

Tanto bella ['tan.ta 'bɛl.la] (So beautiful)

Text by an anonymous poet

Set by *Ottorino Respighi* (1879-1936), P. 12

A la tua culla vennero le fate
[a la tu:a 'kul.la 'ven.ne.ro le 'fa:.te]
To the your cradle came the fairies
(*The fairies came to your cradle*)

E t'acceser d'incanto le pupille:
[e tat.'tʃe:.zer diŋ.'kan.to le pu.'pil.le]
and you-lit-up with-spells the eyes:
(*and with their incantations, brightened your eyes:*)

Ti guardaron gli astri e di faville
[ti gwar.'da:.ron 'ʎa.stri e di fa.'vil.le]
on-you looked the stars and with sparks
(*the stars looked down on you*)

Cosparsero le ciocche inanellate.
[ko.'spar.se.ro le 'tʃok.ke in.a.nɛl.'la:.te]
sprinkled the locks curly.
(*and sprinkled your curly locks with sparkels.*)

Ninfe, sirene, in un'allegra danza
['nin.fe si.'rɛ:.ne in u.nal.'le:.gra 'dan.tsa]
Nymphs, sirens, in a-happy dance
(*Nymphs and sirens in a joyous dance*)

T'appreser la voce armoniosa:
[tap.'pre:.zer la 'vo:.tʃe ar.mo.ni.'o:.za]
they-taught-you the-(your) voice harmonious:
(*gave you your harmonious voice:*)

A la guancia diede il color la rosa,
[a la 'gwan.tʃa 'dje:.de il ko.'lo:r la 'rɔ:.za]
to the cheeks gave the color the rose,
(*the rose gave your cheeks their color,*)

A l'alito, ogni fior la sua fragranza!
[a l'a:.li.to 'oŋ.ni fjo:r la su:a fra.'gran.tsa]
to the-breath, every flower the its perfume!
(*and every flower its perfume to your breath!*)

O tutta rilucente! O profumata!
[o 'tut.ta ri.lu.'tʃɛn.te o pro.fu.'ma:.ta]
Oh all brilliant! Oh fragrance!
(*So brilliant and so fragrant!*)

A statua rapita ad altra età!
[a 'sta:.tu.a ra.'pi:.ta ad 'al.tra e.'ta]
To-a statue abducted from another age!
(*A statue abducted from ancient times!*)

T'hanno fatto tanto bella e t'han lasciata
['tan.no 'fat.to 'tan.to 'bel.la e tan la].['a:.ta]
You-they-have made so beautiful and they-have-you given
(*They have made you so beautiful and have given you*)

L'anima che comprender sa!...
['la:.ni.ma ke kom.'prɛn.der sa]
the-soul that to-understand knows!
(*an all compassionate soul!*)

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