

# 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 system contains measures 8, 9, and 10. It features four staves: Violins I and II, Viola, and Cello/Double Bass. The Violin parts play a rhythmic eighth-note pattern. The Viola and Cello parts have more melodic lines with some rests. The Double Bass part provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. A large red watermark is overlaid across the page.

**Vlns.**  
I  
II

**Vla.**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

11 12 13

This system contains measures 11, 12, and 13. The instrumentation remains the same. The Violin parts continue with their rhythmic pattern. The Viola part has a melodic line with some rests. The Cello part has a melodic line with some rests. The Double Bass part has a simple harmonic accompaniment. A large red watermark is overlaid 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

26 A tempo

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

*p*

26 27 28

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 26, 27, and 28. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The tempo is marked 'A tempo'. The key signature has one sharp (F#). Measures 26 and 27 begin with a dynamic marking of *p*. The Viola, Cello, and String Bass parts include accents (>) and breath marks (V) above notes. The score concludes with a double bar line at the end of measure 28.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

*pizz.*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*Fine*

29 30 31

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 29, 30, and 31. It features the same five staves as the previous block. Measures 29 and 30 begin with a dynamic marking of *f*. The Viola, Cello, and String Bass parts include pizzicato markings (*pizz.*) above notes. The score concludes with a double bar line at the end of measure 31, marked 'Fine'.

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



**Vlns.**  
I  
II

**Vla.**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

44 45

**Vlns.**  
I  
II

**Vla.**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

46 47

48

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

48 49

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

rit.

D.S. al Fine

50 51 52