

## Réponse d'une épouse sage

**Connaissant, seigneur, mon état d' épouse,**  
knowing        sir        my state of spouse

**Tu m' as envoyée deux perles précieuses**  
you me have sent    two pearls precious

**Et, moi, comprenant ton amour,**  
and I understanding your love

**Je les posai froidement sur la soie de ma robe,**  
I them placed coldly on the silk of my dress

**Car ma maison est de haut lignage,**  
for my house is of high line

**Mon époux capitaine de la garde du Roi,**  
my husband captain of the guard of the king

**Et un homme comme toi devrait dire:**  
and a man like you should say

**«Les liens de l' épouse ne se défont pas».**  
the bonds of the wife (not) themselves untie not

**Avec les deux perles, je te renvoie deux larmes**  
with the two pearls I you resend two tears

**Deux larmes - pour ne pas t' avoir connu plus tôt.**  
two tears for not you having known more early

## Reply from a faithful wife

Despite knowing, sir, my position as a wife,  
you sent me two precious pearls  
and I, understanding your love,  
placed them coolly on the silk of my dress,  
for my house is of high standing,  
my husband, captain of the King's guard,  
and a man such as you should say:  
“The bonds of a wife are not to be untied.”  
With the two pearls, I send you back two tears;  
Two tears - for not having known you sooner.

Original key  
E min

## Réponse d'une épouse sage

repōs(ə) dyn epus(ə) sag(ə)

Poem by Chang-Chi  
translation by H.P.Roché

Albert Roussel  
alber rusel

**Andantino** ♩ = 92

Con-nais-sant, sei-  
kə nə sɑ sə

The first system of the musical score is in 4/4 time. The vocal line begins with a whole rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. The piano accompaniment starts with a piano (p) dynamic. The right hand plays a series of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The left hand plays a series of eighth notes: F4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3. The system concludes with a whole note G4 in the vocal line and a whole note G3 in the piano accompaniment.

5

gneur, — mon é - tat d'é - pou - - se, —  
ɲœr mō ne ta de pu zø

The second system of the musical score continues the melody. The vocal line starts with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern. The system concludes with a whole note G4 in the vocal line and a whole note G3 in the piano accompaniment.

9 **Poco più animato**

Tu m'as en - voy - é deux per - les pré - ci - eu - -  
ty ma zā vwa je dø per lø pre si ø

The third system of the musical score is marked 'Poco più animato'. The vocal line begins with a triplet of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern. The system concludes with a whole note G4 in the vocal line and a whole note G3 in the piano accompaniment.

13

ses.  
zø

Et moi, com-pre-  
e mwa kō prø

*p*

17

nant ton a - mour je les po - sai froi-de-  
nā tō na mur 3ø lε po ze frwa dø

21

*poco rit.*

**Allegretto** ♩=120

ment sur la soie de ma ro - be.  
mā syr la swa dø ma ro bø

*poco rit.*

*mp*

25

Car ma mai-son est de haut li-  
kar ma mε zō ε dø o li

*mp*

29

gna - ge. Mon é - poux ca - pi - tai - ne de la  
 ja 3ø mō me pu ka pi tē nø dø la

*poco cresc.*

33

gar - de du Roi.  
 gar dø dy rwa

*f*

38

*ritard.* Et un hom - me com - me toi de - vrait di - re:  
*ritard.* e œ nō mō kō mō twa dø vrē di rø

*mp* *dim.*

42

*slargando* «Les liens de l'é - pou - se ne se dé - font pas.»  
 lē ljē dø le pu zø nø sø de fō pa

*p*

8<sup>va</sup>

47 **Tempo I**  $\text{♩} = 92$ 

A - vec les deux per - les  
a vɛk lɛ dø pɛr lø

*pp dolce*

51

je te ren - voie deux lar - mes,  
ʒø tø rɑ̃ vwa dø lar mø

55

Deux lar - mes pour ne pas t'a - voir con - nu plus  
dø lar mø pur nø pa ta vwar kɔ ny ply

*rall.*

*mp* *p*

59

tôt.  
to

*p* *pp*