

“Ah! Un foco insolito” (Deep in my bosom...) ) DON PASQUALE, Act I, music by Gaetano Donizetti, libretto by Giovanni Ruffin; 1843.

SYNOPSIS: Don Pasquale, a wealthy aging bachelor, has decided to disown his nephew, Ernesto, and seek a bride himself. Ernesto is in love with a charming young widow, Norina, of whom Pasquale doesn't approve, although he has never met her. Pasquale's friend, Dr. Malatesta, decides to teach the stubborn old dreamer a lesson, and has gone off to fetch Norina, whom he will introduce to Pasquale as Malatesta's sister. While Pasquale waits impatiently for Malatesta to return, he conjures up the “new life” which awaits him, after he becomes a husband “and father!”

DON PASQUALE:

“Ah! Un foco insolito mi sento addosso omai resistere io piu non posso. Dell'età vecchia scordo I malanni, Mi sento giovane, come a vent'anni; Deh! Cara, affrettati, vieni, sposina! Ecco, di bamboli mezza dozzina. Già veggo nascere, già veggo crescere A me d'intorno veggo scherzar. Veggio già nascere, veggo già crescere, A me d'intorno veggo scherzar. Vieni, vieni! Un foco insolito mi sento addosso	Ah...” Deep in my bosom I feel such a, burning Who could resist this remarkable yearning? Old age and suffering I've put behind me Full of vitality, that's how she'll find me! Please, won't you hurry, dear? I want you near me! You and our family will help to cheer me! Six of them round my feet, making my life complete, Playing with Daddy and bringing him joy! I will delight in them, let nothing frighten them, Five darling daughters and one happy boy! Hurry, dearest, for there's a fire burning deep Inside me...
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A casco morto qua! ...Ah... Ah! Un foco insolito mi sento addosso omai resistere io piu non posso. Dell'età vecchia scordo I malanni, Mi sento giovane, come a vent'anni; Deh! Cara, affrettati, vieni, sposina! Ecco, di bamboli mezza dozzina. Già veggo nascere, già veggo crescere A me d'intorno veggo scherzar. Deh! Vieni, affrettati, bella sposina! Già, già, di bamboli mezza dozzina A me d'intorno veggo scherzar A me d'intorno veggo scherzar, A me d'intorno veggo scherzar, A me d'intorno veggo scherzar.	I fear I'll go insane!...Ah...! Ah...” In this old body, I feel so much fire; Moment by moment, the flame's leaping higher. Look at these muscles; solid and sporty-- Why, they belong to a young man of forty! Please, won't you hurry, dear? I want you near me! You and our family will help to cheer me! Six of them round my feet, making my life complete, Playing with Daddy and bringing him joy! Come, won't you hurry, dear? I want you near me! You and our little ones, how you will cheer me! I'll do my best to learn all their names! Playing around me, daughters and son, Laughing and shouting, having such fun! I'll love them all and pamper each one!
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--From DON PASQUALE; English translation ©1977, Miriam Ellis