

KHOVANSKYGATE: A NATIONAL ENQUIRY

**A New English Version of
Modest Musorgsky's opera
'*Khovanshchina: A People's Music Drama*'
Written by Max Hoehn.**

Commissioned by Birmingham Opera Company for a new production
directed by Graham Vick, 22nd April – 2nd May 2014.

Winner of Best New Production at the 2015 International Opera Awards

Translator's Note

Graham Vick's modern-dress production required a new English version of the libretto that communicated the strong ideological forces at work in Musorgsky's opera to a UK audience with no prior knowledge of seventeenth-century Russian history. This meant dispensing with unfamiliar references to battles, treaties and names as well as a degree of rewriting.

The Streltsy, Ivan Khovansky's mercenary Moscow militia, are recast as a corrupt and anarchic police force. The Scribe in this version is an investigative journalist, Scribbler, who is pressured by Shaklovity to leak 'Khovanskygate' to the public. The Old Believers of the original have become the True Believers. Other aspects of the plot have been simplified for clarity's sake.

KHOVANSKYGATE: A National Enquiry

A new dawn for Russia. Tsar Peter is unleashing a cultural revolution that will transform the country into a modern, European state. But first he must take back control of his capital from Ivan Khovansky and his corrupt police force. Khovansky has eliminated Peter's ministers in a bloody coup and is ready to proclaim his son, Andrei, as Tsar.

While political backstabbing and assassinations dominate the Kremlin, a popular movement is sweeping across the country, fighting to preserve Russia's traditional, conservative values against the corrupting and immoral West. Leading this campaign are the True Believers, a religious cult of fanatics who are ready to die in defence of their absolutist Christian doctrine. At their head is Dosifei, a charismatic preacher, whose daughter, Marfa, has recurring visions of burning to death with her lover – Andrei Khovansky.

In a desperate attempt to salvage his political career Vassily Golitsyn tries to forge a coalition between himself, Ivan Khovansky and the True Believers.

On the morning that will decide the nation's fate, the Tsar's policy advisor, Shaklovity, meets a journalist in secret to unleash "Khovanskygate", a scandal that will pave the way for the Tsar's return to Moscow and the downfall of the Khovansky family. The people of Russia, disillusioned and disenfranchised, await the outcome of this momentous day in their history.

Max Hoehn and Graham Vick

ACT ONE

Dawn in Moscow. A police van drives into Red Square. Kuzka, a new recruit, is handcuffed to the roof of the van. He is blindfolded with a bras and his trousers have been pulled down.

KUZKA (half-asleep)

Where am I? Where am I?... Am I dreaming?

I'm wasted...I'm bladdered...out of it...plastered.

I want to...I want to...kiss my woman.

2 policemen get out of the van and climb onto the roof.

POLICEMAN 2

Found him passed out.

POLICEMAN 1

So? Don't be such a bastard. Last night the poor guy got no sleep.

POLCEMAN 2

Hell of a night!

POLICEMAN 1

We got that minister, Larivon Ivanov, split into two bleeding chunks with a hatchet.

POLICEMAN 2

And then that immigrant, who cried his slitty eyes out, howling, praying to his God to save him. We cooly chopped him into pieces.

POLICEMAN 1

Bloody politics!

KUZKA

Where are my pants? Someone's tied me up...bastards!
I'm freezing cold. Someone help me out...Stop this game!

POLICEMAN 2

We swore to root out all corruption and punish those lying Ministers who cheated us.

POLICEMAN 1

The government's to blame. They rob the people, bleeding the country dry.
Those thieves are swimming in money!

Off-stage trumpets.

POLICEMAN 2 (*removing Kuzka's blindfold*)

Time we freed him.

KUZKA (*jumping up*)

Hey, you hooligans! ... I'll show you!

POLICEMAN 1 and 2

Good old Kuzka! Ruthless killer. What a fighter. Russia's finest.

KUZKA

To hell with both of you.

POLICEMAN 1

Hands off your cocks! Pull up your socks!

POLICEMAN 2

We will report you now for sleeping while on duty.

POLICEMEN 1 and 2

Ha, ha, ha, ha...

KUZKA

'Hands off your cocks. Pull up your socks.' Ha, ha, ha, ha.
Now piss off and wake me up tomorrow.

POLICEMAN 1 AND 2

It's time we hit the town now the morning prayers are over.

They notice Scribbler, who has been taking photographs.

Just look. Mister Scribbler's here.

Kuzka and policemen approach Scribbler, who shows them his press pass.

POLICEMAN 1
Scandalmonger.

KUZKA
A sleazy tabloid journalist.

POLICEMAN 2
With inky fingers.

POLICEMEN 1 AND 2
How d'you do, you crooked, two-faced liar?

KUZKA (*confiscating Scribbler's camera*)
If this gets in the papers you'll be dead!

KUZKA / POLICEMEN
Ha, ha, ha, ha...

Exit Kuzka and Policemen.

SCRIBBLER
Like Sodom and Gomorrah! What anarchy! Poverty! But money can be made. Yes.

Enter Shaklovity.

SHAKLOVITY
Hey! You there. Come closer. I trust I can speak to you in confidence.

SCRIBBLER
That's understood. I won't breathe a word.
I assure you, you can trust me. Confidential sources are never revealed.

SHAKLOVITY
Well then... to business... Now listen.
I need a story brought to light.

SCRIBBLER
Great. I'll get to work. Tell me what you know.
With discretion and consideration, I'll cook up a character assassination.

SHAKLOVITY
If you can bear persecution, if a painful life of exile doesn't scare you, if you are willing to denounce your family, accuse those you care about the most ... Let's start!

SCRIBBLER (*aside*)
Jesus Christ!

SHAKLOVITY
But if someone should start to ask some questions and you reveal who I am...
You will not live to see another day. Trust me.

SCRIBBLER
Goodness. How the time flies so quickly.
Must be on my way. Such a shame I cannot help you.
Nice to have met you –

SHAKLOVITY
- Shut up! Do it.

SCRIBBLER

Never. Why don't you bugger off.

Just go away.

SHAKLOVITY (*handing Scribbler a wodge of cash*)
Enough?

SCRIBBLER

Ah-huh... That's generous.

Perhaps I was wrong. That's much more appealing.

(*getting out pen and paper*) Carry on.

SHAKLOVITY (*dictating*)

"The people of Russia call on Peter, the Tsar, to launch a national recovery and build a brighter future for our children."... Up to speed?

SCRIBBLER

That kicks it off quite nicely. Please, carry on.

SHAKLOVITY

"In the Kremlin the brutal and oppressive Ivan Khovansky is leading a nationwide campaign with his son, Andrei, to destabilise the country.

SCRIBBLER

He doesn't stand a chance. What a maniac!

SHAKLOVITY

Let's hear it.

SCRIBBLER (*reading at great speed*)

"The people of Russia call on Peter, the Tsar, to launch a national recovery and build a brighter future for our children. In the Kremlin the brutal and oppressive Ivan Khovansky is leading a nation-wide campaign with his son, Andrei, to destabilise the country."

PEOPLE (*offstage*)

Give us housing.

Social housing.

Seven years of waiting.

It's degrading.

Now we face eviction.

Blame the system.

Rents are soaring.

Pay is falling.

It's a massive crisis.

Look at the prices.

Better living standards.

Welfare matters.

Take some action.

Tax those mansions.

SHAKLOVITY

Splendid. Now for some more.

(*continues to dictate*) "He controls the entire police force. They've become his private army.

They're constantly stirring up trouble, creating a state of terror. The city streets are swarming with informers... And now Khovansky wants a revolution. In every home, the government is questioned.

People live without a clear direction. A breeding ground for militant extremists. And now the Church has joined the fight, defending Russia's old religion against Peter's modernisations. Khovansky intends to have his son proclaimed the Tsar!"

POLICE (*off-stage*)

Move! Damn it! Clear the way there!

SCRIBBLER

I cannot continue. It's easy to trace me. They will arrest me. Question and break me.

SCRIBBLER

Jesus Christ! Bone-breaking torture.

There's no escaping the dreaded midnight knock!

POLICE (*entering*)

We control the streets of Moscow.

SCRIBBLER

Police! Listen. The police!

POLICE

In the name of Law and order.

SCRIBBLER

Oh, Mother! Here they come.

Scribbler and Shaklovity hide as the police patrol passes through.

POLICE

March through Moscow.

Clear the streets of militants.

We are Russia's Law enforcers,

Cleaning up the country.

March through Moscow.

Clamp down on militants.

(*exiting*) Keep marching,

Come on boys. Keep marching,

SHAKLOVITY

They're going.

SCRIBBLER

Keep quiet.

POLICE (*offstage*)

Forward brothers.

SHAKLOVITY

Listen, they've gone now.

SCRIBBLER

Shut up!

SHAKLOVITY

Control yourself.

SCRIBBLER

Jesus, that was dangerous! They've flown past like vultures.

I hate them with a passion that's so strong it chokes me. They are not human. Heartless monsters!
Everywhere they go blood is spilt and lives are broken. And all you hear is weeping.
All this madness is . . . for our 'security'.

SHAKLOVITY

All right. Quickly. Finish it off.

(continues to dictate) "Today the city is their stronghold.

When the Tsar takes control and crushes the rebels only then will peace return.

SCRIBBLER *(writing)*

"...When the Tsar takes control...peace will return."

It's ready.

SHAKLOVITY

Now leak that story.

SCRIBBLER

I'll send it to my paper.

SHAKLOVITY

Now don't forget what we've agreed. All right? Watch out.

SCRIBBLER

Stop trying to scare me. I know what your game is.

You're just another bully. A greedy, greasy gangster.

Well-heeled, well-fed, and stuffed with bank notes! –

SHAKLOVITY

- Shut it! Who do you think you are? Calling me a gangster?

I'm Peter's right hand man. You're a hack reporter.

I'm the puppet-master. I decide the future

I stand for progress. Good-bye. *(Exits)*

SCRIBBLER

Off he goes. Good riddance! Bye-bye.

What a shady bastard. He despises everything that I stand for.

Sure, he acts like he's important. All puffed up with promises of a better future.

But we all know better than to trust a dreamer.

Innovator. Liberator. Same old nonsense!

And me? I'm a nuisance, but a great survivor.

I just used the pen name of a friend, who died last week.

Thankfully, you can't harm a dead man.

He! He! And now the cash. Then off to my next story!

PEOPLE *(offstage)*

Bedroom taxes

Hurt the masses.

Who will hear the voice of the people?

Who will treat us like an equal?

Who will listen?

Politicians?

Benefit restrictions

Punish millions.

Bonuses for bankers?

Bunch of wankers!

Who will lead us?
Who will free us?

The Moscow People arrive in Red Square. All around them are election posters advertising “Andrei Khovansky for Tsar – the People’s Choice”.

PEOPLE B1
What’s happened to our city? What is wrong with Moscow?

PEOPLE T2
Look at all these posters covering the city.

PEOPLE T1
Every day we wake to some new crisis.

PEOPLE B2
Hold on, people. Slow down. What’s this about a new Tsar?
(*indicating a poster*) Look it says ‘the People’s Choice’. Call yourself the ‘People’s Choice’!

PEOPLE T1
Who’s been chosen this time? -

PEOPLE B1
- What’s it all about?

PEOPLE T2
Who’s the latest? What is going on?

PEOPLE T1
No one ever tells us.

PEOPLE B2
Who knows what the truth is?

PEOPLE T1
We don’t trust the news.

PEOPLE T1
Is there anyone who knows the truth?

PEOPLE B1
It’s just the same old story.

PEOPLE T2
We don’t understand.

PEOPLE T1
Is there anyone who reads the news?

PEOPLE B2
We never learnt to read.

PEOPLE T2
We don’t understand.

PEOPLE B1
So what?

PEOPLE T1
Who's in charge?

PEOPLE B2
We know nothing.

PEOPLE T1
Never learnt to read or write. Really stupid. (*noticing Scribbler*) That bloke might know the truth.

PEOPLE B2
Hold your horses. What if he can't be trusted?

PEOPLE B1
Could be a paid informer.

PEOPLE T2
Paid by the police.

PEOPLE B2
Better keep away from him.

PEOPLE T2
He can't frighten us.

PEOPLE T1
Let's go and ask the bastard who the hell has taken charge of Moscow this time.

PEOPLE T2
...I bet he's well-informed and reads the news in all the papers.

PEOPLE B1
Come on. Go and ask him what has happened.

PEOPLE B2
Ask what has happened.

PEOPLE T1 (*to Scribbler*)
Can you help us out?...

PEOPLE T2
We need your help, mate.

PEOPLE T1
...Who's been chosen now?

SCRIBBLER
Eh?

PEOPLE T1 and 2
Who has been chosen now?!

SCRIBBLER
Sorry I can't help you. Really, I know nothing.

PEOPLE Bs
We do not want to hurt you. You see we had no education.

SCRIBBLER

Well, there is nothing I can tell you. Good luck to you. Now go away.

PEOPLE Ts

He's lying! Get him! Knife the bastard!

PEOPLE B2

He's just after loadsamoney.
He doesn't care we're hungry.
We don't have an education.
Give the people information.

PEOPLE T1

Get the bastard. Stab him!

PEOPLE T2

Stab him!

PEOPLE B2

What for?

PEOPLE T1

He needs to taste the people's justice!
Let's string him up and leave him hanging!

PEOPLE T2

Let's string him up and let the bastard swing!

PEOPLE B1

Get the bastard! Hang him for the people's justice!

PEOPLE B2

Let's have some fun and string him up and leave him hanging.

PEOPLE B1

Let's have some fun! Get going or you'll hang for sure!
Ready people. (*lifting up Scribbler*) Oi!

PEOPLE Bs

Once there lived a sleazy hack,
Work had turned him grey.
Weighing on his conscience were a hundred crimes.

SCRIBBLER

Hey you! ... Stop it! I've done nothing wrong! Put me down now! Stop it! Someone help me!

PEOPLE Bs

Slanders, leaks and scandals whipped up quite a storm.
All the news was up for grabs. He was up for bribes.
He just turned a blind eye to the people's pain -

PEOPLE Ts

- Even when they came to him, showing him their scars.

PEOPLE Ts and Bs

Won't you expose injustice? Liberate the people?
Why don't you write the truth and tell the world our story?

PEOPLE Bs
But the hack just snapped back -

PEOPLE Ts
- "What's in it for me then?"

PEOPLE Ts and Bs
Gently, we picked him up and held him by his collar.
We cross-examined him and sentenced him for treason.

SCRIBBLER
Stop it! Stop it! Take your hands off me.
Let me go you animals. Let go of me. I am not your enemy.
Let go now...Let go...Hear me out.

PEOPLE Ts
Go ahead then.

SCRIBBLER
It's too dangerous. I am putting my own life at risk.
Do not get angry. I'm not responsible!

PEOPLE Ts and Bs
Spit it out! Speak up!

SCRIBBLER
This is the end. Today my head will roll.
(*quoting Khovansky's latest decree*) "An emergency order resolves to give the city's police force the power to imprison without a trial those who defy their authority. The police have taken charge of the state. They demand a regime change."

PEOPLE Bs
A reign of terror –

PEOPLE Ts
- We're all in danger.

SCRIBBLER
At midnight they launched the purges.
Minister Ivanov was caught, arrested as a foreign agent.
Then...they put the Minister to death on the orders of Prince Khovansky.

PEOPLE Ts and Bs
Bunch of gangsters!

SCRIBBLER
He had confessed he'd tried to kill the Tsar. He'd tried to poison him at dinner.

PEOPLE Ts and Bs
He got what he deserved.

SCRIBBLER
They wiped out half the Council.

PEOPLE Ts
Who else was killed?

PEOPLE Bs
Who else was killed?

SCRIBBLER
Bryantsevy!¹

PEOPLE Bs
Who else is dead?

PEOPLE Ts
Who else is dead?

SCRIBBLER
The Solntseviy.

PEOPLE Bs
What did they do?

PEOPLE Ts
Why were they murdered?

SCRIBBLER
Embezzling state funds and food supplies. Not to mention, showing contempt for our religion.

PEOPLE Ts
Justice was done.

PEOPLE Bs
Justice was done.

SCRIBBLER
Beware! Whoever makes subversive remarks relating to the Moscow police will meet a bloody end.

PEOPLE Ts
Hear that?

PEOPLE Bs
Did you hear that?

SCRIBBLER
Go home! Hide! If you do not conform you shall be punished without mercy.

PEOPLE Ts
Liar! Liar!

PEOPLE Bs
Don't believe it!

SCRIBBLER
God is my witness, brothers.

PEOPLE Ts
Jesus Christ!

PEOPLE Bs
The Terror has returned.

¹ The names of the victims of the purge, 'Bryantsevy' and 'The Solntseviy' were changed to 'Most of them' and 'The Treasurer' in the Birmingham production.

PEOPLE Ts and Bs

Oh poor Russia, mother of us all.

All your hopes of peace are at an end.

Russia bleeds and cries for freedom.

She's oppressed. We fight to have a voice.

No invader lays waste to the land.

Russia's pain lies deep inside us.

Civil war is tearing us apart.

We are ruled by fear and hatred.

(Offstage trumpets are heard, heralding the approach of the Khovanskys and their supporters).

We have suffered in silence for too long.

We've endured, endured and kept quiet.

Who can bring relief from this pain?

Who can save us from ourselves?

CHILDREN *(offstage)*

Look guys! Here they are!

WOMEN *(offstage)*

Let's show them, sisters! All together now.

BOYS

Hit it!

PEOPLE Bs

What's all this shouting?

PEOPLE Ts

Who is coming?

SCRIBBLER

Moscow's butcher is approaching.

Slip away now. Don't make trouble. *(Exits).*

PEOPLE Ts and Bs

Clear off! To hell with you!

WOMEN *(arriving in the main square with banners and Khovansky campaign leaflets)*

Sing to Prince Khovansky!

Sing to our Champion!

Sing to Prince Khovansky.

'Glory! Glory!'

POLICE

Our Chief is here. Our Chief is here.

PEOPLE Ts

Let's join the crowd. It looks like fun.

PEOPLE Bs

A worker's holiday?

WOMEN

Sing songs of praise! Our Leader's here.

Line up and cheer! Our Champion's arrived.

Dance for Khovansky! He's our man! Dance!

CHILDREN

Glory! Glory to our Leader. Dance!

POLICE
The Chief is here.

PEOPLE Bs
It's a party. Party! Party!

PEOPLE Ts
Must be a holiday today.

PEOPLE Ts and Bs
Ev'ry day's a holiday.

POLICE
He's here! He's here!

WOMEN
Hail to our Leader!

BOYS
Hail Great Leader!
God save our Hero!

POLICE
Keep back. Clear the way.

PEOPLE
Policemen. Bunch of murderers.

WOMEN/BOYS
God save Prince Ivan Khovansky!

POLICE
Our Great Chief is here.

POLICE (*addressing the crowd*)
God be with you. Children of Christ.
Brave and loyal patriots.
Prince Khovansky speaks to the nation.
Pay attention. Listen closely.
And here he is...

Enter Ivan and Andrei Khovansky.

IVAN KHOVANSKY
People! Power to you!
Our glorious land (Jesus wept!) has plunged into chaos ...
Because of the state's corruption...Because of the Tsar and his oligarchs.
Am I right?

TUTTI
Yes! Yes! Leader! Teacher!
Justice! Justice! Times are hard!

IVAN KHOVANSKY
It's my duty to fight for the Russian people. Tsar Peter would change our country's values. Change our Church! (Jesus wept!) Am I right?

TUTTI

Yes! Yes! Now give us justice. Justice! Father! Justice!

IVAN KHOVANSKY

Police! You're hungry for some action? (Jesus wept!)

POLICE

Lead us forward, father.

IVAN KHOVANSKY

Today parade through the streets of Moscow.

God bless our noble mission. Honour us!

PEOPLE

Hail Great Leader. Hail Great Teacher. Hail Great Warrior. Man of the People.

Celebrate! Chant his name! May he triumph! God grant him glory!

POLICE

Our Chief is here.

TUTTI

Hail Great Leader. Hail Great Teacher. Hail Great Father. Grant him glory.

POLICE

Our Great Chief is here.

WOMEN

Glory!

PEOPLE Ts

Glory!

WOMEN/PEOPLE

God grant him glory *etc*

POLICE

Our Chief is here. Your hero has come.

All exit. Enter Emma pursued by two policemen. Andrei Khovansky watches her.

EMMA

Let go! Let go!

(to audience) He'll hurt me. Somebody help. He'll hurt me!

ANDREI

No! No, adorable bird, play with me or I'll punish you.

EMMA *(to audience)*

Help me! Help me! Do not let him hurt me!

ANDREI

Stop resisting. I know you want me. Kiss me or I'll force you.

EMMA *(to audience)*

Everyone! I know this man. He's Andrei Khovansky.

He murdered my father. He had my husband exiled.

Right in front of me he raped my mother, leaving her to die.

Am I next? *(to Andrei)* Go on. Kill me as well. I am ready to die.

ANDREI

The more you cry the more you excite me.
Trembling and shivering your tears are seducing me.
I am in love with you. Give in to me.
Why do you hide away your pretty eyes?
Don't be shy, Emma -

EMMA

- I'll never give in.
You abuser! I'd rather die than give in. So kill me!

ANDREI

Give in to me.

EMMA (*praying*)

Help me God.

ANDREY

I can't wait anymore.

EMMA (*to Andrei*)

What do you mean to do?

ANDREI

I'll make you my wife. My Empress Emma -

EMMA

- Why are you mocking me? -

ANDREI

- I'll soon be the Tsar of Russia.

Why won't you make me happy? You've no idea how I suffer.

EMMA (*praying*)

God, my protector, strength and shield.

ANDREI

Why are you frightened? I'm in love with you... Give in to me.

EMMA

No...

MARFA (*unseen*)

Give in to him...

ANDREI

Submit to me.

MARFA (*unseen*)

Submit to him.

EMMA

Is there no one who'll help?

ANDREI

Emma.

EMMA

Don't touch me! Don't touch me! I have told you I'd rather die.
So kill me!

ANDREI

On your knees! I've had enough. You will not keep me waiting.

EMMA (*to audience*)

Will nobody help me? He wants to rape me.

ANDREI

No, there's no one who can save you. You are now my prisoner.

EMMA

Someone help me! -

ANDREI

- No! Stop resisting! -

EMMA

- Don't touch me!

ANDREI

No. No one's here!

MARFA (*appearing*)

I'm here.

ANDREI

Marfa?

MARFA

I am touched by the way you keep your promises.
Clearly, darling, you've lost the love you felt for me.
You gave your word to me. You swore that you'd be true.
I believed in you. I put my trust in you, my love.
And now you're bored with me. I wish you happiness.

EMMA

I am not guilty. Please take pity on me.

MARFA

You're safe with me now. Open your heart to me.

ANDREI

That crazy woman follows me everywhere.

EMMA

You're kind to me. Will you take care of me?
He's frightening. Make him go away.
He's a murderer, who stalks me night and day.

MARFA

I know your pain. I have suffered. I have seen it all.
God is watching. No one will hurt you. I will free you from Khovansky's clutches.

ANDREI

Like a snake, she spits...I'll find you and then I'll silence you. You have provoked me long enough.

MARFA

You are not guilty. You're pure and innocent.

ANDREI

What are you playing at - you dirty girls?

(to *Marfa*) Poor Emma. I don't think that she's your type.

MARFA (to *Andrei*)

Are you not ashamed of your behaviour?

You have lied and cheated me of happiness.

Have you grown so spoilt and so arrogant that my suffering doesn't mean a thing to you?

ANDREI

Shut up, you witch!

MARFA

Have you broken the vows you made?

Do you love this woman? This infidel?

Have you sold your soul to the Antichrist?

Are you damned to suffer God's punishment?

EMMA

He can't speak. He is frightened... Maybe he has hurt her too.

ANDREI

Help me God! She'll denounce me. Ruin me.

She will expose me. The Church will throw me out.

No! I won't give her up. No! I'd rather kill her first.

You must have heard a hundred times how Boy meets Girl and falls in love.

Then the Boy grows tired of her. He has no time for her.

So he decides to say good-bye to her and stop deceiving her.

He takes out his knife to kill her!

EMMA

Ah!

Andrei attacks Marfa, but she parries his blow with her own weapon.

MARFA

Our story has a different ending.

...But this is not the death I have in mind for you.

MARFA

I am not the one who will release you from your misery.

I see your future. My sick heart now knows the truth. I have a vision.

I see a temple filled with light.

EMMA

He's a madman. He's possessed. Dear God, protect her.

Defend her from this murderer. This woman saved my life. What can I do for her?

ANDREI

She was sent by the Devil to pester and torture me.

Why won't she go away. She follows me and can't be stopped.

She's fearless and dangerous. She wants revenge for the wrong I've done.

MARFA
And in this blazing furnace...

PEOPLE / POLICE (*offstage*)
Hail Khovansky! Here he comes!

MARFA
...Rise up the True Believers.

PEOPLE / POLICE (*offstage*)
God grant him glory.

ANDREY
My father's here.

EMMA
What's that?

PEOPLE (*offstage*)
Hail Great Leader. Hail Great Teacher. Hail Great Warrior. Man of the People
Celebrate! Chant his name! May he triumph!

POLICE (*offstage*)
Here he comes! Our Great Leader! Hail to Khovansky!

MARFA (*to Andrei*)
Receive the Lord.

EMMA
Help me! Protect my soul.

Enter Ivan Khovansky, Police and People.

IVAN KHOVANSKY
What's the trouble? Andrei?
Morning, Marfa... (*noticing Emma*) You're not alone. Hello there. Such snow-white skin.
I like the look of her... She's mine. Police - arrest her!

ANDREI
Stop! No! She is not one of your victims. You cannot have her for your whore house.
No! Let her go! That is an order. Take your filthy hands off her. I warn you.

IVAN KHOVANSKY
Who would have thought?... My son?... (*to Andrei*) Well done.
Police. Take her!

ANDREI
Don't you touch her!

POLICE
What should we do, lads? Disobey our leader?

ANDREI
Sir... father.

IVAN KHOVANSKY
(*sarcastically to his police*) Looks like I've lost all my power and authority.
My own ungrateful son refuses to obey my orders.

ANDREI
Wait, father.

IVAN KHOVANSKY
So! You dare to defy me? You dare to provoke my rage?
By the powers invested in our city's police force by the people -

ANDREI
- Father -

IVAN KHOVANSKY
- Bring me that girl. The state's security demands it.
Take her to my home. Prepare a full interrogation.

ANDREI (*drawing his knife again*)
I'll kill her first, you bastards.

Enter Dosifei.

DOSIFEI
Stop! Godless infidels! What have you done to her?

EMMA
Please whoever you are.

IVAN KHOVANSKY
Who's in charge here?

EMMA
They'll kill me! They'll kill me! Don't let them murder me. Help me!

DOSIFEI
Marfa. Escort this woman to her home.
Protect and keep her safe from danger and temptation, child.

MARFA
Father. Give me your blessing.

DOSIFEI
Peace be with you.

Exit Emma and Marfa.

DOSIFEI (*to the Khovanskys and the police*)
You spawn of the Devil! I ask again. What have you done to her?

Our Faith is lost in darkness. Our spirits wither, starve and break.
We are slaves to pride. Life is a bitter, painful fight. Without hope we struggle on.
We forget the true religion, surrender our simple freedoms.

True Believers. God calls on you to fight for what you believe. A Holy War. A final sacrifice.
My soul sighs. My spirit freezes. Will we save our true religion?
(*to Ivan Khovansky*) Will you join me in this holy war?

IVAN KHOVANSKY
Police! It's war! Send in the tanks and clear the streets.
Get moving. Close off all the city exits. God bless us in our work.

POLICEMEN
We'll die for our religion!

IVAN KHOVANSKY
Declare martial law. Prince Andrei. Get back to the campaign.

Exit Ivan and Andrei Khovansky and police.

DOSIFEI
Father. Give hope to your children in this battle.
Lord. May belief inspire and sweeten our pain.
May our children hope and dream.
Brothers! Pray with me. Can we preserve our faith?
Sing now, brothers! Sing how we will transcend the world. Our time is short.

OLD BELIEVERS Ts
Lord God. Save our souls from this empty, souless world.
Help us to crush the Antichrist.

OLD BELIEVERS Bs
Heavenly Father. Save our souls from this empty, heartless, souless world.
Give us the strength to overcome the Antichrist.

DOSIFEI
Father! My heart is open to you.

OLD BELIEVERS
God of Light. Bless us. Give us strength.

End of Act One.

ACT TWO

Later that evening at Prince Vassily Golitsyn's home. The furnishings are in a mixture of Muscovite and European styles.

GOLITSYN (*alone, reading a letter from Sophia, Regent of Russia during Peter's infancy*)
"Dearest darling Vassily. You're the light of my life. I'm so impatient to see you, to kiss you, to finally spend some time with you. How happy we will be when I come back and hold you in my arms, embracing you with all my love..."

...My days are lonely. Full of state affairs. Often, distracted by the notes you write to me, I lose all sense of time. I miss you so."

Sophia. The years have worn you out, protecting your young brother, the Tsar. Are you still burning with desire and dreaming of the nights we spent together? The days when we were younger?

Can I trust this clever woman, who is so hungry for power?

No one can be trusted. Not her. Not now.

No. I will not believe her letter, her empty dreams of a life together, giving in to pleasure.

Yes, between the sheets you're quite a tiger. I've seen you throw your famous tantrums. Just one false step. A blunder. And then . . . Off with his head! Best be careful what I say.

(opening another letter) Ha! At last. A letter from my mother. Yes, it's arrived! The money I was promised. My prayers have been answered and I can face the future.

To change the world you need a little sponsorship.

(reading) "My sunshine, you know how much I miss you, my darling. I love you more than life itself. Be clean in thought and deed and listen to your conscience. Confess your sins. Beg for God's mercy..."

What is this? Could this be an evil omen?

Why am I so frightened of the future? I'm eaten up by fear and suspicion. I no longer can trust my judgement. I'm paralysed. I'm losing my reason.

(reflecting on the letter) "Be clean in thought and deed and listen to your conscience. Beg for God's mercy."

Scene between Lutheran Pastor and Golitsyn (usually cut)²

Enter Varsonofiev

Who's there?

VARSONOFIEV
Your Grace. A word.

GOLITSYN
Well?

VARSONOFIEV
Someone wants to see you. It's that Lutheran Minister. He is a nuisance.

GOLITSYN
Then show him in.

Enter Pastor.

PASTOR
I'm grateful for all the help you give our Church. You have never turned away petitions from members of our Christian congregation...Forgive me. Can you spare the time to see me when you are so very busy?

GOLITSYN
Explain what is the trouble. Take your time. We can talk freely. What disturbs you? I'm listening. I'm here to help you. Tell me everything.

PASTOR
Hatred and prejudice consume us and poison our lives. It is Hell on Earth! It breaks my heart when I see such violence.

GOLITSYN
What's the matter?

PASTOR
Prince Khovansky Junior...

² This scene was cut in Birmingham Opera Company's production.

GOLITSYN
...Yes...

PASTOR
...this morning attacked a girl.

GOLITSYN
Go on.

PASTOR
He took her prisoner.

GOLITSYN
Really?

PASTOR
A poor, defenceless orphan.

GOLITSYN
Emma?

PASTOR
That's right.

GOLITSYN
So that's the trouble.
Listen, Reverend Father. I suggest you take things slowly.
I cannot condemn the private life of Prince Khovansky.

PASTOR (*aside*)
Help me God.

GOLITSYN
But, if it is within my power, of course, I promise to help your congregation.
Grant you some freedoms, some religious toleration.
Have faith. A change is coming.

PASTOR (*aside*)
An opportunity.

GOLITSYN
I will gladly consider your proposals.
Let us work together, strengthening our friendship.
I'm all ears, Reverend Father.

PASTOR
I'm afraid. It's not so easy.

GOLITSYN
I am listening.

PASTOR (*aside*)
Emma is lost. But surely, God will help me win him over.

GOLITSYN
Go on.

PASTOR
I pray our Church may survive. I pray that peace may return. I pray our faith may not die.

Your Grace supports our cause. Would you help build a new Church for us?
A home for our faith. We need one more. Only one more. I know you help foreigners in need.

GOLITSYN

Take my advice, Reverend Father. Keep your ideas to yourself.

PASTOR

Please understand me. Listen to me.

GOLITSYN

You're mad and foolish! You've lost your mind completely! You'd cover all Russia with your foreign churches!

Now, listen. This evening I will discuss the current crisis. Khovansky Senior and Dosifei are coming. I am sure they would like to hear your views on religion...

PASTOR

Prince. Your pardon. Forgive me.

GOLITSYN

Well...Goodbye Reverend Father. Till the next time. Take care now.
...Till the next time.

Exit Pastor.

What nerve! The schemer. Those robes hide a wolf!

Enter Varsonofiev.

GOLITSYN

What now?

VARSONOFIEV

Excuse me, sir.

GOLITSYN

Well, what do you want? Huh?

VARSONOFIEV

It's time for your consultation in private with your clairvoyant.

GOLITSYN

You better keep your mouth shut. Your head is on the block. Understood?

GOLITSYN

Forgive me, sir. I meant no harm. A visitor is waiting to discuss a private matter.

GOLITSYN

That's better. Get out.

Enter Marfa.

MARFA

So, you've invited me to visit you in secret. Your spies have watched me closely.

GOLITSYN

Somone is sure to betray me. Even my friends can't be trusted.
I stumble through my wasted life in search of a meaning and trembling at every step.
I need some answers.

MARFA

What does the future have in store for you? Ask me?
I can invoke mysterious spirits from beyond? Shall I?

GOLITSYN

But how?

MARFA

I need a bowl of water.

GOLITSYN (to Varsonofiev)

A bowl of water.

Varsonofiev exits and re-enters with a bowl of water. He places it in front of Marfa and exits.

GOLITSYN (to Marfa)

Begin.

MARFA

Spirits of mystery
Wake and appear to me.
Souls of the afterlife
And the underworld.
I invoke you.
Souls who have drowned themselves
Souls who have damned themselves,
Lost in a vast abyss,
Lost in eternity,
Come to me!
Worn out by fearful dreams,
This man demands to know
What is his destiny?
Shadows conceal the truth.
Reveal his fate!
Hushed and peaceful, the world stands still.
Light floods the heavens, shimmering and bright.
Spirits of mystery,
Answer your sister's call.
Fate now approaches you.
Time to meet your destiny.
Faces surround you.
Faces that laugh at you.
You are trapped by
Friends who've betrayed you.
Faces of friends who loved you.
Smiling, they point to a path in the distance.
There I see it! I see your future!

GOLITSYN

What can you see?

MARFA

Listen. A day of disaster awaits you. Shameful exile far from home.
I see you deprived of your fortune and all alone, betrayed by your friends.
Your great reputation. Your courage. Your knowledge.
No, nothing can save you now. You cannot escape.
You'll learn what it means to suffer and live in fear.
Face your fate. Give in to the sorrow you feel and you will find truth through pain.

GOLITSYN
Go!

Exit Marfa. Enter Varsonofiev.

GOLITSYN
(to *Varsonofiev*) Make sure she doesn't talk. Go and drown her in the marshes.

Exit Varsonofiev.

So that's what life has in store for me.
Deep down I knew that I was in danger.
Tsar Peter will force my resignation. I won't survive the damage to my reputation.

Once I felt so sure about the future.
I thought that I could lead my country out of darkness.
I fought to eliminate corruption. Restored our relationship with Europe.
Secured a just and lasting peace for Russia.

All the eyes of Europe were upon me when, as Commander of the armies of the Tsar, I crushed the pride of the enemy invaders. I reached a settlement, winning back the land we lost in battle. Our Russian homeland. The fatherland, soaked in the blood of our heroes. I risked my life in service of my country.

All's faded to dust. All's forgotten. Oh my Russian land.
Your past has wounded you. Your future is uncertain.

Enter Ivan Khovansky

IVAN KHOVANSKY
You dare to keep me waiting, prince? Damn you!

GOLITSYN
Won't you sit down –

IVAN KHOVANSKY
- Sit down! (Jesus wept!) That's the problem.
You have turned our world upside down. I'm the same as the working man.
Equality has won. Show me where my place is!

GOLITSYN
Won't you sit down.

IVAN KHOVANSKY
Where? At your feet? Or hidden in the doorway, mixing with your servants?
The scum of the earth!

GOLITSYN
This is surprising. You are among the richest men in Russia.
Moscow depends on you and your police force.
But you whine about who you're sitting next to.

IVAN KHOVANSKY
Christ! It's no joke, Golitsyn.
Your political success does not impress me.
You've betrayed our class with all your 'welfare reforms' and your 'modernised religion'.

GOLITSYN
Betrayed?

IVAN KHOVANSKY
You're finished, prince. Your fun and games are over.

GOLITSYN
My fun and games?

IVAN KHOVANSKY
Those godless Tartars believe all men are equal. If anyone stands out, they kill him on the spot. Perhaps you get in bed with Asian scum?³

GOLITSYN
Stop! What was that? You're off your head! Control yourself, Khovansky.

IVAN KHOVANSKY
Aha. That stung you!

GOLITSYN
You bastard – you do enjoy provoking me, Khovansky.

I understand that change is painful. You are against it. But it's essential.
(*becoming more provocative*) It's a miracle you're still in office. You're so behind the times, Prince Khovansky. There is no place for some old conservative, reactionary dinosaur, clinging to tradition.

Remember the prince who would not sit with workers – even when commanded by the Tsar. He whined and moaned and hid underneath the table – just like a spoilt, little brat.

IVAN KHOVANSKY
This is ridiculous!

GOLITSYN
Down there the Tsar abused him like a dog. He threw him scraps of food to teach him a lesson. And you- Prince Khovansky! You – the famous commander, who tore through the city, reduced it to ashes, soaked the earth with blood. You are lost? You cannot find your place?! -

IVAN KHOVANSKY
- Your point is made. I have listened to your provocations. Did not react to your tirade of hatred. It's your turn so hear me out. Do not interrupt me.
Do not forget my heritage. Royal blood is flowing through my veins. And that is why your arrogance and pride are out of order. Who's Golitsyn?! Tell me what you're proud of? Tell me who you are?

You are the Prince of military incompetence. Half Russia's army died of hunger. Their blood is on your hands!

Enter Dosifei

GOLITSYN
Stop! Who are you to question my decisions?!

IVAN KHOVANSKY
Shame on you! It's the truth!

GOLITSYN
No! You lack the brains to understand what I was up against.

³ Alternative closer to the original: 'Perhaps you take your cue from savages.'

IVAN KHOVANSKY
You deny it?

DOSIFEI
Make peace. Control your rage. Control the pride within you.
Petty quarrels will not save our country.

Princes. Think of the cause we're fighting for.
Today we hold a meeting. Millions of lives depend on us.
You peck away like roosters in a fight! Peck! Peck!

GOLITSYN
Dosifei! Back off. It's none of your business.
Don't forget! You're just a priest and not a prince. Our ways are different.

DOSIFEI
I never forget. Do I need to remind you?
My former life. That other life is buried and forgotten.

GOLITSYN
What's forgotten? What have you been hiding?

DOSIFEI
I turned my back on privileges. I was born Prince Myshetsy!

GOLITSYN
Prince Myshetsky.

IVAN KHOVANSKY
Myshetsky?

GOLITSYN
Well, well. I heard some rumours, but I just laughed at them.
A Russian Prince would never have renounced his birthright in favour of a life of bible bashing.

IVAN KHOVANSKY
Obviously. If you're born a Prince of Russia, you've a duty to your country.
Black robes and fasting are not for us. They don't suit us well.

DOSIFEI
A priest is the conscience even of great princes. Listen.
We've come together for a meeting. Let's start. The time is passing.

GOLITSYN
First let us look for common ground. Please explain your positions. Where do we agree?

DOSIFEI
There's only one position. Danger threatens Holy Russia. Do you intend to save her?
... No one answers.

GOLITSYN
We need to know our strengths. Who will support us?

DOSIFEI
God will. God supports us. Our faith is our strength.

GOLITSYN
Yes, faith we take for granted. We need more than that.

DOSIFEI

But faith will be our greatest weapon when True Believers share the Holy Gospel and serve the Lord.

GOLITSYN

Well, that's the end of that discussion.

DOSIFEI

And what does Prince Khovansky think?

IVAN KHOVANSKY

Me? Just say the word and we'll depose the Tsar. My boys will act. We will purge the town. We will bring back law and order.

GOLITSYN

Yes? Under whose command I wonder?

IVAN KHOVANSKY

Whose command? My own, of course!

GOLITSYN (*to Dosifei*)

And what is your opinion?

DOSIFEI

Who should rule us? We need a leader who'll defend tradition and rule by referendum.

GOLITSYN

Well, what you say would set us back a hundred years.

IVAN KHOVANSKY (*to Golitsyn*)

You pompous ass!

DOSIFEI (*to Golitsyn*)

It's clear you've been corrupted by your English education. Go on and let the West destroy our country's heritage. Our way of life! In no time at all, you'll have us dancing to the Devil's tune. Our cities' rivers of blood.

GOLITSYN

Dosifei! How dare you call me traitor! I have served the state while you prayed to God. The love that I bear my land is greater than your fanatical, religious intolerance!

DOSIFEI

The nation's anger is mine. We roar and rage. You can't ignore the people's cries! They leave their homes and hide in terror. They hate your brutal reforms.

IVAN KHOVANSKY

Bravo. Agreed. That's precisely what I've been saying. Time and time again I tried to make him understand. I have tried to explain. 'Prince, do not tear down the old.' What does he do? He takes away our ancient rights!

DOSIFEI (*to Ivan Khovansky*)

And you should clean up your police force.

IVAN KHOVANSKY

What's wrong with them?

DOSIFEI

They rob the people. They're a godless mob. Abandoning their wives and children, those beasts run wild across the country.

IVAN KHOVANSKY

So what? What can I do if they enjoy a night of drinking?
When they are sober, they serve the state with honour.

DOSIFEI

You never lift a finger. Eh? Bla bla bla bla bla bla bla!

GOLITSYN

Stop! That's enough. You're both my guests so please behave with some respect.

IVAN KHOVANSKY (*to Dosifei*)

You have insulted me, you slanderer!

GOLITSYN

Control yourselves. Preserve a little dignity.

IVAN KHOVANSKY (*to Golitsyn*)

And as for you, prince! I've been made a fool of because I offered you my help, giving you some soldiers and finance for your projects.

TRUE BELIVERS (*Offstage*)

Fight for freedom. Down with Peter. Join the army of the faithful, fighting for the true religion.

DOSIFEI

I ask for silence. Hear the Words of the Chosen Ones, who walk the way of the Lord.

GOLITSYN

Where's this leading?

DOSIFEI

You, my princes, waste your time with idle chatter.
But here are men of action! Hear them! Hear them! God's elect!

TRUE BELIVERS IN BLACK ROBES (*Offstage*)

Fight for freedom. Down with Peter. Join the army of the faithful. We shall conquer sin and crush the infidel, and triumph over heresy. Join the True Believers and fight for truth. Join the faithful!

IVAN KHOVANSKY

Good for you, my brothers. Sing it!

GOLITSYN

Who are these men?

DOSIFEI

Fight for freedom. Down with Peter. We will defeat and crush the Anti-Christ. Let us build the new Jerusalem, shining forth with faith and righteousness. The Glory of God will bring salvation.

TRUE BELIEVERS IN BLACK ROBES (*offstage*)

...Fight for freedom...the faithful...the true religion...We will defeat them!

GOLITSYN

Fanatics!

IVAN KHOVANSKY

Splendid! Let us celebrate Russia's glorious traditions.

Enter Marfa

MARFA *(to Golitsyn)*

Murderer! Murderer! I am still alive. You can't touch me now.

GOLITSYN

Back from the dead! Back from the dead!

IVAN KHOVANSKY

What's got into you? This is Marfa.

DOSIFEI

What has happened? What is it, my daughter?

MARFA

Father. You're here?

As I was leaving the Prince, night was falling.
Out in the courtyard, his spy was watching.
Soon he was following me from a distance.
I tried to lose him, but he was too clever.
Then he attacked me and started to choke me,
Saying this is from Prince Golitsyn.
Trapped in a corner I tried to persuade him, but
He would not listen, tightening his grip on me.
I tried to fight back. He was too strong for me...
I don't remember exactly what happened.
Somehow I managed to run away.

Thanks be to God. Tsar Peter's soldiers found me. They are waiting in your courtyard.

GOLITSYN / DOSIFEI / IVAN KHOVANSKY

They're here?!

MARFA *(to Golitsyn)*

Yes. They happened to be marching to your home.

VARSONOFIEV *(entering hurriedly)*

Shaklovity!

SHAKLOVITY *(entering)*

My Lords. The Palace has found new evidence that proves there is a plot against the Tsar.
The Khovanskys are guilty of high treason.

IVAN KHOVANSKY

The Khovanskys?!

DOSIFEI

(to Khovansky) Your dreams are done *(to Shaklovity)*. What else did Tsar Peter say?

SHAKLOVITY

"Expose Khovanskygate. It is time... for the truth."

Peter's trumpets sound. End of Act Two.

ACT THREE

The Police (Streltsy) Quarter on the Kremlin Side of Moscow River. It is noon. True Believers pass through the quarter with a crowd of people.

TRUE BELIEVERS (*Offstage*)

Fight for freedom. Down with Peter. Join the army of the faithful.
We shall conquer sin and crush the infidel and triumph over heresy.
Join the True Believers and fight for truth. Join the faithful.

(*onstage*) Fight for freedom. Down with Peter. Join the True Believers. Join the faithful.
We shall crush the infidel. Triumph over heresy. Join the faithful.

(*exiting*) Fight for freedom...our old beliefs...our ancient faith. Down with Peter!

Marfa, alone.

MARFA

Late at night she roamed the wild
All alone like a lost child.
All alone like a lost child,
she danced through forests in search of love.

Out of breath, she began to tire.
Thorns and nettles had cut her feet.
She kept on searching through the night
for the boy who'd promised her they would meet.
Just as the sun began to rise,
she crept up to her darling's home.
First she tapped on the window pane.
Then she knocked at his door,
hoping he'd appear.

Do you remember your loving words?
Oh, don't forget what you promised me.
How many nights have I lain awake,
with your vows of love ringing in my ears.

Like two candles burning bright,
we shall glow with a holy light.
Bathing in the flames of God,
we shall free our souls from the chains of life.

Enter Susanna.

You have lost all your love for me.
You have shattered my happiness.
But I know you'll return to me.
I have seen us together eternally.

SUSANNA

Sin! Filthy, abominable, evil sin!
(*possessed*) Hell! Hell's fiery frenzy! Satan is rejoicing.
Hell's mouth is grinning and gaping and out pour rivers of boiling blood.

MARFA

Sister. Susanna. Tell me what has frightened you. Our life is hard and filled with sorrow. One long journey through the vale of tears. Do you hear? I'm sounding like a prayer book.

SUSANNA

You don't fool me. I've been watching you. You're the Devil's whore.
You sneak away to sing your songs of depravity.

MARFA

You had no right to hear my song. Like a thief you crept up on me.
You have stolen my private grief. You have torn it away from the depths of my heart.
I feel pity for you. I've never tried to hide the love I feel for him. Shall I confess to you the truth- the whole truth.

SUSANNA

Save me God!

MARFA

Softly he whispered words that frightened me.
How those burning lips would kiss me with their warming fire.

SUSANNA

Stop! Blasphemy! Words of temptation. Words from the Devil's mouth. I will not fall for your tricks.

MARFA

No, sister, no. Will you listen to me?
If you'd ever loved as I have loved and known the passion of a woman's heart,
if you'd ever been desired by a man,
if you had given up your soul for your love,
Surely you'd forgive my sins against the Lord?
You'd feel compassion, feel my pain.
You'd forgive in the name of love and understand the sickness that is killing me.

SUSANNA

What's she saying? Help me God. What's she doing?
My head is spinning. I'm so dizzy. Could she be trying to infect me?

MARFA

Do you remember your loving words?
Oh, don't forget what you promised me.
How many nights have I wasted with your vows of love, ringing in my ears.

SUSANNA

Lord, be merciful. Drive this demon away from me. Drive her away.
My heart is thirsty for blood and vengeance against this heretic.

Enter Dosifei (unseen)

SUSANNA

Stop! You are tempting me. You are seducing me. I'm bewitched by a spell. Devils rage in me.
Judgement before the Lord! You will confess your crimes. I will bear witness in court to your obscenities. Then you will burn to death! Fire will cleanse your soul!

DOSIFEI

What has possessed you?

MARFA

Father, thank God. Sister Susanna flew into a rage with me. I told her the truth, confided in my sister.

DOSIFEI

You turned on her, Susanna? You've lost your way. Have you forgotten how Marfa once saved your life from certain death? A public lynching was waiting for you because of your spite, your poisonous rage, your viciousness.

SUSANNA

I'm innocent! She is guilty! I have been tempted by her. And I've been seduced by her. I'm bewitched by a spell. Devils rage in me. Judge her before a Court of God. She will confess her sins.

DOSIFEI

Stop! Stop torturing her. Why do you hurt your sister? Why be led by pride and hate? Your jealousy and envy have wounded Sister Marfa's broken heart.

SUSANNA

No! I won't give way!

DOSIFEI

You? You, Susanna? Slave of the Devil, inflamed by his spirit. You have called on Satan to join you in your madness. Swirling around you, demons are playing, racing and flying, jumping and dancing. Child, born of Satan, get out! The Devil incarnate. Get out!

Exit Susanna.

Lucifer...has left her. How he raged in her.

Dearest child, embrace me. Don't despair of life. Endure a little more. Pain is the pathway to the Lord for us all.

MARFA

It hurts, hurts my heart so deeply. How much longer must I feel like this? Worthless! Forgotten! Thrown aside!

DOSIFEI

By Prince Andrei?

MARFA

Yes.

DOSIFEI

He hurt you?

MARFA

He tried to kill me.

DOSIFEI

What do you want?

MARFA

Like two candles, burning bright,
we shall glow with a holy light.
Bathing in the flames of God,
we shall both free our souls from the chains of life.

DOSIFEI

To burn? Horrible. Not yet. It's not time yet, my darling.

MARFA

Oh, father.

Love is a sickness of body and mind.

Day and night I'm filled with the same desire.

Is my love a crime in the eyes of God?

Is it wrong to surrender your soul to a man?

If I am guilty, father, then punish me.

Be quick. Go on and kill me now.

Oh don't delay. Please let my body die, my flesh rot. My soul will be free.

DOSIFEI

Marfa. My darling, you're afflicted by love.
You're not alone. God knows I am a sinner.
We must not question the life God gives us.
Time to go home.
Endure, my darling girl and love as you have loved...till all the pain you feel passes.

Exit Dosifei and Marfa. Enter Shaklovity.

SHAKLOVITY

Now the city is asleep.
Sleep Russian people. Enemies are watching you.

My country, how I mourn for you. Poor, unlucky Russia.
Who? Who will save my homeland? Who will lead you out of crisis?

What if your fate is governed by our foreign enemies?
Will the greed of the Germans profit from your loss and bleed you dry?

My motherland. Don't give in! No! Don't give in to threats from our powerful enemies abroad. Fight on!
Fight for the sake of your children, who deserve a chance in life. A Russian dream.

You felt the shame of a foreign occupation.
That was followed by the promise of democracy.
Your Princes betrayed you, creating widespread poverty.
Society crumbled. You lost your trust in government.
The occupation's years ago. The upper class is dying out.
But you, unhappy land, suffer and bear it!

Father. You look down on our country, so steeped in blood and anarchy.
You. You see into Russia's heart and know the depths of her misery.
Shine your sacred light of reason on our motherland.

Let the Chosen One appear. A Messiah of blood, a Tsar, who can bring us back to life.

Be merciful. Will you forgive us and hear my prayer?
Do not abandon Russia. Cut out this cancer!

POLICE Bs (*Offstage*)

Sober up! Get out of bed!

POLICE Ts (*Offstage*)

Too much to drink. You're off your head.
Get your arses out of bed.

SHAKLOVITY

The pigs are coming. The sober and submissive swine of Prince Khovansky.⁴

POLICE Bs

Sober up! Get out of bed!

POLICE Ts

Too much to drink. You're off your head.
Did your girlfriend knock you dead?

⁴ Alternative version closer to the original: The flock is waking. The peaceful and submissive lambs of Prince Khovansky.

SHAKLOVITY

Go sing your songs! Time is catching up with you, lads.

Enter Police. Exit Shaklovity.

POLICE Bs

We need a drink, lads. One more shot of vodka.

POLICE Ts

It's all gone, lads. We have a problem.

POLICE Ts and Bs

We want more!

POLICE Bs

How sweet life is, how sweet life is when we are drunk.

We need more. Let's drown our sorrow every morning.

POLICE Ts

Ah! But the vodka's not to blame. It's that wild drinking game.

Oi! Oi! Oi-oi! Oi! Oi you! Let's get up!

POLICE Bs

Go on. Just one more. Oh, just one more to knock us out. Do not wake us from our drunken dreams.

Give us the morning off.

POLICE Ts

Up! Up! On your feet!

Go! Go! On the beat!

Did you drown your sorrow

Wake up! Face tomorrow!

Duty calls. Time to hit the streets!

Time for smashing heads!

We can stop and search whoever we like.

We'll get tough on crime!

Zero tolerance!

We will teach them to respect and obey the law.

POLICE Bs

Hey! We're awake. We're up. We're ready for a good day's work. Come on lads!

Let's go purge the city streets of militants! Ah!...

POLICE Ts and Bs

Time to hit the streets!

Time for smashing heads!

We will purge the city and fill the prisons.

Go! Go! Police!

Go! Keep the peace!

Be fearless. No one can stop us.

Let's destroy the opposition.

Go Police! Go keep the peace! Oi! Oi!

Enter Wives.

WIVES

You good-for-nothing bunch of drunkards!

You cheating bastards! Lazy layabouts!

You never think! You never learn!

Your own families? Forgotten!

Mothers and babies? Deserted!
We are abandoned. We face ruin.

You good-for-nothing bunch of drunkards!
You cheating bastards, lazy layabouts!
You never think! You never learn!
We mean nothing. You! You layabouts! You drunkards! You drunkards!

POLICE
Look at our women. Wailing witches.
Shouting and swearing. Bleating bitches.
Always moaning. Screaming blue murder!
Women! Will you be quiet!

POLICE
Have you finished? We're sick of all your moaning.
Screaming like a banshee at your loving husbands.

WIVES
Loving husbands? You are joking. We are finished. Go get packing.

POLICE
It's exhausting. Fighting with a woman. I don't have the strength to keep it up much longer.

WIVES
Too much drinking. Too much whoring. You're no match for us this morning.

POLICE
What a shame we stupidly got married. Life was sweet and easy.
We were free and lazy.

WIVES
Shame on you drunkards. Go and drown in vodka!

Enter Kuzka

POLICE
Kuzka!

KUZKA
Eh?

POLICE
Kuzka!

KUZKA
Well?

POLICE
Can you help us pacify our women? Play some music. Something they can dance to.

KUZKA
What's the trouble?

POLICE
Kuzka!

KUZKA
Oh, married life is not for me. I'm a nervous wreck.

My wild wife is mad. Yes, she is hopping mad.
Ev'ry night I try to cuddle, she just kicks me out of bed.
My dinner's cold, but I'm too scared to utter a single word.
Please, ladies, dance for me and sing along with me.
Aooo.

WOMEN

Aooo. Aooo.

POLICE

Sing it Kuzka!

KUZKA

In a dark and shady alley,
Lived a lonely, bitter granny.
She had grown so very heavy
Boys and Girls would poke her belly.
She decided to destroy
Any chance of married joy.
Spreading scandal in the lives
Of young husbands and their wives.

POLICE Ts

Did old granny have a name?

POLICE Bs

Granny Gossip was her title.
Fighting her was suicidal.
She would drive us all insane.
She created so much pain.

POLICE Ts

Send this Granny straight to Hell
For the lies she liked to tell.
Gossip's power is infectious.
Granny's lies became contagious.

WIVES As

Families began to squabble.
Brothers, sisters joined the quarrel.
Gossip rotted in the bedroom.
Spread into the children's playroom.

WIVES Ss

Careful, careful what you say!
Later you'll be made to pay!

WIVES Ss and As

Gossip filled the world with hate.
Wicked Granny ruled the state.

POLICE Bs

In the pay of politicians
Gossip helped to fill the prisons,
Built a network of informers.
Gossip soon increased the tortures.
Leaking lies to all the papers.
Scandal-loving commentators.

POLICE Ts and Bs
Publishing denunciations.
Wrecking public reputations.

KUZKA
Gossip's made us lose our reason.
Gossip's won – the little demon!
People hate to speak the truth.
They would rather hurl abuse.
Common sense has flown away.
Granny Gossip's here to stay.
Welcome to her reign of terror.
Granny Gossip's our oppressor.

WIVES
Ah! Aooo! Aooo! Ah!

POLICE Ts and Bs
Time we all cracked down on Gossip?
Granny's caused us too much hardship.
Every day another riot.
Let's return to peace and quiet.

WIVES
Down with gossip!

POLICE Ts and Bs
Put her under lock and key!

TUTTI
Hang her from the nearest tree!
Finally, we'll all be free.

KUZKA
Gossip! Off you go . . .

KUZKA / WOMEN / POLICE
...to court!!

Enter Scribbler

SCRIBBLER
Disaster! A massacre! They'll kill us all! I'm terrified!

POLICE Ts
What a bloody plonker!

POLICE Bs
What a crazy devil!

POLICE Ts
Someone gave you quite a beating.

POLICE Bs
Look. He's crying.

WIVES Ss
Look. He's shaking, gasping for air.

WIVES As
Does he have a fever?

POLICE Ts and Bs
Serves you right, you trouble-maker.

SCRIBBLER
Just hear me out!
No one's beaten me up. No! No one's raided my home.
No one's smeared my name. Nothing has happened to me.

POLICE Ts and Bs
Then why are you here, stirring up so much trouble?
Think you're so smart, you can come uninvited?

SCRIBBLER
I was frightened. Scared to death.

POLICE Bs
Really?

POLICE Ts
The clever bastard! It seems you've forgotten police regulations. No one's allowed in here. Got to have permission. We shoot intruders on the spot!

SCRIBBLER
Go on then. Shoot me. I am not afraid to die. I've lost the will to live.
But before you kill me, I'll tell you the truth! Tsar Peter's army's coming to destroy you!

POLICE Ts/Bs
Tsar Peter! Tsar Peter!

SCRIBBLER
Listen. I sat, hard at work, writing up my column. Obeying orders. Doing my duty.
I've done nothing wrong. I just tell it how it is. I work for the good of every Russian citizen.

Then...Listen...

Horses galloping fiercely.
The roar of battle.
Weapons firing.
Bullets flying.
Howls of pain!

POLICE Ts
Tsar Peter's out to get you!

POLICE Bs
Tsar Peter's out to lock you up!

POLICE Ts
What did you do to scare the Tsar?

POLICE Bs
How did you frighten him?

POLICE Ts and Bs
What a joke! You'll see. He's coming to catch you. Likely story!

SCRIBBLER

Half of the city's already been retaken by Tsar Peter's forces.
You've been named as public enemies. Along with your families. Even your children.

POLICE Ts and Bs

Liar! Can't be true. You're lying.

WIVES Ss and As

Lord God, protect us all.

SCRIBBLER

Peter arriving in Moscow to take control of the government of Russia and punish you all.
Give up, police, or you are doomed.

POLICE and WIVES

We are dead. We are dead. Finished. Finished.

SCRIBBLER (*aside*)

I'll make my escape. Disappear before they notice. (*whistles*) Ffff...

Scribe exits.

KUZKA

Hey, lads. Let's ask Khovansky. He will know the truth.
If Tsar Peter's come back, does he mean to throw us in jail?
Let's ask our leader. Ask him.

WIVES Ss and As

Ask him.

POLICE Ts and Bs

Ask him.

POLICE Ts and Bs

Father. Father, talk to us.
Father. Father, talk to us.

WIVES Ss and As

Talk to your children.

POLICE Ts

Tell us the truth.

POLICE AND WIVES

Father. Father. Talk to us. *etc.*

Enter Ivan Khovansky

IVAN KHOVANSKY

My loyal children. Your father's here to see you.

POLICE AND WIVES

Long life and happiness to you, our worthy Father.

IVAN KHOVANSKY

What brings you here, my children? Has some new disaster happened here in Moscow?

POLICE AND WIVES

Tsar Peter's forces have come to murder us.

POLICE Ts and Bs
Lead us to war!

IVAN KHOVANSKY
War? Do you remember how, ankle deep in blood, we defended with our lives the city and its people?
We won that war. Now times have changed. Peter has won.

Go home in peace and quiet. Await your sentence. And hope for mercy.
Goodbye. Goodbye.

POLICE AND WIVES (*in quiet prayer*)
God of Love. Do not desert your people. Defend our homes. Save your children, father.
Lord have mercy. Amen.

ACT FOUR SCENE ONE

Ivan Khovansky's police compound.

KHOVANSKY'S WOMEN
"By a river, in a meadow,
Softly slept a handsome boy.
He woke up to a voice full of longing.
Such sweet sounds filled him with joy.
So he rose from his grassy bed
And he sat at the river's edge.
Bathed his face and gazed in the water.
Then he set off in search of love...
Then he set off in search of love."

IVAN KHOVANSKY
This song is so depressing. Jesus wept! Droning like a never-ending, sleep-inducing sermon.
The news tonight is bad enough. Disastrous. I do not need reminding.
I want distraction, amusement. You howl and screech.
Bloody women. Jesus wept!

Now sing me something with a bit of life in it to cheer me up.

KHOVANSKY'S WOMEN
As you like gracious Lord and Master.

IVAN KHOVANSKY
And what would I like?

KHOVANSKY'S WOMEN
Whatever pleases you, oh Lord and Master.

IVAN KHOVANSKY
And tell me what will please me?

KHOVANSKY'S WOMEN (*to each other*)
Gipsy boy? Gipsy boy?

IVAN KHOVANSKY
Stop your muttering! Sing out!

KHOVANSKY'S WOMEN

"Late at night, a girl sat waiting,
As her candle light was fading.
Gipsy! Gipsy boy!
Hurry to the girl who's waiting.
Quick, before her light has faded,
Come and knock upon her door.
Gipsy! Gipsy boy!

IVAN KHOVANSKY

Come on! Sing out!

KHOVANSKY'S WOMEN

Hurry to the girl who's waiting.
Gipsy! Gipsy boy!
Quick before the light has faded,
Come and knock upon her door. *Etc.*

Enter Golitsyn's Servant.

IVAN KHOVANSKY

Who are you? How dare you barge in here?

SERVANT

Prince Golitsyn has sent me to warn you: You are in danger, prince.

IVAN KHOVANSKY

I am in danger?

SERVANT

A government assassins's on his way to you.

IVAN KHOVANSKY

To me? Are you completely crazy?

In my own home, you tell me to my face 'I should be afraid. I'm in danger.'
It's too funny. You make me laugh! Golitsyn wants to scare me.
My home's my fortress. Wake up Khovansky. You're still in charge.

Hey, throw him into jail. I will interrogate him later.

Golitsyn's servant is taken away.

Whisky! Hey women. I need more entertainment. Send in the latest slaves!

Dance of the Persian Girls.

Enter Shaklovity.

IVAN KHOVANSKY

What do you want? ...

SHAKLOVITY

... To see you.

IVAN KHOVANSKY

Yes, that's pretty clear. But why?

SHAKLOVITY
It's confidential.

IVAN KHOVANSKY
You've got some nerve.

SHAKLOVITY
Prince –

IVAN KHOVANSKY
- Well?

SHAKLOVITY
The Tsar is deeply concerned by the crisis facing Russia's people.
He asks if you will join him in a Royal Council.

IVAN KHOVANSKY
Really? Go screw yourself. Tell him to come to me.

SHAKLOVITY
Prince...

IVAN KHOVANSKY
I have done my duty. Told him he should change all his policies. He knows what I believe in.
What use am I? The Tsar promotes the younger generation.

SHAKLOVITY
The first name he requested was yours, Prince.
We cannot meet without the most important Prince in Russia.

IVAN KHOVANSKY
So I've no choice. I'll gladly go if Russia needs me.
I can't refuse the call to duty in the service of my country. Jesus wept!
(to his servants) I want to look my best today. Bring me a clean shirt.
(to his women) And you. Sing my praises.

KHOVANSKY'S WOMEN
"Swim on, swim on
Oh gentle swan.
Ladu, ladu.
Swim on and meet your lover.
Ladu, ladu.
He's watching you,
Oh gentle swan.
Ladu, ladu.
He's swimming to you, white swan.
Ladu, ladu.
He's here. He's here, my gentle swan.
Ladu, ladu.
Swim on together, white swans.
Ladu, ladu.
Sing glory to the white swans.
Ladu, ladu.
Sing glory to the white swans.
Ladu, la – "

Ivan Khovansky is stabbed. The Women rush away. Shaklovity stands over the body.

SHAKLOVITY

Glory to the dying swan. Ladu, ladu.

ACT FOUR: SCENE TWO

The square in front of St. Basil's, Moscow. The People watch Prince Golitsyn being taken into exile.

PEOPLE Bs

Look, guys. It's him.

PEOPLE Ts

He's going into exile.

PEOPLE Bs

He's gone forever.

PEOPLE TS

May God forgive you for your crimes. We will pray for you in exile.

PEOPLE Bs

May the Lord have mercy on your soul in exile.

DOSIFEI

Our destiny is clear to us at last. We must submit to the will of the Lord. Stand before our judge.

Prince Golitsyn – once a man of power. Prince Golitsyn – once the pride of Russia. Disgraced and sent away. He's gone and nothing now remains except the tracks on his dusty road to lifelong exile. He's not the only one whose plotting led to their downfall. Khovansky's arrogance and pride provoked his ruin and his death. His son, Andrei, is a wanted man. His claim to the throne too weak to last much longer.

MARFA (*entering*)

Father.

DOSIFEI

You? Tell me what you know, my darling. Has Tsar Peter declared a final decision about our people? Will he accept the True Believers?

MARFA

We're lost. Father, we are in danger. Soon the army will surround our community. They'll show no pity. They have their orders to kill us.

DOSIFEI

That's it?

MARFA

Yes.

DOSIFEI

...It's over. It's time to build the fire.

The flames of martyrdom will grant eternal salvation.

Marfa. Find Prince Andrei. Hurry. You'll give him courage. Your love will strengthen him.

MARFA

I'll try.

DOSIFEI

Take heart, my little one, and love as you have loved.

You soon will be saved and granted a martyr's crown.
Good-bye. *Exits*

MARFA

The time has come to offer a final sacrifice. The flames of God will save our souls for eternity.

Enter Andrei Khovansky.

ANDREI KHOVANSKY

Here you are - you devil! Die viper!

Where is my Emma? Tell me where she's hidden? Give me my Emma. Give back the girl I love.

Where is she? I need her now. Give her back!

MARFA

She was arrested. Sent back to her country. She'll join her husband. Soon they will build a new life, far away from all the pain you have caused. I hope they will be happy.

ANDREI

With her husband? Don't lie to me! I don't believe you. I'm going to throw you to my dogs. They'll drag you screaming through the streets to the judge. He'll sentence you to death!

MARFA

To death?

You can't see what's happened. Can you? You are blind to everything around you.

You have no idea of what will soon destroy you.

Face reality. Face the truth. Now stop this dreaming. Stop this lying.

ANDREI KHOVANSKY

Emma. Emma. Come back to me.

MARFA

Your proud father is dead. Declared a traitor. His rotting body lies in public view, unburied.

Only the wild wind moans by his body. Only the birds of prey sit beside his body.

They're searching for you, scouring every home in Moscow.

ANDREI KHOVANSKY

You are lying to me. I damn you to burn in hell!

You've cast a spell on me, seduced me with the power of the Devil. I hate you and I curse you.

My heart is broken. My life is in ruins.

Your crimes will be exposed in Church. They will drive out the devil that's inside you.

You will burn to death before the people!

MARFA

Then call the police.

ANDREI KHOVANSKY

Police?

MARFA

Go on!

A bell begins to toll.

ANDREI KHOVANSKY

What was that?

MARFA
Call again.

Khovansky's police force appear in chains, carrying their own execution blocks. Around them are their wives, screaming for revenge.

ANDREI
God, what's happening! I am finished! I don't want to die!

MARFA
Too late to call for help.

ANDREI KHOVANSKY
They'll murder me!

MARFA
I will protect you. We can find a place to hide together.
Now come with me. Be brave, Andrei. Keep close to me.

Exit Marfa and Andrei.

WIVES
Show them no mercy! Kill the godless monsters!
Give us justice. Blood for blood! Enemies of God and Tsar!

POLICE
Almighty Father. God of mercy. Please forgive us our sins. Save us!

WIVES
Show them no mercy. Kill the godless monsters! Give us blood, oh Tsar, our Father.

POLICE
Father. Hear our prayers. Forgive us our sins and show us your mercy.

WIVES
Put them to death! Give us justice!

POLICE
Forgive us!

WIVES
Tsar. Father. Show no mercy.

POLICE
Tsar. Father. Tsar. Father.

Enter the Poteshny Guard and Young Streshnev.

The Police place their heads on the execution blocks.

STRESHNEY
Prisoners. His Majesty, the Tsar, in his boundless mercy has pardoned you. Return to your homes.
Be loyal to the Tsar and pray that his reign will be successful. Now sound the trumpets!

Tsar Peter will appear before the Kremlin to address the nation.

End of Act Four.

ACT FIVE

The Hermitage of the Old Believers, situated in a pine wood near Moscow. It is a moonlit night.

DOSIFEI

Here, before this shrine, our death will redeem the world and immortalise our faith.
So much bloodshed. So much destruction. I have questioned and doubted myself.
Fear for the brotherhood, the guilt of a sinner's soul troubled my days and haunted my nights.
But my heart did not give in to fear. Now I'm free to carry out the word of God.

He will reward us for keeping the faith. He'll bless you, my children, crowning us in glory.
Finally we'll let go of life, abandon all worldly pain, hungry for God's eternal glory.

Have courage, brothers. In heartfelt prayer, you'll find the strength to behold the light of the Lord. God of Justice. Strengthen our convictions.

Do not punish our transgressions, but light the pathway to salvation, forgiveness and peace...
Bless us, oh Lord.

Brothers. Obey the voice of revelation in the holy name of God, who created Heaven and Earth.

OLD BELIEVERS Ts and Bs

Oh Holy Father. Guardian of God's light. We will freely open our hearts to meet our Lord.

DOSIFEI

Amen. Sisters! Will you fulfill your sacred promise in the holy name of God, who created Heaven and Earth?

OLD BELIEVERS Ss and As

We're not afraid, oh Father. Our vow is sacred and will never be broken.

DOSIFEI

Amen. Go and dress yourselves in robes of white. Light the candles of the Lord with his holy flame and prepare to endure the pain we have to suffer for the glory of martyrdom.

OLD BELIEVERS Ts and Bs

Satan has risen. Enemy of all mankind.

OLD BELIEVERS Ss and As

Terror haunts us. The Anti Christ rules us.

OLD BELIEVERS Ts and Bs

Darkness and chaos. Fear rules the world.

OLD BELIEVERS Ss and As

Death is here. Redeem your souls.

OLD BELIEVERS Ts and Bs

Satan comes. Our faith is strong.

OLD BELIEVERS

Let us cleanse our souls of sin and devils in a holy fire.
Now burn for the glory of God above.
Eternal Spirit. Source of Life and Truth.
God of Glory. Glory to you.
God give us strength. We are your slaves, oh God.
Bless us, oh Lord.

MARFA (*alone*)

They're waiting.

Father. I will no longer hide how I feel.

I've tried, but still I'm poisoned by love and jealousy.

Father. Tell me. Is love a sin? Answer me.

I dream of saving him. Let me atone for the wrong he has done.

I'm not afraid to sacrifice my soul for his.

Forgive me in the name of your love. Father.

Enter Andrei.

ANDREI KHOVANSKY

Where are you, my easy life?

Where are you, my liberty?

Will I die like my father?

Will I die all alone?

Where, oh where is my happiness?

Where are you, my lost love?

Why have you flown away?

What will happen to me now?

...Emma!

MARFA

Darling. Do you remember the night we first made love?

I often dreamed of you on lonely nights at home.

I had a vision that you would betray our love.

But when I saw her with you, pain took hold of me.

ANDREI KHOVANSKY

Marfa.

MARFA

Stay calm, Andrei. I never will leave you.

Holding your hand, I will burn with you.

Remember?

You whispered words of love to warm the winter nights.

I was happy with you lying next to me.

Then our love was veiled in clouds of darkness.

All of your promises froze in the icy cold.

Are you ready to die, dearest love?

I embrace you one last time in this life.

Alleluia. Alleluia *etc.*

Dosifei returns, wearing a white robe. The bugles of Peter's guards are heard again. The True Believers assembled, dressed in white, some carrying candles. They build a funeral pyre.

DOSIFEI

I hear the sounds of death. The time has come. The flames of martyrdom will forge eternal salvation.

MARFA

Listen, Andrei - the sound of Peter's army.

Trumpets ring out, telling us to surrender.

They're closing in. We are surrounded.

No one can hide us. No one can save us.

Do you not see that fate has chained us together?

It is decreed that we shall die together.

You really think your praying, your crying and your pleading will save you from death?

No, nothing can save you.

ANDREI KHOVANSKY

Marfa. Stay close to me. Help me. I am scared.

MARFA

Follow me now. Come and join the faithful.
Let us burn together in this holy fire.

You remember that night we first made love?
How you whispered words of love and happiness?
The flames are calling us.
Death unites us and blesses our love.

OLD BELIEVERS

Almighty Father, reveal the glory of truth.

DOSIFEI

Children. Prepare yourselves. We die for the true faith. God of Love and God of Light.

DOSIFEI / OLD BELIEVERS

All temptations of the flesh now vanish in the heavenly light of truth and love.

STRAVINSKY FINAL CHORUS

Marfa lights the pyre.

As

Lord God, save my soul.

Ss and As

Lord God. You will save me.
No one can harm me.

TUTTI

Lord God. Save my soul.
No one can harm me now.

Our faith in God is our salvation.
No nothing can harm me.

DOSIFEI

Lord God. Be my salvation.

TUTTI

Lord God. Be my salvation.

DOSIFEI

No power can shake my faith.

TUTTI

No power can shake my faith.
God you are my Saviour.
No power can shake my faith.
Lord God you will save me.
No power can shake my faith.
Nothing can harm me.

All die in the flames.

End of the opera.