

# “A Laugh is No Kinging Matter”

from the opera *A Barrel of Laughs, A Vale of Tears*

Libretto by Stephanie Fleischmann

Based on the novel by Jules Feiffer

## KING WHATCHAMACALLIT

Hullo, Fizzy?! I mean Lizzy? I mean...

My dearest... Izzy!

I am calling you up on this thingamajibbet

Two paper bups—I mean cups—

Linked by a five-long-mile blink—

I mean: bling, bling, bling—

I mean: string!

Now Dizzy—no, Tizzy— no — I mean...Izzy!

I am reaching out over hill and sail—I mean dale—

Forest and shield— I mean field—

From my castle to your trowel— I mean tower!

I am ringing you up from my castle, where it's safe.

Safe from the ha ha ha ha ha ha haaaaa—

Safe from the tee hee hee hee hee hee heeeeee—

Safe from the ho ho ho, the har ti har har,

the endless siggle, I mean giggle,

the never-ending patter-pitter I mean titter!

Izzy, dear, I kiss you merry such—

I mean, I miss you very much,

But when you're queer—

I mean: near,

All bets are off.

No till gets soiled. Shoot.

No soil gets tilled.

No noo gets shaled. Sheesh.

Let me try that again—

No shoe gets nailed.

No work done gets.

No work done gets.

No work gets done!

So Bizzy?! I mean Quizzy? I mean...

My dearest... Izzy!

The thing is, the point I'm making to try,

You'll be King someday

You'll be King someday

Later than soon,

Lunar than fate—

You'll be thing, ding, I mean King!

And a laugh is no Kinging matter!

A laugh is no Kinging matter.