

## Isaac Albeniz – Pepita Jimenez (2005)

Written by bluesever

Friday, 23 October 2009 09:51 - Last Updated Saturday, 27 July 2013 09:16

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Act 1 1. Donna Pepita! Pepita 1:57 2. Pepita loves my Luis 1:30 3. Who eats a sour banana 1:20 4. He promised her to learn to ride 1:05 5. You've pulled the blind 2:03 6. So, here's the shrine 1:19 7. Ssh! Pepita! 1:17 8. Don Pedro! Always handy! 1:03 9. Come, come my little acolyte 0:53 10. Far better live on acolyte 0:51 11. Well, have you said good-bye 1:00 12. My child, your hand is cold 1:15 13. Do you remember, one day 2:13 14. Yet take courage! 1:29 15. Holy marriage! 1:41 16. Ah, no! He loves Pepita! 1:37 17. And I'm so wicked 1:49 18. Your words serene 1:09 19. Farewell, my child! 0:55 20. This is the way with your drone 1:23 21. The rev'rend father has admonished me! 1:57 22. Ah! Mother of sorrows 0:41 23. I've come to bid farewell 3:42 24. Away into the wilderness! 1:30 25. This really is outrageous! 0:39 26. The devil take your consolation! 1:02 27. I cannot do your pleasure! 0:44 28. Take heart! 1:32 29. O, 'Tona, you're a prophet! 1:03 30. Yes, Pepita's very sly 1:22 31. When but sixteen, Pepita! 1:32 32. I've come to beg your pardon 0:55 Act 2 Tableau 1 1. Prelude 3:55 2. All is ready! 1:43 3. 'Tona! How gladly 1:42 4. Heigh-ho! Who preaches love 1:55 5. Who teaches love was made accurs'd 1:27 6. Pepita! - Sweet lady! 2:03 7. Yes, by their innocence 1:28 8. Born into common humility 2:38 9. Ballet 2:36 10. Dance, dance, little darlings 1:34 11. Thank you, my friends! 1:00 12. Forgive me! 'Tis best I retire, to rest 3:00

### Tableau 2

13. Interlude 2:54 14. Love moves by night! 3:30 15. Allegretto come prima. Love moves by night 2:13 16. Oh! Luis, this last sad meeting 1:17 17. To gather sweet flowers 3:32 18. Sweet friend! No earthly union 3:00 19. My God! I cannot bear it! 1:22 20. Go! Bear my latest breath 2:19 21. Farewell! Farewell! 1:17

Plácido Domingo - tenor (Don Luis de Vargas) Carol Vaness - soprano (Pepita) Jane Henschel - mezzosoprano (Antonona) Enrique Baquerizo - baritone (Don Pedro de Vargas) Carlos Chausson - bass (Vicario) José Antonio López - baritone (Conde de Genahazar) Coro de Niños de la Comunidad de Madrid Orquesta y Coro de la Comunidad de Madrid José de Eusebio – conductor

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Pepita Jiménez is a lyric comedy or comic opera with music written by the Spanish composer Isaac Albéniz. The original opera was written in one act and used an English libretto by Albéniz's patron and collaborator, the Englishman Francis Money-Coutts, which is based on the novel of the same name by Juan Valera. The opera was later adapted several times, first by the composer and later by others, into numerous languages and different constructs, including both a two act version and a three act version.

### Synopsis

Time: Mid-19th century      Setting: A village in Andalusia

The story opens on a day in May celebrating the feast of the Infant Saviour. Pepita Jiménez, a 19 year old girl, has recently been widowed. She had been married to her 80-year-old uncle Don Gumersindo, a rich money-lender, since she was 16 and is now in possession of his large fortune. Pepita is sought by many suitors, including Count Genazahar, who owes her money, and Don Pedro de Vargas, a highly respected and prosperous member of the community. Pepita, however, has eyes only for Don Pedro's son, Don Luis, a handsome young seminarian who flirts with her shamelessly. She confesses her love to the town's vicar, and he in turn urges her to forget about him as he is supposed to pursue a higher calling.

Meanwhile, Pepita's feisty but loving maid, Antoñona, reveals to Don Pedro her mistress's love for his son, while simultaneously chiding him for raising such a flirt. Though at first surprised by this revelation, Don Pedro swallows his own feelings for Pepita and decides to help along the young couple's romance with the aid of Antoñona. Pepita returns from her meeting with the vicar and meets Don Luis, whom she has resolved to bid follow his vocation. Likewise, Don Luis has by now realised that he loves Pepita, but resolves to resist temptation. Just as the two are about to part forever, Antoñona interrupts and makes Don Luis promise to see Pepita once more before he departs town.

After leaving Pepita, Don Luis overhears Count Genazahar, who has been recently rebuffed by Pepita, making insulting remarks about her to two officers. Luis becomes incredibly angry and he challenges the count to a duel. The count is wounded in the fight and Luis is victorious.

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When Don Luis again sees Pepita, she cannot keep in her true feelings. Frantic, she informs him that her life will be forfeit for his calling, and she locks herself in her room. Don Luis, fearing her suicide, breaks into Pepita's room and the two unite in an embrace to the happiness of Antoñona.

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