

Indecent Proposal (Measure For Measure)

Elizabeth: lyrics.
James: guitars, bouzouki, bass.
Nigel: percussion, keys.
Kris and Nigel: vocals.

I am Judge Angelo, righteous and stern,
Duke Vicentio's deputy for a term.
The Duke has been most woefully lax.
The city of very loose morals smacks.
Fornication is a heinous crime.
Proved guilty, Claudio shall lose his life

Just and noble Angelo, hear my plea.
I beg you set Claudio, my brother, free.
He has committed a crime of love.
Got with child - untimely - his betrothed.
They are to marry in the Spring.
The child will not be born in sin.

Lady, you're as fair as you are chaste.
Decisions should not be made in haste.
Your beauty stirs my body and mind.
Perchance I could show myself less unkind.
If you would care to share my couch,
To spare your brother's life I vouch.

Judge Angelo, do you truly propose
To pluck from me my virginal rose?
Vows I have taken to be a nun
Never shall my chastity be undone
Claudio would rather lose his life
Than have me make such sacrifice

How fragile is man's reputation!
How quickly yields he to temptation!
Whatever the time or season
Carnal desire is not ruled by reason

My beautiful, deluded Isabel
To save his skin, Claudio his soul would sell.
Offer me tonight your maidenhead
Or tomorrow your dear brother lies dead

Oh that Duke Vicentio were here!
He would pity my virtuous tears.
I must make an impossible choice-
Whatever I choose, my life is destroyed.

Isabella's dilemma puts her under pressure
Fortunately, though, in Measure for Measure,
Good Duke Vicentio returns in the nick of time.
Graciously spares her brother's life
And asks Isabella to be his wife