

RITTER

Arpad! How wonderful!

(KODALY has come out of the workroom, nattily dressed for outdoors)

KODALY

What's wonderful?

ARPAD

I'm a clerk! Starting right now! A clerk!

KODALY

Can you believe it? Steven Kodaly replaced by a delivery boy!?

ARPAD

Replaced?

KODALY

Yes, Arpad, I'm leaving... I just resigned. I wouldn't stay here another day.

SIPOS

You couldn't. You've just been fired!

KODALY

All right — believe that if it makes you happy. But you're not going to be happy for very long. Because any day now that door will close for the last time. Then just take a walk over to Hammerschmidt's...

SIPOS

Why? It's closed.

KODALY

Only temporarily. For renovations. You see — they're going to have a new owner: Steven Kodaly!

SIPOS

(Derisively)

Some owner.

KODALY

Nevertheless, it's true.

(To RITTER)

Ilona believes me. Don't you darling?

#52 *Grand Knowing You* (Kodaly)

RITTER

(Deadpan)

Of course I do.

(She hands him the envelope)

Here's your down payment.

(KODALY takes the envelope)

KODALY

Cherie —

IT'S BEEN GRAND KNOWING YOU,
GRAND KNOWING YOU,
GRAND BEING YOUR FRIEND.
YOU'VE BEEN KIND, LOYAL AND
SO GENEROUS
RIGHT DOWN TO THE END.
PLEASE, DON'T GRIEVE
WATCHING ME LEAVE.
THAT WOULD BE MUCH TOO PAINFUL TO STAND.
IT'S BEEN FUN.
NOW I MUST RUN
BUT IT'S BEEN GRAND, PERFECTLY GRAND.

ILONA, FAREWELL, CHERIE,
BE BRAVE, CHIN UP, IT'S BEEN SUBLIME.
YOU MUSTN'T WASTE A PRECIOUS MOMENT OVER ME.
YOU DON'T HAVE TIME.
JUST REMEMBER WHEN YOU'RE LONELY OR BLUE,
THERE'S A HOLLOW IN MY PILLOW — FOR YOU.

And, Sipos, what can I say?

AH, SIPOS, NO TEARS, BE GAY!
YOU KNOW, OLD FRIEND, I'M IN YOUR DEBT.
I OWE YOU MORE THAN I CAN POSSIBLY REPAY.
I WON'T FORGET.
GIVE YOUR WIFE A LITTLE KISS FROM KODALY.
I NEVER MET HER — BUT I WILL — BY AND BY.

THO' I HATE LEAVING YOU,
HATE LEAVING YOUR
WARM, INTIMATE CLUB,

IT'S A SMALL PLEASURE
BUT I'LL TREASURE
EACH WARM, INTIMATE SNUB.
IT'S BEEN GRAND, LET ME SAY
AND LET ME SAY
AU REVOIR, NOT GOODBYE
FOR IT'S GRAND
KNOWING YOU'LL ALL BE WORKING
FOR YOUR FRIEND,
KODALY!!

(LIGHTS OUT)

#53A *Grand Knowing You — Tag* (Orchestra)

END OF SCENE THREE