

"Quel guardo il cavaliere, " Only one glance she gave him," "Cavatina," DON PASQUALE, Act I, music by Gaetano Donizetti; libretto by Giovanni Ruffini. 1843.

SYNOPSIS: In this, her "entrance" aria, we meet Norina, a pretty young widow, who introduces herself by explaining her views about how she relates to men, particularly those who are romantically attracted to her. Norina will play a central role in a scheme to teach Pasquale a wealthy and stubborn old bachelor, a well-deserved lesson...She is in love with his nephew and heir, Ernesto.

NORINA (reading a romantic novel)

"Quel guardo il cavaliere,
In mezzo al cor trafisse,
Piego il ginocchio e disse,
"Son vostro cavalier.
E tanto era in quell guardo
Sapor di paradise
Che il cavalier Riccardo
Tutto d'amor conquiso,
Giurò che ad altra mai
Non volgeria il pensier."
Ah, Ah! "

(Putting the book aside.)

So anch'io la virtù magica
d'un guardo a tempo e loco
So anch'io come si bruciano
I cori a lento foco;
D'un breve sorrisetto
conosco anch'io l'effetto;
di menzognera lagrima,
d'un subito languor .
Conosco i mille modi
Dell'amorose frodi,
I vezzi e l'arttificiali
Per adescare un cor.
D'un breve sorrisetto
Conosco anch' io l'effetto
Conosco, conosco,
d'un subito languor.
So anch'io la virtù magica
Per ispirare amor.

"Only one glance she gave him,
trembling, his heart betrayed him;
kneeling before her, he whispered,
"I am your cavalier."
Deep in her eyes, he discovered
all the delights of heaven...
So Cavalier Riccardo,
wounded by Cupid's arrow,
declared he'd love her forever,
And wiped away a tear."
Ha, ha!"

I know the power of a glance
that trembles with desire;
I also know a thousand ways
to set men's hearts on fire;
My smile can be appealing
but never too revealing;
at times I cry a woeful tear
or suddenly faint away...
I'm brilliant at pretending
and quick at comprehending
what cunning little tricks to use
to win a fellow's heart.
And when I hear him pleading,
I know that I'm succeeding;
I'm gracious, audacious,
I really play my part.
I know the magic I can do
to loosen Cupid's dart.

Conosco l'effetto, Ah! si! Ah, si! Per ispirare amor Di menzognera lagrima, D'un subito languor. Conosco I mille modi Del amorose frodi I vezzi e l'artificiili per adescare un cor. D'un breve sorrisetto Conosco anch'io l'effetto conosco, conosco d'un subito languor.	I'm charming, disarming, ah! yes! Ah, yes! I know the ways of Cupid's art! At times I cry a woeful tear, or suddenly faint away. I'm brilliant at pretending and quick at comprehending the cunning little tricks to use to win a fellow's heart. And when I hear him pleading, I know that I'm succeeding I'm gracious, audacious, I really play my part.
So anch'io la virtù magica Per ispirare amor. Conosco l'effetto, ah, sì! , ah, sì! Per ispirare amor Ho testa bizzarra, son pronta e vivace Brillare mi piace, mi piace scherzar, Ah!..... Mi piace, mi piace scherzar! Ho testa vivace, mi piace scherzar! Ho testa vivace; mi piace scherzar Di menzognera lagrima, D'in subito languor . Di menzognera lagrima, D'in subito languor . Conosco I mille modi dell'amorose frodi Si, per ispirare amor. Ho testa bizzarra, son pronta, vivace,	I know the magic I can do to loosen Cupid's dart. I'm charming, disarming,, *ah, yes!*I know the ways of Cupid's art! I follow each notion with careful devotion I love to be witty and full of delight! Ah! I'm happy, I'm happy and bright! My thinking is lively, I'm witty and bright! My thinking is lively;I'm witty and bright. I'll cry a woeful bitter tear, or suddenly faint away. At times I cry a woeful tear, or suddenly faint away. I'm brilliant at pretending And quick at comprehending Yes, I know the ways of Cupid's art! I'm quite independent and very courageous.
Son pronta, vivace, brillare mi piace mi piace, mi piace scherzar Ah!. Mi piace,.mi piace scherzar	My actions are lively and sometimes outrageous. I love playing jokes on unpleasant folks. I'm happy, I'm happy, and bright.
Ho testa vivace Se monto in furore, Dirà do sto al segno. Ma in riso lo sdegno fo presto a cangiar. Ho testa bizzarra, mi piace scherzar.	If I lose my temper, I won't try to hide it; And say evr'y word if I feel I am right; But after a moment, I'm laughing again. My thinking is lively; I'm witty and bright!

Mi piace scherzar; mi piace scherzar. Though often capricious, I'm never malicious
 ,ma core eccellente, ma core eccellente. but really kind-hearted, but really
 kind-hearted.

Ah!

So anch'io come si bruciano
 I cori a lento foco;
 D'un breve sorrisetto
 conosco anch'io l'effetto;
 di menzognera lagrima,
 d'un subito languor .
 Conosco i mille modi
 Dell'amorose frodi,
 I vezzi e l'arttificiali
 Per adescare un cor.
 D'un breve sorrisetto
 Conosco anch' io l'effetto
 Conosco, conosco,
 d'un subito languor.

Ho testa bizzarra, son pronta e vivace, I follow each notion with careful devotion;
 Brillare mi piace, mi piace scherzar! Ah! I love to be witty and full of delight. Ah!
 Mi piace, mi piace scherzar, I'm happy, I'm happy and bright!
 Ho testa vivace, mi piace scherzar! My thinking is lively; I'm happy and bright!
 Mi pisce scherzar! Mi piace scherzar! I'm happy and bright, happy and bright!
 Mi piace scherzar I'm happy and bright!
 Mi piace, mi piace scherzar. I'm happy, I'm happy and bright.
 Ho testa vivace; mi piace scherzar! I love being witty and laugh with delight!
 Mi piace scherzar. Mi piace scherzar! Ah! I laugh with delight! I'm happy,
 Mi piace scherzar, mi piace scherzar, mi piace scherzar!* I'm happy and bright.
 I'm happy and bright!*

Ah!

I know a thousand clever ways
 to set men's hearts on fire;
 My smile can be appealing
 but never too revealing;
 at times I cry a woeful tear
 or suddenly faint away...
 I'm brilliant at pretending
 and quick at comprehending
 what cunning little tricks to use
 to win a fellow's heart.
 And when I hear him pleading,
 I know that I'm succeeding;
 I'm gracious, audacious,
 I really play my part.

---From DON PASQUALE, singable translation, ©1976, Miriam Ellis.