

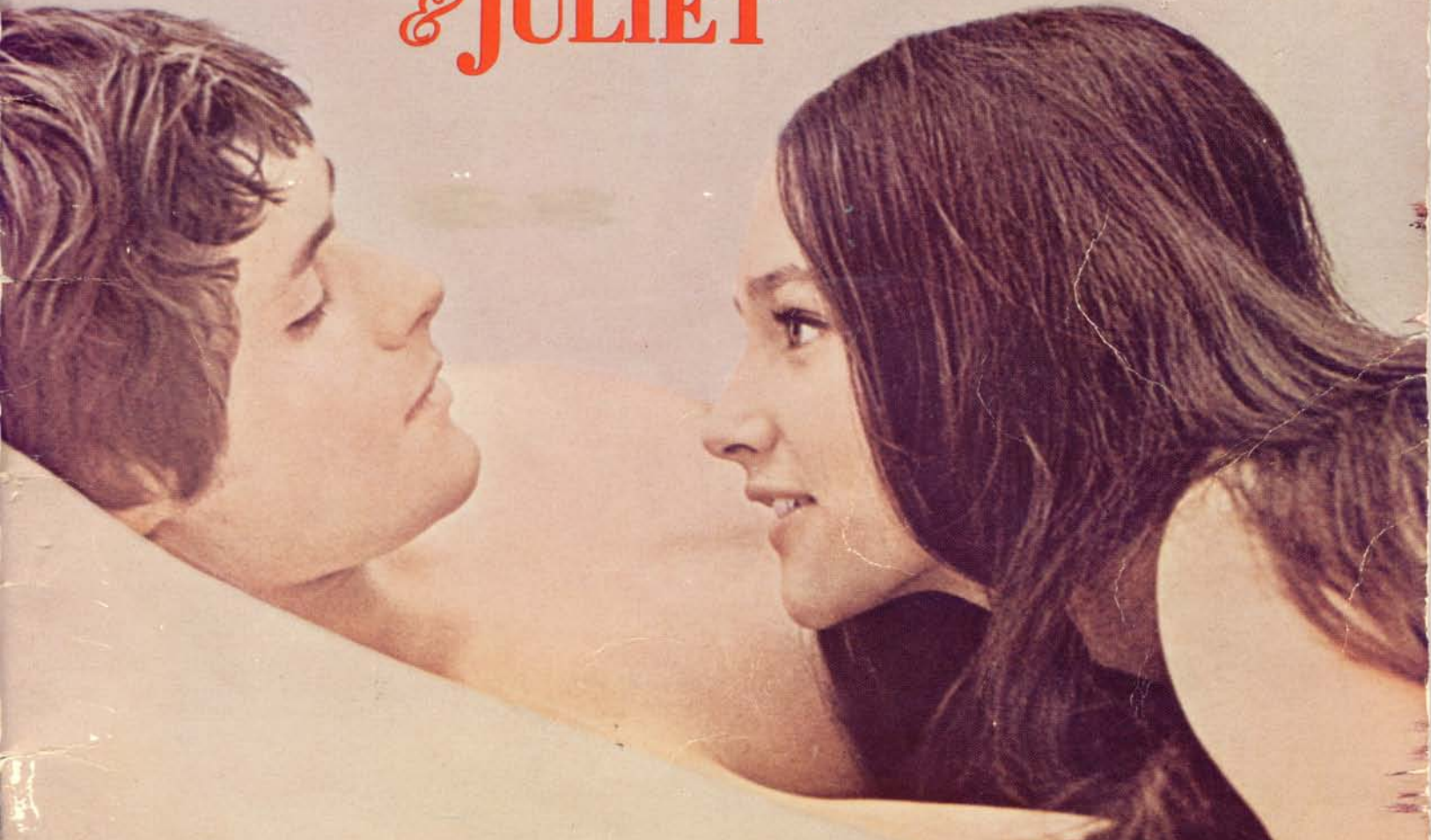
# ROMEO & JULIET

SOUVENIR MUSIC ALBUM

PARAMOUNT PICTURES presents  
A B&E FILM

The  
**FRANCO ZEFFIRELLI**  
Production of

# ROMEO & JULIET



**Leonard Whiting** **Olivia Hussey**  
as Romeo as Juliet

THE FRANCO ZEFFIRELLI PRODUCTION OF  
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S "ROMEO & JULIET" / OLIVIA HUSSEY / LEONARD WHITING / MILO O'SHEA / MICHAEL YORK / JOHN McENERY / PAT HEYWOOD / NATASHA PARRY

ROBERT STEPHENS / VERONA PRODUZIONE S.p.A. / FRANCO BRUSATI and MASOLINO D'AMICO / ANTHONY HAVELOCK-ALLAN and JOHN BRABOURNE

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER  
RICHARD GOODWIN / DIRECTED BY  
**FRANCO ZEFFIRELLI**

TECHNICOLOR  
A PARAMOUNT PICTURE



228  
\$1.95

Music Book Edited and Arranged by JOHN BRIMHALL and LARRY STANTON





PARAMOUNT PICTURES presents  
A BHE FILM

The  
**FRANCO ZEFFIRELLI**

Production of

# ROMEO & JULIET

## SOUVENIR MUSIC ALBUM



Covers, Courtesy of



Grateful acknowledgement is given to FAMOUS MUSIC CORPORATION  
for permission to use all of the music in this album.



### CONTENTS

PROLOGUE

(Prologue)

2

ROMEO'S FOREBODING

(Act I, Scene 4)

6

WHAT IS A YOUTH

Meeting of Romeo and Juliet

(Act I, Scene 5)

9

LOVE THEME FROM ROMEO AND JULIET

The Balcony Scene

(Act II, Scene 2)

12

AVE MARIS STELLA

Romeo and Juliet Are Wed

(Act II, Scene 6)

14

THE DEATH OF MERCUTIO AND TYBALT

(Act III, Scene 1)

15

FAREWELL LOVE SCENE

(Act III, Scene 5)

18

IN CAPULET'S TOMB

The Death of Romeo and Juliet

(Act IV, Scene 5)

20

A TIME FOR US

22

### SPECIAL ORGAN SECTION

A TIME FOR US

(Love Theme From Romeo And Juliet)

26

WHAT IS A YOUTH

30

From The Paramount Picture "ROMEO AND JULIET"

# PROLOGUE

By  
NINO ROTA

Moderately Slow

The musical score is written for guitar in 3/4 time, marked "Moderately Slow". It consists of three systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a C major chord diagram (omitting the 3rd string). The second system features triplets and includes chord diagrams for G, C, F, Fdim, D, and G (omitting the 3rd string). The third system continues with triplets and includes chord diagrams for C (omitting the 3rd string), F, Dm, Em, C (omitting the 3rd string), and Dm (omitting the 3rd string). A small asterisk (\*) is placed between the first and second systems.

Dm Am Dm Am Dm

Musical notation for the first system, measures 1-4. Chords: Dm, Am, Dm, Am, Dm. Includes guitar chord diagrams and piano notation with a fermata over the first measure.

F C (omit 3rd) F Em A

Musical notation for the second system, measures 5-8. Chords: F, C (omit 3rd), F, Em, A. Includes guitar chord diagrams and piano notation with a fermata over the first measure and a *p* dynamic marking.

D G C F

Musical notation for the third system, measures 9-12. Chords: D, G, C, F. Includes guitar chord diagrams and piano notation with a fermata over the first measure.

C Em F Dm Em Am G C

Musical notation for the fourth system, measures 13-16. Chords: C, Em, F, Dm, Em, Am, G, C. Includes guitar chord diagrams, piano notation with a triplet and a *rall.* marking.







From The Paramount Picture "ROMEO AND JULIET"  
**ROMEO'S FOREBODING**

By  
NINO ROTA

Andante

*p espr.*

*pp*

A D A E A E A

N.C.

*p*

F#m G Em F#m D Em

*(p) espr.*

Bm Em Bm Em

G D G F#m B



First system of musical notation. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. Above the treble staff, four guitar chord diagrams are provided: D (x02321), A (x020202), Em (022500), and Bm (x24432). The treble staff contains a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes. The bass staff contains a bass line with quarter and eighth notes.

Second system of musical notation. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. Above the treble staff, four guitar chord diagrams are provided: F#m (234532), D (x02321), A (x020202), and Em (022500). The treble staff contains a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes. The bass staff contains a bass line with quarter and eighth notes.

Third system of musical notation. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. Above the treble staff, six guitar chord diagrams are provided: Bm (x24432), F#m (234532), Bm (x24432), G (320332), C (x32311), D (x02321), and Bm (x24432). The tempo marking "Lento" is written above the treble staff. The treble staff contains a melodic line with quarter and eighth notes. The bass staff contains a bass line with quarter and eighth notes.

Fourth system of musical notation. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. Above the treble staff, eight guitar chord diagrams are provided: C (x32311), A (x020202), Dsus (x02321), D (x02321), G (320332), Bm (x24432), C (x32311), and Am (x022102). The treble staff contains a melodic line with quarter and eighth notes. The bass staff contains a bass line with quarter and eighth notes.

First system of musical notation. The treble clef staff contains a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes and a long slur. The bass clef staff contains a bass line with a long slur. Above the treble staff are four guitar chord diagrams: Bm, Em, Am, and F.

Second system of musical notation. The treble clef staff contains a melodic line with a long slur and a *pp* dynamic marking. The bass clef staff contains a bass line with a long slur and a *p* dynamic marking. Above the treble staff are five guitar chord diagrams: Dm, Dm7, C, B, and D#m.

Third system of musical notation. The treble clef staff contains a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes and a long slur. The bass clef staff contains a bass line with a long slur. Above the treble staff are eight guitar chord diagrams: E, C#m, D#m, F#, G#m, E, F#, and A#m.

Fourth system of musical notation. The treble clef staff contains a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes and a long slur. The bass clef staff contains a bass line with a long slur. Above the treble staff are eight guitar chord diagrams: B, G#m, A#m, F#, G#m, E, D#m, and G#.

# WHAT IS A YOUTH

Words by  
EUGENE WALTER

Music by  
NINO ROTA

Slowly

Piano introduction in 3/4 time, starting with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and ending with a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic. The tempo is marked *Slowly*. The music features a melodic line in the right hand and a supporting bass line in the left hand.

Rubato, Tenderly

Vocal line and piano accompaniment for the first line of lyrics. The tempo is *Rubato, Tenderly*. The piano part is marked *p* and *a tempo*. Chord diagrams are provided above the vocal line: Dm, Ebmaj7, and Bb.

What is a youth? Im - pet - u - ous fire. What is a maid? Ice and de-

Vocal line and piano accompaniment for the second line of lyrics. Chord diagrams are provided above the vocal line: Cm, Gm, Dm, and Ebmaj7.

sire. The world wags on. A rose will bloom. It then will fade. So

Vocal line and piano accompaniment for the third line of lyrics. Chord diagrams are provided above the vocal line: Cm, Dm, Gm, Dm, and Gm. The piano part includes a *rall.* (rallentando) section.

does a youth. So does the fair - est maid.



# A Little Faster

Gm Eb Dm Cm

Comes a time — when one sweet smile, has its sea - son for a while.

*mp*

Moderato, not too fast

Cm Dm Eb Bb

Then love's in love with me. Some, they think on - ly to mar - ry;

*rall. p* *mp*

Cm Gm Bb F Bb Eb Bb

oth - ers will tease and tar - ry. Mine is the ver - y best par - ry.

Cm Eb Cm6 D Gm D Gm D

Cu - pid, he rules us all. Ca - per the cape, but sing me the song.

Bb F Bb F Gm D Gm F

Death will come soon to hush us a-long, sweet-er than hon - ey and bit - ter as gall.

*mf* *accel. poco a poco*

Moderato

Bb F Gm D Gm D Gm F

Love is a task and it nev - er will pall, sweet-er than hon - ey and bit - ter as gall.

*f* *mf*

Slowly

Bb Dm Gm *mp* Dm Ebmaj7

*1st Tempo*

Cu - pid, he rules us all. A rose will bloom. It then will fade. So

*f* *rall.* *mp* *p*

Cm Dm Gm Dm Gm

does a youth; So does the fair - est maid.

*mp* *rall.*

From the Paramount Picture "ROMEO AND JULIET"  
(Love Theme From)

# ROMEO AND JULIET

By NINO ROTA

Slowly and Very Expressively

The first system of the score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. It begins with a dynamic marking of *mf* and features a melodic line with a long slur over the first four measures. The lower staff is in bass clef and provides a harmonic accompaniment with a steady pulse. Dynamic markings *p* and *mp* appear in the second and third measures of the upper staff.

The second system continues the piece. The upper staff has guitar chord diagrams above it: Em, F, Dm, Em, C, and Dm. The melodic line continues with a slur. The lower staff maintains the accompaniment. The system concludes with a *p* dynamic marking.

The third system features guitar chord diagrams: Am, Em, F, Dm, and Em. The melodic line shows a change in phrasing with a slur. The lower staff continues the accompaniment. The system ends with a *p* dynamic marking.

The fourth system includes guitar chord diagrams: Am, Em, Am, C, and G. The melodic line becomes more active, with a slur. The lower staff continues the accompaniment. Dynamic markings *mf* and *f* are present in the second and third measures of the upper staff.



Musical notation for the first system. The top staff is a treble clef with a melodic line. The bottom staff is a bass clef with a harmonic accompaniment. Above the staff, guitar chords are indicated: Dm, Am, Bb, F, and Em. Dynamic markings include *dim.*, *poco*, and *a poco*.

Musical notation for the second system. The top staff is a treble clef with a melodic line. The bottom staff is a bass clef with a harmonic accompaniment. Above the staff, guitar chords are indicated: Am, Em, F, Dm, Em, C, and Dm. Dynamic markings include *p* and *mp*. The instruction *Tacet* is written above the first measure.

Musical notation for the third system. The top staff is a treble clef with a melodic line. The bottom staff is a bass clef with a harmonic accompaniment. Above the staff, guitar chords are indicated: Am, Em, F, Dm, and Em.

Musical notation for the fourth system. The top staff is a treble clef with a melodic line. The bottom staff is a bass clef with a harmonic accompaniment. Above the staff, guitar chords are indicated: Am and Em. Dynamic markings include *rall.* and *p*. The system concludes with a double bar line and repeat signs.

# AVE MARIS STELLA

By  
NINO ROTA

Moderately Slow

1.

C F C Dm Am C G

A - ve Ma - ris Stel - la, De - i Ma - ter Al - ma;  
At - que sem - per vir - go, Fe - lix coe - li

*p dolce*

2.

Esus E Am Esus E Am Esus E C Gsus G

por - ta. A - ve Ma - ri - a gra - ti - a ple - na, A - ve Ma - ri - a

C Gsus G Am E Am G Am E Am

Do - mi - nus te - cum; Ad te cla - ma - mus su - spi - ra - mus, Sanc - ta Ma - ri - a.

*rit.*

From The Paramount Picture "ROMEO AND JULIET"

# THE DEATH OF MERCUTIO AND TYBALT

By  
NINO ROTA

Lento  
N.C.

Gb

Poco animando



Mosso  
N.C.

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and contains a melodic line with a series of eighth notes, followed by a half note chord with a flat, and then a half note chord with a double flat. The lower staff is in bass clef and contains a bass line with a series of eighth notes, followed by a half note chord with a flat, and then a half note chord with a double flat. The dynamic marking *mf* is placed between the staves. There are also some performance markings like *V* and *f* above the notes.

The second system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and contains a melodic line with a series of eighth notes, followed by a half note chord with a flat, and then a half note chord with a double flat. The lower staff is in bass clef and contains a bass line with a series of eighth notes, followed by a half note chord with a flat, and then a half note chord with a double flat. The dynamic marking *mf* is placed between the staves. There are also some performance markings like *V* and *f* above the notes.

The third system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and contains a melodic line with a series of eighth notes, followed by a half note chord with a flat, and then a half note chord with a double flat. The lower staff is in bass clef and contains a bass line with a series of eighth notes, followed by a half note chord with a flat, and then a half note chord with a double flat. The dynamic marking *mf* is placed between the staves, and *f* is placed above the notes in the second measure.

The fourth system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and contains a melodic line with a series of eighth notes, followed by a half note chord with a flat, and then a half note chord with a double flat. The lower staff is in bass clef and contains a bass line with a series of eighth notes, followed by a half note chord with a flat, and then a half note chord with a double flat. The dynamic marking *mf* is placed between the staves, and *f* is placed above the notes in the second measure. Above the upper staff, there are four guitar chord diagrams labeled Cm, C, Cm, and C.

Cdim F+ Bb+ Bb

*mf* *s*

N.C.

*s* *marc.*

*marc.*

*s*

From The Paramount Picture "ROMEO AND JULIET"  
**FAREWELL LOVE SCENE**

By  
**NINO ROTA**

Moderately

Chord diagrams shown above the treble staff:

- D: 023233
- A: 020232
- Em: 022500
- Bm: 024432
- F#m: 023432
- Bm: 024432

Dynamic markings: *p*, *mf*, *simile*



Bm F#m D A Em

Bm F#m Bm D

*p*

A Em Bm F#m D

A Em Bm F#m Bm

From The Paramount Picture "ROMEO AND JULIET"  
**IN CAPULET'S TOMB**

By  
NINO ROTA

**Largamento**  
N.C.

*pp*

**Poco più animato**

*espr. ppp*

Detailed description: This system of music is written for piano and bass. The piano part is in the upper staff, and the bass part is in the lower staff. The tempo starts as 'Largamento' and changes to 'Poco più animato'. The piano part begins with a 'N.C.' (No Chords) instruction. The dynamic marking is 'pp' (pianissimo). The bass part has a dotted line with the number '8' underneath, indicating an octave. The music features a mix of quarter and eighth notes, with some triplets in the 'Poco più animato' section.

**Largamente**

*p*

**Eb Cm**

Detailed description: This system continues the piano and bass accompaniment. The tempo is 'Largamente'. The piano part has a dynamic marking of 'p' (piano). The bass part has a dotted line with the number '8' underneath. Two guitar chord diagrams are provided: one for Eb (E-flat) and one for Cm (C minor). The music includes a triplet in the bass line.

**Lento**

**Gm G Eb**

*p sinistro*

*espr. p*

N.C.

Detailed description: This system is marked 'Lento' (slow). The piano part has a dynamic marking of 'p sinistro' (piano left hand). The bass part has a dotted line with the number '8' underneath. Three guitar chord diagrams are provided: Gm (G minor), G (G major), and Eb (E-flat major). The music concludes with a 'N.C.' instruction and a dynamic marking of 'espr. p' (expressive piano).

Fm7 Ebmaj7 N.C.

The first system of music features a treble and bass clef. The treble clef contains a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes, including a triplet of eighth notes. The bass clef provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. Above the treble staff, three guitar chord diagrams are shown: Fm7 (first fret, 2-3-4-5-5-2), Ebmaj7 (first fret, 1-2-3-4-5-1), and N.C. (Natural Chord).

Fm7 C+ C Ab

The second system continues the musical piece. The treble clef has a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes. The bass clef has a steady accompaniment. Above the treble staff, four guitar chord diagrams are shown: Fm7 (first fret, 2-3-4-5-5-2), C+ (first fret, 2-3-4-5-5-2), C (first fret, 2-3-4-5-5-2), and Ab (first fret, 1-2-3-4-5-1). Dynamic markings *mf* and *p* are present in the bass clef.

Bbm7 Ab

The third system shows the continuation of the melody and accompaniment. The treble clef features a melodic line with eighth notes. The bass clef has a consistent accompaniment. Above the treble staff, two guitar chord diagrams are shown: Bbm7 (first fret, 2-3-4-5-5-2) and Ab (first fret, 1-2-3-4-5-1).

The fourth system concludes the piece with a final melodic phrase in the treble clef and a sustained accompaniment in the bass clef. The treble clef contains a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes, including a triplet of eighth notes. The bass clef provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

# A TIME FOR US

(Love Theme From Romeo And Juliet)

Words by  
**LARRY KUSIK and  
EDDIE SNYDER**

Music by  
**NINO ROTA**

Slowly and Very Expressively

A time for

*mf* *dim. poco a poco* *p* *mp*

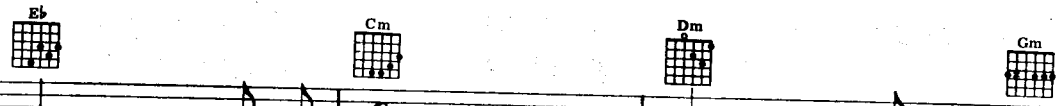
The piano introduction consists of three systems of music. The first system shows the vocal line starting with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *mf*, *dim. poco a poco*, *p*, and *mp*.


us some day there'll be when chains are torn by cour-age

This system contains the first line of lyrics. The vocal line is on a treble clef staff with a 3/4 time signature. Above the staff are three guitar chord diagrams: Dm, Eb, and Bb. The piano accompaniment is on grand staff notation.

born of a love that's free, a time when dreams so long de-

This system contains the second line of lyrics. The vocal line continues on the treble clef staff. Above the staff are three guitar chord diagrams: Cm, Gm, and Dm. The piano accompaniment continues on the grand staff.

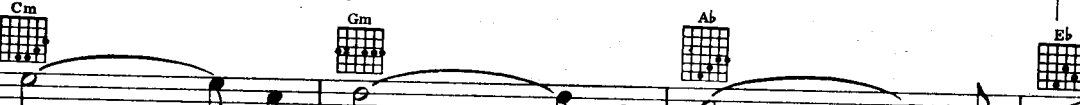

  
 nied \_\_\_\_\_ can flour \_\_\_\_\_ ish \_\_\_\_\_ as we un-veil the





  
 love we now must hide. \_\_\_\_\_ A time \_\_\_\_\_ for us \_\_\_\_\_ at

*mf* *f*




  
 last \_\_\_\_\_ to see \_\_\_\_\_ a life \_\_\_\_\_ worth - while \_\_\_\_\_ for

*dim. poco a poco*




  
 you \_\_\_\_\_ and me, \_\_\_\_\_ and with our love through tears and

*p* *mp*





E $\flat$  E $\flat$  C $\flat$ m

thorns we will en - dure as we pass sure - ly through ev - 'ry

G $\flat$ m D $\flat$ m E $\flat$

storm. A time for us some - day there'll be \_\_\_\_\_ a

C $\flat$ m D $\flat$ m G $\flat$ m

new world, \_\_\_\_\_ a world of shin - ing

D $\flat$ m 1. G $\flat$ m 2. G $\flat$ m

hope for you and me. A time for me.

rall. *p*



Copyright © 1968 by Paramount Pictures Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

From The Paramount Picture "ROMEO AND JULIET"  
**A TIME FOR US**

Electronic or Pipe Organs:	Upper: Full 8', 4' + 16'	Lower: Full 8', 4'	Pedal: 16', 8'
Drawbar Organs:	Ⓢ 73 6668 568 Vibrato: On, 2	Ⓛ (00) 6655 444 Vibrato: On, 2	Pedal: (5-) 4

Words by  
**LARRY KUSIK and EDDIE SNYDER**  
 Music by **NINO ROTA**

*Slowly*

Upper Am Em Dm7 Am

Lower *mf* *mp* A time for

Pedal

Em F C

us some-day there'll be when chains are torn by cour-age  
 love through tears and thorns we will en-dure as we pass

Dm Am Em

born of a love that's free, A time when dreams so long de-  
 sure-ly through ev-'ry storm. A time for us some-day there'll

F Dm Em Am

nied can flour ish as we un - veil the  
 be a new world, a world of shin - ing

Em 1. Am To next strain 2. Am Fine

love we now must hide. A me.  
 hope for you and

C G Dm Am

time for us at last to see a

Bb F Em Am D. S. al Fine

life worth - while for you and me, And with our  
 mp



Copyright © 1968 by Paramount Pictures Corporation. All Rights Reserved.





Copyright © 1968 by Paramount Pictures Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

From The Paramount Picture "ROMEO AND JULIET"

# WHAT IS A YOUTH?

Electronic or Pipe Organs:	Upper: Strings 8', 4' Reed 8'	Lower: Flutes 8', 4'	Pedal: 16'
Drawbar Organs:	Ⓚ 00 5545 443 Vibrato: On, 3	Ⓛ (00) 6504 002 Vibrato: Off	Pedal: (4-) 3

Words by  
**EUGENE WALTER**  
Music by  
**NINO ROTA**

Slowly, tenderly

Upper  $\text{Em}$   $\text{Fmaj7}$   $\text{C}$

*mp* 1. What is a youth? Im-pet-u-ous fire. What is a maid? Ice and de-

2. (Organ Solo)

Lower

Pedal

$\text{Dm}$   $\text{Am}$   $\text{Em}$   $\text{Fmaj7}$

sire. The world wags on. A rose will bloom. It then will fade. So

A rose will bloom. It then will fade. So

$\text{Dm}$   $\text{Em}$   $\text{Am}$   $\text{Em}$   $\text{Am}$  *Fine*

does a youth. So does the fair-est maid.

does a youth. So does the fair-est maid.

A little faster

Am F Em

*mp* Comes a time when one sweet smile, has its sea - son

Dm Em

for a while. Then love's in love with me.

Moderately

C F C Dm Am C G

Some, they think on - ly to mar - ry; oth - ers will tease and tar - ry.

C F C Dm F Dm6 E

Mine is the ver - y best par - ry. Cu - pid, he rules us all.

Am E Am E C G

Ca - per the cape, but sing me the song. Death will come soon to

C G Am E Am G

hush us a - long, sweet - er than hon - ey and bit - ter as gall.

C G Am E Am E

Love is a task and it nev er will pall, sweet - er than hon - ey and

Am G *Slowly* C Em Am *D.S. al Fine*

bit - ter as gall, Cu - pid, he rules us all. (*Organ Solo*)







the music and the poetry of the world's greatest love story  
in dramatic excerpts from the magnificent new film

**Paramount Pictures Presents**

A BHE FILM

The **FRANCO ZEFFIRELLI** Production of

## Romeo & Juliet

Starring

**OLIVIA HUSSEY · LEONARD WHITING · MILO O'SHEA  
MICHAEL YORK · JOHN McENERY · PAT HEYWOOD  
NATASHA PARRY · ROBERT STEPHENS**

Made with VERONA PRODUZIONE S.r.l. and  
DINO DE LAURENTIIS CINEMATOGRAFICA S.p.A.

Screenplay by

**FRANCO BRUSATI and MASOLINO D'AMICO**

Produced by

**ANTHONY HAVELOCK-ALLAN and JOHN BRABOURNE**

Associate Producer **RICHARD GOODWIN**

Directed by

**FRANCO ZEFFIRELLI**

TECHNICOLOR®

A PARAMOUNT PICTURE

Original Score Composed and Conducted by **NINO ROTA**

is a pupil of the Italia Conti School in London, and the daughter of an Argentine opera tenor and an English mother. She previously appeared on the London stage with Vanessa Redgrave in "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie," and in the motion picture "The Battle of the Villa Fiorita" with Maureen O'Hara and Rossano Brazzi.

Surrounding these gifted young players is a distinguished cast including Milo O'Shea as Friar Laurence; Michael York as Tybalt; John McEnery as Mercutio; Pat Heywood as Juliet's Nurse; Natasha Perry as Lady Capulet; Robert Stephens as the Prince of Verona; Keith Skinner as Balthasar; Bruce Robinson as Benvolio; Paul Hardwick as Lord Capulet; Antonio Pierfederici as Lord Montague; and Esmerelda Ruspali as Lady Montague.

Nino Rota's musical score, a delightful element of this recording, was described by John Mahoney in *The Hollywood Reporter* as "one of the best and strongest components. A period ballad with lyric by Eugene Walter, 'What Is A Youth,' provides the perfect setting for the meeting of the two lovers at the Capulet party."

### THE STORY

Of *Romeo and Juliet*, director Zeffirelli stated, "They are like teen-agers today. They don't want to be but are involved in adult hates and wars."

Two distinguished families of Verona, the Capulets and the Montagues, have long been bitter enemies, their hatred resulting in fierce quarrels and bloodshed. For a lark, the heir of the Montagues, young Romeo, goes disguised to a Capulet banquet. There he sees the lovely Capulet daughter Juliet, and they fall passionately in love. On her balcony that night they meet secretly and, declaring their avowals, decide to wed. They are married in secret the next morning by the good Friar Laurence, who hopes that their union will reconcile the warring families.

At noon in the streets of Verona, Romeo and his companions meet Tybalt, nephew of the Capulets. Tybalt is enraged over Romeo's having attended the Capulet ball. A fierce fight with swords commences. Tybalt kills Romeo's great friend Mercutio. Romeo slays Tybalt. The Prince of Verona arrives on the scene and banishes Romeo from the land.

The two lovers share one night of bliss together in Juliet's bedchamber before Romeo flees to his exile. Old Capulet, knowing nothing of their marriage, decrees that Juliet shall wed Count Paris. Juliet beseeches Friar Laurence for help and he provides her with a plan: She shall consent to marry Paris. On the morning of her wedding day, she shall drink a potion which will cause her to appear to be dead. Friar Laurence will then send word to Romeo to return and spirit her away.

Juliet carries out the plan, and her heart-broken parents place her in the ancient family tomb. But before Friar Laurence's letter can reach Romeo, a faster messenger brings the youth word of Juliet's death. Romeo hastens to Juliet's tomb. There he declares his undying love to the pale, still Juliet, drinks a vial of poison, and dies.

Arriving to awaken Juliet, Friar Laurence discovers the body of Romeo. He pleads with Juliet to escape from the tomb and join a sisterhood of nuns. She refuses. Her sole wish is to follow her young husband to death. Seizing Romeo's dagger, she plunges it into her heart and falls across his body.

News of the tragedy spreads throughout the town. The bodies of Romeo and Juliet are carried to the Prince's Palace where the Capulets and Montagues gather. Enjoined by the Prince to consider the tragedy that has resulted from their quarrels, the two families make their belated peace.



Wrote *Look* magazine: "The theater's most enduring love story may be the season's most talked-about new motion picture."

Said critic Mollie Panter-Downes in *The New Yorker*: "A wonderfully living, exciting 'Romeo and Juliet'... Under Zeffirelli's direction the pair are fresh, charming, passionate and very touching. John McEnery is a superb Mercutio. The Nurse is beautifully played by Pat Heywood."

And John Coleman in England's *New Statesman*: "It is the best screen 'Romeo and Juliet' to date!"

Critics on both sides of the Atlantic were extolling the superb new film by the audacious Florentine film maker Franco Zeffirelli. (He earlier directed Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton in "The Taming of the Shrew.") "Romeo and Juliet" has been performed for 372 years. Throughout the centuries, the actors who played the teenage lovers have usually been in their

40's, for it was thought that only mature performers could skillfully interpret Shakespeare's luminous language. Zeffirelli's single, most brilliant stroke was to challenge for all time the procession of fat Juliets and wrinkled Romeos by casting two handsome, very young players in his leading roles.

His Romeo is slender, blue-eyed Leonard Whiting of London, who at 17 is precisely the age Shakespearean scholars estimate Romeo to have been. The son of an advertising card display specialist and a telephone factory worker, Whiting did Shakespeare's "The Tempest" in school, acted the Artful Dodger in "Oliver!" in London at 12, and played Jimmy the Dip in Walt Disney's film "The Legend of Dick Turpin."

Zeffirelli's Juliet is dark-haired, diminutive Olivia Hussey, who is 15, just a year older than Juliet, who Shakespeare indicated was "a fortnight and odd days" from 14. Miss Hussey