

# Andrew Lloyd Webber, Notes/Prima Donna

ANDRE:  
Your public needs you!

FIRMIN:  
We need you, too!

CARLOTTA:  
(unassuaged) Would you not  
rather have your  
precious little  
ingenue?

ANDRE/FIRMIN:  
Signora, no!  
the world wants you!

(The MANAGERS adopt their most persuasive attitudes)

ANDRE/FIRMIN:  
Prima donna  
first lady of the stage!  
Your devotees  
are on their knees  
to implore you !

ANDRE:  
Can you bow out  
when they're shouting  
your name?

FIRMIN:  
Think of how they all  
adore you!

BOTH:  
Prima donna,  
enchant us once again!

ANDRE:  
Think of your muse...

FIRMIN:  
And of the queues  
round the theatre!

BOTH:  
Can you deny us the triumph  
in store?  
Sing, prima donna, once more!

(CARLOTTA registers her acceptance as the MANAGERS continue to cajole and the OTHERS ref

RAOUL:  
Christine spoke of an angel...

CARLOTTA:  
(to herself, in triumph)  
Prima donna  
your song shall live again!

ANDRE/FIRMIN:  
(to CARLOTTA)  
Think of your public!

CARLOTTA:  
You took a snub

but there's a public  
who needs you!

GIRY:  
(referring to CHRISTINE)  
She has heard the voice  
of the angel of music...

ANDRE/FIRMIN:  
(to CARLOTTA)  
Those who hear your voice  
liken you to an angel!

CARLOTTA:  
Think of their cry  
of undying  
support !

RAOUL:  
Is this her angel of music...?

ANDRE:  
(to FIRMIN)  
We get our opera...

FIRMIN:  
(to ANDRE)  
She gets her limelight!

CARLOTTA:  
Follow where the limelight  
leads you!

MEG:  
Is this ghost  
an angel or a madman...?

RAOUL:  
Angel or madman...?

ANDRE/FIRMIN:  
(aside) Leading ladies are a trial!

GIRY:  
Heaven help you,  
those who doubt...

CARLOTTA:  
You'll sing again,  
and to unending  
ovation!

RAOUL:  
Orders! Warnings!  
Lunatic demands!

GIRY:  
This miscasting  
will invite damnation...

ANDRE/FIRMIN:  
Tears...oaths...  
lunatic demands  
are regular occurrences!

MEG:  
Bliss or damnation?  
Which has claimed her...?

CARLOTTA:  
Think how you'll shine  
in that final encore!  
Sing, prima donna,  
once more!

GIRY:  
Oh fools, to have flouted his warnings!

RAOUL:  
Surely, for her sake...

MEG:  
Surely he'll strike back...

ANDRE/FIRMIN:  
Surely there'll be further scenes -  
worse than this!

GIRY:  
Think, before  
these demands are rejected!

RAOUL:  
...I must see  
these demands are rejected!

MEG:  
...if his threats  
and demands are rejected!

ANDRE/FIRMIN:  
Who'd believe a diva  
happy to relieve a chorus girl,  
who's gone and slept with the patron?  
Raoul and the soubrette,  
entwined in love's duet!  
Although he may demur,  
he must have been with her!

MEG/RAOUL:  
Christine must be protected!

CARLOTTA:  
O, fortunata!  
Non ancor  
abbandonata!

ANDRE/FIRMIN:  
You'd never get away  
with all this in a play,  
but if it's loudly sung  
and in a foreign tongue  
it's just the sort of story  
audiences adore,  
in fact a perfect opera!

RAOUL:  
His game is over!

GIRY:

This is a game  
you cannot hope to win!

RAOUL:  
And in Box Five  
a new game will begin...

GIRY:  
For, if his curse is on this opera...

MEG:  
But if his curse is on this opera...

ANDRE/FIRMIN:  
Prima donna  
the world is at your feet!  
A nation waits,  
and how it hates  
to be cheated!

CARLOTTA:  
The stress that falls upon a  
famous prima donna!  
Terrible diseases,  
coughs and colds and sneezes!  
Still, the driest throat  
will reach the highest note,  
in search of perfect  
opera!

MEG/GIRY:  
...then I fear the outcome...

RAOUL:  
Christine plays the Pageboy,  
Carlotta plays the Countess...

GIRY:  
...should you dare to...

MEG:  
...when you once again...

ALL:  
Light up the stage  
with that age old  
rapport!  
Sing, prima donna,  
once more!

PHANTOM'S VOICE:  
So, it is to be war between us! If these demands are not  
met, a disaster beyond your imagination will occur!

ALL:  
Once more!