

se CAPTAIN: I can't see you sitting behind a desk. (*He sits  
R. of coffee table.*)

ey'e ELSA: Well, of course, I wear a business suit and smoke a  
— big cigar. (*FRANZ enters from the house.*)

ea. FRANZ: Excuse me, Captain, Herr Detweiler would like his  
coffee.

CAPTAIN: While he's telephoning?

FRANZ: He just finished.

(*FRANZ pours a cup of coffee. MAX DETWEILER  
enters. He is charming and vital. He carries a small note-  
book and pencil.*)

h MAX: I'm sorry I took so long.

sits CAPTAIN: Any luck?

r MAX: How would you like this for the Kaltzberg Festival—  
the finest choral group in Austria, the greatest mixed  
quartet in all Europe—and the best soprano in the world?

see ELSA: Max, that's something I'd love to hear!

ns- MAX: So would I. (*MAX sits on stool D.L.*) All I've got up  
w to now is a basso who isn't even profundo.  
(*FRANZ exits into the house.*)

ne ELSA: Max, you always come up with a good Festival Con-  
cert.

one. (*The CAPTAIN takes MAX a cup of coffee with a piece  
of pastry on the saucer.*)

s MAX: And why? Because my motto is: "Never start out look-  
ti- ing for the people you wind up getting." That's why I've  
been telephoning Paris, Rome, Stockholm, London—

ive ELSA: On Georg's telephone?

MAX: How else could I afford it? Why am I up here?

CAPTAIN: I hoped it was because you liked me.

MAX: Of course I like you. Why shouldn't I like you? You  
live like a king. You have an excellent wine cellar—

e- ELSA: Max!

*(KURT exits.)*

BRIGITTA: I'm glad to go, I cannot tell a lie

*(FRIEDRICH exits.)*

LOUISA: I flit, I float, I fleetly flee, I fly

*(BRIGITTA and LOUISA exit together.)*

GRETL: *(Sitting on the bottom stair)*

The sun has gone to bed and so must I

*(Still sitting she backs halfway up the steps one at a time.)*

CHILDREN: *(Having re-entered on the balcony)*

So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, goodbye

Goodbye, goodbye, goodbye.

*(LIESL goes down the steps to GRETL, takes her in her arms and exits with the others.)*

GUESTS: *(Singing)*

Goodbye.

*(FRANZ announces dinner and the CAPTAIN and the guests drift off to the dining room L. MAX, excited, goes to ELSA.)*

MAX: Elsa, they're extraordinary!

ELSA: Fraulein Maria taught them to do it.

MAX: I've been looking all over Austria for something like this for the Festival and I find it here.

ELSA: Wait a minute, Max.

MAX: A singing group of seven children in one family.

ELSA: Max! Georg didn't even want them to sing in front of the guests tonight. I had to persuade him.

MAX: Ah, then you have influence. You must talk to him.

ELSA: Max!

MAX: Elsa! This is important to Austria. And it wouldn't do me any harm.

*(They exit into the dining room. The music segues into a slow, soft version of "The Lonely Goatherd." We see MARIA come down from the third floor onto the balcony. She*