

SCENE ONE: THE BELL TOWER

(A statue depicts Saint Aphrodisius. QUASIMODO stands beside it, looking down at the town square.)

#17A – *Agnus Dei*

Choir

CHOIR

AGNUS DEI
QUI TOLIS PECCATA MUNDI
AGNUS DEI
DONA NOBIS PACEM

(ESMERALDA enters.)

ESMERALDA

Quasimodo...

QUASIMODO

Esmeralda! You – you came back.

ESMERALDA

Yes. I need your help.

QUASIMODO

Anything.

ESMERALDA

This was the closest place I could think of to hide him.

(Two GYPSIES enter holding an unconscious PHOEBUS. QUASIMODO recoils.)

QUASIMODO

Why is he here?

(PHOEBUS groans.)

ESMERALDA

He's been hurt, Quasimodo. He needs to recover. Can you keep him safely hidden somewhere?

QUASIMODO

(afraid)

No... Master...

ESMERALDA

(taking his hand)

Please, Quasimodo. Please help me.

QUASIMODO

(points to a hiding place)

There.

(The GYPSIES place PHOEBUS and exit.)

ESMERALDA

Thank you. I promise it won't be for long. When he's stronger, send him to me.

QUASIMODO

Where?

ESMERALDA

To where we Gypsies hide. The Court of Miracles.

QUASIMODO

Court of Miracles?

ESMERALDA

Here.

(gives a talisman hanging from her neck to QUASIMODO)

When you wear this woven band, you hold the city in your hand...

(The GYPSIES run back in.)

GYPSY

Esmeralda, quickly!

ANOTHER GYPSY

Frollo and the Cathedral Guard will be back soon!

ESMERALDA

(kisses QUASIMODO's cheek)

I must go now. And thank you.

(ESMERALDA and the GYPSIES exit.)

VARIOUS STATUES, GARGOYLES

How could you let her leave?

Go after her! Bring her back!

QUASIMODO

After her? No! Can't!

VARIOUS STATUES, GARGOYLES

You must!

She was right here—and you let her go!