

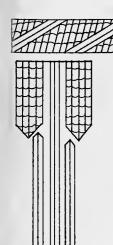
FOR LADIES
IN TWO ACTS__
BY

PAUL BLISS



The Feast of the Red Corn

An American Indian Operetta



FOR LADIES
IN TWO ACTS

BY

PAUL BLISS

Author of "The Feast of the Little Lanterns"

A Chinese Operetta for Ladies

Vocal score .75
Stage manager's book net .75
Orchestral parts in manuscript
Text book of "The Feast of the Red Corn"
sold separately
for use by the audience

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Characters

WEEDA WANTA (Soprano)					. Queen of the Wanta tribe
IMPEE LIGHT (Mezzo Soprano)					Her younger sister
FUDGEE)			,		
PUDGEE {	•				Three children of the Queen
WUDGEE)					
OLD SQUAW					Sorceress of the tribe

Chorus: Sopranos, representing spirits of happiness and joy

Altos, representing spirits of sorrow and woe

Dancers

Scene

A hollow in a glen decorated with corn stalks and shocks

Time

Evening before, and morning of, The Feast of the Red Corn

The Feast of the Red Corn

Book and Lyrics and Music by

PAUL BLISS

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Argument.

The maidens of the Wanta tribe of Indians, once every year repair to a secluded spot to celebrate The Feast of the Red Corn.

The one who in the Feast finds the first red ear of corn expresses her dearest wish to the Sorceress (an old squaw of the tribe,) who calls upon the gods of the Four Winds to give a sign that the wish will be granted.

This year the Queen Weeda Wanta joins the maidens, hoping to get the red ear because of her great desire to know of the welfare of the King. The scene opens with the entrance of the maidens into the glen where the feast shall take place.

The old squaw tells the maidens that the Four Winds have whispered to her that there will be no wish granted this year because someone has committed a grievous offense.

Impee Light, the younger sister of the Queen is suspected of being the culprit and is threatened with burning at the stake. While the maidens are pursuing Impee Light away in the forest, the Queen comes to the glen and sings to the "Star of the Farthest North" to protect and guide her King who has gone to the wars in the North, and from whom she has had no word.

The maidens capture Impee Light who has been teasing the three little children of the Queen and committed the terrible offense of tying war-feathers on the sacred stuffed bear. Impee Light excuses herself on the grounds of having inherited a peculiar temperament and as she tells of her weird fancies, the ghosts of the dead trees rush in on the scene and dance, finally disappearing in the forest. The little children have grown tired and the Queen lulls them to sleep. The old squaw makes use of the opportunity and weaves a spell which puts them all to sleep and she disappears in the forest. Night falls.

(END OF ACT I.)

At the break of dawn, Impee Light having pretended sleep, but having resisted the spell of the Old Squaw, rouses the sleeping maidens who with great glee join her in The Tale of the Three Little Bears. The Queen suggests a canoe ride before they celebrate the feast, whereupon the old squaw emphatically declares there can be no use in holding the ceremony because the Four Winds will not grant the sign. The Queen protests that during the canoe trip some sign may come to show how they may obtain the good offices of the Four Winds and all but the old squaw go off for the canoes. The old squaw left alone, sings the "Song of Sorrow" and the shades about her take form and dance the Flaming Arrow dance which is interrupted by the return of the Queen and all the maidens, hysterical over the drowning of the three little ones and Impee Light. They all sing the "Song of Sorrow" and then the three little Indians' bodies having been recovered, they are brought in on stretchers and the maidens cover their eyes to lament. The three little Indians, who have been playing dead, jump up and laugh at the maidens — explaining how they upset their canoe in shallow water, and kept their heads above water under the canoe, and Impee Light rushes in to enjoy the joke.

The Queen insists seriously that Impee Light has really saved the lives of the little ones and on this account, the Four Winds must be appeared and surely will harken to the maidens.

The old squaw undertakes to invoke the winds again and this time with success.

The Feast is celebrated, the Queen finds the Red Ear, and in answer to her expressed wish, she sees a vision of her King, who is alive and well and on his journey home.

The Feast is progressing gaily as the curtain falls.

Costumes.

All wear Indian costumes. The hair should be black—faces streaked. The altos should have broad band of black paint across the chin—sopranos, white. The principals' costumes may be varied only in the touch of bright ribbons and beads. The three little ones dressed exactly alike. All hair worn down in braids or loose. All wear sandals. Altos carry bows and arrows and tomahawks. Sopranos carry light colored veils to be waved in movements and worn about neck when quiet. Impee Light should have plenty of brilliant red in costume—red bow in hair—Queen's costume richer—more heads—and should wear a silk shawl of bright color—yellow or white.

The old squaw has many wrinkles—is always bent over—is all in brown, ragged costume—carries heavy staff and wears anklets and necklace of very white bones. Has one large feather straight up in hair. Ghost dancers add white veils—arrow dancers add red veils.

The Feast of the Red Corn

American Indian Operetta for Ladies

Overture



★ Use both bass and snare drum. Remove the snares from the snare drum and use snare drum sticks on both drums. § indicates bass drum I indicates snare drum Public Performance Rights Reserved

For particulars see second page of cover

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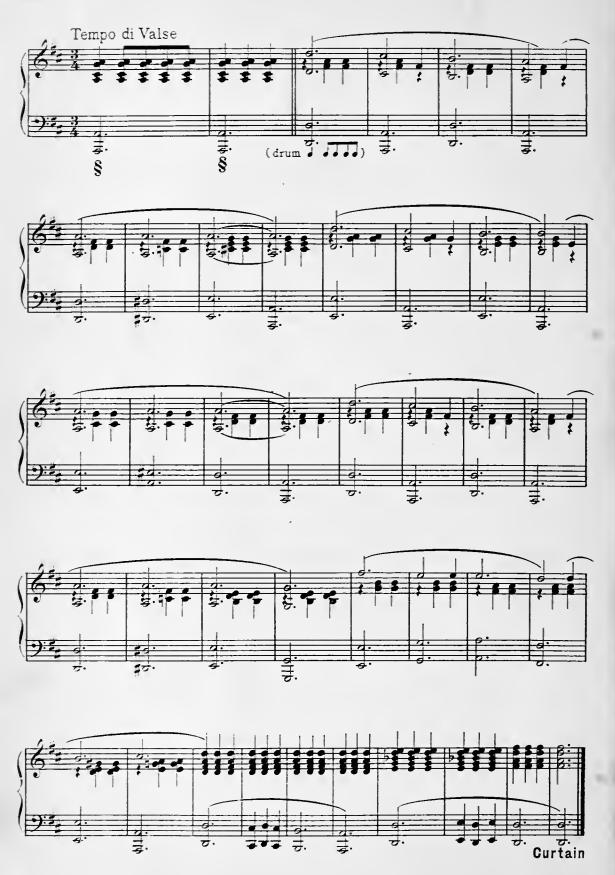












Opening Chorus

































Old Squaw. (Spoken)

Last night, deep in the forest, I alone called to the Four Winds, called and cried to Four Winds. Come, whisper to me_tell me, O Four Winds, what of the Feast of the Red Corn? What of the Feast of the Red Corn? Then, afar_ far off, I heard a wailing, a long slow moan. Closer it came_louder it grew until in my ears it formed and said 'No. No. No. O Wsh. Wsh' and again still louder 'No Wish! No Wish!' and then moaning died. Tonight here now again I must call on the Four Winds, and cry to the Four Winds and you must listen_you must hear what the great Four Winds say.



Somebody's been up to something (sumpin')











Gld Squaw

Hark! Afar_afar off I hear a wailing, a long slow moan_afar it is. Very far_but it comes closer_closer_now it grows in my ears_soon in your ears. Listen, and hear.

Chorus (Singing very loud)

"Somebody's been"etc.. (Old Squaw tries in vain to stop them. At end of chorus all listen and then Old Squaw begins. "No-o-o wsh, No-o-o wsh-sh-sh," repeated several times.)

Chorus (cowering)

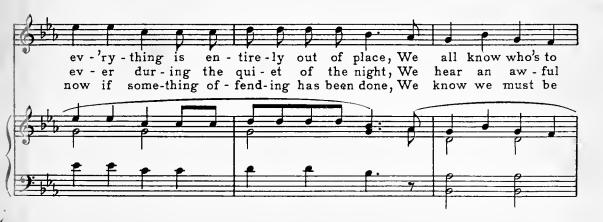
"No-o-o wsh, No-o-o wsh!"

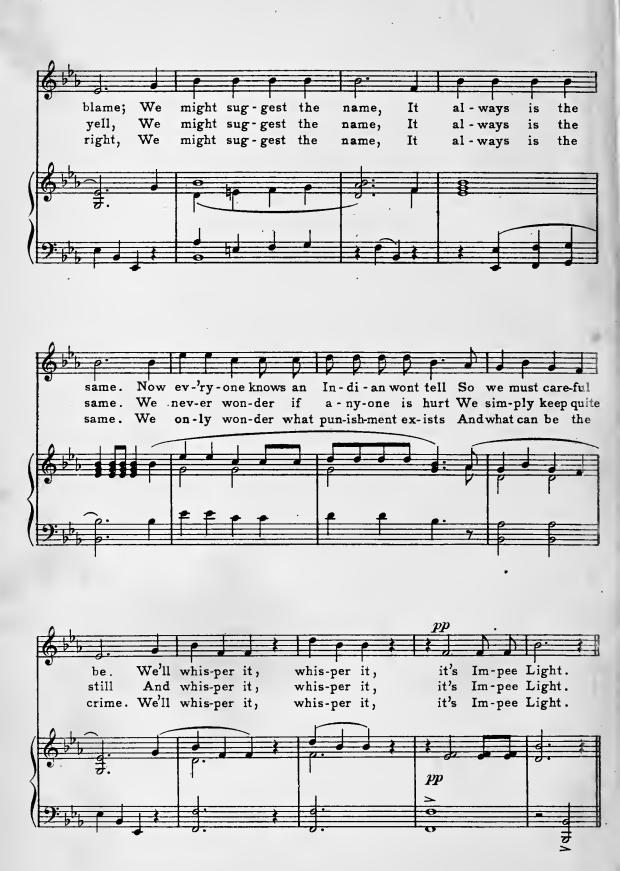
Old Squaw

Somebody has been up to something know you who? Will you tell?

She is a regular Indian









Old Squaw

What punishment! What crime! Great crime it must be. Four Winds are much angry. "No-o-o wsh!" Great crime is done great punishment must be. Fire is great punishment hot fire. Burn her burn her at the stake!

Burn her at the Stake

Chorus and Fudgee, Pudgee and Wudgee



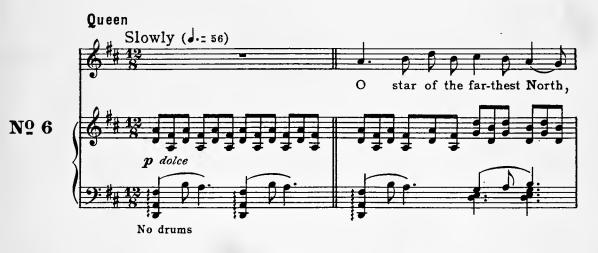
Queen Weeda Wanta (Off Stage Singing)

O Star of the Farthest North, Eye of the Night!

Old Squaw (Mockingly)

Foolish Queen. great fool. much faith! Many moons ago the great King went up into the North country to the wars. Many great battles and then silence long silence no word from the King. King dead. King dead! Queen, foolish Queen believe King alive all day she looks to the North. All day she calls to the North for her King. Tonight she comes to the Feast of the Red Corn. comes to try to find Little Red Ear. to get message from Four Winds and find her King. (laughs shrilly) Hark! She calls and cries to Star of the Farthest North to guide and guard him, her King! (Squaw hides _ Enter Queen)

O Star of the Farthest North





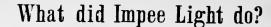




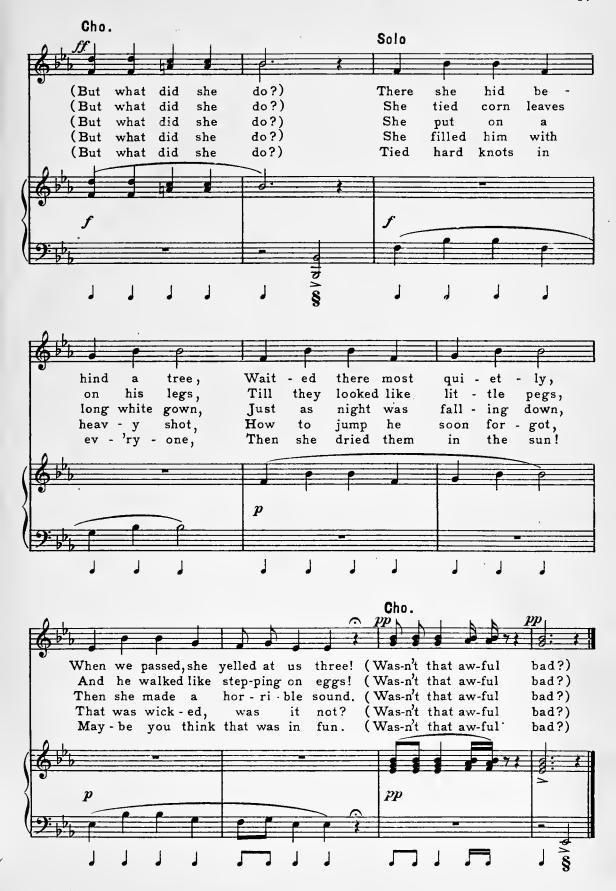




There! There! Impee Light is a naughty, bad girl to be always teasing you. There! There! Tell me all about it _ did Impee Light hurt my little ones? What did she do? Tell me, what did Impee Light do?







F. P. and W. (Spoken in unison slowly)

And that isn't all! She tied war-feathers, on the sacred, stuffed bear!

Queen (Great Excitement.)

Run and bring me the sacred, stuffed bear run quickly. (Four girls run off.).

O Impee Light, Impee Light, what makes you so Impee Light? Not one other maiden is so mischievous so naughty or so boisterous. What makes you so? You are always teasing Fudgee, Pudgee and Wudgee. Always frightening them or annoying them but now what have you done?

What have you done?

(Enter four girls with sacred stuffed bear.)

Old Squaw

Great crime! Great punishment! Burn her burn her burn her at the stake!

Chorus (Singing)

Burn her at the stake!

F. P. W.

Weeda Wanta, etc.

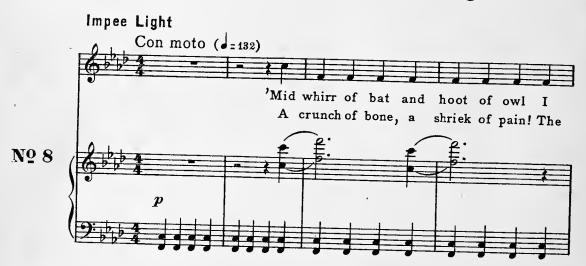
Queen (Quieting them)

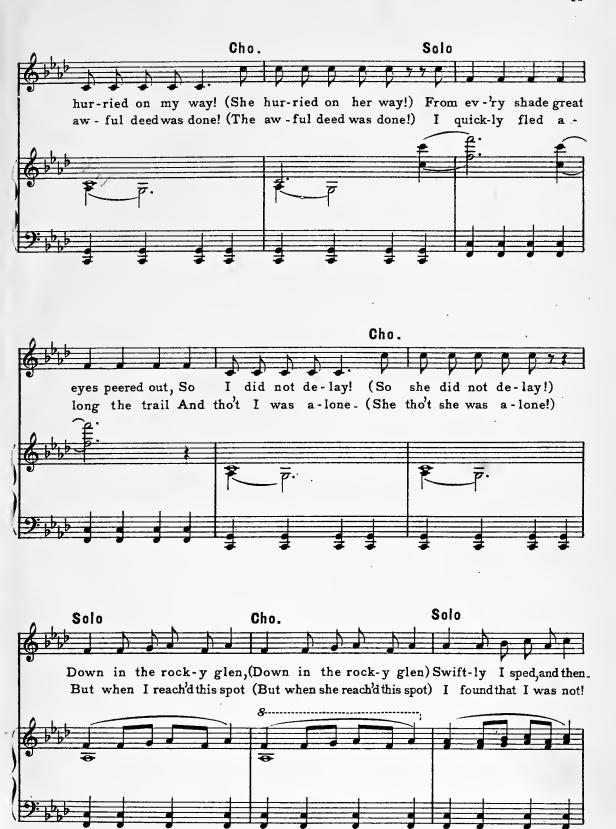
Now little sister, what have you to say for yourself? Speak up-defend yourself if you can. What makes you so, Impee Light? You must have inherited some savage, wild trait of our earliest ancestors.

Impee Light

O Queen sister, last night I had a terrible time. Just at dark I ran down here to take a peep at the place where we would hold the Feast of the Red Corn and let me tell you about it. It was awful.

I've inherited a most peculiar failing

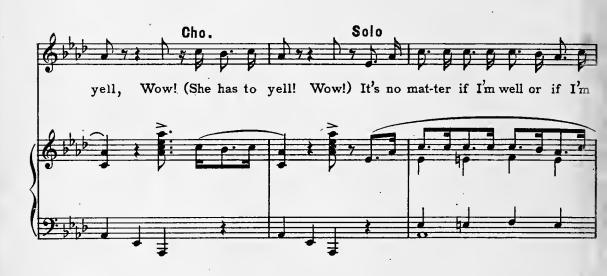


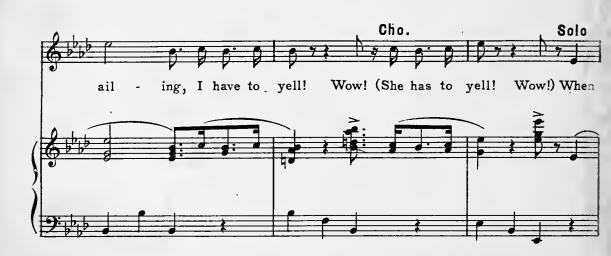














Ghost Dance Ghosts of the Dead Trees















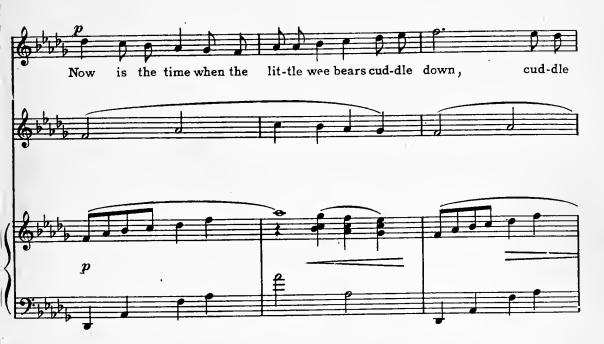


Queen (observing F.P. & W. are sleepy)

My little "Flowers of the Forest" are so tired. Come and lie down by me and listen while I tell you about the little, wee bears and birds.

Sleep Song





/ *) For introduction, play first four measures









Act II

The Tale of the Three Little Bears



3 times





3 + - wi.





Queen:

Now let's all go for a canoe ride in the early morning before we gather the ears of corn. The sun is up and the air is cool. Come on! Away to the lake.

Old Squaw: (Entering with great noise)

Black Spiders! Green Snakes! No good in feast of Red Corn. Four winds very angry. Great crime. Much badness. No wish at feast. No feast! No feast!

Queen:

Old Squaw I believe the Four Winds will forgive. I believe they will give a sign. Let us go in the canoes and perhaps something may happen to please the Four Winds so they will come to the feast of the Red Corn. Come maidens, let us go. Come children! Stand back, Old Squaw and we will soon return.

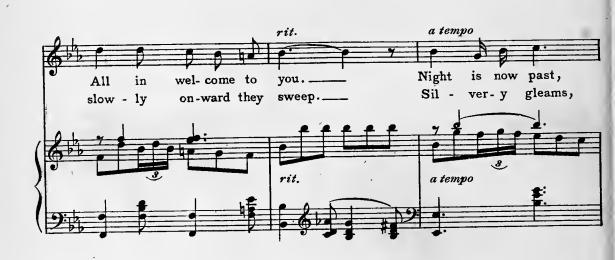
(Old Squaw retires grumbling)

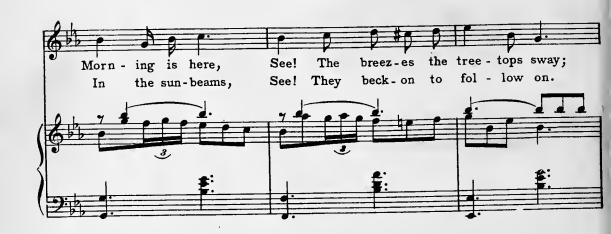
Queen and Chorus

Canoe Song





















Entrance of Old Squaw







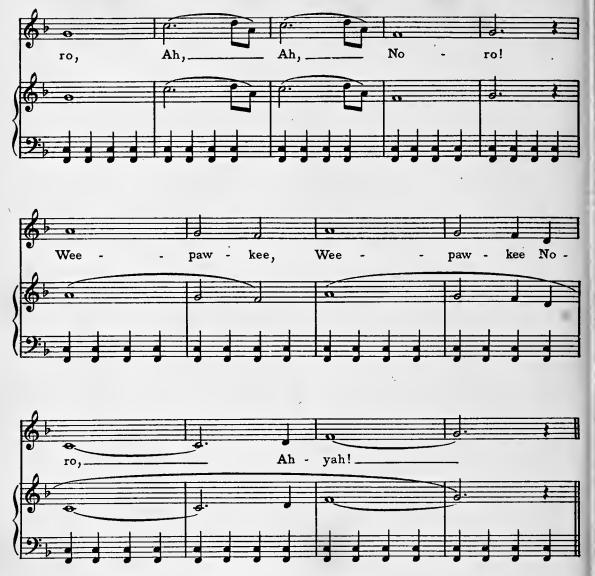


* For entrance of Old Squaw, play straight through using second ending and no repeats For "Flaming Arrow Dance" observe all repeat signs and play until end of dance



Song of Sorrow





Here follows Flaming Arrow Dance using music of number 13.

(Enter Queen and Chorus hysterical, without Fudgee, Pudgee, Wudgee or Impee Light)

Queen: (crying)

Oh. Oh. Oh. My children. the canoe upset. they went down. I know they are drowned. Impee Light was with them and she is drowned too. Oh. Oh. Oh. My little 'Flowers of the Forest'. They are dead. dead. They went down and never appeared again. I turned away. couldn't bear to stay. Oh. Oh. Oh. they are dead. (All weeping, sing Song of Sorrow in unison)

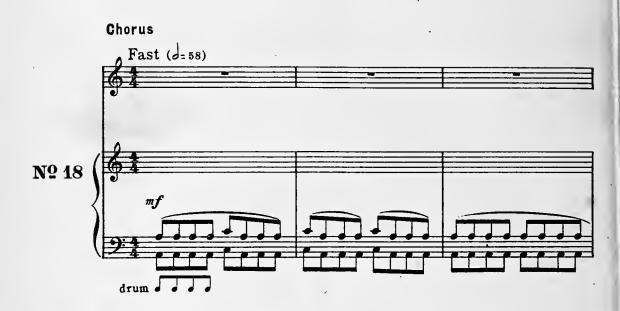
Funeral March







Was there ever anybody







Somebody's been up to something





Fudgee, Pudgee and Wudgee: (spoken slowly in unison.)

We are not dead at all, at all; we are not dead at all.

Fudgee: Impee Light told us how to play a joke on

all of you by standing in shallow water under the canoe after it was truned upside down and she showed us where it was not deep and then we all tipped over the canoe and came up under it so our heads were out of the water. We stayed there until you all ran away. Wasn't that a good joke?

(Enter Impee Light yelling and laughing)

Impee Light:

A joke, a joke, a funny, funny joke! Wow! (to the Queen) O Queen sister, even if it was a joke, I brought back Fudgee and Pudgee and Wudgee alive and well to you and I claim as reward, your forgiveness. (Bowing)

Queen to Old Squaw:

While it was very mischievous, yet Impee Light did really save the lives of my three little "Flowers of the Forest" and I believe this will atone for her offense against the Four Winds. I do forgive you, Impee Light, and now Old Squaw, call again on the Four Winds and see if they will not hearken and grant the wish of the one who finds the little Red Ear.

Incantation





Old Squaw:

Hark! It comes! It grows in my ear! Listen! Listen! Sh.sh.wsh.wsh.wish.wish.wish! Chorus:

Sh.sh. wsh.wish.wish.wish!

Queen:

The Four Winds have harkened and they will grant the wish. Come, maidens, let's go gather the ears, and bring them here, to see who shall find the red ear and then have her dearest wish granted.

0 Little Red Ear













Queen:

Now to choose each one an ear. $\times \times \times \times$. (music continues softly.)

I have the Red Ear. Oh how happy I am. and my dearest wish is to know that my King is alive.

Old Squaw, stir the fire and let me see in the smoke if the Four Winds will give me a vision of him, my King.

Tableau

Chorus (singing)

O little Red Ear. (Queen falls on her knees as she sees in the smoke the vision of the King.)



