

“Una furtive lagrima” (One secret tear) L’ELISIR D’AMORE, (The Elixir of Love) Act II,  
music by Gaetano Donizetti, libretto by Felice Romani, 1832

SYNOPSIS: Nemorino, deeply in love with Adina, the village beauty, has recently become rich, thanks to the generosity of his deceased uncle. He is unaware of his change in social status but the young ladies of the village have learned of his good fortune and flirt outrageously with him. Adina, who has spurned Nemorino’s advances, is shocked to see the attention suddenly lavished on her usually timid and neglected suitor. Nemorino is delighted to think that she has been touched and had a change of heart...

NEMORINO

Una furtive lagrima  
Negl’occhi suoi spuntò.  
Quelle festose giovani  
Invidior sembrò.  
Che più cercando io vò?  
Che più cercando io vò?  
M’ama, sì, m’ama,  
lo vedo, lo vedo.

One secret tear she cried for me,  
softly it dimmed her eye.  
Those pretty girls adoring me  
with jealousy made her cry.  
What else but love can it show?  
What more delight can I know?  
Ah, dear, you’re mine alone,  
beloved, you’re mine, I know.

Un solo istante I palpiti  
del suo bel cor sentir!  
I miei sospir confondore  
per poco a’ suoi sospir!  
I palpiti, I paipiti, I palpiti sentir  
Confondere I miei co’suol sospir!  
Cielo, si può morir,  
Di più non chiedo, non chiedo .  
Ah, cielo, si più, si più morir;  
Di più non chiedo, non chiedo.  
Si più morir; si più morir; d’amor

If I could hold her close to me  
feeling her heart beat with mine,  
breathing together tenderly,  
and seeing her lovely eyes shine.  
That moment would be paradise divine.  
Her loving sighs would lose themselves in mine  
Heaven, I surely would die!  
I would ask nothing, no, never more.  
Ah, heaven, I know, I know I would die.  
I would ask nothing, forever more.  
For I would die, I’d surely die of love.

--From “A Tribute to Pavarotti,” lecture for Santa Cruz Opera Society, Inc. (SCOSI), ©201

