

ACT I

OVERTURE - "JOIE DE VIVRE" [SOUNDTRACK T1]

MEASURES 1-18

The overture ("Joie de Vivre") was composed for the unfolding of Scene 1 and Scene 2. Stage directions should be followed closely for these two scenes in particular.

(CURTAIN UP)

SCENE 1

MEASURES 19-40

ROYAN, FRANCE, ON THE ATLANTIC COAST, WATERFRONT (INCLUDES A CAFE FRONT, "CAFE DE ROYAN") - JUNE 1940, EVENING, AT DUSK.

PHILIPPE (a 15 year-old French boy, wearing a beret and carrying a duffle bag) and MICHAEL (a 17 year-old young man from Chicago, carrying a suitcase) walk, then stop to look around.

TOWNSPEOPLE carry on their daily activities, chat, read the paper, get ready to go home.

MEASURES 41-54

KNICK-KNACK VENDOR walks around with a basket full of knick-knacks.

PHILIPPE takes a look at the knick-knacks and buys a harmonica. He puts the harmonica into his pocket.

MEASURES 54-76

TOWNSPEOPLE leave.

FISHMONGERS fold their fishing
nets.

MEASURES 76-84

PHILIPPE and MICHAEL hug and say
goodbye to each other.

MICHAEL walks toward the ocean to
board a ship.

PHILIPPE looks at MICHAEL.

PHILIPPE and MICHAEL wave at each
other.

MEASURES 84-92

PHILIPPE puts his duffle bag under
a public bench, lies down on the
bench, and goes to sleep.

MEASURES 92-98

WHARF CHARACTER appears and looks
around.

MEASURE 98

WHARF CHARACTER steals the duffle
bag.

MEASURES 99-101

WHARF CHARACTER leaves.

(BLACK OUT)

(END OF SCENE)

SCENE 2

[SFX 1: church bells striking 7]
Note: SFX 1 is included in backing track.

NEXT MORNING.

MEASURES 102-105

PHILIPPE wakes up and realizes that his duffle bag is gone.

MEASURES 106-End

TOWNSPEOPLE come back and resume their daily activities.

PHILIPPE walks around.

(END OF SCENE)

SCENE 3

MOMENTS LATER.

PHILIPPE peeks through the glass storefront of "Café de Royan".

BRIGITTE (a waitress, in her 30s, slightly rough in her mannerism, with a strong personality, yet generous and good-natured) comes to open the "Café de Royan" for breakfast and sees PHILIPPE.

BRIGITTE

Good morning!

PHILIPPE

Oh! Good morning!

BRIGITTE

Are you looking for someone in particular?

PHILIPPE

No... I was wondering what's in there.

BRIGITTE

It's a café. I work here. Would you like to come in?

PHILIPPE

Well, sure... but I need to tell you... I don't have any money, so... I'll just sit there if you don't mind.

BRIGITTE

No worries...

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

SCENE 4

IN "CAFE DE ROYAN". MOMENTS LATER.

BRIGITTE

You can sit right here.

PHILIPPE sits down at a table next to the front door.

BRIGITTE unfolds some table cloths and sets some bread baskets on the tables.

BRIGITTE

So... You were saying... You don't have any money. Why is that?

PHILIPPE

Someone stole it when I was sleeping outside last night.

BRIGITTE

Oh! So sorry to hear that... And what's your name?

PHILIPPE

Philippe.

BRIGITTE

Well, nice to meet you, Philippe. I'm Brigitte.

PHILIPPE

Nice to meet you, Brigitte.

BRIGITTE

(Pause)

So, dear Philippe, what brought you here, to Royan?

PHILIPPE

My parents live in Paris. My friend Michael and I took the train down. He left last night, though... Went back to Chicago, his hometown... So, here I am now, alone, without a friend and without a penny.

BRIGITTE

Why did he leave?

PHILIPPE

He said that something bad is going to happen here in France, and he doesn't want to be part of it... He also said he might join the US Navy.

BRIGITTE

Hmm...

PHILIPPE

He and I had some great plans for the future...

BRIGITTE

How exciting!

PHILIPPE

It was exciting... until recently. Then all dreams fell apart.

BRIGITTE

Well, they didn't fall apart, Philippe. Let's just say they are on hold.

PHILIPPE

I doubt it, Brigitte. I doubt it... Would you like to see his photo?

BRIGITTE

Well, certainly!

PHILIPPE pulls a photograph of
Michael out of his shirt pocket.

PHILIPPE

That's Michael.

BRIGITTE looks at the photograph.

BRIGITTE

Good-looking young man! How old is he?

PHILIPPE

Seventeen. He's been a student in fashion and design in Paris. Very talented. He had a bright future there, I know that.

BRIGITTE

Why would he want to join the Navy when studying fashion and design? It seems... odd.

PHILIPPE

Well, that's another story... a personal choice motivated by pressure, I think... I guess.

BRIGITTE

Hmm... Well, if your friend is gone and your family is in Paris, why would you want to be here in Royan?

PHILIPPE

To flee from the Germans, Brigitte! Some months ago, they started in the East of France, and now they're in Paris!

BRIGITTE

Do they make life... miserable there?

CUSTOMERS ("CHORUS") come into
"Café de Royan" as PHILIPPE starts
singing.

PHILIPPE

"WE SHALL NOT FALL" [SOUNDTRACK T2]

NINETEEN THIRTY-NINE, SHOCKED, SHAKEN
 SO MANY MEN WERE MOBILIZED
 THEY LEFT OLD FOLKS, WOMEN, CHILDREN
 WHO FELT BETRAYED AND TERRIFIED

LATER IN MAY NINETEEN FORTY
 MILLIONS OF PEOPLE TRIED TO FLEE
 ROADS, TRAINS, BRIDGES WERE BOMBARDED
 FRANCE WAS SHAMEFULLY DIVIDED

IN THE SOUTH, SO CALLED THE FREE ZONE
 ONE IS MORE FREE, MORE LEFT ALONE
 THE NORTH, RULED BY THE ENEMY
 HAS BECOME A FOREIGN COUNTRY

MIGHTY KNOCKS ONE NIGHT ON OUR DOOR
 TWO SOLDIERS WITH A SEARCH ORDER
 LOOKED FOR SUBVERSIVE LITTERATURE
 THEN LEFT - I COULD STAND IT NO MORE

BOTH MY PARENTS STAYED IN PARIS
 THEY OWN A STORE, LA FLEUR DE LYS
 LIFE OVER THERE IS CONSTANT FEAR
 THAT IS WHY THEY WISHED I CAME DOWN HERE

I WANT TO CRY
 I WANT TO FLY
 I WANT TO SEE A GORGEOUS LIGHT
 I WANT TO HAVE A DREAM AT NIGHT
 I WANT TO PAINT A BRAND NEW STAR
 I WANT TO PLAY AN OLD GUITAR
 I WANT TO HEAR A SYMPHONY
 I WANT TO READ SOME POETRY
 I WANT TO LIVE IN HARMONY

PHILIPPE AND CUSTOMERS ("CHORUS")

LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY FOR ALL
 LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY STAND TALL
 IN EVERYONE'S HEART, IN EVERYONE'S SOUL
 DEEP WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHALL NOT FALL

LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY FOR ALL
 LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY STAND TALL
 IN EVERYONE'S HEART, IN EVERYONE'S SOUL
 DEEP WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHALL NOT FALL
 DEEP WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHALL NOT FALL

BRIGITTE brings a cup of hot chocolate to PHILIPPE.

BRIGITTE
That's for you, Philippe, on the house.

PHILIPPE
Oh, thank you, Brigitte, thank you very much.

BRIGITTE
You're welcome! Enjoy while it's hot. Enjoy before the boss comes in...

PHILIPPE
The boss? What's his name?

BRIGITTE
Maurice. Maurice Villepain. He's my father...

PHILIPPE
Is he... mean?

BRIGITTE
He can be, on some occasions.

PHILIPPE
What kind of occasions?

BRIGITTE
Well, you see, he doesn't like to have strangers in his café. He gets worried about it. These here are old timers, but even old timers can make him nervous, and when he's nervous, he can get mad easily.

PHILIPPE
Why would he be nervous?

BRIGITTE
He has his own reasons... paranoia, maybe...

BRIGITTE catches a glimpse of MAURICE (Brigitte's father, in his 50s, stern, grumpy, not very tall) as he storms into the café through the back door.

BRIGITTE
(Whispering)
Oh,... talking about him, there he is!

PHILIPPE runs out quickly through the front door without being seen by MAURICE.

MAURICE goes to the bar and pours himself a beer.

BRIGITTE
Hello, Papa!

MAURICE
Hello, Dear!

MAURICE notices Philippe's cup, still half full.

MAURICE
Who was here?

BRIGITTE
Nobody...

MAURICE
Is this nobody's cup? Who was sitting here?

BRIGITTE
I was, before everybody came in.

MAURICE
Brigitte, I hope you're careful about who's coming into this place.

BRIGITTE
Yes, Papa, I'm careful. Don't you worry.

MAURICE
I do worry, Brigitte. Remember the rule: we cannot trust anyone these days. It's that simple.

BRIGITTE
Yes, Papa. I understand.

MAURICE goes to the back office with his beer.

BRIGITTE slightly opens the front door and motions PHILIPPE to come closer.

PHILIPPE comes to the front door.

BRIGITTE

He's in the back office, but let's be quick. So, are you staying? Are you leaving? What are you doing?

PHILIPPE

Trying to find a job, Brigitte... I need to make a few coins to get to Saint Mary.

BRIGITTE

Why Saint Mary?

PHILIPPE

My parents have some friends there. They said I could stay with them if I help around the farm. Can I work in your café for a few days? Wash dishes... clean tables... run errands? Anything to get me there!

BRIGITTE

I can tell you right away. My father will never go for that. He barely trusts me, his own daughter... One idea, though... Can you entertain a crowd?

PHILIPPE

A crowd?

BRIGITTE

Yes, a crowd! A small crowd, right here in this café! Can you dance or juggle or perform...? Anything!

PHILIPPE

Maybe I can.

BRIGITTE

Then you can entertain a crowd! This town is full of people who want to be entertained.

PHILIPPE

What about Mr. Maurice? What will he say?

BRIGITTE

Mr. Maurice won't even see you. He usually waits until all customers are gone after dinner, then he meets with his friend Gopher here in the café. You won't be on payroll. You'll just be in and out a few times.

PHILIPPE

Gopher?

BRIGITTE

Yes, it's a nickname of some sort.