

A Kalmus Classic Edition

Jacques

OFFENBACH

LA PERICHOLE

A Comic Opera in Three Acts
with English text

VOCAL SCORE

K 06361



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LA PÉRICHOLE.

Dramatis Personæ.

PIQUILLO *A Street Singer, subsequently the Count de Trocadero.*
DON ANDRES DE RIBIERA *Viceroy of Peru.*
DON PEDRO *Governor of Lima.*
DON GOMEZ *First Lord in Waiting to the Viceroy.*
PABLO } *Notaries.*
CARLOS }
THE MARQUIS DE SANTAREM *An old Prisoner.*
LA PÉRICHOLE *A Street Singer, subsequently the Countess de Trocadero.*
ANITA }
BERGINELLA } *Proprietresses of "The Three Cousins" Tavern.*
MANUELITA }

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE COURT, CITIZENS, PAGES, GUARDS, &c.

ACT I.—SCENE: A Square in Lima.

ACT II.—SCENE: Throne-room in the Viceroy's Palace.

ACT III.—SCENE 1.—The Cell for Recalcitrant Husbands, in Lima Jail.

SCENE 2.—A Square in Lima.

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Outline of the Plot.

ACT I.

THE Viceroy of Peru, on the public celebration of his birthday, roams the streets of his capital *incognito*, in search of information and adventure. Near the palace gates is the tavern of "The Three Cousins," and hither come also Piquillo and La Périchole, an unlucky pair of ballad-singers, eager to get married, and anxious to earn the wedding fees. Meeting with no success, Piquillo goes off to try his luck elsewhere, leaving his wearied sweetheart to rest a while. Struck by her beauty, the Viceroy invites her to dinner, and offers her a position among the ladies of his Court. Piquillo not returning, the hapless girl reluctantly consents; and, while she writes an adieu to her lover, the Viceroy instructs Gomez (his First Lord-in-Waiting) and Pedro (the Governor of Lima) to prepare for her reception. These officers, however, remind his Highness of a certain rule imposed on the Viceregal Court, forbidding any unmarried lady to reside in the palace. Not to be balked, the Viceroy commands them to procure a husband and a notary, so that La Périchole may be married to some man or other forthwith. Piquillo, who has received the letter of adieu, is the husband selected by Gomez, who is unaware that the man of his choice is Périchole's lover. Pedro's notaries suggest legal impediments to the proposed marriage, while the Viceroy finds it hard to persuade Périchole to espouse a stranger. Alcohol is thereupon called in to the assistance of argument. Pedro entertains the notaries lavishly at their

offices; Périchole is liberally treated to champagne by the Viceroy; and Gomez busily plies Piquillo with brandy in the tavern. Périchole, on seeing that Piquillo is the husband chosen for her, speedily agrees to the wedding. Piquillo, however, is not in a condition to recognize his veiled sweetheart, and under these circumstances the marriage takes place; the bride and bridegroom, after the ceremony, being separately conducted to their respective apartments in the palace.

ACT II.

ACT II. takes place in the palace on the morning after the marriage. Piquillo has been attired in Court dress, and informed that he has been created the Count of Trocadero. He with difficulty can recollect any of the incidents of the previous evening; but it is at last made clear to him that he has married a lady whose arrival at the Court is not relished by the officers and ladies of the Viceroy's suite. Determined to extricate himself from a false position, he accepts the Viceroy's offer of a commission in the army, with a view of having his marriage, if possible, rescinded, and of returning, as he thinks, to Périchole. Later, recognizing Périchole as his wife, he denounces her violently before the Viceroy, of whom he has become furiously jealous. He is thereupon arrested and sentenced to imprisonment.

ACT III.

SCENE I.

PIQUILLO is imprisoned in Lima Jail, and Périchole, by the Viceroy's permission, visits him. Mutual recrimination is followed by reconciliation, and the lovers determine to try to bribe the jailor to help them to escape together. But the jailor turns out to be the Viceroy in disguise; and the reply to Périchole's appeal is an irate order that she and her husband shall spend their honeymoon in prison, chained up to opposite walls of the cell. Before taking his departure, the Viceroy tells her, in a whisper, that he will wait outside for any signal from her of her repentance. Left to their fate, the lovers' despair is relieved by the entrance of an old prisoner—the Marquis de Santarem—who has contrived to effect a communication between his own cell and theirs, and who succeeds in freeing them from their shackles. Périchole signals; and the Viceroy, entering, is seized and bound to a pillar, while his keys are appropriated, and the three prisoners escape.

SCENE II.

To an excited crowd, Périchole, Piquillo, and the old Marquis enter, and, appealing for help, are sheltered in "The Three Cousins" tavern. Gomez and Pedro, who have been vainly scouring the country in quest of the fugitives, are severely censured by the angry Viceroy. An unexpected development follows, for Périchole and Piquillo come from the tavern, and appeal to the Viceroy for pardon. Touched by the lovers' constancy, and bored by his misadventures, the Viceroy forgives them, and the curtain falls on a happier prospect for the wedded minstrel pair.



LA PÉRICHOLE.

Music by

J. OFFENBACH.

Overture.

Allegro non troppo. (♩ = 104.)

PIANO. *ff*