

“Ah! tardai troppo....O, luce di quest’anima,” (Ah! he’s much too late...Oh, you, the light of my soul), Recitative and aria; LINDA DI CHAMOUNIX, (Linda from Chamonix) Act I; music by Gaetano Donizetti, libretto by Gaetano Rossi, 1842

SYNOPSIS: Linda is in love with an impoverished artist, Carlo, who is really a nobleman in disguise. She arrives at their usual meeting place and waits for him, but he does not appear. Instead, she finds some flowers that he left for her.

RECITATIVE

Ah! tardai troppo, e al nostro
favorito convegno io non trovai
il mio diletto Carlo; e chi sa mai
quanto egli avrà sofferto!
Ma non al par di me!

Pegno d'amore
questi fior mi lasciò! Tenero core!
E per quel core io l'amo,
unico di lui bene.
Poveri entrambi siamo,
viviam d'amor, di speme;
pittore ignoto ancora
egli s'innalzerà coi suoi talenti!
Sarà mio sposo allora.
O, noi contenti!

Ah! he isn't coming, and In our
fav'rite spot, I still don't see him,
my beloved Carlo, and who can know
how bad he must be feeling!
But I feel even worse!..
(She sees flowers.)
To show he loves me,
he left me these blossoms! Tender heart!
And for that heart, I love him,
it's all the riches he has.
Because we're both quite poor,
we live on love, on hoping.
He's still unknown as a painter
but one day his talent will shine!
Then he will be my husband.
Oh, we'll be happy!

CAVATINA

O, luce di quest’anima
delizia, amore e vita,
la nostra sorte unita
in terra, in ciel sarà.
Deh vieni a me, riposati
su questo cor che t’ama.
che te sospiro e brama,
che per te sol vivrà.

Oh, you, the light of my soul,
my delight, my love, my life,
our fate will always bind us
on earth and in heaven, too.
Come here, I beg, and rest, my dear,
upon this heart that loves you,
that sighs for you with longing,
and lives for you alone.

--From a course for the Lifelong Learners at UC Santa Cruz, “Bel canto Masters,”
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