

Selection from *The Rivals*

Book and Lyrics by Greg Edwards, Music by Jonathan Breit

Adapted from the Play by Richard Brinsley Sheridan

*Lydia's bedroom. LYDIA and MRS. MALAPROP
argue.*

LYDIA

Mark my words, cruel aunt—Beverly will find me yet and steal me away.

MRS. MALAPROP

Lydia, if you think a mere poet can escape my watch, you are eluding yourself. Let him try! I shall sit outside your door all night, keeping Vergil.

(MRS. MALAPROP exits.)

LYDIA

Oh, never has a woman been so lugubrious as I.

CAPTAIN ABSOLUTE

(Whispered)

Coo, coo.

LYDIA

Even the pigeons torment me.

CAPTAIN ABSOLUTE

(Louder)

Coo, coo. Lydia!

LYDIA

What ho? Beverly?

*(CAPTAIN ABSOLUTE, disguised as Beverly, enters
through the window.)*

CAPTAIN ABSOLUTE

My love!

LYDIA

You have come at last, and, more, you have climbed the trellis.

CAPTAIN ABSOLUTE

It is a lovely trellis.

LYDIA

How ever did you find me?

CAPTAIN ABSOLUTE

I merely looked for the shimmer of your radiance upon the horizon. And I bribed your coachman.

LYDIA

How I have longed for you! Every day of our separation, I re-read all the letters you sent me.

(SHE removes a stack of letters from her shelf.)

LYDIA

I've sorted them by the number of times they mention my name. This one's my favorite. It has but six words, five of which are my name, and the sixth, "o."

CAPTAIN ABSOLUTE

O, Lydia—

LYDIA

You speak just like you write.

CAPTAIN ABSOLUTE

No longer need you console yourself with correspondence. Beverly is finally at your side, and he has brought you a gift.

(HE hands her a small picture frame.)

LYDIA

A miniature? O, Beverly, you should have!

CAPTAIN ABSOLUTE

Being a penniless poet, I couldn't afford a miniature of myself. But it depicts a man not unlike me.

LYDIA

He is beautiful, my love, and so are you. May this miniature help me forever remember you as you are: poor.