

MAX

How would you like this for the Kaltzberg Festival – the finest choral group in Austria, the greatest mixed quartet in all Europe, and the best soprano in the world?

ELSA

Max, that's something I'd love to hear!

MAX

So would I.

*(MAX sits on stool downstage left.)*

All I've got up to now is a basso who isn't even profundo.

*(FRANZ exits into the house.)*

ELSA

Max, you always come up with a good Festival Concert.

*(The CAPTAIN takes MAX a cup of coffee with a piece of pastry on the saucer.)*

MAX

And why? Because my motto is: "Never start out looking for the people you wind up getting." That's why I've been telephoning Paris, Rome, Stockholm, London–

ELSA

On Georg's telephone?

MAX

How else could I afford it? Why am I up here?

CAPTAIN

I hoped it was because you liked me.

MAX

Of course I like you. Why shouldn't I like you? You live like a king. You have an excellent wine cellar–

ELSA

Max!

MAX

I like rich people. I like the way they live. I like the way *I* live when I'm with them.

*(We hear the Abbey bells.)*

Speaking as a government official, I– Georg, is there a cathedral around here?

CAPTAIN

That's our Abbey – Nonnberg Abbey.

MAX

Do they have a choir?