

“Quanto è bella” (She’s so lovely) L’ELISIR D’AMORE (The Elixir of Love)
Act I, 1832, music by Gaetano Donizetti, libretto by Felice Romani, based on
Eugène Scribe’s French libretto for Daniel Auber’s *Le philtre*.

SYNOPSIS: Nemorino, an unassuming but good-hearted peasant, is in love with Adina, a local wealthy and educated landowner, whom he considers far above him. While her workers take a noonday break, Adina reads them the tale of *Tristan and Isolde* and the magic elixir which made them fall hopelessly in love. Nemorino looks on and muses over his situation.

NEMORINO

Quanto è bella, quanto è cara!
Più la vedo e più mio piace.
Ma in quel cor non son capace
lleve affetto ad inspirar.
Essa legge, studie, impara
non v’ha cosa ad essa ignota.
io son sempre un idiota,
io non so che sospirar.
Quanto è cara, quanto è bella!
Ah! Quanto è bella, etc.

She’s so lovely, so endearing!
When I see her, I burn with fire.
But her heart has desire
for the love I long to share.
With her reading, writing, learning,
there is nothing left to teach her.
I can never hope to reach her,
I know only how to sigh...
How endearing and how lovely!
Ah! She’s so lovely, etc.

--From “An Afternoon of Opera and Song,” recital sponsored by Santa Cruz
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