



The Last Romance
By Joe DiPietro
Audition Side
The Young Man

RALPH

Okay - the year is 1946 - the place -- the stage of the Metropolitan Opera House.

LIGHTS UP on THE YOUNG MAN, wearing a suit.

My mother had made me a suit. A beautiful wool suit. That son-of-a-bitch was itchy, but it made me feel like a movie star. So there I was - Cary Grant- actually standing in this place that- that didn't even seem real, ya know. It was like I was standing in a dream. Then this voice came out from the dark and asked my name. And I was so nervous for a moment I forgot. But then I said –

YOUNG MAN

Mi chiamo Rafaela Bellini.

RALPH

I had to remind myself to speak English.

YOUNG MAN

Ralph Bellini. I've prepared Silvio's aria.

RALPH

And the voice said - we may stop you when we've heard enough.

YOUNG MAN

But I've been rehearsing for five weeks.

RALPH

We'll stop enough when we've heard enough, the voice said.

YOUNG MAN

You don't understand -- there's a 'G' at the end and I can hit it.

RALPH

The voice said, please, sing –

YOUNG MAN

So I stood there –

RALPH

Terrified-

YOUNG MAN

But amazed –

RALPH

Thinkin' my family had come to this country with nothing, absolutely nothing,
and here I was –

YOUNG MAN

About to sing –

RALPH

On the stage of the Metropolitan Opera House. And the voice said –

YOUNG MAN

Sing.

RALPH

Sing.

THE YOUNG MAN sings.

RALPH

And then the voice said-

YOUNG MAN

Thank you.

RALPH

You have a beautiful instrument.

YOUNG MAN

Please leave your phone number with the girl at the door.

RALPH

And I said-

YOUNG MAN

Can I sing some more?

RALPH

No, the voice said, but you did very well –

YOUNG MAN

Very, very well.

RALPH

Grazie.

YOUNG MAN

Grazie.

RALPH

Molto grazie.

YOUNG MAN

Ciao.