

Side #6: Max and Elsa

(**MAX DETWEILER** enters. *He is charming and vital.*)

MAX. I'm sorry I took so long.

ELSA. Any luck?

MAX. How would you like this for the Kaltzberg Festival – the finest choral group in Austria, the greatest mixed quartet in all Europe, and the best soprano in the world?

ELSA. Max, that's something I'd love to hear!

MAX. So would I. All I've got up to now is a basso who isn't even profundo.

ELSA. Max, you always come up with a good festival concert.

MAX. And why? Because my motto is: "Never start out looking for the people you wind up getting." That's why I've been telephoning Paris, Rome, Stockholm, London...

ELSA. On Georg's telephone?

MAX. How else could I afford it? Why am I up here?

ELSA. I hoped it was because you liked him.

MAX. Of course, I like him. Why shouldn't I like him? He lives like a king! I like rich people. I like the way they live. I like the way I live when I'm with them.