

“Recondita Armonia” (Profound harmonic blending) TOSCA, Act I, Giacomo Puccini, 1900

SYNOPSIS: Mario Cavaradossi, a painter, is deeply in love with Tosca, a famous opera singer. In this scene, while he is painting a mural for the church; the Sacristan assists him and comments on Mario’s “profane” observations.

CAVARADOSSI (*to the SACRISTAN*)

Dammi colori ...

Bring me the palette...

(*SACRISTAN obeys. CAVARADOSSI paints, then takes a medallion from his pocket, looks at it and at the portrait he’s painting* )

Recondita armonia

Profound harmonic blending

Di bellezze diverse!

of two different beauties...

È bruna Floria,

While Floria’s a brunette,

L’ardente amante mia...

my ardent dark-eyed lover...

SACRISTAN (*aside*)

Scherza coi fanti

(Make jokes with soldiers

e lascia stare i santi...

and leave the saints to themselves.)

CAVARADOSSI (*looking at painting*)

E te, beltade ignota,

And you, sweet unknown beauty,

Cinrta di chiome blonde,

crowned by long golden tresses,

Tu azzurro hai l’occhio,

you have eyes as blue as heav’n:

Tosca ha l’occhio nero!

Tosca’s are black as midnight.

SACRISTAN (*returns with basin; starts to clean brushes; aside*)

Scherza coi fanti

(Make jokes with soldiers

e lascia stare i santi

and leave the saints to themselves.)

CAVARADOSSI

L’arrete nel suo mistero

Art, in its unknown myst’ry

le diverse bellezze insiem confonde;

mixes different beauties together,

ma del ritrar costei

but while I’m painting another,

Il mio solo pensiero,

only one thought concerns me,

Ah! il mio solo pensier, sei tu

Ah! my only thought is you,

Ah, ah!, Tosca, sei tu!

Ah, ah! Tosca, it’s you!

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