Ikh un du a porele



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The 1929 book indicates this is from Nellie Casman's hit show Khasndl for which the manuscript is available - text only - at the Library of Congress Marwick Collection. It must have been sung by her love interest, as the text is from a man's point of view. It was undoubtedly sung with the man and the woman alternative passages in the verse, which would account for the very wide vocal range implied.

I was not able to find this melody until I found the chorus quoted in an article by David Roskies in Afn Shvel. Professor Roskies pointed me to a recording of his mother singing this song a cappella. (She sang the orchestral interludes too!) Her words for the verse were different but the chorus is the same. I've had to imagine the harmony.

דאָס חזנדל / דאַס חזינדעל

Dos Khazindel: opereta in 3 akten, fun Shloyme Shteynberg = Dus Chazendel: operetta in 3 acts / Samuel Steinberg

Produced April 18 1927 at the Hopkinson Theater under the title A Khazndl oyf shabes (co-author: Aaron Nager; music: Yudele Belzer; starring Nellie Kesman); "subsequently produced throughout the world"

Text from the book:

Punkt vi a shtern in himl Shaynstu far mir nor aleyn Ven ikh shlof un khap mir a dreml -Dan volt ikh nor dikh gezen. Ven du zolst mayn harts nor tsheshnaydn Nor libe gefinstu in dem; Ven du vest nor tsvey hertser oysmaydn Un dos harts filt nor mit dir!

Ikh un du a porele Oyf undz aza yorele Un s'iz a svorele Az mir beyde veln zayn glaykh Du vest zayn mayn vaybele Shtil nor vi a taybele Ven du vest vern a mamele Libn dikh biz tsum toyt.

Just like a star in heaven you shine only for me When I sleep and doze, it's only you I want to see If you cut my heart open, you'd just find love inside If you'd just join two hearts and this heart would only feel with youl

You and me, a pair, good years for us It's my thought that we both will be the same You'll be my wife, quiet as a dove When you become a mother, I'll love you until death