

FAUSTUS
A New Musical based on Marlowe's
"The Tragical History of the Life and Death of Dr. Faustus"

by
Kirk Smith

Cast

Poet

Faustus

Wagner

Valdez

Cornelius

Three Scholars

The Old Man

The Good Angel

The Bad Angel

Mephistopheles

Lucifer

Beelzebub

Spirits presenting The Seven Deadly Sins and Helen of Troy

Prologue by

Father John Navone

Reverend Al Shackleford

Pope VI

Reverend William R. Nye

Monsignor Corrado Balducci

Marc Galanter

Anton LaVey

George Santayana

M.C. Bradbrook

Helen Gardner

Willard Farham

Richard B. Sewall

Goethe

Harry Levin

Prologue

FATHER JOHN NAVONE

In traditional theology the Devil is a malfunctioning, deranged angel. Devils are a category of angels that slipped. There is a radical distortion there. They don't think right. They don't love right. Something that was created good went wrong.

REVEREND AL SHACKLEFORD

To me personally, and I would assume, the vast majority of Southern Baptists, Satan is a reality. he is a being, he is going to and fro the earth seeking those he can lead astray from the allegiance to God.

PAUL VI

He is the enemy number one, the tempter par excellence. He is the secret enemy that sows errors and misfortunes in human history, the treacherous and cunning enchanter who finds his way into us by way of the senses.

REVEREND WILLIAM R. NYE

What amazes me is the number of people who are really quite outside fundamentalist religions but who believe in the devil, just as part of the atmosphere. That may be partly because the evidence of the Devil is more dramatic than the evidence of a benign counterpoising force, call it God or whatever you will. As Milton pointed out, the Devil is more interesting.

MONSIGNOR CORRADO BALDUCCI

There's a lot of confusion about the Devil. We can't arrive at what he is by reason. Reason cannot demonstrate his existence or his non-existence. Why? Because the Devil is a spiritual being and spiritual beings are not the fruit of reason.

MARC GALANTER

There is a defense mechanism called splitting, in which one divides things up into good and evil, harmful and unhelpful, friendly and unfriendly. The Devil persists for people because he personifies Evil in that way.

ANTON LA VEY

Satan is a symbol, nothing more. He's a symbol of man's carnal nature - his lust, greed, vengeance, but most of all his ego. Satan signifies our love of the worldly and our rejection of the pallid, ineffectual image of Christ on the cross.

GEORGE SANTAYANA

(Faustus is) A martyr to power, enterprise, curious knowledge, wealth and beauty.

M.C. BRADBROOK

His intoxication at his power to command the devil occasionally blinds him to everything else.

HELEN GARDNER

The sin of Faustus here is presumption, the aspiring above his order, rebellion against the law of his creation.

WILLARD FARNHAM

Faustus strives against human limitations to the point of selling his soul wittingly. Faustus strives against a scheme of things implanted within his consciousness. Faustus reaches a point where, knowing evil with certainty, he refuses to be barred by recognition of it from attempting to make a part of it into his good as he strives to explore life infinitely.

M.C. BRABBROOK

The play is primarily a study of the mind of Faustus.

GEORGE SANTAYANA

An adventurer in the romantic as well as in the vulgar sense of the word, Faustus had felt the mystery of nature, had scorned authority, had credited magic, had lived by imposture, and had fled from the police. His blasphemous boasts and rascally conduct, together with his magic arts, had made him a scandalous and interesting personage. One might even go so far as to say his reputation exceeded him.

RICHARD B. SEWALL

It is Faustus' redeeming quality that experience could change his mind and that he is sensitive to every stage of the process.

M.C. BRADBROOK

The first speech of Faustus is, I think, meant to suggest in a telescoped fashion a long period of mental debate, not to represent a single occasion. The tempo is quickened beyond that of ordinary life, just as movements are speeded up sometimes at the cinema.

RICHARD B. SEWALL

He transcends the man he was. He goes out no craven sinner but violently, speaking the rage and despair of all mankind who would undo the past and stop the clock against the inevitable reckoning

HARRY LEVIN

Faustus must indeed be a hardened sinner to contemplate their grossness without revulsion. Large allowances should be made for the mangled and encrusted form in which Doctor Faustus has survived. It's very popularity seems to have subjected it to an inordinate amount of cutting and gagging and all the other indignities that dramatic texts are heir to.

GOETHE

How grandly all is planned!

Act I. 1

POET

Oh the inexpressible
Baseness of servile minds!
To make themselves slaves willingly;
To accept decrees as inviolable: to
Place themselves under obligation
And to call themselves persuaded
And convinced by arguments that
Are so "powerful" and "clearly conclusive"
That they themselves cannot tell the
Purpose for which they were written or
What conclusion they serve to prove!

Act I. 2

[Music. Horn or drum. Something with the capacity to improvise under the speech.]

POET

Tis neither pomp nor circumstance
Nor proud audacious needs
That drive us to this heavenly verse
Or unto these triumphant deeds.
Tis simple how we feel
And now to patient judgments
We appeal.

Our story in it's infancy
Begins of course, in some Germany.
There was our Faustus born
To parents base of stock.
In riper years to a Wittenberg he went.
Toward the fruitful plot of scholarism
All his time he spent.

Excelling all among disputes
In matters Theological
His swollen head and waxen wings
Did mount above their reach.

POET (cont.)

And gluttoned soon with learning's gifts
He sought upon a cursed trade.
Nothing is so sweet to him as magic,
For this he calls his chiefest bliss.
And here is he
Who in his study sits.

[Silence]

Act I. 3

[to himself as if writing verse or argument. Struggling with words]

FAUSTUS

Settle thy studies and now begin
To sound the depths thou wilt profess within.
Is to dispute well logic's chiefest end?
Is there no greater miracle...?
Then read no more, thou hast attained this end.
A greater subject fittest Faustus' wit, think on it.
Be a physician, heap up gold.
Cure the common cold.
Are not the bills hung up like monuments?
Think of it.

Yet aren't thou still but Faustus
And thus a man?
Then try to live eternally
If you can... or being dead
Be raised to life again.

They say that death is the reward for Sin.
That's hard.
For if we say we have no sin,
Then we deceive ourselves.
Why then, believe, we must sin
And consequently die.
And this we call Divinity?
Alas what shall, be shall be, Divinity Adieu!
For what I most desire
Is a world of Profit and Delight.
Oh what a world of Honor and Omnipotence
Is promised to the serious Artiste.

[Faustus finishes a glass of wine]

FAUSTUS (cont.)

Commend me then
To my dear friends,
Valdez and Cornelius.
I will bid them visit me
And so begin our treatise.

[Faustus refills the glass and opens a book]

[enter Angels]

Good Angel

Oh Faustus lay that Damned thing down.
Don't let it tempt your Soul.
Heap not Heaven's heavy wrath
Upon your Earthly head.

Bad Angel

Therein Nature's treasure lies,
Go forward in your famous art.
For what you seek, be resolute
Be healthy wealthy and wise.

Mind above my Soul too tired to mention what slid in some trap door in my attention. I want to listen to someone. (Don't we all) want to listen to someone. (Do the right thing)listen to someone. And be able to tell they're right. Tell me the truth about fun. Tell me the truth about every one of us. I on I - Zero to Zero. I on I- Zero to Zero. I want to gather up my good ideas and try to do something amazing and hard to hold on to. But it's hard to hold on to. So tell me the truth about fun. Tell me the truth about every one of us. I on I - Zero to Zero. I on I-Zero to Zero. I want to listen to someone. (Don't we all) want to listen to someone. (Do the right thing)listen to someone. And be able to tell them they're right. Be able to tell them they're right.

(Faust & Ensemble)

FAUSTUS

So come Valdez and Cornelius
Sage me with your conference.
Wage with me on this offense.
Your words have won me at the last.
Now all my doubt is passed.

Act I. 4

[still in study]

FAUSTUS

Philosophy is odious
Both law and physics for petty wits.
Divinity - the basest of the three.
It's Magic that has ravished me.

Valdez

These books and our experience
Will make all nations worship us.
But you must be resolute.

FAUSTUS

As you are to live.

Cornelius

Vow to study nothing else,
For he that is grounded in astrology
Must also be enriched with tongues,
And well seen in geology.
But doubt not Faustus, you we admire.
And so, you now posses all that Magic doth require.

Valdez

Let us then to some lusty grove
To cheer our souls without reform
And magical demonstrations perform.

FAUSTUS

This night I'll conjure though I die therefore.

Act I. 5

[some exterior setting]

Sch. 1

I wonder what's become of Faustus. My ears long to hear his mighty "I prove it thus!"

Sch. 2

That we shall know presently, here comes his boy.

[enter Wagner]

Sch. 1:

Good day sir. Where is your master?

Wag

My master...? God in Heaven knows.

Sch. 3

So then you do not?

Wag

I know also, but that does not follow. I could be God, I am in Heaven.

Sch.2 [to sch.1]

He is clever, that I admit, though I cannot help but wish he would simply tell us where Faustus is.

Wag

But that too does not follow by force of argument, which you as a graduate should stand upon. Therefore acknowledge your error and be attentive.

Sch. 2

Then you will not tell us?

Wag

You are deceived. I will tell you, though you would not ask such a question were you not a dunce. For is my master not a natural body and as such capable of movement? Therefore, how could I ever with certainty answer you? Yet because I am by nature phlegmatic, slow to wrath and prone to lechery, I will reply. My master, I believe, is within, at dinner with Valdez and Cornelius, and this wine, if it could speak, would confirm my testimony.

[raises glass to his ear]

It is confirmed! And now, having triumphed so soundly, I bid you good day.

[Wagner exits]

Act I. 6

[in some lusty grove]

Cornelius

Now that the lovely shadow of the Earth,
Rises from below into the Sky,
Begin thine incantations Faustus
Spirits will obey thy.

VALDEZ

Seeing as you have kneeled and prayed
And sacrificed therein.
The devils are obliged to rise
Doubt not that you shall rule them.

FAUSTUS

My thanks again dear friends
For your assistance.
But leave me unto my business.

[Ceremony begins]

There is nothing I want more.
There is nothing that belongs more to me.
This is of my time, I am of this family.

There is nothing to find out - but this.
There is nothing to learn that is needed - save this - that I concede. There is
nothing, but that is not what I require.
I have occupied that clearing. I am through - an end unto itself.
I pursue and make myself awake.
That I will find what I prepare,
If I care, if I betake.

[Enter a Devil.]

FAUSTUS

I command you to return to Hell
You are not fit to be seen.
You must change your shape,
You are too ugly to attend on me.
But return again soon,
In the likeness of a priest.
That shape suits a devil best I think.

[Devil exits and returns]

Relax for a minute or two. Let go and enjoy what it will do to you. Open up and let me in. Into your. . . into you. Relax and let me wear the pants. There's nothing here that you can't stop. There's nothing here to jump off, so jump in. Into your. . . into you. (Meph)

FAUSTUS

How pliant is this Mephistopheles,
Full of obedience and humility.

Mephistopheles

Now Faustus,
What would you have me do?
I'm the servant of great Lucifer,
I'll not attend on you

FAUSTUS

I charge you to my service
While I live...

Mephistopheles

Not without my master's leave.

FAUSTUS

But you appear to me

Mephistopheles

Yes, but I came of my own accord,
I cannot resist one who racks
The name of God.
Abjure the Laws of Scripture, or the common Savior
And we fly in hopes of obtaining the glorious Soul.
You have nobly done this deed
And so I reached you with my evil speed.

[Meph. gives Faust a packet]

FAUSTUS

It's true, the word Damnation
Terrifies me not.
So to this I dedicate myself.
Confined with you and old philosophers
Couldn't be too bad.
Look at you.
How is it that if with Lucifer you fell
You are not with him in Hell?

Mephistopheles

This is Hell my friend
And we are both in it.
I, having tasted Heaven's Bliss
Am now without that joy.
I am deprived, everlasting.
But enough of this Faustus,
These disturbing demands fill me with distress.

FAUSTUS

Oh, you are so passionate.
Learn from me manly fortitude
And scorn the joys you don't possess.
I command you,
Leave me now and bear my news to Lucifer.
To him I will give up my soul

Mephistopheles

I will Faustus

[exit Mephistopheles]

FAUSTUS

Had I as many Souls as stars
I'd give them all for Mephistopheles

Don't know what is going down. Don't care. That is my motto. Don't mind, I'm getting used to you, used to me. Don't say words that I'll regret. Don't swerve, don't lose my head. Don't want to get better by degrees. Don't forget to breathe. Don't press the flesh. Don't make a mess. I am not being towards death. What was it you said you wanted?
(Faust)

Act I. 7

[exterior setting]

Sch.1

Come here boy.

Wag

Boy? Boy in your face and up your ass. Truly, you disgrace and disgust me. I doubt not that you three are well seen in boys, but I am not one of them.

Sch. 2

Sir, look at yourself. Have you nothing coming in?

Wag

Indeed I do - and going out as well. [farts loudly]

Sch. 1

Oh my poor slave. [to sch. 2] See him exposed in his poverty.

Sch. 3

In distress and out of sorts. And so hungry I know he would sell his Soul
for a shoulder of mutton though it were blood raw.

Wag

[Pause] Not so! I would need it well roasted and with a good sauce if I pay
so dear a price.

Act I. 8

[the study]

FAUSTUS

And now Faustu
Your needs are surely Damned.
You've cast yourself in o're your head
Before you learned to swim.
But can you not be saved?

No! [from offstage, with laughter]

Then what forces you to think on God and Heaven?

No! [from offstage]

To have seen a spirit isn't everything.
There are pictures piled atop one another
All the way to Heaven.

So away with such vanity and despair.
Prepare for God and trust in Tar.
Do not go backward,
God does not love you. . .
The God you serve is your own appetite.
Then to It I'll build an Altar
And a Church and offer up
Luke-warm blood of new-born babies.

Cut cold fresh as it can be as it should be as you can see. Come take a look no hazy shade here. This is the shit you know and now I'm sure I needed it strong. Strong. Folding in on myself, heat bending good intentions. Turning into something new like someone else and I want to tell and show you. It's fascinating- true and clean, just the way I think. I cut cold fresh and sink. Cut cold fresh and sink. Tempting, all you mention, into my good intentions.

(Faust)

[enter angels]

Good Angel

Sweet Faustus, leave this Evil art.

FAUSTUS

Ha! Prayer and Repentance,
What are these?

Good Angel

The keys to Heaven.

Bad Angel

Illusions, fruits of lunacy.

Good Angel

Sweet Faustus, think on Heaven
And Heavenly things.

Bad Angel

No, no, no! Think on honor and wealth.

FAUSTUS

Yes, wealth.
And besides, what God can hurt me
With Mephistopheles by my side?
I am safe.
Come Mephisto!

[enter Mephistopheles]

And tell me,
What saith our Lord Lucifer?

Open season is available to you my friend. Without reason you may attain this end. You may receive my penetrating glance, you may forget your past. You may confess, but this will serve you best. Wait and see - what you become when you belong to me. Wait and see - what you become when you belong. (Luc)

Mephistopheles

I shall wait on Faustu
While he lives.
And he will buy my service
With his Soul.

FAUSTUS

Ah yes!
But I've already hazarded that
For thee.
You have had your way.

Mephistopheles

You must transmit it soberly
And in a deed of blood.
That security Lucifer craves.
If you deny then I must ...

FAUSTUS

No, stay. And tell me
What good my Soul
Will do your lord.

Mephistopheles

Enlarge his kingdom.

FAUSTUS

So that is why he tempts us?
I wonder, do you that torture others
Have any pain of your own?

Mephistopheles

I'm afraid so,
Pain as great as any human spirit.
But tell me Faustus shall I have your Soul?
Shall I be your slave?
Shall I give you more than you have wit to ask for?
Is it me you crave?

FAUSTUS

Yes. I suppose it is.

Mephistopheles

Then stab your arm courageous
And bind your Soul
That at some certain day
Great Lucifer may claim it as his own.

FAUSTUS

For your love,
With proper blood
I give to you my Soul.

[Faustus begins to write or sketch something]

Mephistopheles

Faustus, write it in the manner of a contract.

FAUSTUS

But my blood congeals,
I can write no more.

Mephistopheles

I'll fetch the fire to dissolve it. [Meph. exits]

FAUSTUS

What might the staying of my blood suggest,
Is it unwilling I should write this bill,
Am I not my own to do with as I please?
No! [from offstage with laughter]

[Meph. enters]

Mephistopheles

Here is the fire, set it on.
What will I not do to obtain his Soul!

[Faust continues the contract]

I'll fetch you something to delight your mind.

[Meph. summons devils]

FAUSTUS

May I raise such spirits when I please?

Mephistopheles

Yes Faustus, and do greater things than these.

FAUSTUS

Then Mephistopheles receive this bloody title,
A gift. . . of soul and body.
But you must also perform.

Mephistopheles

Nothing would please me more.

FAUSTUS

Then hear me read.
First, Faustus be of spirit both in form and substance.
Second, Mephistopheles shall be his servant and always at his hand.
Thirdly, Mephistopheles shall do for him whatever he pleases.
Fourthly, he shall be, in his house or chamber, invisible.
Lastly, he shall appear to said Faustus,
In whatever shape he, Faustus, decides.

Mephistopheles

Do you deliver this as your deed?

FAUSTUS

I do.

Mephistopheles

Then ask what you will.

FAUSTUS

First of all,
Where is the place that men call Hell?

Mephistopheles
Beneath Heaven.

FAUSTUS

Yes, and so is all else.
Don't toy with me!
Tell me where exactly

Mephistopheles

Within the bowels of these elements,
Where we are tortured and must remain forever.
Hell has no limits nor is circumscribed
In one self place; but where we are is Hell
And where Hell is we shall always be.
To be short, when all the world dissolves,
And every creature stands in clarity
All will be Hell that is not Heaven.

FAUSTUS

I think Hell's a fable.

Mephistopheles

Experience will change your mind.

FAUSTUS

Why do you think I'll be Damned?

Mephistopheles

Out of necessity,
Here's the scroll in which you have
Given your Soul to Lucifer.

FAUSTUS

Ah yes,
And Body too, but what of that?
A word here, a word there.
Do you think I am so fond as to imagine
That after this life there be Pain?
No, these are trifles, old wives' and fairy tales.
Where I exist is not Death.
Nor in Death do I exist.
Therefore nothing could be worse than this.
I am, however, flattered that you enjoyed my theatre.

Mephistopheles

But am I not instance to prove the contrary?
I swear to you
I am Damned and now in Hell!

FAUSTUS

If this is Hell
Then let me willingly be Damned.
Sleeping, eating, walking and disputing...
Working, wading and shooting!

But enough of this,
Let me have a wife.
I am wanton and lascivious and
Cannot live without a wife.

Mephistopheles

A wife?
Oh no Faustus,
Talk not of a wife.

FAUSTUS

Yes Mephisto.
I ask for a wife, now fetch me one!

[exit Mephistopheles, return with fiery devil]

I don't want no bullshit from you, and I don't want to hear about it. I want you here in my face, don't get no charge off a chase. I don't need nothin, I'm confused enough as it is. I want you straight up, straight out, straight in. I want you straight up, straight down and straight in. I want you. I want you. Some clarity would do us good. Some purity and heart. If I had you I would see that you saw to that. I want you straight up, straight out, straight in. I want you straight up, straight down and straight in. I want you. I want you. (Fiery Devil)

Mephistopheles

Tell me Faustus,
How do you like your wife?

FAUSTUS

A plague on her...the fiery whore!
I don't need a wife.

Mephistopheles

Marriage is a ceremonial toy.
If you love me
You'll think of it no more.

How about staying up late, with me? How about we get together and let our minds run wild for a little while? Our minds run wild. How about we tell each other things that make us feel good inside? How about we hide and then let ourselves be found? You with me around and then me take you to town. How about it? What do you say, you and me up all night and then don't sleep the next day? (Meph)

FAUSTUS

I'm sorry. I cannot.
When I think of Heaven
I repent and curse you
For depriving me of that joy.

Mephistopheles

Thank yourself Faustus.
Your own seeking led you here.
Besides, do you really think
Heaven is such a glorious thing.
I tell you straight, it is not half as fair
As any man that breathes on Earth.

FAUSTUS

What can you prove

Mephistopheles

It was made for Man.
Man is therefore more excellent.

FAUSTUS

If it was made for Man
Then it was made for me.
I will renounce this Magic and Repent.

[Enter the two Angels]

Good Angel

Repent Faustus, God will pity you.

Bad Angel:

You are a spirit. God cannot pity a spirit.

FAUSTUS

Who buzzes in my ears?
Am I a spirit? Am I the Devil?
I will Repent. God may pity me yet.

Bad Angel:

Faustus will never Repent!

FAUSTUS [after some thought]

I fear after all,
You are correct.
My heart is so hardened I cannot Repent.
I can only reject...
Divinity, I can barely think on it.
The fearsome echoes thunder in my ears
'Faustus, you are Damned!'

Swords, knives, poison, guns
All envenomed Steel
Lay now so easily before me,
Yet I cannot do away with myself.
I would've done the deed
Had not sweet pleasure conquered me
So deep. And so easily.

I am resolved.
I cannot repent.
Come Mephistopheles
And let's dispute again.
Tell me, who made the world?

Mephistopheles:

I will not.

FAUSTUS

Sweet Mephisto,
Tell Me.

Mephistopheles:

You move me not Faustus.

FAUSTUS:

You have promised to tell me anything.

Mephistopheles:

Anything that is not against our kingdom.
This is. You're damned, think on Hell.

FAUSTUS

I will, as I wish, think on God.

Mephistopheles:

Remember this!

FAUSTUS

Go to Hell, cursed ugly gak.
You distress my Soul.
It is not too late!

Bad Angel:

Too late.

Good Angel:

Never too late, if you will repent.

Bad Angel:

Ha! If you repent devils will tear you into pieces.

Good Angel:

Repent! They will not pierce your skin.

FAUSTUS

Oh God, my Savior, will you not help to save my troubled Soul?

[enter Lucifer, Beelzebub and Mephistopheles]

You got a lot of nerve talking to me like that. You sling a lot of insult talking behind my back like that. I gave everything that you could think to ask for - more than you could possibly need. But you got to go on further don't you? You got a lot of greed. You say, "Free and Happy". I say you're feeling sorry for yourself and nothing else. "Free and Hppy" but you're feeling sorry for yourself. (Lucifer)

Lucifer:

God cannot save your Soul.
There is none but I with interest in it.

FAUSTUS

What are you that looks so horrid?

Lucifer:

I am Lucifer and this is my companion prince in Hell.

FAUSTUS

I see... you've come to collect my Soul?

Beelzebub:

We come to tell you that you injure us.
You should not think of God.

Lucifer:

Think of the Devil.

Beelzebub:

The Devil,
And his Dam as well.

FAUSTUS

Pardon me in this.
From now on, I vow never to look to Heaven,
Never to name God, or pray to him.
I'll burn his scriptures; slay his ministers.
I'll make my Spirits pull his churches down!

Lucifer:

Lovely.

Beelzebub:

Faustus, we come here from Hell
To offer you some pastime.
Sit now and behold
The Seven Deadly Sins.

[hands Faustus something]

FAUSTUS

This sight will be as pleasing to me
As paradise was to Adam
On the first day of his Creation.

Lucifer:

Speak not of Paradise or Creation,
Watch the show!

[enter the seven deadly sins]

Beelzebub:

Examine them Faustus,
In their names and their words.

FAUSTUS

I will. Which is the first?

Pride:

I am pride...
I disdain to have any parents
And I can creep into every crack.
Sometimes like a droplet I sit upon your brow,
And then like a necklace I will hang about your neck.
After that like feathers of a fan
I lay a kiss upon your lips.
But I'll speak not another word
Until the grounds here be perfumed
And also covered with arrays of cloth.

FAUSTUS

You are a proud one indeed.
You ought, however, to be bled
And promptly put to rest.
What of the second?

Covetousness:

I am Covetousness,
Born of an old dog with a meaty bone;
And might I now obtain my wish,
This house, you, and all within would turn to Gold.
Then I might lock you safe within my chest.
Oh my sweet Gold. Oh lovely, lovely Gold.

FAUSTUS

And the third?

Envy:

I am Envy,
Begotten of a working mother
And one of many men.
I cannot read and therefore wish
That all the books be burnt.
I am lean in seeing others eat
And therefore wish a famine on the world.
Oh that all might die so I
Alone might live to see
How fat I'd be...
And what is this, that you may sit
While I alone should have to stand?

FAUSTUS

Out with you envious wretch! Bring on the fourth.

Wrath:

I am Wrath.
I had neither father nor mother
But leapt from the mouth of a lion
When scarce an hour old and ever since
Have run throughout the world
Looking for a quarrel and wounding myself
When no one else would fight.
I was born in Hell and look to it often.
Some of you should be my safety.

FAUSTUS

The fifth?

Gluttony:

I am Gluttony.
Left to myself with no small pension
I would buy me thirty meals a day...
I come from Royal stock;
My father was a pound of bacon,
My mother was a bottle of wine.
My uncle rich cream,
And my aunt called Ruby Red Trout.
My godmother was a good lady
Loved in every town and city:
Miss Anna Notherplease.

[Beelzebub bursts into laughter. Lucifer quiets him]

Gluttony (cont.):

And now having heard my pedigree
Will you not ask me to dinner?

FAUSTUS

I'd rather see you hanged!

Gluttony:

Then the Devil choke you.

FAUSTUS

Choke yourself Glutton; what about the sixth?

Sloth:

Hey ho. I am Sloth.
I was born on a stained bank where I have lain
Ever since, and you have done me a disservice
By bringing me here.
So let me be carried back by you
Or Gluttony or Lechery.
Hey ho. I'll speak not another word.

FAUSTUS

Yes, but what are you mistress minx,
The seventh and the Last?

Lechery:

Who I? I sir? Do you call to me?
I am she who loves an inch of raw youth
Better than a foot of old age;
The first letter of my name begins with Lechery.

Lucifer: [to the sins]

Away with you to Hell, I say, away!

FAUSTUS

Indeed this sight delights my Soul.

Beelzebub:

In Hell is all manner of delight.

FAUSTUS

Might I see Hell and safe again return?
That would please me.

Lucifer:

Then Faustus, you shall!
At midnight I will come for you.
In the meantime here is a book.
View it thoroughly.

[Silence. All exit different ways]

Act II. 1

POET

Perched on top of Mount Olympus
By the strength of yoked Dragon's necks
Faustus views the clouds, the planets and the stars.
Whirling round the Earth's circumference
His harnessed Dragons swiftly glide.
And in eight days did bring him home
To rest his weary bones.
But new exploits do hail him out
And mounted on his Dragon's back
With wings that part the subtle air
He sets out to prove cosmography,
And measure coasts and kingdoms of the Earth.

Act II. 2

POET

When Faustus had with pleasure
Taken in the view of rarest things
And royal courts of Queens and Kings
He stayed his course and home returned
To friends and near companions.

Act II. 3

Wagner:

I think my Master means to die soon.
He has given me all his goods.
But yet it seems if Death were near
He would banquet and carouse and swill,
Making most of what little time he has.

Act II. 4

[Thunder and lightning. Enter Devils with banquet dishes/ceremonial items. Mephistopheles leads them to the study. Enter Faustus and scholars who all partake of the Feast]

Sch. 1:

Faustus, since our last conference about fair ladies,
Regarding which was the world's most beautiful,
We have ourselves determined
That Helen of Greece was the most admirablest
Woman that ever lived.
Therefore Master, if you will do us so much favor
As to let us view that peerless dame
We would consider ourselves much obliged to you.

FAUSTUS

Gentleone's, I know your friendship is true
And my custom is not to deny.
So you shall behold that unparalleled icon
But silently. There is danger in words.

[Enter Helen]

Take a few more steps - like it - mine. Don't trade it. Don't say it. Mine. Set fire to it. Set fire to it! Fire through it, stand beside it. Don't hide it. Let it show and then go home. I bless you. Confess you. No fear. Set fire to it. Set fire to it! Fire through it, stand beside it. First she'll take a hold of you and turn your insides out. She sets alight your sacred words, undoes your prayers, rewrites your dreams. She beams and she gets down! Queen, my queen- two end pyres and in between. (Helen, Meph, Faust)

Sch.2:

Too simple is my wit to speak her praise.

Sch3.

This miracle the angry Greeks pursued
With ten years war.
The violation of such a queen!
Her wonder and beauty passes all compare. . .

[exit Helen]

Sch.1.

Since we have seen the pride of nature's work,
The paragon of her excellence,
Let us depart.
And for this Glorious deed,
Happy and blessed may Faustus be evermore.

FAUSTUS

Gentleones farewell.
The same I wish to you.

[Exit Scholars. Faustus sits and begins to write. Enter Old Man, unnoticed]

Faustus leave this damned art; you'll lose your soul to hell. Your pride apart is a puzzle seeking someone to outsell. You have offended like a man, do not continue like a devil. The time is ripe for redemption. Go down. Faustus leave this damned art, reach out for peace of mind. Security in heaven could be yours and will come in time. You have offended like a man, do not continue like a devil. Fill your heart with repentance. Go down. (Old Man, Wag)

FAUSTUS

Where is Faustus?
Wretch. What has he done?
Damned, Faustus. Damned!
Despair and die!

[Mephistopheles enters with a shotgun]

I freed you, my best work. But I don't believe you. It ain't true; I ain't the first. Seems like you don't like coming home at the end of the day. Seems like you don't like this freedom when now and then you have to pay. I breed you. Hard. Hot work. Because I need you; I live to love the worst. Seems like you don't like my homecoming at the end of the day. Seems like you don't like this freedom when now and then you have to pay. Something took something from you and I'm here to give and get it back (Meph)

FAUSTUS

Hell claims his right roaring,
"Faustus come, your time is near!"
And Faustus now will come to do you right.

Old Man:

Stay Faustus!
And leave these desperate steps.
I see an Angel hovering over your head
And with a vial full of precious Grace
Offers to pour a bit into your Soul.
Cry out for Mercy, and avoid Despair!

FAUSTUS

Friend, your words comfort my distressed spirit.
But leave me awhile, I should ponder my Sins.

Old Man:

I leave you with a heavy heart
Fearing the enemy of your hapless Soul.

[exit Old Man]

FAUSTUS

Cursed Faustus,
Where is Mercy now?
I repent and yet I despair.
Hell strives with Grace for conquest in my heart.
What can I do to shun the snares of Death?

Mephistopheles:

Traitor! I arrest your cowardly Soul
For disobedience to my sovereign Lord.
Renounce or I'll tear you in pieces!

FAUSTUS:

I repent sweet Mephistopheles.
Beg your Lord to pardon my unjust presumption
And with my blood again confirm
My former Vow to Lucifer.

[The two exchange objects]

Mephistopheles:

Do it quickly and with a clear heart
Lest greater dangers toward you drift.

FAUSTUS

Mephisto! Torment that base and crooked man
That led me from my Lucifer.

Mephistopheles:
His Faith is great, and I cannot touch his Soul.
What I may afflict his body with I will attempt
But it is of little worth.

FAUSTUS
One thing more, sweet servant, let me ask of you.
Glut the longing of my heart's desire
That I may have in my power
That celestial Helen which I so lately saw
Whose sweet embrace may extinguish
Those thoughts that dissuade me from my vow.
Help me keep my oath to Lucifer.

Mephistopheles:
This and all else my Faustus desires
Will be performed in the twinkling of an eye.

[enter Helen]

FAUSTUS
Was this the face that launched a thousand ships
And burnt topless the towers of Ilium?
Sweet Helen, make me immortal with a kiss.

[they embrace]

Her lips suck forth my very soul, see where it flies!
Come Helen, give me my Soul again.

[again they embrace]

Here I will remain, for Heaven is in these lips.
All is Damned that is not Helena.

[enter Old Man]

I want you to want to do the right thing. I want you to want to be good and to do good things, you know you should. I want you to want to follow reason and rules and do away with foolishness. And I think you'd do that if you could. But soon we'll finally know. Freedom. Freedom. Thought you need. Reach for you. I'm being pushed away. Don't push me away, beg me to stay! (Old Man)

[Exit Faustus and Helen. Enter Devils]

Waking up, walking around. Eyeballs bare, we're nose to nose to the ground. Looking for something to dig up on you. Looking for something new. See we got something to prove that ain't comin easy. It's something to do so we keep busy. Looking for something to dig up on you. Looking for something new. Dig up on you. Dig up on you. (Devils)

Old Man:

Something seeks to tempt me. . .
In this Furnace God shall try my Faith,
But my Faith, vile Hell, shall triumph!

Ambitious fiends, watch me mock your opposition
And laugh your stare to scorn.
Begone Hell, I fly unto God!

[Exit Devils]

Act II. 5

(Enter Lucifer, Beelzebub, Mephistopheles)

Lucifer:

Thus from eternal dis we do ascend
To view the subjects of our Monarchy,
Those Souls which sin seals - the Black Sons of Hell.
Oh Faustus, now we come to you.
Bringing with us lasting damnation for the Soul.
Your time is now!

Beelzebub:

Here he be and here we will stay
To watch how he demeans himself.

Mephistopheles:

How should he but in desperate lunacy?
For so much worlding
Look how his heart blood grows dry with grief.
His conscience kills it, but his laboring brain
Recalls a world of fantasies,
Fantasies to overreach the Devil.
Fantasize in vain, my friend,
Your meal of pleasure
Is sauced in pain.

[Wagner enters the study. Exit Lucifer]

I tried to get my footing, tried to stand up. Beating me down. Tried to break a sweat, break the chain. But it's beating me down, belting me in. My heart is beating me down, belting me in. I thought of myself beside you took me under and into your skin. Beat me down, belted me in. Now I'm a skeleton in your closet. I'm a bone companion - composite of everything I see. My identity is need. (Faust)

FAUSTUS

Wagner, you have seen my will,
How do you like it?

Wagner:

I like it,
And in all humble duty
I yield my life and lasting service for your love.

FAUSTUS

Thank You.

[several knocks at the door]

See them in please.

[enter Scholars]

Gentleones.

Sch.1:

Faustus, I think your looks are changed.

Sch.2:

What ails you sir?

FAUSTUS

My friends, had I lied with you
I would go on living.
But now I must die eternally.
Look! there he comes...
Do you see?

Sch.1:

But Faustus,
What provokes this fear?

Sch.2:

Is all our pleasure turned to melancholy?

Sch.3:

He is not well with being over solitary.

Sch.2:

If that's the case we'll seek physicians and soon he will be cured.

Sch.3:

It's simply excess sir, fear nothing.

FAUSTUS

An excess of deadly sin...

Sch.1:

But Faustus,
Look to Heaven and remember God's mercy is infinite.

FAUSTUS

But my offense can never be pardoned.
The Serpent that tempted Eve may be saved
But not Faustus.

Sch.2:

Call on God.

FAUSTUS

On God, whom I've injured?
Whom I've blasphemed?
Oh my God, I would weep but the Devils
Draw in my tears... my life and my Soul!
They hold my tongue.
I would lift up my hands but they hold them.
See, they hold them. They hold them!

All:

Who Faustus?

FAUSTUS

Lucifer. . . and Mephistopheles.
I gave them my Soul in exchange for my cunning.

All:

God forbid.

FAUSTUS

Indeed, God forbade it, but Faustus did it.
For these vain pleasures
I lost eternal joy and felicity.

Sch.1:
But why didn't you tell us of this before,
We might have prayed for you?

FAUSTUS
It's no use.

Sch.2:
What can we do to save you Faustus?

FAUSTUS
Save yourselves and depart.

Sch.3:
God will strengthen me,
I will stay.

Sch.1:
Do not tempt God.

FAUSTUS
Pray for me.
But whatever noise you hear,
Do not come to me
I cannot be rescued.
Goodbye friends.
If I live till morning I'll visit you.
If not, I'm gone to Hell.

All:
Farewell. Goodbye. Till morning.

[Exit Schs. enter Meph.]

Throw my drugs on the floor, hoping some angels will take them. Lord I'd say it if the sound were safer. Didn't my prose offer pain? Didn't my soul suffer sacred? I fed on the bones of the bodies I came from. You need a reason to live. You need a reason to do the right thing. You need payment and promise and quick release. You're a man of the flesh. You need water and road. You need to travel; you need a home. It took poison to make you immune. I need a reason to live. I need a reason to do the right thing. I need prayer here to promise me peace at least. You need me, you're a man of the flesh. (Faust/Meph)

Mephistopheles:

We've reached the place
I told you to expect and now
You have no hope.
So despair Faustus, think only of Hell,
For that must be thy mansion
There to dwell.

FAUSTUS

You bewitching fiend,
It was your temptation that robbed me of eternal happiness.

Mephistopheles:

I do confess it and rejoice,
It was I that traveled along with you
On your way to Heaven and then
Dammed up the passage.

What, you weep now?
It's too late, despair. Farewell.
Fools that will laugh on Earth must weep in Hell!

[enter Lucifer, Beelzebub and various Devils)

Beelzebub:

Now Faustus, let your eyes with horror stare
Into that vast perpetual torture house.
There are the furies tossing damned Souls
On burning forks;
There bodies boil in lead.
Over there, broiling on the coals,
Are live quarters that never can die.
This ever-burning chair is for the tortured Souls to rest.
These, fed with flames, are gluttons and loved only delicates
They laughed to see the poor starving at their gates.
But yet all this is nothing.
You will see ten thousand tortures
More horrible.

FAUSTUS

No! I have seen enough.

Mephistopheles:

But you must feel them,
Taste the smart of each and all.
He that loves pleasure must for pleasure fall!

Lucifer:

So we leave you Faustus,
Until you tumble into confusion.

Act II. 6

[Improvised music throughout the scene. Clock strikes eleven]

FAUSTUS

Oh Faustus, there is but one bare hour to live,
And then you must be Damned.
Stand still you ever-moving spheres of Sky
I pray that time may cease and midnight never come.
Lovely sun, fair Nature's eye, rise
Rise again and make perpetual day.
Or let this hour be but a year, a month, a week, a natural day,
So that Faustus may repent and save his Soul.
But the stars still move, the clock will strike,
The Devil will come and I will die.

I'll leap up to God!

[Faustus tries to stand and falls]

Who pulls me down? Spare me Lucifer!
Mountains and hills come,
Come and fall on me.
Hide me from this heavy wrath.

No! I'll burrow into the Earth.
Earth gape and spread for me!
It will not harbor me.
Damned stars that reigned at my nativity
Your influence has brought me hell and death.

Oh yonder laboring cloud
Draw me up like a foggy mist into your entrails
So that when you vomit forth into the air
My limbs may spill from your smoky mouth
And my Soul will ascend to Heaven.

[clock strikes]

FAUSTUS (cont.)

Half the hour is gone.
Oh God if you will not have mercy on my Soul
At least impose some end to my incessant pain.
Let me lie in Hell a thousand years,
A hundred thousand, but in the end at least, be saved.

Beasts are happy when they die
Their souls dissolve in the elements;
But mine must live plagued in Hell.
I curse the parents that engendered me!
No Faustus curse yourself, curse Lucifer
Curse the things that deprived you of everlasting joy.

[the clock strikes twelve]

It strikes, it strikes!
Oh body turn to air or Lucifer will carry you quick to Hell.
Oh spirit change yourself into little drops of water
And fall into the ocean never to be found.

[Enter Devils with a Shotgun]

My God, look not so fierce upon me!
Adders and Serpents let me breathe awhile!
Ugly Hell gape not. Come not Lucifer!
I'll burn my books... Mephisto!

[Faustus sits, propped up with the Gun in his mouth and fires it. Then he stands and exits]

Act II. 7

Sch.1:

Come gentleones, let us go and visit Faustus,
For such a dreadful night was never seen.
Such fearful shrieks and cries were never heard.
I pray the Doctor has escaped the danger.

[discovering the spot where Faustus was]

Sch.2:

Heaven help us.
Here is Faustus,
Torn asunder by the Hand of Death.

Sch.3:

The Devils that he served have done him thus.

Sch.2:

Though his end be such he was one much admired.
We should give his wrangled limbs
Due respect and a burial with all in attendance
Clothed in black.

[Sch. exit.]

Act II. 8

There are things that I still miss about you. There are things that I don't miss they are still with me. There are things that I still hate about you. There are other things that do the work themselves. There is much that I remember. There is alot that I cannot forget, though I don't remember it, it is just part of you that is part of me now. I wish I knew why you left us here in sadness and in silence. I hope you've managed to unlock a door so we can leave this all behind us. Without you I fall. Without you I fall. Without you I fall. I miss not having you around. I miss your sound. Simple as that. (Wag)

Act II. 9

POET

Cut is the branch that might have grown full straight
And burned is Apollo's laurel bough
That sometimes grew within this learned man.
Faustus is gone, regard his hellish fall.
Beware of those whose fiendful fortunes encourage
Wonder at unlawful things,
Whose deepness entices forward wits
To practice more than power permits.

Act II. 10
[in the study]

I am here. I am now, exactly what I want to be. And how I start is important. (You better believe me. You better believe me now.) I am risking what I have for what I want. I can think, and I remember to let go. Let it show wide open. (You better believe me. You better believe me now.) Wide open. I meet myself between what I want to find and what I know I've left behind. As Faustus I improve and release myself to move and may or may not find a way in or a way out. Breakthrough. Again to you. Breakthrough. (You better believe me. You better believe me now.) I am here. I am now, exactly what I want to be. And how I start is important.

(Wag. with ensemble)

THE END