

“A te o, cara” (To you, dearest), I PURITANI (The Puiritans), Act I, Vincenzo Bellini; libretto by Count Francesco Pepoli, 1835.

SYNOPSIS: Arturo, a Royalist, is in love with Elvira, a Puritan, and despite their enmity, he returns to her side to marry her and is welcomed by her father (Walton) and uncle (Giorgio) and the courtiers. In this *scena*, Arturo’s aria develops into an ensemble piece that amplifies the couple’s happy emotions.

ARTURO

A te, o, cara, **amor talora\***  
Mi guidò furtive e in pianto;  
Or mi guida \*a te d’accanto  
**Tra la gioia e l’esultar.**

GIORGIO, WALTON

Senza occaso questa aurora  
Mai null’ombra o duol vi dia;  
Santa in voi la fiamma sia,  
Pace ognor v’allieti il cor.

CHORUS

Cielo, arridi a’ voti miei.  
Benedici a tanto amor.

ELVIRA

Ah! contento!

ARTURO

Ah! mio bene!

ELVIRA

Ah! mio Arturo!

ARTURO

Elvira mia!

ELVIRA

Or son tua!

ARTURO

Sì, mia tu sei!

BOTH

Cielo, arridi a’voti miei.

**\*Benedici a tanto amor.**

ARTURO

Al brillar \*di si bell’ora  
Se rammento il mio tormento  
si raddoppia \*il mio contento  
**m’è più caro il palpar.**

(\*=repeat in the aria. Portions of the ensemble are also repeated, from “Senza occaso.”)

--From “Bel canto Masters,” a course for Lifelong Learners at UCSC, ©2010

ARTURO

To you, dearest, love at times  
would guide me in secret and in tears.  
Now it leads me to your side  
in joy and exultation

GEORGE, WALTON

May this unending new dawn  
never bring you shadows of care;  
may the love within you be sacred;  
and may peace always cheer your hearts.

CHORUS

Heaven, hear the vows they’re taking!  
Blessings on so great a love!

ELVIRA

Ah! Happy day!

ARTURO

Ah! My dearest!

ELVIRA

Ah! My Arturo!

ARTURO

My Elvira!

ELVIRA

Now I’m yours!

ARTURO

Yes, you’re mine!

BOTH

Heaven, hear the vows we’re taking!  
Blessings on so great a love!

ARTURO

In the brilliance of such a happy time  
If I recall my past suffering,  
my happiness becomes doubled,  
and even dearer is my emotion.