Act One

Overture

No. 1 Introduction, “Zu Hilfe!”

Dialogue A

TAMINO
Where am I? Am I alive? Or am I dead? (He sees the serpent dead at his feet) Oh! Thank the gods! I've been saved! (The sound of pipes in the distance – he looks out). Someone’s coming. I’d better hide!

No. 2 Aria, “Der Vogelfänger”

Dialogue B

TAMINO
Excuse me friend, (bows) who might you be?

PAPAGENO
Who am I? (Aside) Who is he? That’s a better question. (To Tamino) I’m a human being, like you. And what if I asked who you are?

TAMINO
I would answer that I am a prince.

PAPAGENO
‘Prince’?

TAMINO
My father is a king who rules over many lands and people – that’s why they call me ‘prince.’ And so I’m asking you—

PAPAGENO
Wait wait wait. Slow down. Let me ask the questions here. You mean there are lands and peoples beyond these hills?

TAMINO
Thousands of them. Now tell me—what country is this? Who rules over it?

PAPAGENO
Hm. All I know is I live right over there

TAMINO
But how do you live?
PAPAGENO
I eat and drink, just like you.

TAMINO
But you must earn your bread somehow . . .

PAPAGENO
Sure. I catch birds for the Queen of the Night and her ladies. I leave the birds outside their door, and they leave food outside mine.

TAMINO
Tell me, friend, have you ever seen this Queen of the Night?

PAPAGENO
Wow. You really aren’t from around here, are you? (Aside) Have I ever seen the queen?

TAMINO
I just meant—

PAPAGENO
If you ask me one more crazy question like that I’ll lock you up with my birds! Don’t come any closer! I have the strength of a giant! (Aside) If that doesn’t work, I’ll have to make a run for it!

TAMINO
Then you are the one who saved me from this monster?

PAPAGENO
Monster? (He sees it) Ah! Is it dead?

TAMINO
No need to be humble, friend. I am forever in your debt.

PAPAGENO
It was nothing.

TAMINO
But how did you kill it?

PAPAGENO
Umm . . . with my hands!

TAMINO
Wow.
THREE LADIES
Papageno!

PAPAGENO
Oooh. That’s me. (Sotto voce to Tamino) Look behind you!

TAMINO
Who are they?

PAPAGENO
I give them the birds, they give me the food.

THREE LADIES
Papageno!

PAPAGENO
Here, my sweet ladies! This is my best catch ever! Just for you!

THIRD LADY
And as a reward, our Queen sends you this!
(She throws a lock at his mouth - which sticks!)

PAPAGENO
Hmmm! (He points to his mouth, begs, pleads, tries to get the lock off)

FIRST LADY
I bet you’re wondering why our Queen punishes you so.

(He nods)

SECOND LADY
So you’ll learn not to tell lies to strangers!

THIRD LADY
Or take credit for other people’s good deeds!

FIRST LADY
Tell us. Did you kill this monster?

(He shakes his head)

SECOND LADY
Then who did?

(“who knows” gesture)
THIRD LADY
(During this, First and Second Lady go and get the Pamina cage icon)
We did, young man, and saved your life.

FIRST LADY
Be not afraid.

SECOND LADY
Joy and delight await you.

THIRD LADY
Here—the great queen sends you this portrait of her daughter. If you are not indifferent to her beauty, then happiness, honor, and fame are yours. Come—take it!
(Tamino approaches the cage – opens the door and removes the portrait)

No. 3 Aria, “Dies Bildnis”

Dialogue C

FIRST LADY
Be courageous and true, young man. The Queen—

SECOND LADY
The Queen bid me tell you—

THIRD LADY
That the path to happiness lies before you—

FIRST LADY
She has heard your every word—

SECOND LADY
She has read your innermost thoughts—

THIRD LADY
And decided to bestow her magnificent blessing upon you.

FIRST LADY
If this youth has as much valor and courage in his heart as he does love and tenderness—

THIRD LADY
Then my daughter will surely be rescued!

TAMINO
The princess is in danger?
SECOND LADY
She sat all alone—

THIRD LADY
In her favorite cypress grove—

FIRST LADY
When the evil one slipped in and stole her away!

TAMINO
Where can I find this villain?

SECOND LADY
His name is Sarastro. Just beyond these hills lies his castle.

THIRD LADY
Beware! He is a powerful wizard!

FIRST LADY
And Monostatos, her jailor, is the very devil! *(Thunder)*

TAMINO
What is that?

ALL THREE
Courage! *(Thunder)*

ALL THREE
It is the Queen! She comes! *(Thunder)* She comes! She comes! *(Thunder)*

No. 4 Recitativo & Aria, “O zitter nicht, mein lieber Sohn!”

Dialogue D

TAMINO
Is this real or is it all a dream? O blessed gods, protect my arm, give me courage, and make me worthy of your gifts!

No 5 Quintetto, “Hm! Hm! Hm! Hm!”
Dialogue E

MONOSTATOS

(Pamina runs onstage, Monastatos chasing her, two slaves run on and block her exit)

Hah! Now we’ve got you! Seize her! You will not escape again!

No. 6 Terzet, “Du feines Täubchen, nur herein.”

Dialogue F

PAMINA
Mother... Mother... Do I live only to suffer? Will I never be free?

PAPAGENO
(Aside) I am an idiot, running off like that. I’ve seen every kind of bird. Why be scared of that one? (Sees Pamina) Hey! That’s the princess! (To Pamina) Greetings, daughter of the Queen of the Night!

PAMINA
Who are you?

PAPAGENO
Papageno. I’m here to rescue you!

PAMINA
You are?

PAPAGENO
If you’re Her Majesty’s daughter . . .

PAMINA
Yes!

PAPAGENO

PAMINA
What?

PAPAGENO
According to the picture, you shouldn’t have hands or feet. See?

PAMINA
I assure you, that’s me! (she takes the picture) How did you get this picture?
PAPAGENO
Just this morning, I was outside your mother’s palace with the day’s catch. I was about to leave it when I saw a man who called himself ‘prince.’ One thing led to another, your mother showed up, there was lighting, thunder... anyway, she liked this prince so much that she gave him your portrait and asked him to rescue you. He fell in love right away...

PAMINA
Oh—say that word again.

PAPAGENO
Love. Now where was I?

PAMINA
You were at ‘love.’

PAPAGENO
Right. So, this great love spurred us on—

PAMINA
But where’s the prince?

PAPAGENO
He sent me ahead to announce our arrival.

PAMINA
You are very brave, Papageno. (She looks at him) But how do I know you’re not an evil spirit sent by Sarastro to trick me?

PAPAGENO
Me? An evil spirit? Why—I’m the goodest spirit in the whole world. (His feelings are hurt)

PAMINA
Please forgive me. I can see that you have a true and tender heart.

PAPAGENO
Sure I have a heart, but what good does it do me? I would pluck out all my feathers if only I had a little dove to share my life with.

PAMINA
You mean you have no wife?

PAPAGENO
Not even a girlfriend.

PAMINA
Have patience. The gods have a special lady set aside for you. I know it!
No. 7 Duetto, “Bei Männern, welche Liebe fühlen”

**Act Two**

No. 9 March

**Dialogue G**

SARASTRO
Here in wisdom’s temple, among blessed Isis and Osiris, I tell you that today’s gathering is the most important of our age. Brothers, at this very moment, Tamino, a king’s son, waits at the door of our temple. This young man wants to tear off the veil of darkness and gaze upon the light of truth. Shall we offer him the hand of friendship?

SECOND PRIEST
Is he virtuous?

SARASTRO
He is.

SECOND PRIEST
Is he wise?

SARASTRO
In the fullness of time, it will be so.

SPRECHER
Does he love his fellow man?

SARASTRO
He has a true heart. Shall we offer him the hand of friendship?

(The priests nod their assent. The horns sound three times.)

SARASTRO
I thank you in the name of friendship and brotherhood. Let us always stand together against prejudice and hatred, and may the powers of darkness never shake the foundations of this temple. When Tamino has joined our holy band, the age of darkness and unreason will come to an end. The blessed gods have chosen Pamina to be his wife. Together they will usher in the new age of light and truth. That is why I have taken Pamina from her mother, for the Queen of the Night is the enemy of all we hold dear.

SPRECHER
Great Sarastro, we recognize your wisdom and admire your eloquence, but will Tamino have the strength and courage to face the trials that await him? He is, after all, a prince.
SARASTRO
He is also a man.

SPRECHER
And if he should die?

SARASTRO
Then he will be in the bosom of Isis and Osiris sooner than we. (To the guards) Bring them in. And you, friend, as defender of the truth, perform your holy office, and guide him towards the path of righteousness. (Tamino and Papageno are brought on, heads covered as at the end of act one.) Brothers, here in these sacred halls, we bestow on you our blessing and extend the hand of friendship.

No. 10 “O Isis und Osiris”

Dialogue II

SARASTRO
Gentlemen, your conduct thus far has been manly and virtuous. Tamino, the trials that lie before you will make you a wise and just king. May the gods be with you both. (to the guards) Send in Pamina! (Enter PAMINA)

PAMINA
(Enters looking for Tamino) Tamino? Tamino?

SARASTRO
He is here, ready to face our trials.

No. 19 Trio, “Soll ich dich Teurer nicht mehr sehn?”

Dialogue I

SARASTRO
Friends, it is time to cleanse the temple! Pamina, come with me.

(The women’s chorus cover Pamina’s head and all exit together.)

SPRECHER
Prince! There is still time to retreat. One step further and it is too late.

TAMINO
Let the gods guide me and let Pamina be my reward!

SPRECHER
Give me your hand! (They clasp hands)
SECOND PRIEST
Papageno, you are quiet. Will you fight for wisdom and truth?

PAPAGENO
Fighting isn’t really my thing. And as for wisdom—all I really need is a wife to call my own.

SECOND PRIEST
You will never find her if you do not face our trials.

PAPAGENO
Trials?

SECOND PRIEST
You must submit to our law and stand face to face with death.

PAPAGENO
I think I’ll pass.

FIRST PRIEST
What if Sarastro had a feathered maiden in mind for you?

PAPAGENO
Is she young?

SECOND PRIEST
Young and pretty. Her name is Papagena.

PAPAGENO
Papagena! Can I see her?

FIRST PRIEST
You will see her, but you cannot speak with her until your trials have ended.

SECOND PRIEST
Are you man enough to keep silent?

PAPAGENO
Yes!

SPRECHER
Prince, the gods also demand that you keep silent. If you cannot be steadfast and obedient, you will be lost. (To Tamino and Papagena) You will see Pamina and Papagena, but you must not speak with them.

No. 11 Duet, “Bewahret euch vor Weibertücken”
Dialogue J

PAPAGENO
(Thunder) Who turned off the lights? Hey there! Tamino?

TAMINO
Endure it with patience. It is the will of the gods.

No. 12 Quintet, “Wie? Wie? Wie?”

Dialogue K

SPRECHER
(The horns sound three times.)
Good work, young man! Your steadfast manly conduct has triumphed. Come, the gods have more in store for you. Your path is still dangerous, so have courage! (He covers Tamino's head) Come.

SECOND PRIEST
Friend, what is this? Get up! Pull yourself together and be a man!

PAPAGENO
Excuse me, but why do I have to go through all of this? If the gods have a little Papagena waiting in the wings—

SECOND PRIEST
Come! (He puts the cover over Papageno's head) You ask too many questions!

(As they exit, the scene changes to the grove outside the temple. Pamina is asleep beneath the street lamp as Monostatos enters. Big thunder)

MONOSTATOS
There is my pretty one. For this flower I was beaten within an inch of my life. And what is my offense? That I am not a prince! That I am ugly! Oh, it burns my soul – I must have her! We’re alone here. No one is watching. (Music starts) Just one kiss…

No. 13 Aria, "Alles fühlt der liebe freuden"

Dialogue L

QUEEN
Get away from her! (Thunder)

PAMINA
Mother!

MONOSTATOS
My Queen! I . . .
QUEEN & THREE LADIES
Away!

QUEEN
My darling girl, where is the young man I sent to you?

PAMINA
He’s inside the temple.

QUEEN
Then all is lost! I cannot protect you from the brotherhood. Your father gave them the Seal of the Sun. As he lay dying, I begged him to leave it in my care, but he said that I should “not ask after things too great for a woman’s mind” and that I must submit myself “to the leadership of wise men.” Now Sarastro wears the seal around his neck.

PAMINA
Tamino—

QUEEN
Tamino must renounce the Brotherhood.

PAMINA
But father was one of them—

QUEEN
Your father betrayed me! How can you love a man who is in league with my enemy? Who, even now, is plotting against me? This dagger has been forged for Sarastro. You must kill him and bring me the Seal!

PAMINA
I can’t! I —

QUEEN
Enough!

No. 14 Aria, "Der Hölle Rache"

Dialogue M

PAMINA
Kill Sarastro! No! Oh you gods, help me! What can I do?

MONOSTATOS
Allow me.
PAMINA
Ah!

MONOSTATOS
Don't be afraid! You can trust Monostatos to keep your little secret!

PAMINA
My secret—

MONOSTATOS
I heard it all. Your life is in my hands. If I were to tell Sarastro—There is only one way to save yourself and your dear mother.

PAMINA
Yes?

MONOSTATOS
Give yourself to me! That is the only way! Love or death? Which will it be?

(Sarastro enters)

SARASTRO
Stop at once!

MONOSTATOS
My lord, I am innocent. Pamina and the Queen were going to kill you. (He surrenders the dagger)

SARASTRO
Monostatos, leave here now! You are banished from the temple!

MONOSTATOS
But my lord, I—

SARASTRO
You are no longer one of us.

MONOSTATOS
If Sarastro won't let me have Pamina, perhaps her mother can be persuaded. (Monostatos flees)

PAMINA
My lord Sarastro, please have mercy on my mother. Her heart is broken, she—
SARASTRO
I know your mother, is nearby, even now, plotting her revenge. But all will be well – you will see. If Tamino succeeds, you will be his queen and the ancient prophecy will be fulfilled.

No. 15 Aria, “In diesen heil’gen Hallen”

Dialogue N

(Tamino and Papageno are lead in by the two priests)

SPRECHER
Prince, farewell. Here we shall leave you. When the horn sounds, seek out the true path. Only a few more trials await you. Remember: Silence!

SECOND PRIEST
Papageno, the man who breaks his vow will be punished by the gods! (Both priests leave.)

PAPAGENO
Tamino!

TAMINO
Shh!

PAPAGENO
How did I get myself into this? I’d be better off at home in the woods – at least there I’d have my birds to talk to.

TAMINO
Shhh!

PAPAGENO
I can talk to myself! And to you—you’re not a woman! Duh!

TAMINO
SHHH!

PAPAGENO
La–la–la. The least they could do is give us something to drink. I’m parched!

(Old woman enters with a cup of water)

PAPAGENO
Is that for me?

OLD WOMAN
Yes, my angel!
PAPAGENO
Water. Tell me, my pretty one, is this how you treat all your guests?

OLD WOMAN
Hm hmm *(affirmative)*.

PAPAGENO
You must not have a lot of guests.

OLD WOMAN
Uh uhh. *(nope)*.

PAPAGENO
Come, my dear. Sit down by me. How old are you, pretty one?

OLD WOMAN
Eighteen years and two minutes.

PAPAGENO
Eighteen years and two minutes? *(Aside)* Wow! *(To woman)* Well, you pretty young thing, do you have a sweetheart?

OLD WOMAN
Uh huh.

PAPAGENO
What’s the lucky man’s name?

OLD WOMAN
Papageno!

PAPAGENO
Whoah! You mean me?

OLD WOMAN
Yes, my angel.

PAPAGENO
Papagena?

*(Loud thunderclap. The old woman leaves)*

PAPAGENO
*(To the heavens)* Fine! I’ll be quiet!
No. 16 Terzetto, “Seid uns zum zweiten Mal willkommen”

**Dialogue O**

(During the trio we’ve done something fun with the chorus and food)

PAPAGENO
Tamino, come eat!

(Tamino plays the flute)

(He eats) Really, Tamino, you need to put that thing down and come over here.

(He eats some more) This is fabulous!

(Pamina enters)

PAMINA
Tamino, you’re safe! Gods, you have not deceived me! The flute was my guide! But what’s wrong? Tamino, say something!

(Tamino waves her away)

PAMINA
I don’t understand. Don’t you love me? (He remains silent) Tamino, what have I done? Papageno, what is going on? (Papagno looks away) No! My dear friend, not you, too!

No. 17 Aria, “Ach, ich fühl’s, es ist verschwunden”

**Dialogue P**

PAPAGENO
See, Tamino, I know how to keep my mouth shut. I can be manly too!

(He drinks) Long live Sarastro! Long live his chef!

(The horns sound three times)

PAPAGENO
(As Tamino exits – Papageno calls out)
You go ahead. I’ll be there in a minute.

PAPAGENO

(Thunder)

Tamino! Wait! I’m coming!
(Thunder)

SPRECHER
Mortal! You deserve to wander forever in the dark chasms of the earth! Your trials end here. The gods have released you from punishment, but you will never be one of us.

PAPAGENO
Oh well. I suppose there are more people like me in the world anyway. We can’t all be initiated! But you know what would be really great – can I have some more of that wine?

SPRECHER
There’s nothing else in the whole wide world that would please you more?

PAPAGENO
Hmmm… No.

SPRECHER
Very well.

(Chorus man comes out with a glass of wine. Sprecher leaves him alone)

PAPAGENO
Wow. This is really good stuff (notices he’s alone) – oh well. I was hoping for some company, but… Hmm. This wine is amazing! I feel so strange – I’m getting all tingly inside! If I only I had someone to share it with!

No. 20 Aria “Ein Mädchen oder Weibchen”

Dialogue Q

OLD WOMAN
Here I am, my angel.

PAPAGENO
How sweet. You came to keep me company. (Aside) This is lucky!

OLD WOMAN
And if you promise to be faithful to me forever, you will see what a good little wife I’ll be. Come, let’s shake on it.

PAPAGENO
Don’t you think it’s a little soon?

OLD WOMAN
Papageno, don’t waste any time. If you don’t take my hand, you’ll be trapped here forever!

PAPAGENO
All alone? Without a friend?

OLD WOMAN
Without another soul, forever.

PAPAGENO
Well, I guess I’d rather have an old wife than no wife at all. Here – take my hand, and my promise to be faithful ‘til death do us part. (Aside) Or until I can catch a younger one!

OLD WOMAN
You swear?

PAPAGENO
I do.

(The woman becomes Papagena. Just then the chorus re-enter and whisk her away, as the Sprecher enters)

(Thunder)

SPRECHER
Away with you, young woman. He doesn’t deserve you yet. Come! Away!

PAPAGENO
What have I done? I’ll be alone forever!

(Thunder)