

# **WHO'S AFRAID OF THE BIG BAD WOLF?**

Based on the opera *Don Giovanni* by Wolfgang Amadeus  
Mozart and Lorenzo Da Ponte

**ADAPTED BY JOSHUA BORTHS  
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AMENDED FOR TOLEDO OPERA 2017**

## Scene 1

*Setting: Deep in the woods. We hear the Big Bad Wolf howl. The overture starts as narration begins.*

### **NARRATOR (TENOR or MEZZO)**

Once upon a time, deep in the woods, there was a Big Bad Wolf.

*The Wolf enters and crosses the stage. He smells something appetizing and disappears down the center aisle interacting with students.*

Every day, the Wolf ran through the woods looking for new victims to bully. Every day, he would taunt, sneer, laugh and humiliate the poor creatures of the forest. For many moons, he roamed wild with no one to challenge him... That is, until *this* fateful day...

*Little Red Riding Hood and 3<sup>rd</sup> Little Pig enter from opposite sides of the stage. They don't see one another. They exit in different directions.*

*The overture comes to an end. The wolf enters down the center aisle as the music begins ("Notte e giorno faticar"). This works best if there's lots of interaction with students.*

### **BIG BAD WOLF**

I AM TRAV'LING DAY AND NIGHT,  
SEARCHING AROUND EVERY TREE,  
LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO FRIGHT—  
VICTIMS WHO CAN CATCH MY FLEAS!

WHEN THEY SEE ME THEY START CRYING.  
THEY START TREMBLING AT THE KNEES.  
THEY START RUNNING OFF IN FEAR  
BECAUSE THEY KNOW-OH-THAT THE BIG BAD WOLF IS NEAR!

*Little Red Riding Hood enters. She has her red cape, but no basket of treats. The Wolf hides and listens.*

### **LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD**

I'VE BEEN RUNNING THROUGH THE WOODS ALL DAY.  
I HOPE HE'S LOST MY TRAIL!

*The 3<sup>rd</sup> Little Pig enters. She doesn't see Little Red Riding Hood.*

**3<sup>rd</sup> LITTLE PIG**

I'VE BEEN RUNNING FROM THE WOLF ALL DAY.  
MY STRENGTH BEGINS TO FAIL!

*Much of the singing below is overlapping as the opening trio builds.*

**LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD**

*Hearing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pig, talking to the students* BUT WHAT IS THAT SOUND BEHIND ME?  
I CAN'T TELL. WHO IS THERE BEHIND THE TREE?

**3<sup>RD</sup> LITTLE PIG**

*Hearing Little Red, but too afraid to look* BUT, WHAT IS THAT SOUND BEHIND ME...  
WHAT'S THAT SOUND BEHIND ME?  
WHO'S BEHIND THAT THE TREE?

**BIG BAD WOLF**

OH, I KNOW THEM!  
I WILL WATCH BEHIND THIS TREE!

**LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD**

I AM TREMBLING AT MY KNEES.

**3<sup>RD</sup> LITTLE PIG**

GO AWAY, I ASK YOU, PLEASE!

**LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD/3<sup>RD</sup> LITTLE PIG**

NOTHING'S HAPPENING.  
NO ONES MOVING!

**BIG BAD WOLF**

*To audience* THAT'S THE THIRD PIG THAT I SAW  
AND SHE'S THE ONE WITH THE GRANDMA.

**LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD/3<sup>RD</sup> LITTLE PIG**

*Determined* I WILL GIVE YOU 'TIL THE COUNT OF THREE  
FOR YOU TO GET AWAY FROM ME!

**BIG BAD WOLF**

OH, WHAT FUN!  
MY WORK IS DONE.  
I AM SUCH A CLEVER BULLY.  
THEY ARE RUNNING WILLY-NILLY!  
I WILL MOVE ON FROM THESE TWO.  
THERE'S A LOT BULLIES CAN DO.

**LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD/3<sup>RD</sup> LITTLE PIG**

NOW, I COUNT FROM ONE TO THREE:  
ONE... AND TWO... POINT FIVE... AND THREE!

*Little Red and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pig turn to each other and scream. They think the other is the Big Bad Wolf.*

*The Wolf howls and exits, satisfied with himself.*

**Contact Opera Classroom for a full perusal script/score!**