

‘Libiamo, libiamo ne’lieti calici” (Let’s drink then, from the goblets of joy) Brindisi – (Drinking Song ), Act I, LA TRAVIATA, (The Fallen Woman) music by Giuseppe Verdi, libretto by Francesco Piave, 1853, based on a novel by Alexander Dumas, fils, “La dame aux camélias” (The Lady who loved Camellias)

SYNOPSIS: At a lavish party, Alfredo meets Violetta, whom he has loved from afar for more than a year. She is living in high style with the Baron and suffering secretly from tuberculosis, which makes her cynical about true passion. Alfredo leads the guests in a toast to life’s pleasures, particularly to love.

ALFREDO:

Libiamo, libiamo ne’lieti calici    Let’s drink then; let’s drink from the goblets of joy  
che la bellezza infiora.                    made more elegant still by beauty.

E la fuggevol ora                            And time, as it rushes away,  
s’inebria a voluttà.                        will be drunken with ecstasy.

Libiamo ne’dolci fremiti                    Let’s drink to sweetest raptures  
che suscita l’amore,                        which love alone inspires,

poiché quell’occhio al core                because that eye has pierced me  
omnipotente va.                            and conquered my poor heart.

Libiamo, amore fra i calici                Let’s drink then, for from the cups  
più caldi baci avrò.                        love’s kisses will much warmer be.

VIOLETTA:

Tra voi, tra voi, saprò dividere            With you, with you, I’ll know how to spend  
il tempo mio giocondo;                    my time on the earth delighted .

Tutto è follia nel mondo                    The world is filled with folly  
ciò che non è piacer.                        If it won’t make you laugh.

Godiam, fugace e rapido                    Enjoy, for swift and fleeting

e’ il gaudio dell’amore,                    is love’s reward and pleasure,  
e’un fior che nasce e muore,                a flower which blooms and fades away,  
ne più si può goder.                        and pleases us no more..

Godiam, c’invita un fervido                Enjoy; a fervent voice  
accento lusinghier.                        invites us all to shine.

CHORUS:

Godiamo, la tazza e il cantico            Enjoy them, the wine and the song  
la notte abbellita e il riso;                the lovely night and laughter;

in questo paradiso                            and in this earthly heaven,  
ne scuopra il nuovo dì.                    let’s greet the dawning day.

VIOLETTA:

La vita è nel tripudio,                      Life is nothing but pleasure,

ALFRED:

quando non s’ami ancora.                when one is not yet beloved...

VIOLETTA:

Nol dite a chi l’ignora,                    Don’t say that to one who isn’t...

ALFREDO:

e' il mio destin così...

that seems to be my fate...

ALL:

Godiamo, etc.

Enjoy them, etc.

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