

**"THE HARMONIC HEART"**

**Written by**

**David Boles**

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FADE IN:

INT. AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

CHARLES, DRESSED ENTIRELY IN BLACK, WEARS A BLACK SLOUCH HAT AND DARK GLASSES. HE SITS IN THE BACK ROW OF THE THEATRE. A LARGE COFFEE MUG RESTS ON HIS KNEE...HE IS SUBDUED. GLADYS, A LARGE BLACK WOMAN SO SEVERELY OVERWEIGHT THAT SHE ACTUALLY WADDLES WHEN SHE WALKS, SQUEEZES THROUGH THE DOOR. SHE GOES TO THE EDGE OF THE STAGE AND SINGS "AMAZING GRACE" IN A FULL, RESONANT CONTRALTO. AFTER A VERSE, CHARLES INTERRUPTS HER.

CHARLES

(SOFT) Can you sing?

GLADYS

I'm sorry?

CHARLES

I asked you if you tap danced.

GLADYS

I dance through my music, sir.

CHARLES

Could you show me a little soft shoe, then?

(MORE)

GLADYS SINGS "AMAZING GRACE" AGAIN FROM WHERE SHE STOPPED EARLIER. SHE RISES UP AND DOWN FROM TIPPY-TOES TO THE BACK OF HER HEELS.  
CHARLES INTERRUPTS HER.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

(SOFT) Give it a little more soul.

GLADYS

I'm sorry?

CHARLES

(SNAPPING) I said, "Give me your spirit!"

GLADYS

I already gave it to you.

CHARLES STANDS UP SUDDENLY, SPILLING HIS COFFEE.

CHARLES

(LOUDER) Don't mouth off to me! I

asked you if you know where you are?

GLADYS

I'm sorry. I don't.

CHARLES SITS DOWN ABRUPTLY. HE'S SUBDUED AGAIN.

CHARLES

Will you present your heart?

(MORE)

GLADYS CUPS HER HANDS AND REACHES INSIDE TO WITHDRAW HER HEART FOR PRESENTATION TO CHARLES. THE STRUGGLE TO RIP OUT HER HEART HAS DRAINED THE LIFE FROM HER. TEARS RUN DOWN HER FACE AS SHE CRADLES THE HEART IN HER HANDS... IT THROBS BETWEEN HER FINGERS.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

(SOFT) Now...will you please leave?

GLADYS

I'm...I can't hear you.

CHARLES

I asked if your heart would sing.

GLADYS OPENS HER MOUTH TO SING "AMAZING GRACE" BUT ONLY QUIET SOBS COME OUT. CHARLES INTERRUPTS HER.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Not you.

GLADYS BOWS HER HEAD AND EXTENDS HER HEART. SHE STAYS IN THIS POSITION FOR THE REST OF THE SCENE. HER HANDS MOVE WITH LIFE.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Music for the eyes.

GLADYS

May I put it back now?

CHARLES

Hush, I'm still listening.

HER HEART SLOWS. AND STOPS.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

I'm finished.

GLADYS

How do I put it back?

CHARLES

You can't have what isn't yours.

GLADYS

I understand.

CHARLES

Time to go, then.

GLADYS

I'll leave it on the table.

CHARLES

On your way out.

GLADYS

I'll wipe up the floor, too.

CHARLES

No! I'll lick it clean.

GLADYS

Thank you.

CHARLES

Good-bye.

GLADYS

I tried.

CHARLES

You tried your heart out.

GLADYS

It hurts.

CHARLES

(SOFT) Next.

GLADYS

Thank you again.

CHARLES

I said, "Next."

FADE OUT.

THE END