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MY LITTLE PONY 5

Pony Music Festival

52#

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TEASER**SC. 1 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – DAY**

APPLEJACK and BIG MAC are building a stage in the middle of Sweet Apple Acres when APPLE BLOOM comes running up super excited. She was just at Twilight's Castle and heard Pinkie listing off all the amazing performers that have already confirmed for the Pone-chella Friendship Music Concert Twilight's hosting later this week: Coldhay, The Whooves, Neigh Z, Filly Joel, and Brittney Spurs! Can Applejack believe it? Actually, Applejack can't. Mainly cause she has no idea who any of those performers are.

Apple Bloom is stunned. None of them? "What about Goatee Hay?" "Goatee Who?" "Nine Inch Tails?" "Those are some tiny tails!" "30 Seconds to Mares?" "What's takin' 'em so long?" "The Talking Herds?" "I thought these ponies were singers, not talkers!" Apple Bloom can't believe it. *Everypony's* heard of these groups! Applejack assures her, not everypony's heard of them. She turns to Big Mac and asks him if he's heard of them. He gives a resounding, "Yup."

Suddenly GRANNY SMITH comes running in. The Red Hot Filly Peppers are performing at Pone-chella! Now it's Applejack that's stunned. Even Granny Smith's heard of these bands? Granny Smith gives her a smirk. "Please! Just cause the shine's off the apple, doesn't mean it's lost its crunch!" Granny Smith then goes on to demonstrate that she also keeps up with all the dance crazes. The Buckin' Ruckus! The Hoof Stomp Shuffle! And the latest to hit the scene, The Cutie Boot Scoot!

Granny Smith enthusiastically starts stomping her hooves and shakin' her hind quarters to The Cutie Boot Scoot, with Apple Bloom and Big Mac joining in. Meanwhile Applejack dodges their stomps and their rumps, fearing this is going to be a loooong week.

END TEASER**MAIN TITLES****ACT 1****SC. 2 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – LATER THAT WEEK**

The stage is now finished and various PONYVILLE PONIES are helping set up the area. FLUTTERSHY and RAINBOW DASH hang lights on a Lighting Truss. SPIKE helps RARITY with the sound equipment. Applejack and TWILIGHT review the checklist and Twilight's amazed at everything everypony's gotten done. They're right on schedule! And thanks to Pinkie's connections from Ponypalooza, the line up is fantastic!

Suddenly PINKIE PIE comes running in. She has the most amazing news ever! It wasn't easy, but she's managed to get the biggest Pony Pop Star in Equestria to headline Pone-chella. The friends all gather around to hear the news. Applejack asks if Sapphire Shores is headlining. Pinkie tells her that while Sapphire Shores will be performing, she won't be headlining because she is now the *second* biggest Pony Pop Star in Equestria. To headline Pone-chella she got the one. The only. *Countess Coloratura!*

Everypony gasps in awe. Well, everypony but Applejack. "Countess Coloratura? Who the hey is that?" Her friends can't believe it. How can Applejack not have heard of Countess Coloratura? Applejack admits that she knew a pony named Coloratura when she was just a filly. Wouldn't it be funny if it was the same pony? Pinkie's

eyes go wide. Does Applejack mean to tell her that she actually *knows* Countess Coloratura? Applejack doesn't think it's the same pony since her friend wasn't any sort of highfalutin' Countess.

Pinkie then asks her to describe her friend's Cutie Mark. Applejack tells her it was this super colorful bunch of musical notes. Pinkie shoves a photo of Countess Coloratura's Cutie Mark in Applejack's face, asking her if *that* is the Cutie Mark. Applejack's eyes light up. That's the same Cutie Mark! Pinkie can't believe it. Does Applejack know the hoops she had to jump through to get Countess Coloratura to perform at Pone-chella? That pony makes *a lot* of demands! Rarity completely understands this. After all, *artistes* require certain necessities in order to do their best work. Applejack tells Pinkie that she'd have been happy to help, but she had no idea that RaRa became a big ol' Pony Pop Star. "RaRa?" everypony asks in unison.

FLASHBACK

SC. 3 - EXT. CAMP FRIENDSHIP – DAY

Applejack tells them she doesn't know where this Countess title came from, cause when she met her friend back at camp, she was just Coloratura. But Applejack thought the name Coloratura was just too fancy, so she took ColoRAtuRA and gave her the nickname RaRa.

As she recounts this, a YOUNG APPLEJACK and YOUNG RARA are seen at camp swimming, running through obstacle courses, playing tug-of-war, and throwing horseshoes with other CAMPER FILLIES.

Then at the Camp Talent Show, Applejack discovered exactly why RaRa got that musical note Cutie Mark. As Applejack accompanied RaRa as she performed a CAMP SONG, RaRa sang out with the most amazing, colorful, pure voice Applejack had ever heard. After camp, they wrote to each other for a while, but eventually lost touch. But Applejack knew that RaRa planned to go to Manehattan someday to try and make it big. So it's great to know that her dreams came true!

Ending the FLASHBACK on the camp audience STOMPING their hooves for RaRa at the end of her performance and Applejack smiling at her talented friend.

SC. 4 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – DAY

In the PRESENT, all of a sudden, a bunch of hubbub starts going on. A rather put-upon MANAGER PONY and a bunch of hanger-on "YES PONIES" tell everypony to clear the way. PHOTO FINISH then comes in and starts taking pictures as FOUR HOT PONIES carry in a HUGE, PONY-SIZED, COLORFUL MUSICAL NOTE. Applejack snorts. "Hey, that looks just like one of the musical notes that make up RaRa's Cutie Mark."

The round part of the musical note then splits open. Inside, wearing a wild costume with veil covering half of her face is COUNTESS COLORATURA! She looks at the ponies staring up at her in awe, but her eyes immediately fall at the slack-jawed pony wearing the cowgirl hat. "Hey, Applejack!" Applejack looks a little closer at the face under the veil. "RaRa?"

END ACT 1

ACT 2

SC. 5 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – DAY

The Four Hot Ponies rest the apparatus on the ground and Countess Coloratura steps out of her musical note. Applejack looks at the veiled pony's whole get-up. It is the most bizarre costume she has ever seen. Is that really RaRa underneath that crazy get-up? With a smile, her friend begins to sing their childhood CAMP SONG. Hearing this Applejack's eyes light up and she automatically begins to sing along. Applejack lifts the veil and gives her friend a hug. She had no idea she was a big Pony Pop Star! And RaRa is just as happy to Applejack. She knew Applejack always wanted work on the family orchard!

The Countess' Manager interrupts their reunion. "It's time for you to run through your number and do your sound check, Countess." Applejack gives RaRa a look. "Countess? Since when did you become nobility?" RaRa tells Applejack that it's just her stage name. Ponies just found Countess easier to say than Coloratura. But no matter what everypony else calls her, she'll always be RaRa to Applejack.

SC. 6 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – AUDIENCE/STAGE – LATER

Applejack is incredibly excited as she stands in the audience with her friends. She can't believe she's going to see RaRa perform again after all these years. And they are going to be so impressed by RaRa's voice. Pinkie reminds Applejack that they've been listening to Countess Coloratura for years now. But Applejack says that hearing RaRa on a record and hearing her live are two totally different things.

The Countess comes out on stage with DANCERS/BACK UP SINGERS and they're all wearing headset microphones. When the SONG begins, it's a huge, over-the-top musical number, full of unnecessary "ornamentation." The ponies perform dance moves as big prop bunnies fly and big prop bees bounce across the stage. The song itself is an over-produced pop song and Countess Coloratura's voice is auto-tuned. [NOTE: THIS OVER-PRODUCED VERSION OF THE SONG WILL HAVE PIECES OF THE LYRICS THAT WILL BE IN THE IN THE STRIPPED DOWN, ACOUSTIC VERSION IN ACT III.]

When the song is done, everypony is cheering for Countess Coloratura. Her Entourage is going especially wild. They rush the stage to tell the Countess that she's never sounded better! But Applejack stands stunned. Sounded better? *Sounded better?* She couldn't even hear RaRa's voice! She's sure RaRa's going to say that the sound equipment was messed up. But instead, she thanks her Entourage for the compliments! Still, RaRa doesn't think the performance was big enough. Applejack can't believe it. Not big enough? That act was so big she thinks Celestia could see it all the way from Canterlot! But the Countess knows just how to add to the performance. She's had a "creative vision!" How about jumping turtles that pop up from under the stage? And fuzzy flowers that fall from above? Applejack thinks this sounds even more ridiculous than what she's already seen. She's sure somepony is going to tell her this, but instead the Countess' Entourage immediately tells her that those are the most amazing ideas ever, encouraging her every whim. Applejack simply doesn't get any of this nonsense. Rarity isn't surprised. This kind of creativity isn't in Applejack's wheelhouse, after all.

The Countess asks her Manager if she can hang out with her old friend Applejack and watch the other bands rehearse. RaRa tells Applejack that she just loves all the other bands and can't wait to hear them! But her Manager reminds her that the next appointment on her schedule is to meet with the SCHOOL PONIES. However he could totally cancel that if she wants. The Countess is mortified at the thought. She would never want to do that to anypony, especially the School Ponies! Applejack is relieved when she hears this.

SC. 7 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – LATER

Away from the stage, Applejack watches as RaRa meets with Apple Bloom, SWEETIE BELLE, SCOOTALOO, and the other school ponies. RaRa takes time with them, signing autographs and taking pictures, clearly enjoying this part of her job.

But then Applejack notices the Entourage approaching the Manager. The Manager clearly looks a little frazzled, so Applejack goes to see what's going on. She hears the Entourage making their individual demands on him now that RaRa is distracted with the school ponies. When the Manager tries to refuse their demands, they tell him that what *they* want is what *the Countess* wants and what *they* want is premium hay, Pony-chella Pony-pedis, and individualized cupcakes before and after the performance. The worn-out Manager promises to get them everything they've asked for.

Seeing this, Applejack realizes that RaRa's Entourage are just a bunch of sycophants that are kissing her flanks, saying yes to all her ridiculous ideas so that they can get all the goods that come with her fame!

SC. 8 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – APPLEJACK'S HOUSE – LATER

When RaRa is done with the School Ponies, she finds Applejack back at her house. Applejack is really troubled and tells her friend what she's discovered about RaRa's Entourage. Hearing these terrible things, RaRa refuses to believe it. Her Entourage would never do that to her. RaRa hates to say this, but she and Applejack just aren't the same ponies they were when they were fillies. They've clearly gone their different ways. As RaRa walks off, Applejack fears she's lost a friend.

END ACT 2**ACT 3****SC. 9 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – APPLEJACK'S HOUSE – CONTINUOUS**

But Applejack isn't about to give up that easily! She just reunited with RaRa and she's not about to lose her again! Chasing after her, Applejack tells RaRa that she has an idea how to prove she's right. RaRa is skeptical, but since it's Applejack, she listens.

SC. 10 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – THE STAGE – LATER

The Countess calls her Manager and Entourage on stage. She has come up with her most amazing idea to date. Since she is the biggest Pony Pop Star in Equestria, what if she insists that all the other bands ditch their set lists? Instead, they must perform Countess Coloratura songs or they can't perform at Pony-chella at all! There's a PAUSE. RaRa looks to Applejack, who's hiding in the wings. The Entourage...LOVES IT!!! It's the best idea the Countess has had yet! They compliment the Countess on her fantastic idea. The Countess thanks them for their support and asks them to please get to work on making that happen. She then exits off stage, joining Applejack in the wings.

Thinking the Countess is out of earshot, they start making more individual demands on him. Hearing this, RaRa discovers that Applejack was right. These ponies haven't been honest with her. They've just been using her to get things for themselves. She steps out, revealing that she's heard all of the Entourage's selfish demands. They stand in shock, trying to make up excuses. But the Countess doesn't want to hear another word. She no longer needs their "support." The Entourage leaves the stage with their tails between their legs.

The Countess then turns to her poor Manager that's been putting up with all her requests and her Entourage's demands. He's been with her since the beginning of her career. Why didn't he tell her when her ideas were getting ridiculous? Why didn't he say her Entourage was just telling her all her ideas were awesome just to get free stuff? The Manager admits that after awhile, "Countess Coloratura" wasn't really her anymore. It was this creation that took on a life of its own. He got swept up in it as much as anypony else. And he gotten so caught up in "feeding the beast" and taking care of other ponies that he didn't do his *real* job—taking care of her. He would completely understand if she got rid of him like she got rid of the Entourage. But the Countess knows that she's as much to blame for this as him and he truly does have her best interests at heart. This will be a new beginning for them both.

SC. 11 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – BACKSTAGE – NIGHT

Rarity is getting the Countess ready for her performance, but the Countess is starting to freak out. She's never performed without her Entourage telling her how awesome she was all the time. She's beginning to have doubts! Applejack comes by to wish her good luck or to break a leg or whatever you're supposed to say. So RaRa asks her friend what she really thought of her rehearsal. Applejack admits that, as her friend Rarity said, this creativity thing isn't in her wheelhouse. But Rarity notes that she was wrong to say that. Being a good friend has always been in Applejack's wheelhouse. Applejack need merely be honest with her friend RaRa as she's always been with all her friends.

So Applejack does what she does best. She's honest. She understands that RaRa's had to evolve as an artist, becoming Countess Coloratura (even though the name seems kind of silly since she's not *really* a Countess). Now Applejack has no idea what all those bells and whistles were goin' on in that performance. It was all just a distraction. And with all that nonsense, Applejack can't even understand what the hey RaRa was saying in her song. RaRa doesn't need all that junk mucking up her voice. Hearing this, RaRa looks terribly nervous. All those bells and whistles? All that nonsense? All that junk? That's what makes Countess Coloratura who she is! How can she possibly perform right now without those things?

Applejack thinks it's pretty simple, much like making applesauce. But instead of boiling down apples, here it boils down to Coloratura's voice. The colors and the purity of it. Why, if anything, her name should be "Color-a-PURE-a" cause that's how her voice has always sounded to Applejack and that's all she's ever needed up on that stage. RaRa smiles at her friend, clearly understanding exactly what she means.

SC. 12 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – STAGE – LATER

Twilight welcomes everypony to the Pone-chella Friendship Music Concert and thanks them for attending. She's very excited to introduce their headlining act, formerly known as Countess Coloratura, but now simply known as...RaRa! The CROWD goes wild as the LIGHTS go up on RaRa at a piano. She sings a stripped-down, acoustic version of the previous SONG, which is about being true to yourself, your vision, and who you really are.

As the song continues, Applejack, Rarity, Pinkie, Twilight, Rainbow Dash, Fluttershy, and RaRa's Manager dance off stage. As RaRa finishes, the crowd goes wild. RaRa thanks everypony, but notes that if they liked this performance, they should really be thanking her childhood friend Applejack. Bringing Applejack up onstage, RaRa tells everypony that she got so swept up in adding stuff to her music, that she forgot that the reason she began performing was that she simply loves singing. Always remember to be true to yourself and you can't go wrong.

THE END.