

“Dies Bildnis ist bezaubernd schön” (What beauty in this portrait lies) DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE (The Magic Flute), a Singspiel (an opera with interspersed spoken dialogue), Act I. Music by W.A. Mozart; libretto by Emanuel Schikaneder, 1791.

SYNOPSIS: After being pursued by a vicious serpent, Tamino, has lost his way in a magic land, He meets the Queen of the Night, who gives him a small portrait of her absent daughter, Pamina, telling him that she has been kidnapped. Tamino is entranced by the image that he sees and falls in love with Pamina.

TAMINO

Dies Bildnis ist bezaubernd schön wie noch kein Auge je gesehn! *Ich fühl'es,* wie dies Götterbild *mein Herz mit neuer Regung füllt.* Dies Etwas kann ich zwar nicht nennen, Doch fühl ich's hier wie Feuer brennen. *Soll die Empfindung liebe sein? * *Ja, ja, die Liebe ist's allein.* Die Liebe, die Liebe, die Liebe, Ist allein.	What beauty in this image lies, as never seen by mortal eyes! *This feeling,* truly heavenly, with new emotion fills my heart. I cannot name the unknown yearning that made me feel this fire burning. *Can this at last be passion's tender glow?• *Ah, yes! It's really love, I know.* It's really, it's really, it's really love, yes, I know.
--	--

O wenn ich sie nur finden könnte! O wenn sie doch schon vor mir stände! Ich würde, *würde,* warm und rein, was würde ich? Ich würde zie voll Entzucken an diesen heissen Busen drücken. Und ewig wäre zie dann mein. Und ewig wäre zie dann mein. Und ewig wäre zie dann mein. Ewig wäre zie dann mein, Ewig wäre zie dann mein. (*repeat)	Oh, if I only found her near her! Oh, if I saw her and could hear her! Then *would I,* would I, warm and pure-- What would I do? Here in my arms, I would enfold her and on my throbbing heart I'd hold her. Then evermore would she be mine. Forever then she would be mine, forever after, she'd be mine. Ever after, she would be mine, ever after, she'd be mine.
---	---

--From “An Afternoon of Opera and Song,” Santa Cruz Opera Society, Inc.
(SCOSI) Young Artist Series Recital, ©1985, Miriam Ellis