

NELLIE, NGANA & JEROME

DITES-MOI
POURQUOI*(NELLIE is stuck. The CHILDREN sing the next line without her.)*

NGANA & JEROME

LA VIE EST BELLE,

NELLIE

(Repeating, quickly, to catch up to them.)

LA VIE EST BELLE

(Meanwhile EMILE has crossed behind them. NELLIE is looking out front, not seeing him, trying to remember the lyrics, continues to sing with the CHILDREN.)

NELLIE, NGANA & JEROME

DITES-MOI
POURQUOI

NELLIE

(She turns to the CHILDREN.)

Pourquoi what?

(She sees EMILE.)

EMILE

(Answering her, singing.)

LA VIE EST GAIE!

(NELLIE gazes at him, hypnotized—her voice gone. The CHILDREN rush to embrace him.)

NGANA & JEROME

Papa, Papa!

EMILE

(Hugging both his CHILDREN as he continues singing.)

DITES-MOI

POUQUOI,

CHERE MAD'MOISELLE—

(ALL THREE bow.)

EST-CE QUE

PARCE QUE

VOUS M'AIMEZ.

(The music continues. EMILE kisses the CHILDREN who then run back to their seats and begin drinking their soup. He crosses to table.)

Mangez, Nellie.

(NELLIE sits. EMILE sits. The CHILDREN continue eating their soup. There is no bowl for EMILE, so NELLIE, barely taking her eyes off him, pushes the tureen across the table to him.)