“Je marche sur tous les chemins....Obéissons quand leur voix appelle...” (I go wherever I please... Let's obey when their voices call), Gavotte; MANON, Act III; music by Jules Massenet; libretto by Henri Meilhac and Philippe Gille, based on the novel by the Abbé Prévost, *l'Histoire de Chevalier Des Grieux et de Manon Lescaut*.

**SYNOPSIS:** Manon has yielded to the temptation of living a luxurious life with a wealthy “protector” and is the toast of Parisian society. In this scene, set in Cours-la-Reine before a large crowd, she boasts of her pleasure at the adulation she now receives and the joys of being beautiful, rich, and young—urging her listeners to enjoy their youth before it vanishes.

**MANON**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
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<tr>
<td>Je marche sur tous les chemins aussi bien qu'une souveraine.</td>
<td>I go wherever I please as if I were truly a queen.</td>
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<tr>
<td>On s'incline, on baise ma main, car par la beauté je suis reine!</td>
<td>Men bow to me and kiss my hand for my beauty lets me rule them!</td>
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<td>Mes chevaux courent à grands pas devant ma vie aventureuse.</td>
<td>My fine horses gallop along as I live my free-wheeling life.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Je suis belle, je suis heureuse!</td>
<td>Yes, I'm lovely!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Les grands s'avancent chapeau bas...</td>
<td>Great men come near and bow low, for I’m lovely, and I’m happy!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Autour de moi tout doit fleurir!</td>
<td>Around me, everything must bloom.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Je vais à tout ce qui m'attire!</td>
<td>I only do the things I like.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Et, si Manon devait jamais mourir, ce serait, mes amis, dans un éclat de rire!</td>
<td>And if one day Manon must die, it will be, my friends, with a laugh, not a sigh!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah!</td>
<td>Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Obéissons quand leur voix appelle aux tendres amours, aux tendres amours. Let’s obey them when their voices call us to tender love. to tender love.

Toujours, toujours, toujours, tant que vous êtes belle, usez sans les compter vos jours, tous vos jours! Always, always, always, as long as you’re a beauty, don’t keep track of passing days, of passing days!

Profitons bien de la jeunesse, des jours qu'amène le printemps; aimons, rions, chantons sans cesse, Nous n'avons encor que vingt ans! Take advantage of your youthful beauty, of the time when spring is all around. love and laugh and always try to smile. We’ll still be twenty for a while.

Le coeur, hélas! le plus fidèle, oublie en un jour l'amour, l'amour, et la jeunesse ouvrant son aile The heart, alas, that seems most faithful forgets its love in just a day, while youthful charm has taken wing.
a disparu sans retour, sans retour.
Profitons bien de la jeunesse,
bien courte, hélas ! est le printemps!  
Aimons, chantons, rions sans cesse,  
nous n'aurons pas toujours vingt ans!

and evermore has flown away.
Take advantage of your youthful beauty
all too quickly, spring will disappear!
We must love and sing and laugh with pleasure
before our twenties slip away.

JEUNES GENS
Profitons bien de la jeunesse!
Take advantage of your youthful beauty!

MANON
*Profitons bien de la jeunesse!
Aimons, chantons, rions sans cesse,
profitons bien de nos vingt ans!, etc.*
Ah! Ah1
(*=repeat)

Take advantage of our youthful beauty!
We must love and sing and laugh with joy.
*Let’s make the most of being young!
Ah1 Ah!

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