

**Rossini, "Largo al factotum" from *The Barber of Seville* (1816)
Figaro's Entrance Aria (Cavatina)**

1	La ran la le ra la ran la la.	La ran la le ra la ran la la.
2	Largo al factotum della città.	Make way for the city's servant.
3	Presto a bottega che l'alba è già.	Off to the shop soon. It is already dawn.
4	Ah, che bel vivere, che bel piacere	Ah, what a beautiful life, what lovely pleasure
5	per un barbiere di qualità!	For a barber of quality!
6	Ah, bravo Figaro! Bravo, bravissimo!	Ah, worthy Figaro! Worthy, superb!
7	Fortunatissimo per verità! Bravo !	Most fortunate for sure!
8	Pronto a far tutto, la notte e il giorno	Ready to do anything, night and day,
9	sempre d'intorno in giro sta.	Always around and about.
10	Miglior cuccagna per un barbiere,	A better Cockaigne for a barber,
11	vita più nobile, no, non si da.	A nobler life, there is none.
12	Rasori e pettini, lancette e forbici,	Razors and combs, lancets and scissors
13	al mio comando tutto qui sta.	Are all here at my command.
14	V'è la risorsa, poi, del mestiere	There is also resourcefulness, in the trade,
15	colla donnetta ... col cavaliere ...	With the young lady, with the young man.
16	Ah, che bel vivere, che bel piacere	Ah, what a beautiful life, what lovely pleasure
17	per un barbiere di qualità!	For a barber of quality!
18	Tutti mi chiedono, tutti mi vogliono,	Everyone asks for me. Everyone wants me:
19	donne, ragazzi, vecchi, fanciulle:	Women, boys, the elderly, girls.
20	Qua la parrucca ... Presto la barba ...	Here this wig; quickly this beard;
21	Qua la sanguigna ... Presto il biglietto ...	Here this bleeding, quickly this note;
22	Figaro! Figaro! Figaro!, ecc.	"Figaro! Figaro! Figaro!" etc.
23	Ahimè, che furia! Ahimè, che folla!	Alas, what a fury! Alas, what a crowd!
24	Uno alla volta, per carità!	One at a time, for charity's sake!
25	Ehi, Figaro! Son qua.	"Hey, Figaro!" Here I am!
26	Figaro qua, Figaro là,	Figaro here, Figaro there,
27	Figaro su, Figaro giù.	Figaro up, Figaro down.
28	Pronto prontissimo son come il fulmine:	Swift, swifter, like lightning I am.
29	sono il factotum della città.	I am the city's servant.
30	Ah, bravo Figaro! Bravo, bravissimo;	Ah, worthy Figaro! Worthy, superb;
31	a te fortuna non mancherà.	Fortune will not fail you.
32	Sono il factotum della città!	I am the city's servant!

(a) What is the voice type for the male character? (2 mark)

☐ tenor ☐ baritone ☐ bass ☐ countertenor

(b) This aria has many nonsensical syllables (as in **line 1**), which are interspersed between the lines. What are these syllables called?

☐ melisma ☐ ornaments ☐ vocables ☐ particles

(c) In **line 4**, how does the music depict the “bel piacere” (great pleasure) of the city?

(d) In **lines 14–15**, Figaro mentions that he is skillful in the art of seduction (the “trade” between men and women). Describe how the music for these two lines differs from the surrounding passages. Also explain how these changes relate to the meaning of the words.

(e) This aria is a patter song from an *opera buffa* (comic opera) in the early nineteenth century. Identify two musical characteristics that are representative of the buffa style.
