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21M.013J The Supernatural in Music, Literature and Culture  
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Goethe, *Faust* (Part 1)  
1806

Carré, *Faust et Marguerite*  
1850

Gounod, *Faust*  
1859  
**Act I**

Murnau, *Faust*  
1926

wager in heaven

wager between Mephistopheles  
and Angel

Faust dissatisfied with  
his scientific work

*dissatisfaction*

Faust dissatisfied with  
his scientific work

Faust shown with failed  
alchemical experiment

Faust with Wagner

*Faust and Siebel*

attempt at suicide  
prevented by hearing  
Easter hymn

*no attempted suicide*

*chorus of youthful  
pleasures*

attempt at suicide  
prevented by hearing  
peasant chorus

arrival of Mephistopheles  
who shows Faust a vision  
of GRETCHEN  
contract with Mephistopheles  
Faust transformed into  
younger man

before the city gate with Wagner  
on Easter morning, with peasant  
songs

Faust praised for helping to  
cure plague

Mephistopheles brings plague; Faust  
tries to find cure; fails

returns to study and starts throwing books in fire; notices one that gives a charm for summoning the Devil; Faust in moonlight scene does the Incantations; Mephistopheles appears

Faust returns to study; Mephistopheles there; "Here I am"

Faust wagers with Devil to gain power to cure plague; succeeds, but cannot face cross; people run from him

tries to commit suicide; prevented by Mephistopheles

Faust transformed into young man; shown image of woman

Faust and Duchess of Parma (≈Walpurgis Night)

Faust begs to return to home; they return on Easter

*Valentin as protector of Gretchen and so her mother is eliminated*

**Act II**

fairgrounds at city gate;  
Valentin about to leave for battle;  
his friends Wagner and Siebel  
promise to look after Gretchen;

*Siebel in love  
with Gretchen*

Siebel singing and drinking with  
Mephistopheles; protect themselves  
with cross

black dog follows Faust  
home; turns into  
Mephistopheles

*Siebel's romance and  
Mephistopheles's serenade  
not in play*

wager with Mephistopheles

Mephistopheles with student

Auerbach's cellar; Siebel singing  
and drinking with Mephistopheles

witch's kitchen where Faust is  
shown the image of a beautiful  
woman and transformed  
into younger man

see Gretchen for the first time;  
desires her

sees Gretchen in the flesh  
for the first time; falls in love?

sees Gretchen on way to church

Valentin home on vacation; greets  
Mother and Gretchen

Gretchen wonders about the  
stranger who approached her

### **Act III**

Siebel leaves flowers;

Mephistopheles and Faust  
leave jewels in Gretchen's  
room

Gretchen sings "King of Thule"

Gretchen finds jewels (x2)

Mephistopheles tells Martha that  
her husband is dead; woos her to  
keep her out of the way

Gretchen plays "he loves me,  
loves me not" game

"forest and cavern": Faust hesitates  
to pursue Gretchen through evil means

Mephistopheles propels him back  
spinning wheel song

Gretchen gives drug to mother  
*Mother not in play*

Mephistopheles leaves jewels

Gretchen sings "King of Thule";  
interrupted with musings about  
the stranger who approached her

Gretchen finds jewels; sings  
"Jewel Song"  
Mephistopheles tells Martha that  
her husband is dead; woos her to  
keep her out of the way

Gretchen plays "he loves me,  
loves me not" game

Gretchen and Faust say goodnight;  
Faust starts to leave

Mephistopheles propels him back

[mother has died before start of  
opera of natural causes]

Mephistopheles leaves jewels

Gretchen shows to her Aunt Marthe,  
who is selling potions

Gretchen tries on jewels

very comic wooing of Marthe by  
Mephistopheles, who makes a potion  
for Marthe

Gretchen plays "he loves me,  
loves me not" game

Faust gives Gretchen a ring; they  
kiss

mother sleeping; Gretchen allows  
Faust in room

Gretchen sings at window;  
Faust rushes back;  
Mephistopheles laughs

Mother awakens, rushes into  
Gretchen's room; falls to  
ground [dies]

another girl taunts Gretchen for her  
fall from virtue

Gretchen prays

**Act IV**  
[spinning wheel song]

Valentin returns; Mephistopheles  
taunts him with a song; duel ends  
in Valentin's death; Valentin  
curses Gretchen                      *Valentin is injured but  
does not die*

Valentin returns; Mephistopheles  
taunts him with a song; duel ends  
in Valentin's death; Valentin  
curses Gretchen

Valentin rushes into house; Faust  
kills in duel; Valentin curses  
Gretchen

Cathedral: at funeral for  
brother, Dies Irae

Cathedral: Dies Irae

Cathedral: at funeral for mother  
and brother

an evil spirit taunts her

Mephistopheles taunts her

congregation, including Marthe  
spurns her

Gretchen in stocks

Gretchen in snow with infant

Gretchen and child refused shelter

Child dies; Gretchen accused of infanticide

Walpurgis Night; Gretchen image  
Faust sees Gretchen image

*not in play*

### Act V

Walpurgis Night;  
Faust sees Gretchen image;  
Demands to be taken to her

Black day/Field: Faust learns of Gretchen's state

*no infanticide*

[Faust learns at some point why Gretchen is in prison]

Faust learns that Gretchen suffers; accuses Mephistopheles of betraying him; demands to be brought to her

Gretchen in prison; Faust urges her to leave with him; she recoils from Mephistopheles; is saved

*no prison scene; Gretchen loses her honour and her mind; Siebel and Faust plead with her; an angel takes her to heaven; Mephistopheles takes Faust to hell*

Gretchen in prison; Faust urges her to leave with him; she recoils from Mephistopheles; is saved

Gretchen in prison; Faust with Mephistopheles flying toward her; Faust curses youth and is returned to his old self.

Gretchen taken to stake; Faust approaches; she recognizes him as the young Faust; Love conquers Mephistopheles; Faust and Gretchen saved.

Easter hymn