45

Leo Delibes

Arranged by Bud Caputo

Flowing (♩ = 120)

**Violins**

I *pizz.* *mf*

II *pizz.* *mf*

**Viola**

*f*

**Cello**

*f*

**String Bass**

*pizz.* *mf*

1 2 3

**Vlins.**

I *arco* *p*

II *arco* *p*

**Vla.**

*p*

**Cello**

*p* *arco*

**Str. Bass**

*p*

4 5 6 7

**Vlns.**  
I  
II

**Vla.**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

8 9 10

This block contains the first system of a musical score, covering measures 8, 9, and 10. It features four staves: Violins I and II, Viola, and Cello/Double Bass. The Violin parts are in treble clef with a 7/8 time signature, playing a rhythmic eighth-note pattern. The Viola and Cello parts are in bass clef, with the Cello part featuring a prominent eighth-note line. The Double Bass part is also in bass clef, providing a steady accompaniment. A large red watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

**Vlns.**  
I  
II

**Vla.**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

11 12 13

This block contains the second system of the musical score, covering measures 11, 12, and 13. The instrumentation remains the same as in the first system. The Violin parts continue their rhythmic pattern, while the Viola and Cello parts show some melodic variation. The Double Bass part maintains its accompaniment. A large red watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

14

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

*mf* *p* *mf*

*mf* *p* *mf*

*mf* *p* *mf*

*mf* *p* *mf*

*mf* *p* *mf*

14 15 16

18

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

*f* *f* *div.*

*f* *f* *div.*

*f* *f* *div.*

*f* *f* *div.*

*f* *f* *div.*

17 18 19

**Vlns. I**  
*p* *f*

**Vlns. II**  
*p* *f*

**Vla.**  
*p* *f*

**Cello**  
*p* *f*

**Str. Bass**  
*p* *f*

20 21 22

**Vlns. I**  
*p* *rit.*

**Vlns. II**  
*p*

**Vla.**  
*mf*

**Cello**  
*mf*

**Str. Bass**  
*p*

23 24 25



32 Slightly Faster (♩ = 160)

Vlns. I *mf*

Vlns. II *mp*

Vla. *mp* arco

Cello *mp* arco

Str. Bass *mp*

32 33 34

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

35 36 37

**Vlns. I**

**Vlns. II**

**Vla.**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

*rit.*

*A tempo*

38 39 40

**Vlns. I**

**Vlns. II**

**Vla.**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

41 42 43



I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

44 45

This block contains the musical notation for measures 44 and 45. It includes five staves: Violins I, Violins II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The music is in a key with one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

46 47

This block contains the musical notation for measures 46 and 47. It includes five staves: Violins I, Violins II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The music continues in the same key and time signature as the previous block. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

48

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

48 49

*rit.*

*D.S. al Fine*

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

50 51 52