

14 MOLIERE

CHARACTERS:

MR JOURDAIN, a Bourgeois
MRS JOURDAIN, his Wife
DORANTE, a Nobleman
DORIMENE, a Noblewoman
LUCILLE, Mr. Jourdain's daughter
CLEONTE, his Valet and Suitor to Nicole
NICOLE, his Servant
MUSIC MASTER, DANCING MASTER
FENCING MASTER, PHILOSOPHY MASTER
MASTER TAILOR and HIS APPRENTICE
TWO LACKEYS
A STUDENT
SINGERS and MUSICIANS
COOKS

**In the Turkish Ceremony: MUFTI, DERVISHES, TURKS,
SINGERS and DANCERS**

ACT I

**Scene 1: Music Master, Dancing Mstr, 3 Singers, 2
Violinists, 4 Dancers**

**The overture is performed by a musical ensemble. At a
table at Center Stage a student of the MUSIC MASTER
composes a serenade requested by the master of the
household.**

MUSIC MASTER (To his Musicians) Into this room, please.
You may sit here until he comes.

DANCIN' MSTR (To his Dancers) And you as well. This
way, please.

MUSIC MASTER Is it done?

STUDENT Yes.

MUSIC MASTER Let's see. That's fine.

DANCIN' MSTR Is this something new?

MUSIC MASTER Yes, it's a melody for a serenade that I
had him compose while waiting for our
man to be awakened.

DANCIN' MSTR May I look at it?

MUSIC MASTER You will hear both melody and lyrics
when he comes, which will be soon.

DANCIN' MSTR Business is good for both of us these days,
isn't it?

MUSIC MASTER Indeed it is, thanks to the man we found
here. What a sweet source of revenue he
is, our Mr. Jourdain, with his notions of
nobility and gallantry, and how wonderful
it would be for your dancing and my
music were everyone like him.

DANCIN' MSTR I wouldn't go that far. If only he weren't
such a poor student.

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MR JOURDAIN Go ahead. Say U and see.
 NICOLE All right, U.
 MR JOURDAIN Yes, but when you say U, what are you doing?
 NICOLE I'm doing what you tell me to do.
 MR JOURDAIN Oh, how strange it is to have to deal with simpletons! You extend the lips forward, and you bring the upper and lower jaws close together; U, do you see? I'm pouting: U.
 NICOLE Oh, yes, that's just dandy.
 MRS JOURDAIN Now isn't that admirable.
 MR JOURDAIN Other things are completely different. If only you had seen O, and DA, DA, and FA, FA.
 MRS JOURDAIN What's all that gibberish?
 NICOLE What's all that going to get you?
 MR JOURDAIN Seeing ignorant females drives me mad.
 MRS JOURDAIN Go on, you ought to send all those people packing with their stuff and nonsense.
 NICOLE And especially that lout of a fencing master who fills the house with dust.
 MR JOURDAIN Aha! That fencing master really grates you. I'm going to show you now just how impertinent you really are. **(He calls for the foils and gives one to Nicole.)** Now then, demonstrative reasoning, the line of the body. When you push in quart, you have only to do this; when you push in tierce, you just have to do that. In that way you'll never get killed. Isn't it nice to be so sure of things when you're fighting someone? Here, I'll show you. Make a few thrusts at me.

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NICOLE Very well, like this? **(Nicole makes several thrusts at him.)**
 MR JOURDAIN Gently now! Oh! Easy does it! A plague on the little vixen!
 NICOLE You told me to thrust.
 MR JOURDAIN Yes, but you're thrusting in tierce before thrusting quart, and you're not giving me the chance to parry.
 MRS JOURDAIN You are mad, my husband, with all your silly notions and you've been acting like this since you started mixing with the nobility.
 MR JOURDAIN When I mix with the nobility I show my sound judgment, and it's much better than mixing with your common folk.
 MRS JOURDAIN Oh, yes indeed. There's a great deal to be gained by keeping such fancy company; and you've been acting very smart with that fine count of yours whose got you so bamboozled.
 MR JOURDAIN Quiet! Think about what you're saying. Do you realize, my dear wife, who it is you're talking about when you speak of him. He's a person of much greater importance than you might think...a lord of great esteem at court, who speaks to the king just like I speak to you. Don't you consider it a great honor for me that a person of such quality be seen coming to my house so often, and that he call me his dear friend and treat me as if I was his equal? You could never imagine how kind he's been to me and how he has overwhelmed me by the compliments he has paid me in front of everyone.