



The Count[®]

SONG DESCRIPTIONS

(in chronological order)

Song: The Pharaon's Home

At the opening of the show, the town of Marseilles (France) is a buzz with the arrival of one of its own merchant ships, the Pharaon. Owned by Morrell & Sons, the Pharaon limps into dock heralding the death of the ship's Captain. In spite of the tragic news, the return of the ship rejoins lovers, spouses and the love of the story's main characters, Edmond Dantes (the ship's first mate) and Mercedes, a Catalan woman. The song sets the time, place and emotional charge that a ship's arrival had in the year 1815.

Song: The One for Me

Running to meet the ship, Mercedes is arguing with her cousin and friend, Fernand, who is hopelessly in love with her. The song depicts the excitement and anticipation of Mercedes for her returning Edmond and the disappointment and unrequited desires of Fernand, her cousin and friend. Edmond joins in as he and Mercedes are reunited, while Fernand fades into the forgotten.

Song: I Have Never Done Anything Wrong

Fernand and Danglars decide to deliver the note that has Dantes arrested as a traitor (for his innocent stop at the island of Elba). After being interrogated by the deputy prosecutor, de Villefort, Dantes is told he will be set free. Conversely he is escorted to the Chateau d'If, an island prison off the French coast. This song is Dantes' plea of innocence while the rest of the prison population mocks him, repeats his words and voices their own pleas of despair. Mercedes and Morrel echo his words in their plea to de Villefort to save his life and right this wrong. They are told Dantes is dead.

Song: Mercedes Lament

In despair, Mercedes runs to the bedside of her betrothed's mother, Camille. She is dying. As Mercedes is sharing the news, Camille has a vision that Edmond is alive and asks Mercedes to have hope. Unbelieving, Mercedes sings this song of anger and pain, as she strikes out at the God she loves, "How selfish can you be." Fernand joins her in a verse of support and love, and Mercedes has no choice but to accept it.

Song: A Reason for Hope

Two years in prison, Dantes has no more will or strength to live. He is starving himself to death and about to hang himself with his prison shirt, when the sound of digging breaks his silence. Digging into his cell seeking escape, the Abbe, a very learned priest, recognizes Dantes despair and hopelessness. Singing this song of care and comfort, the Abbe gives Dantes a renewed sense of hope and the will to live on.



Song: A Smuggler's Life

After 14 years in the Chateau d'If, Dantes has learned much from the Abbe including the truth about his demise and the identity of his betrayers, Danglars, Fernand and de Villefort. He also shares the location of a long forgotten treasure buried on the Island of Monte Cristo. With the Abbe's help, Dantes is able to make his escape and swim to freedom where he meets a band of smugglers. The Smugglers' Song portrays the fun and good-humored side of a band of cut throats who use the island as a refuge from danger and the King's men. Drinking and good fortune spur a lively banter of joy and jibes. Eventually, after accepting him as a member of their crew, the smugglers help Dantes recover the treasure and seek his revenge.

Song: Vengeance! (Act I Finale)

Though Dantes knows the identity of his betrayers, it is not until the smugglers tell him that his love Mercedes has married Fernand (now the Count and Countess de Morcerf), that he realizes that his last hope has been dashed. In this song, Dantes grasps the last passion left him: Vengeance! Dantes swears revenge upon his betrayers, while each character joins in on a musical montage of hopes, desires and the destiny that awaits each of them. The song ends Act I.

Song: Ears Don't Lie

For two years after his escape, Dantes plots his revenge. With unlimited resources, he returns to Marseilles as the Count of Monte Cristo where he puts his plan to action. In the first few weeks of his arrival, he throws an extravagant party for the town's elite, including Fernand and Mercedes. Mercedes recognizes Dantes the moment she hears his voice. In a quiet moment alone, she expresses the feelings her ears unveil while recognizing the cold, dark shell she has become, "worn by the years, fading veneer."

Song: It Must Be You

Later that night, Mercedes decides to confront Edmond. During a heated discussion of betrayal, loss and hurt, they recognize the devotion they still have for each other and share this song of love rediscovered.

Song: Duty with a Smile

In the home of Fernand, we get a better sense of his cruelty through the eyes of his servants. This song of mockery and hate, the servants sing about their feelings for their master.

Song: It's Destiny

Preparations complete and trap set, Dantes is poised for revenge. However, he struggles with his conscious as depicted in this song that begins with the departed, the Abbe and Camille. Their cries for mercy and forgiveness are put aside, as Dantes makes the final decisive step that launches the final scenes that will destroy his betrayers.

Song: Act II Finale

Danglars perceived dead and Villefort ruined, the production ends with a final dual between Dantes and Fernand, his nemesis. With one final thrust, Dantes runs Fernand through. But with one last effort, Fernand takes the pistol of his son, Albert and shoots – hitting Mercedes. The final song is Mercedes comforting Dantes as she is dying, Dantes recognizing the consequences and ultimate price of hate's purpose.