

JUANA libretto Rebecca Simpson, music Enric Palomar

(Extract translated from the original Spanish version)

Situation: Juan de Padilla, Captain of the rebel army that has liberated Juana after eleven years' isolation, visits his wife Maria Pacheco. Juana is not cooperating with the rebels as they had hoped. Split staging is used.

PACHECO People talk.
 They say you hold Queen Juana
 prisoner.

PADILLA Just a single signature!
 If only we had her signature...

PACHECO Juan, have you threatened her?

PADILLA We had to.
 The situation's desperate.

PACHECO And what effect did it have?
 Threatening?

PADILLA None.
 Worse.
 She isolated herself.

PACHECO There's one remedy only.
 You must say
 you were mistaken,
 that the queen
 in fact
 is mad.

PADILLA No!
 It's not true.

PACHECO You must say so:
 "We were mistaken.
 The queen,

in fact,
is mad.”

PADILLA You want us to betray her?!

PACHECO Fate forces us to choose:
betray her
or the *Comuneros* of Castile.

Focus change.

JUANA These walls make the air foul
they block out the day.
Stone on stone,
wall locked to wall.
There, where my feet should take me,
walls cut across my path.

These walls make the air foul
they block out the light.
Stone on stone,
wall locked to wall.
There, where my feet should take me,
walls cut across my path.