

SCENE 4

Back on the Street. Jim stands before a pawn shop, the sign for which reads: "BALTHAZAR'S BAZAAR, Jewelry Bought and Sold". Balthazar is behind the counter and two shop girls are in the shop with him. He sings cheerily:

BALTH. Balthazar! Balthazar!
 Need some cash?
 Well you can thank your lucky stars
 'Cause at Balthazar's, Balthazar's
 I'm dealin', no stealin'
 People come from near and far
 To make a deal at Balthazar's.

 Do you have a sterling silver ring,
 Or anything
 That has a fine design—
 Genuine?
 Looking for a fair and generous guy
 Who will want to buy?

[music continues softly as Jim enters]

JIM How do you do.

BALTH. And how may I help you, sir?

JIM I'd like you to take a look at this watch.

BALTH. *[he looks for a moment and shakes his head]* What a shame.

JIM What do you mean? The watch is in perfect condition.

BALTH. Aye, that it is. And I had the perfect fob to complement it, but just an hour ago...

JIM No, no. I'm not looking for a fob. I'd like to sell the watch.

BALTH. I see, I see. It is truly fine. I've not seen any better. *[he examines the watch]* Twenty dollars... but...

JIM Balthazar, O Balthazar!
 You don't know how lucky you are!
 I'm a man who is in desperate need.
 I'll proceed,
 Just please don't mislead me
 Balthazar, O Balthazar.
 Life is so bizarre!
 I will risk the only treasure I own,
 I'll sigh and moan
 To get a loan
 From greedy Balthazar.

[he hands over the watch and waits expectantly for the money. Balthazar is too busy admiring the watch. The music continues]

I'm in a bit of a hurry, I've got to get to Sophronie's before she closes: buying a Christmas present for my wife.

GIRL 1 Sophronie! You'd better watch yourself in there, sir.

GIRL 2 We've got plenty of nice things right here I'm sure she'd like.

JIM No, there's a set of combs in Sophronie's shop that Della's had her eye on for months.

BOTH GIRLS Oh, I see...

[the singing starts up again— all sing at once!]

BALTH. Balthazar! Balthazar!
Honesty
Is what the city knows me for
'Cause at Balthazar's, Balthazar's
It's freaky, I'm so squeaky!
They'd all say how smart you are
To trust the honest Balthazar!

JIM Balthazar, O Balthazar!
You don't know how lucky you are!
I'm a man who is in desperate need.
I'll proceed
Just please don't bleed me
Balthazar, O Balthazar.
Don't push me too far!
I don't want to have to ask you again,
I won't complain.
Don't profane,
Just pay me, Balthazar.

GIRLS Just beware of Madame Sophro',
She's the biggest cheater I know.
O, the stories that I could tell,
Balthazar could tell you as well.
Please believe what I'm telling you
Every word is true!
Take precaution,
I ain't joshin'
Buy your gift and bid her adieu
Then hit the avenue.

[Balthazar continues to examine the watch, trying to ignore Jim]

JIM Excuse me.

BALTH. Yes?

JIM Twenty dollars?

BALTH. Oh, right.

[Balthazar produces a bill but still clings to it. They play a little tug-o-war with it. With the final chord Jim yanks it out of his hands, and the stage cuts to black.]