

CHORUS OF PRISONERS:

They've turned an old convent to a hell-hole
For the living dead and the dying.
Corpses rot in the corridors
They've escaped their date with the blade.
Everyone's coughing but love is everywhere.

Old biscuits, bad water –
The wine and the wafer.
Love is sacred.
Love is sacred.

They're copulating in the corridors,
One last frenzy before the blade.
Unfaithful lovers, we are all betrothed to the blade.

Loud crash of guillotine followed by Rose's scream of her husband's name: "Beauharnais!!!!!!!"

ARIA DUET: ROSE/HOCHE: This recording begins with a Valse Macabre that occurs prior to the Aria. It segues into the Aria. Hoche was Rose's (Josephine Bonaparte's) one true love. This is the most tender and lyrical moment in the Opera:

Hoche:

I adore you, my beautiful Rose of Martinique, my pearl of the Indies. I don't want to leave you.

Rose:

You were my light in the prison, an island I clung to.

Hoche:

My wife has given birth, I really must go to her now.

Rose:

You are my lover king.
Your hair is like golden sunshine,
Your eyes are like blue lagoons.
When I'm with you I remember my homeland,
The warm beach, and the sea,
To be held in your arms is to be rocked
In a boat in a harbour.

Hoche:

The army has called me.
Dear Rose I have to leave you.
Though I love you, a man has his duties.
My wife needs me.
The army calls me.

As Hoche turns to leave her...

Rose continues:

I remember my homeland,
The warm beach, and the sea.