Act I, Scene 5
Barton

**Music No. 7: At Barton Park** transports us to the dining room of SIR JOHN and LADY MIDDLETON’s house at Barton. SIR JOHN, MARIANNE, ELINOR, MRS DASHWOOD, MRS JENNINGS, and COLONEL BRANDON are just finishing dinner.

SIR JOHN
Ah, ‘twill be fine weather for hunting tomorrow! Was your husband a sportsman, Mrs Dashwood?

MARIANNE
Papa did not hunt at all.

MRS JENNINGS
He certainly hunted a nice piece of property. Last I was in Sussex we drove past Norland a fair few times. A jewel!

MARIANNE
Indeed.

ELINOR
But we are delighted to be here at Barton, Sir John. The cottage has every comfort we require, you and your mother-in-law have been so hospitable—

MRS JENNINGS
Oh, would that you could have met my daughter Mary, Miss Dashwood. She would have taken such delight in having you here!

ELINOR
And we so enjoy walking about the park!

MRS DASHWOOD
We thank you, Sir John, for providing us with such comforts.

SIR JOHN
You’ll have more than comfort! You young ladies, you’ve no idea what Barton Park will be in a mere few weeks! Parties here every night of the week! Young people from all around the area, some of our dear friends from town—I have noticed neither of you young ladies has a suitor, and we would be pleased to introduce you to some of the most eligible bachelors we know.

MRS JENNINGS
But you’re blushing, Miss Dashwood! Tell us, have you a suitor?
Oh, I assure you no.

Well, Elinor ...

Mamma!

Do tell us his name.

I am afraid my mother is misleading you. There is no such gentleman.

Oh-ho! Your cheeks betray you, Miss Dashwood! Mrs Dashwood, you tell us his name.

Mamma.

I cannot tell you against Elinor’s wishes.

Because this gentleman exists only in my mother’s mind!

But I can tell you his name begins with the letter F.

The letter F! Well, Miss Dashwood, we’ll learn the identity of this mysterious Mr F, make no mistake.

You need not pursue information my sister has no wish to share.

And you, Miss Marianne—we shall find a gentleman worthy of your beauty and talents, rest assured.

I notice you have a lovely pianoforte.
MRS JENNINGS
If you can believe it, Miss Marianne, it was a gift made me upon my own wedding! It's been a long time since a soul has played it!

MARIANNE
I should like to play.

SIR JOHN
Please, Miss Marianne! We've heard so much of your prodigious talents!

MRS JENNINGS
Of course!

COLONEL BRANDON
Please do play for us, Miss Marianne.

MARIANNE
I play for myself. I have no greater passion than music.

SIR JOHN
This summer, we shall find for you a young man who shares your passion.