

“Mi batte il cor...O, Paradiso,” from l’AFRICANA, Italian version of l’AFRICAINNE, Act IV, Giacomo Meyerbeer. French libretto by Eugène Scribe, translated into Italian by Marco Marcelliano Marcello and J. Nicodemo, 1865

SYNOPSIS: During his explorations, Vasco da Gama has been captured by natives on Queen Selika’s island. They are about to execute him when she saves his life by declaring that he is her husband. Amazed at the beauty of his surroundings, da Gama revels in this “paradise” and its riches.

#### VASCO DA GAMA

Mi batte il cor!	My heart beats fast!
Spettacol divin,	Divine spectacle,
sognata terra, ecco ti premo al fin.	earthly dream, here I find you at last.

O paradiso, dal onda uscito, fiorente suol, splendido suol, in voi rapito son!	Oh, paradise! Rising from the waves, flowering soil, splendid soil, I’m enraptured at your sight!
Tu m'appartieni, o nuovo mondo, alla mia patria, ti posso, ti posso ofrir.	You belong to me, oh, new world, to my country, I can offer you, I can offer you.
Nostro e questo terreno fecondo que l'Europa puo tutta arricchir.	This fertile land will belong to us now and by it, all Europe will be enriched.
Spettacolo divin in te rapito io son.	Divine spectacle, I am enraptured by you.
O nuovo mondo, *tu m'appartieni* a me, a me, tu m'appartieni *a me.	Oh, new world, *you belong to me,* to me, to me, you belong to me.
O nuovo mondo, tu m'appartieni tu m'appartieni a me, a me, a me.	Oh, new world, you belong to me, you belong to me, to me, to me.

--From “Bel canto, the French Connection,” course for Lifelong Learners at UC Santa Cruz, 2010