

## ACT III

### Scene 4

#### Invention on a Six-Note Chord

*Path in the wood by the pond. Moonlight, as before  
(Wozzeck stumbles hurriedly in, the stops, looking around for something.)*

WOZZECK

The knife? Where is the knife? I left it there...Around here somewhere. I'm terrified! Something's moving. Silence. Everything silent and dead...Murderer! Murderer! Ah! Someone called. No, it was only me.

*(Still looking, he staggers a few steps further and stumbles against the corpse.)*

Marie! Marie! What's that red cord round your neck! Was the red necklace payment for your sins, like the earrings? Why's your dark hair so wild about you? Murderer! Murderer! They will come and look for me...The knife will betray me!

*(looks for it in a frenzy)*

Here! Here it is!

*(at the pond)*

There! Sink to the bottom!

*(throws the knife into the pond)*

It plunges into the dark water like a stone.

*(The moon appears, blood-red, from behind the clouds. Wozzeck looks up.)*

But the moon will betray me...the moon is bloodstained. Is the whole world going to incriminate me?! The knife is too near the edge: they'll find it when they're swimming or diving for snails.

*(wades into the pond)*

I can't find it...But I must wash myself. There's blood on me. There's a spot here—and there's another. Oh, God! I am washing myself in blood—the water is blood...blood...

*(He drowns.)*

*(The Doctor appears, followed by the Captain.)*

CAPTAIN

Wait!

DOCTOR

*(stops)*

Can you hear? There!

CAPTAIN

Jesus! What a ghastly sound!

*(stops as well)*

DOCTOR

*(pointing to the pond)*

Yes, there!

CAPTAIN

It's the water in the pond. The water is calling. It's been a long time since anyone drowned. Come away, Doctor. It's not good for us to be hearing it.

DOCTOR

There's a groan, as though someone were dying. Somebody's drowning!

CAPTAIN

It's eerie! The moon is red, and the mist is grey. Can you hear?...That moaning again.

DOCTOR

It's getting quieter...now it's stopped altogether.

CAPTAIN

Come! Come quickly!

He rushes off, pulling the Doctor along with him.)

## **Scene Change**

### **Orchestral Epilogue: Invention on a Key (D Minor)**

## **Scene 5**

### **Invention on an Eighth-Note Rhythm**

*Street in front of Marie's door. Bright morning. Sunshine  
(Children are noisily at play. Marie's child is riding a hobby-horse.)*

CHILDREN

Ring-a-ring-a-roses,  
A pocket full of...

*(Their song and game is interrupted by other children bursting in.)*

ONE OF THE NEWCOMERS

Hey, Katie! Have you heard about Marie?

SECOND CHILD

What's happened?

FIRST CHILD

Don't you know? They've all gone out there.

THIRD CHILD

*(to Marie's little boy)*

Hey! Your mother's dead!

MARIE'S SON

*(still riding)*

Hop hop! Hop hop! Hop hop!

SECOND CHILD

Where is she then?

FIRST CHILD

She's lying out there, on the path near the pond.

THIRD CHILD

Come and have a look!

*(All the children run off.)*

MARIE'S SON

*(continuing to ride)*

Hop hop! Hop hop! Hop hop!

*(He hesitates for a moment and then rides after the other children.)*