

“Ecco ridente il cielo” (Now that the dawn is breaking) , IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA (The Barber of Seville); Act I, music by Gioacchino Rossini, libretto by Cesare Sterbini, 1816, based on the play, *Le barbier de Séville*, by Caron de Beaumarchais.

SYNOPSIS: Dawn in Seville, outside the home of Rosina, whose attention and affection Count Almaviva (disguised as a student, Lindoro), is attempting to attract, by serenading her with a group of musicians.

COUNT

Ecco ridente il cielo.
Spunta la bella aurora;
e tu no sorgi ancora,
e puoi dormir così?
Sorgi mia dolce speme,
vieni, bell' idol mio,
rendi men crudo, oh Dio!
lo stral, lo stral che mi ferì.
O, sorte! già veggo?
Quel caro sembiante!
Quest' anima amante
otten ne pietà?
O, instante d'amor!
Felice momento!
O, dolce contento
che eguale non ha!

Now that the dawn is breaking,
painting the morning sky,
how can you not be waking,
and deep in slumber lie?
See my sweet hope arising
hurry, adored one, near me,
lessen the pain I'm feeling,
the aching pain of Cupid's darts.
Oh, heaven! I see her!
What beautiful features!
Can't this suff'ring lover
gain pity from you?
Oh, instant of love!
You happiest moment!
Oh, sweetest contentment,
you're second to none!

--From “An Afternoon of Opera,” concert sponsored by the Santa Cruz Opera Society, Inc. (SCOSI), ©1985